

CR03826

24. Automobile ownership was rare in Sabresia as recently as 30 years ago, but with continuing growth of personal income there, automobile ownership has become steadily more common. Consequently, there are now far more automobiles on Sabresia's roads than there were 30 years ago, and the annual number of automobile accidents has increased significantly. Yet the annual number of deaths and injuries resulting from automobile accidents has not increased significantly.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain why deaths and injuries resulting from automobile accidents have not increased significantly?

- (A) Virtually all of the improvements in Sabresia's roads that were required to accommodate increased traffic were completed more than ten years ago.
- (B) With more and more people owning cars, the average number of passengers in a car on the road has dropped dramatically.
- (C) The increases in traffic volume have been most dramatic on Sabresia's highways, where speeds are well above those of other roads.
- (D) Because of a vigorous market in used cars, the average age of cars on the road has actually increased throughout the years of steady growth in automobile ownership.
- (E) Automobile ownership is still much less common in Sabresia than it is in other countries.

Argument Construction

Situation Many more cars are on Sabresia's roads than 30 years ago; and there are also many more car accidents. Yet the annual number of deaths and injuries resulting from car accidents has not increased much, which is quite puzzling.

Reasoning *What factor could help explain the puzzling fact that the increase in car accidents was not reflected in a similar increase in deaths and injuries from car accidents?* One (but perhaps unlikely) possibility is that a significantly greater proportion of the recent annual number of car accidents consisted of merely minor accidents, unlike 30 years ago. Another possibility is that cars are currently much better engineered for driver and passenger safety than 30 years ago. Yet a third possibility is that the total number of people traveling by car—passengers and drivers—has not increased significantly despite the large increase in the number of cars. This would mean that the average occupancy of a car has greatly decreased; so, even though the number of car accidents has significantly increased, the average number of people per car involved in an accident would have decreased significantly. On average, this would mean significantly fewer deaths and injuries per accident.

- A This throws little light on the central puzzle: why the current number of car accidents is significantly higher than 30 years ago, while the number of deaths and injuries in car accidents is not. The fact that there has been a significant increase in car accidents suggests that the roads were not made as safe as they could have been, and this just deepens the puzzle about the lack of a significant increase in deaths and injuries.
- B **Correct.** This implies that the average number of passengers per car accident is significantly less, and this helps explain why the total number of deaths and injuries has not increased significantly.
- C This information does not help explain the mismatch between increased accident numbers and relatively stable death-and-injury numbers. High-speed car accidents would likely have caused more fatalities, on average, than other car accidents; so, given that the increase in traffic volume has been greatest on Sabresia's high-speed roads, one would expect a significant increase in the number of accidents, and consequently in the number of deaths and injuries. But this expectation has not been fulfilled.

- D This does not help explain the surprisingly stable death-and-injury numbers in contrast with the significantly increased number of car accidents. The increase in average age of cars on the road might contribute to the increased number of accidents if older cars are more likely to be dangerously defective than newer ones.
- E The central puzzle already described involves no comparisons between Sabresia and other countries, so this information is irrelevant to explaining the puzzling discrepancy.

The correct answer is B.

CR01430

125. To evaluate a plan to save money on office-space expenditures by having its employees work at home, XYZ Company asked volunteers from its staff to try the arrangement for six months. During this period, the productivity of these employees was as high as or higher than before.

Which of the following, if true, would argue most strongly against deciding, on the basis of the trial results, to implement the company's plan?

- (A) The employees who agreed to participate in the test of the plan were among the company's most self-motivated and independent workers.
- (B) The savings that would accrue from reduced office-space expenditures alone would be sufficient to justify the arrangement for the company, apart from any productivity increases.
- (C) Other companies that have achieved successful results from work-at-home plans have workforces that are substantially larger than that of XYZ.
- (D) The volunteers who worked at home were able to communicate with other employees as necessary for performing the work.
- (E) Minor changes in the way office work is organized at XYZ would yield increases in employee productivity similar to those achieved in the trial.

Evaluation of a Plan

SITUATION To save money on office space expenditures, a company considers having employees work at home. A six-month trial with employees who have volunteered to test the plan shows their productivity to be as high as or higher than before.

Reasoning *Why would the trial results NOT provide a good reason to implement the plan?* Generalizing from a small sample to the group depends on having a sample that is representative. In this case, the employees who participated in the trial are not representative of all employees. The employees who volunteered for the trial may be the type of employees who would be most likely to work successfully at home. It would not be wise to base a generalization about all employees on this sample.

- A **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a flaw in the trial that is the basis for the plan.
- B This statement supports the implementation of the plan. Moreover, it is not based on the trial results, so it does not answer the question.
- C The passage gives no information about how company size might affect the implementation of the plan or the reliability of the trial results.
- D If anything, this would tend to support the plan.
- E The goal of the plan is to save money on office space, not to increase productivity, so an alternative plan to increase productivity is irrelevant.

The correct answer is A.

CR04180

126. A child learning to play the piano will not succeed unless the child has an instrument at home on which to practice. However, good-quality pianos, whether new or secondhand, are costly. Buying one is justified only if the child has the necessary talent and perseverance, which is precisely what one cannot know in advance. Consequently, parents should buy an inexpensive secondhand instrument at first and upgrade if and when the child's ability and inclination are proven.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most serious doubt on the course of action recommended for parents?

- (A) Learners, particularly those with genuine musical talent, are apt to lose interest in the instrument if they have to play on a piano that fails to produce a pleasing sound.
- (B) Reputable piano teachers do not accept children as pupils unless they know that the children can practice on a piano at home.
- (C) Ideally, the piano on which a child practices at home should be located in a room away from family activities going on at the same time.
- (D) Very young beginners often make remarkable progress at playing the piano at first, but then appear to stand still for a considerable period of time.
- (E) In some parents, spending increasing amounts of money on having their children learn to play the piano produces increasing anxiety to hear immediate results.

Evaluation of a Plan

Situation Children learning the piano need to have a piano on which to practice at home. Purchasing a high-quality piano is costly, and justified only if the child has talent and will persevere, which is hard to predict at an early stage. Parents should make do with a secondhand piano until the child's ability and inclination are proven.

Reasoning *Which of the statements given would cast the most serious doubt on the recommendation given to parents?* Suppose that a child, because possessed of very high musical talent, is especially sensitive to imprecisions in tuning or imperfections of tone in a secondhand, less expensive piano (presumably Mozart would have been so!). This could, over time, make the child less interested in using the piano—especially if the child had the opportunity to hear music on far superior pianos. The result could be total loss of interest in learning to play the piano.

- A **Correct.** This, if true, would be a good reason to provide the child with the chance to practice regularly on a superior piano.
- B The issue is whether it would be best to provide the child with a superior piano at home, not whether it would be important to provide some piano at home.
- C This is irrelevant to the point at issue, which concerns how high a quality of piano should parents provide at home if they desire optimal development of the child's potential for piano musicianship.
- D Fluctuations in the pace of learning the piano are possible, but not relevant to the central question raised about the quality of the piano to be provided.
- E Investing so much in a piano, to the extent that doing so causes financial and psychological stress, might not be beneficial overall. However, if buying a new piano and buying a used piano are equally feasible financially for a given family, the question concerns which option would most achieve the objective of optimally developing the child's potential for piano musicianship.

The correct answer is A.

CR05096

127. Nutritionists are advising people to eat more fish, since the omega-3 fatty acids in fish help combat many diseases. If everyone took this advice, however, there would not be enough fish in oceans, rivers, and lakes to supply the demand; the oceans are already being overfished. The obvious method to ease the pressure on wild fish populations is for people to increase their consumption of farmed fish.

Which of the following, if true, raises the most serious doubt concerning the prospects for success of the solution proposed above?

- (A) Aquaculture, or fish farming, raises more fish in a given volume of water than are generally present in the wild.
- (B) Some fish farming, particularly of shrimp and other shellfish, takes place in enclosures in the ocean.
- (C) There are large expanses of ocean waters that do not contain enough nutrients to support substantial fish populations.
- (D) The feed for farmed ocean fish is largely made from small wild-caught fish, including the young of many popular food species.
- (E) Some of the species that are now farmed extensively were not commonly eaten when they were only available in the wild.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Nutritionists advise people to eat fish for the omega-3 fatty acids, but there would not be enough fish to meet the demand if everyone followed this advice. Therefore, people should increase their consumption of farmed fish to ease pressure of wild fish populations.

Reasoning *What evidence would suggest that increasing consumption of farmed fish would not ease pressure on wild fish populations?* Any evidence suggesting that significantly increasing consumption of farmed fish would diminish the habitat or food available for wild fish would also suggest that increasing consumption of farmed fish would not ease pressure on wild fish populations.

- A Probably the less space fish farming requires, the less pressure it creates on wild fish habitats and populations, other things being equal.
- B Whether any fish farming takes place in enclosures in the ocean is not clearly relevant to whether it eases pressure on wild fish populations.
- C Substantial fish populations may thrive in other large expanses of ocean water that contain more nutrients, and in rivers and lakes.
- D **Correct.** This suggests that increasing consumption of farmed fish would require increased use of wild fish as feed for farmed fish and therefore would not ease pressure on wild fish populations.
- E Even if some farmed fish are different species from the wild fish that are commonly eaten, increased consumption of the farmed fish could reduce demand for the wild fish and thereby ease pressure on wild fish populations.

The correct answer is D.

CR02851

128. Which of the following most logically completes the market forecaster's argument?

Market forecaster: The price of pecans is high when pecans are comparatively scarce but drops sharply when pecans are abundant. Thus, in high-yield years, growers often store part of their crop in refrigerated warehouses until after the next year's harvest, hoping for higher prices then. Because of bad weather, this year's pecan crop will be very small. Nevertheless, pecan prices this year will not be significantly higher than last year, since _____.

- (A) the last time the pecan crop was as small as it was this year, the practice of holding back part of one year's crop had not yet become widely established
- (B) last year's pecan harvest was the largest in the last 40 years
- (C) pecan prices have remained relatively stable in recent years
- (D) pecan yields for some farmers were as high this year as they had been last year
- (E) the quality of this year's pecan crop is as high as the quality of any pecan crop in the previous five years

Argument Construction

Situation The price of pecans fluctuates based on the fluctuations in market supplies. When pecan farmers have a large harvest, they tend to save some of the crop in refrigerated storage until the following year, hoping to get higher prices then. This year's crop will be very small. But prices are not predicted to be significantly higher than last year.

Reasoning *What can most reasonably complete the argument by filling in the blank?* In other words, what would be the best reason for the prediction about this year's prices? This year's prices will be determined by the total market supply of pecans; this will include not only freshly harvested pecans but also pecans that were kept in storage from last year's harvest. Information about the relative size of last year's harvest could be partial evidence for a prediction about this year's prices.

- A What this tells us, in effect, is that previous experience with very poor harvests provide a poor guide about this year's total market supply, since the practice of refrigerated storage of pecans had not existed then.
- B **Correct.** This tells us that there was probably an unprecedented quantity of pecans in refrigerated storage from last year, so it is likely that the market supply of pecans this year will be relatively normal despite the poor harvest. This means that this year's prices will not be much higher than last year's; last year, the total pecan harvest was enormous and market supply probably relatively large.
- C This creates a general expectation of prices not being inordinately high this year, but since the harvest this year was "very small," such a general expectation could remain unfulfilled, absent countervailing factors.
- D This information is too vague to be useful. What percentage of farmers obtained satisfactory yields? Were these yields on farms that were by far the largest or the smallest?
- E The reasoning is silent on the issue of pecan quality, even though perceived quality could perhaps affect prices obtained. The additional information does not tell us that this year's quality is better than that found in recent harvests.

The correct answer is B.

CR0633I

129. It is often said that high rates of inflation tend to diminish people's incentive to save and invest. This view must be incorrect, however, because people generally saved and invested more of their income in the 1970's when inflation rates were high than they did in the 1980's when inflation rates were low.

Of the following, the best criticism of the argument above is that it overlooks the possibility that

- (A) all people do not respond in the same way to a given economic stimulus
- (B) certain factors operating in the 1980's but not in the 1970's diminished people's incentive to save and invest
- (C) the population was larger in the 1980's than it was in the 1970's
- (D) the proponents of the view cited would stand to gain if inflation rates become lower
- (E) a factor that affects people's savings behavior in a certain way could affect people's investment behavior quite differently

Argument Evaluation

Background: People generally saved and invested more in the 1970's when inflation was high than in the 1980s when inflation was low, despite the fact that it is commonly believed that high inflation discourages savings and investment.

Reasoning: *Why does the observation about savings, investment, and inflation rates in the 1970's and 1980's not justify the conclusion that high inflation does not generally diminish people's incentive to save and invest?* The argument observes that over the course of two decades there was a positive rather than a negative correlation between inflation on the one hand and savings and investment on the other. It infers from this that high rates of inflation do not tend to diminish people's incentive to save and invest. Is this inference justified? Note that the claim that this argument is trying to discredit is not that high rates of inflation always diminished people's incentive to save and invest. Rather, the claim is merely that high rates of inflation tend to do this. The argument overlooks the possibility that during the two decades in question other factors may have caused a positive correlation to briefly appear even if in general the correlation is negative.

- A The argument is compatible with the hypothesis that some people respond to inflation by saving and investing more, while others do not.
- B **Correct.** If these other factors, unrelated to the inflation rate, that operated in the 1980's but not the 1970's, created an even greater disincentive to savings and investment than high inflation rates provide, then those trends do not provide evidence about the general relationship among savings, investment, and inflation.
- C The argument appears to concern savings and investment per capita, so total population size should be irrelevant. But increasing population would not explain declining total amounts of savings and investment, either.
- D If anything, the possibility that the proponents' ulterior motives distorted their reasoning would help to support the argument's conclusion that the proponents' view is incorrect.
- E The argument addresses this possibility by presenting evidence that inflation was positively correlated with both savings and investment during the 1970's and 1980's.

The correct answer is B.

CR02704

130. Which of the following most logically completes the argument below?

Within the earth's core, which is iron, pressure increases with depth. Because the temperature at which iron melts increases with pressure, the inner core is solid and the outer core is molten. Physicists can determine the melting temperature of iron at any given pressure and the pressure for any given depth in the earth. Therefore, the actual temperature at the boundary of the earth's outer and inner cores—the melting temperature of iron there—can be determined, since _____.

- (A) the depth beneath the earth's surface of the boundary between the outer and inner cores is known
- (B) some of the heat from the earth's core flows to the surface of the earth
- (C) pressures within the earth's outer core are much greater than pressures above the outer core
- (D) nowhere in the earth's core can the temperature be measured directly
- (E) the temperatures within the earth's inner core are higher than in the outer core

Argument Construction

Situation Pressure within the earth's iron core increases with depth. Because the melting temperature of iron increases with pressure, the inner core is solid and the outer core molten. Physicists can determine iron's melting temperature at any pressure and the pressure it is under at any depth.

Reasoning *What further premise, combined with the information provided, would support the conclusion that physicists can determine the temperature at the boundary between the outer and inner cores?* Since physicists can determine iron's melting temperature at any pressure and the pressure it is under at any depth, they must be able to determine its melting temperature at any depth. The temperature at the boundary between the inner and outer cores must exactly equal the melting temperature there, since that is the boundary between the molten and solid parts of the core. To determine the temperature at the boundary, therefore, it would suffice to know the depth of the boundary.

- A **Correct.** If physicists know the depth of the boundary between the inner and outer cores, they can determine the temperature at the boundary.
- B The fact that *some heat* flows from the core to the surface is too vague to help in determining exact temperatures anywhere.
- C The difference in pressures between the outer core and the region above it is only vaguely described here and is not clearly relevant to the temperature at the boundary between the outer core and the inner core below it.
- D An absence of information would not be helpful in determining the temperature at the boundary between the outer and inner cores.
- E This information is not sufficiently specific to show that the temperature at the boundary between the outer and inner cores can be determined.

The correct answer is A.

CR03659

131. Which of the following most logically completes the reasoning?

Either food scarcity or excessive hunting can threaten a population of animals. If the group faces food scarcity, individuals in the group will reach reproductive maturity later than otherwise. If the group faces excessive hunting, individuals that reach reproductive maturity earlier will come to predominate. Therefore, it should be possible to determine whether prehistoric mastodons became extinct because of food scarcity or human hunting, since there are fossilized mastodon remains from both before and after mastodon populations declined, and _____.

- (A) there are more fossilized mastodon remains from the period before mastodon populations began to decline than from after that period
- (B) the average age at which mastodons from a given period reached reproductive maturity can be established from their fossilized remains
- (C) it can be accurately estimated from fossilized remains when mastodons became extinct
- (D) it is not known when humans first began hunting mastodons
- (E) climate changes may have gradually reduced the food available to mastodons

Argument Construction

Situation In a population of animals, food scarcity causes later reproductive maturity; if that population is hunted excessively, earlier-maturing animals will be more numerous in the population.

Reasoning *What point would most logically complete the argument?* For the information given to be of use in determining what caused mastodons' extinction, mastodon fossils would need to indicate the age at which mastodons reached reproductive maturity, since that is what the argument suggests can indicate cause of extinction. If fossilized remains exist from before and after mastodon populations began to decline, and if the age at which those fossilized mastodons reached reproductive maturity can be determined, then we will have a good idea of what caused their extinction: if they reached reproductive maturity late, it was probably food scarcity, but if they matured earlier, it was most likely hunting.

- A This fact only helps indicate that there was a decline; it tells us nothing about what caused the decline.
- B **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a point that logically completes the argument: it explains how the fossilized mastodon remains could be used to help determine what caused mastodons' extinction.
- C The point at which mastodons became extinct is not part of this argument, which is concerned with the cause of their extinction. The only way in which this could be relevant to the issue at hand is if mastodons became extinct before humans took up hunting mastodons—but the argument includes no information on whether this was so.
- D Not knowing when humans began hunting mastodons would have no effect on the argument, which is concerned with how mastodon fossils, combined with knowledge about how food scarcity and hunting affect mastodon reproductive maturity, can help determine how mastodons became extinct.
- E This fact only shows that food scarcity *may* have led to mastodon's decline. It tells us nothing about whether fossilized remains can help determine whether it was food scarcity or human hunting that actually led to the decline.

The correct answer is B.

CR02518

132. Many office buildings designed to prevent outside air from entering have been shown to have elevated levels of various toxic substances circulating through the air inside, a phenomenon known as sick building syndrome. Yet the air in other office buildings does not have elevated levels of these substances, even though those buildings are the same age as the “sick” buildings and have similar designs and ventilation systems.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain why not all office buildings designed to prevent outside air from entering have air that contains elevated levels of toxic substances?

- (A) Certain adhesives and drying agents used in particular types of furniture, carpets, and paint contribute the bulk of the toxic substances that circulate in the air of office buildings.
- (B) Most office buildings with sick building syndrome were built between 1950 and 1990.
- (C) Among buildings designed to prevent outside air from entering, houses are no less likely than office buildings to have air that contains elevated levels of toxic substances.
- (D) The toxic substances that are found in the air of “sick” office buildings are substances that are found in at least small quantities in nearly every building.
- (E) Office buildings with windows that can readily be opened are unlikely to suffer from sick building syndrome.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Many office buildings designed to prevent outside air from entering have elevated levels of toxic substances in their interior air, but other such buildings similar in age, design, and ventilation do not.

Reasoning *What would help to explain the difference in air quality among buildings similar in age, design, and ventilation?* If office buildings are designed to prevent outside air from entering, toxic substances emitted into the interior air might not be ventilated out quickly, and thus might become more concentrated inside the building. But if such toxic substances are not emitted into a building’s interior air in the first place, they will not become concentrated there, even if the building is poorly ventilated. So any factor that suggests why toxic substances are emitted into the interior air of some buildings but not others of similar age and design would help to explain the difference in the buildings’ air quality.

- A **Correct.** Some buildings may have these types of furniture, carpets, and paint, while other buildings similar in age, design, and ventilation do not.
- B Since all these buildings were built during the same period, this does not help to explain the difference in air quality among buildings similar in age.
- C The passage concerns air quality in office buildings only, not in houses.
- D This does not help to explain why these toxic substances are more concentrated in some office buildings than in others.
- E The passage concerns the differences in air quality only among office buildings that were designed to prevent outside air from entering.

The correct answer is A.

CR08756

133. Newsletter: **A condominium generally offers more value for its cost than an individual house because of economies of scale.** The homeowners in a condominium association can collectively buy products and services that they could not afford on their own. And since a professional management company handles maintenance of common areas, **condominium owners spend less time and money on maintenance than individual homeowners do.**

The two portions in boldface play which of the following roles in the newsletter's argument?

- (A) The first is the argument's main conclusion; the second is another conclusion supporting the first.
- (B) The first is a premise, for which no evidence is provided; the second is the argument's only conclusion.
- (C) The first is a conclusion supporting the second; the second is the argument's main conclusion.
- (D) The first is the argument's only conclusion; the second is a premise, for which no evidence is provided.
- (E) Both are premises, for which no evidence is provided, and both support the argument's only conclusion.

Argument Construction

Situation Homeowners in a condominium association can buy products and services collectively. A management company handles maintenance of condominium common areas.

Reasoning *What roles are played in the argument by the statement that a condominium generally offers more value for its cost than a house because of economies of scale and by the statement that condominium owners spend less time and money on maintenance than owners of individual homes do? In the passage, the first sentence (the first boldface statement) is a generalization. The second sentence provides an example of the economies of scale mentioned in the first sentence, so it helps support the first sentence as a conclusion. In the third sentence, the word *since* indicates that the first clause is a premise supporting the second clause (the second boldface statement) as a conclusion. That conclusion itself provides another example of the economies of scale mentioned in the first sentence, so it also helps support that first sentence as a conclusion.*

- A **Correct.** As explained above, the first boldface statement is supported by the rest of the statements in the argument, so it is the main conclusion. The second boldface statement supports the first, but is itself a conclusion supported by the *since* clause preceding it.
- B The second and third sentences in the argument provide examples of economies of scale. These examples are evidence supporting the first boldface statement as a conclusion.
- C Since the second boldface statement provides evidence of the economies of scale described by the first, it supports the first as a conclusion.
- D The *since* clause immediately preceding the second boldface statement provides evidence that supports it, so the second boldface statement is a conclusion.
- E Both the second and the third sentences of the argument support the first boldface statement as a conclusion. And the *since* clause immediately preceding the second boldface statement supports it as a conclusion.

The correct answer is A.

CR00780

134. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

When officials in Tannersburg released their plan to widen the city's main roads, environmentalists protested that widened roads would attract more traffic and lead to increased air pollution. In response, city officials pointed out that today's pollution-control devices are at their most effective in vehicles traveling at higher speeds and that widening roads would increase the average speed of traffic. However, this effect can hardly be expected to offset the effect pointed out by environmentalists, since _____.

- (A) increases in traffic volume generally produce decreases in the average speed of traffic unless roads are widened
- (B) several of the roads that are slated for widening will have to be closed temporarily while construction is underway
- (C) most of the air pollution generated by urban traffic comes from vehicles that do not have functioning pollution-control devices
- (D) the newly widened roads will not have increased traffic volume if the roads that must be used to reach them are inadequate
- (E) a vehicle traveling on a route that goes through Tannersburg will spend less time on Tannersburg's roads once the roads are widened

Argument Evaluation**Situation**

Environmentalists protested a plan to widen a city's main roads on the grounds that it would increase traffic and air pollution. City officials replied that widening the roads would increase average traffic speeds, which would improve the effectiveness of vehicles' pollution-control devices.

Reasoning

What would most support the conclusion that the improved effectiveness of the pollution-control devices would be insufficient to prevent the increased traffic from increasing air pollution? The word since preceding the blank space at the end of the argument indicates that the space should be filled with a premise supporting the conclusion stated immediately before the since. To support this conclusion, we would need evidence that widening the roads and increasing traffic speeds would not improve the pollution-control devices' effectiveness enough to compensate for the amount of added air pollution generated by the additional traffic on the widened roads.

- A It is unclear whether traffic volume would increase if the roads were not widened. But if it did, this would cast doubt on the conclusion by suggesting that a combination of higher traffic volume and lower speeds could make air pollution worse if the roads were not widened than if they were widened.
- B The argument is about the long-term effects of widening the roads, not about the temporary effects of closing them during construction.
- C **Correct.** If most vehicles in the area lack air-pollution devices altogether or have ones that do not work, then it is highly questionable whether the greater efficiency of the few functioning devices would be sufficient to compensate for the increase in air pollution that would result from increased traffic.
- D If anything, this casts doubt on the conclusion by suggesting that widening the roads may not increase traffic volume or air pollution at all.
- E If anything, this casts doubt on the conclusion by suggesting that widening the roads will decrease the amount of time each vehicle spends generating air pollution on those roads.

The correct answer is C.

CR06795

135. Premature babies who receive regular massages are more active than premature babies who do not. Even when all the babies drink the same amount of milk, the massaged babies gain more weight than do the unmassaged babies. This is puzzling because a more active person generally requires a greater food intake to maintain or gain weight.

Which of the following, if true, best reconciles the apparent discrepancy described above?

- (A) Increased activity leads to increased levels of hunger, especially when food intake is not also increased.
- (B) Massage increases premature babies' curiosity about their environment, and curiosity leads to increased activity.
- (C) Increased activity causes the intestines of premature babies to mature more quickly, enabling the babies to digest and absorb more of the nutrients in the milk they drink.
- (D) Massage does not increase the growth rate of babies over one year old, if the babies had not been previously massaged.
- (E) Premature babies require a daily intake of nutrients that is significantly higher than that required by babies who were not born prematurely.

Argument Construction

Situation Premature babies who receive regular massages are more active and gain more weight than unmassaged premature babies do, even when they drink the same amount of milk.

Reasoning *What would help to explain how the massaged babies could be more active than the unmassaged babies and yet still gain more weight without consuming more milk?* If the massaged babies are burning more calories than unmassaged babies through their extra activity, but are not consuming more calories in the form of milk, then how are they gaining more weight than the unmassaged babies? Possible explanations could cite factors suggesting how the massaged babies might not actually burn more calories despite their greater activity; how they might consume or absorb more calories even without consuming more milk; or how they might gain more weight without extra calorie intake.

- A Increased hunger without increased food intake would not help to explain why the massaged babies are gaining more weight.
- B This only helps to explain why the massaged babies are more active, not why they are gaining more weight without consuming more milk.
- C **Correct.** This suggests that the increased activity of the massaged babies could increase their calorie and nutrient intake from a given amount of milk, thereby explaining how they could gain extra weight without drinking more milk.
- D This suggests that the apparent discrepancy is only present in premature babies under one year old, but it does not explain why that discrepancy exists.
- E The passage does not compare premature babies to babies that were not born prematurely, but rather only compares premature babies that are massaged to premature babies that are not massaged.

The correct answer is C.

CR02865

136. In Australia, in years with below-average rainfall, less water goes into rivers and more water is extracted from rivers for drinking and irrigation. Consequently, in such years, water levels drop considerably and the rivers flow more slowly. Because algae grow better the more slowly the water in which they are growing moves, such years are generally beneficial to populations of algae. But, by contrast, populations of algae drop in periods of extreme drought. Which of the following, if true, does most to explain the contrast?

- (A) Algae grow better in ponds and lakes than in rivers.
- (B) The more slowly water moves, the more conducive its temperature is to the growth of algae.
- (C) Algae cannot survive in the absence of water.
- (D) Algae must be filtered out of water before it can be used for drinking.
- (E) The larger the population of algae in a body of water, the less sunlight reaches below the surface of the water.

Argument Construction

Situation The quantity of water in Australian rivers greatly diminishes in years of below-average rainfall. When river levels become very low, the rivers flow more slowly. The low flow favors rapid algae growth. However, in periods of extreme drought, algae populations drop.

Reasoning *What information would most help to explain the two contrasting trends in algae growth?* The information given indicates that algae proliferate when rivers flow slowly. When the water levels become extremely low, algae populations decrease. In periods of extreme drought, presumably some rivers retain little or no water.

- A This has no obvious relevance to explaining the contrast in the algae growth trends.
- B Nothing in the given information is explicit about the effects of water temperature and how that changes in rivers with changes in rainfall rates.
- C **Correct.** This information could help explain the decrease in algae populations during periods of extreme drought. It seems quite probable that during such periods, at least parts of some riverbeds would dry out.
- D This information does not help explain the contrasting trends in algae growth. Algae filtered out of river water to be used for drinking might not be returned to rivers, and this conceivably could affect algae populations. But it seems likely, based on the given information, that this would occur mainly during low-rainfall non-drought periods, when proliferation of algae has increased, so the impact on algae populations would probably be minimal.
- E This information is clearly irrelevant to the contrast that needs to be explained.

The correct answer is C.

CR00693

137. Which of the following, if true, most logically completes the politician's argument?

United States politician: Although the amount of United States goods shipped to Mexico doubled in the year after tariffs on trade between the two countries were reduced, it does not follow that the reduction in tariffs caused the sales of United States goods to companies and consumers in Mexico to double that year, because _____.

- (A) many of the United States companies that produced goods that year had competitors based in Mexico that had long produced the same kind of goods
- (B) most of the increase in goods shipped by United States companies to Mexico was in parts shipped to the companies' newly relocated subsidiaries for assembly and subsequent shipment back to the United States
- (C) marketing goods to a previously unavailable group of consumers is most successful when advertising specifically targets those consumers, but developing such advertising often takes longer than a year
- (D) the amount of Mexican goods shipped to the United States remained the same as it had been before the tariff reductions
- (E) there was no significant change in the employment rate in either of the countries that year

Argument Construction

Situation The politician suggests that tariffs on trade between Mexico and the United States were reduced during a certain year and notes that, in the year after that year, the amount of United States goods shipped to Mexico doubled. It may seem from this that the decrease in tariffs, because they may have reduced the prices of United States goods to Mexican companies and consumers, caused Mexican companies and consumers to double their purchases of United States goods in the year after the reduction in tariffs. This might explain the doubling of shipments of goods to Mexico. However, the politician argues that the decrease in tariffs did *not* cause the purchase of United States goods by Mexican companies and consumers to double.

Reasoning *What possible facts would indicate that the decrease in tariffs may not have caused Mexican companies and consumers to double their purchases of United States goods?* The task in this question is to complete an argument that purports to show that a certain inference—that sales of United States goods to companies and consumers in Mexico increased as a result of the tariff decrease—does not follow logically from the fact that shipments of United States goods to Mexico doubled after the decrease in tariffs. Although it is not necessary to show that sales of United States goods to companies and consumers in Mexico did not double, any statement that would significantly decrease the strength of this inference may provide a reasonable answer to our question.

- A The argument that the politician is criticizing concerns a change in a certain year that purportedly caused another purported change in the next year. This option, about longstanding relationships between United States and Mexican companies, does not address these changes.
- B **Correct.** If the statement in this option is true, then we cannot, on the basis of an increase in shipments of goods to Mexico, infer that these goods were purchased by Mexican companies and consumers. The statement thus directly supports the politician's argument.
- C The argument that the politician is criticizing has to do with purported changes in purchasing behavior by Mexican companies and consumers, due to an increase in tariffs. This option, being entirely concerned with the effectiveness of marketing and advertising, does not address the argument.
- D Although this option may suggest that the change in tariffs did not cause a significant change in shipments of Mexican goods to the United States, it does not address the matter of shipments of United States goods to Mexico.
- E This option addresses an aspect that would be of interest when examining the effects of the change in tariffs. But it does not address the purported change that is addressed by the politician's argument.

The correct answer is B.

CR06845

138. Budget constraints have made police officials consider reassigning a considerable number of officers from traffic enforcement to work on higher-priority, serious crimes. Reducing traffic enforcement for this reason would be counterproductive, however, in light of the tendency of criminals to use cars when engaged in the commission of serious crimes. An officer stopping a car for a traffic violation can make a search that turns up evidence of serious crime. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument given?
- (A) An officer who stops a car containing evidence of the commission of a serious crime risks a violent confrontation, even if the vehicle was stopped only for a traffic violation.
 - (B) When the public becomes aware that traffic enforcement has lessened, it typically becomes lax in obeying traffic rules.
 - (C) Those willing to break the law to commit serious crimes are often in committing such crimes unwilling to observe what they regard as the lesser constraints of traffic law.
 - (D) The offenders committing serious crimes who would be caught because of traffic violations are not the same group of individuals as those who would be caught if the arresting officers were reassigned from traffic enforcement.
 - (E) The great majority of persons who are stopped by officers for traffic violations are not guilty of any serious crimes.

Argument Construction

Situation Budget constraints have made police officials consider reassigning many officers from traffic enforcement to work on serious crimes. But criminals often drive when committing serious crimes, and police who stop cars for traffic violations can find evidence of those crimes.

Reasoning *What additional information, when combined with the argument provided, would suggest that it would be counterproductive to reassign officers from traffic enforcement to work on serious crimes?* The argument implicitly reasons that because officers working on traffic enforcement can turn up evidence of serious crimes by searching cars that commit traffic violations, reassigning those officers would hinder police efforts to prevent serious crime, even if the officers were reassigned to work directly on serious crime. The argument could be strengthened by information suggesting that traffic enforcement may increase the probability that evidence relating to serious crimes will be discovered.

- A If anything, this risk of violence might discourage traffic enforcement officers from stopping and searching as many cars, thus reducing their effectiveness at preventing serious crimes.
- B This suggests that reassigning officers from traffic enforcement to work on serious crimes would increase the number of unpunished minor traffic violations, not the number of unpunished serious crimes.
- C **Correct.** This suggests that people committing serious crimes often commit traffic violations as well, increasing the likelihood that traffic enforcement officers will stop and search their cars and find evidence of those crimes.
- D The question at issue is not whether the same offenders would be caught if the officers were reassigned, but rather whether more or fewer offenders would be caught.
- E This weakens the argument by suggesting that most work by traffic enforcement officers is unrelated to preventing serious crimes.

The correct answer is C.

CR10106

139. Conventional wisdom suggests vaccinating elderly people first in flu season, because they are at greatest risk of dying if they contract the virus. This year's flu virus poses particular risk to elderly people and almost none at all to younger people, particularly children. Nevertheless, health professionals are recommending vaccinating children first against the virus rather than elderly people.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest reason for the health professionals' recommendation?

- (A) Children are vulnerable to dangerous infections when their immune systems are severely weakened by other diseases.
- (B) Children are particularly unconcerned with hygiene and therefore are the group most responsible for spreading the flu virus to others.
- (C) The vaccinations received last year will confer no immunity to this year's flu virus.
- (D) Children who catch one strain of the flu virus and then recover are likely to develop immunity to at least some strains with which they have not yet come in contact.
- (E) Children are no more likely than adults to have immunity to a particular flu virus if they have never lived through a previous epidemic of the same virus.

Argument Construction

Situation Although this year's flu virus poses particular risk to elderly people and almost no risk to children, health professionals are recommending vaccinating children before elderly people, contrary to what conventional wisdom recommends.

Reasoning *What would help justify the health professionals' recommendation?* Since children will experience almost no risk from the virus, vaccinating them first for their own sake appears unnecessary. However, individuals at no personal risk from a virus can still transmit it to more-vulnerable individuals. If children are especially likely to transmit the virus, it could be reasonable to vaccinate them first in order to protect others, including elderly people, by preventing the virus from spreading.

- A This might be a reason to vaccinate certain children with severely weakened immune systems, if their weak immune systems would even respond effectively to the vaccine. However, it is not clearly a reason to vaccinate the vast majority of children.
- B **Correct.** This suggests that children are especially likely to transmit the virus even if it does not endanger them. So as explained above, it provides a good reason for the health professionals' recommendation.
- C This might be a good reason to vaccinate everyone, but it is not clearly a reason to vaccinate children before vaccinating elderly people.
- D If anything, this would suggest that there might be a reason not to vaccinate children against this year's strain at all: unvaccinated children who catch this year's strain, which the argument claims is relatively harmless to children, may develop immunity to more dangerous strains that might arise in the future.
- E The argument claims that this year's virus poses almost no risk to children. So even if they are not technically immune to it, it does not affect them significantly enough to justify vaccinating them before vaccinating elderly people.

The correct answer is B.

CR01392

140. Pro-Tect Insurance Company has recently been paying out more on car-theft claims than it expected. Cars with special antitheft devices or alarm systems are much less likely to be stolen than are other cars. Consequently Pro-Tect, as part of an effort to reduce its annual payouts, will offer a discount to holders of car-theft policies if their cars have antitheft devices or alarm systems.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest indication that the plan is likely to achieve its goal?

- (A) The decrease in the risk of car theft conferred by having a car alarm is greatest when only a few cars have such alarms.
- (B) The number of policyholders who have filed a claim in the past year is higher for Pro-Tect than for other insurance companies.
- (C) In one or two years, the discount that Pro-Tect is offering will amount to more than the cost of buying certain highly effective antitheft devices.
- (D) Currently, Pro-Tect cannot legally raise the premiums it charges for a given amount of insurance against car theft.
- (E) The amount Pro-Tect has been paying out on car-theft claims has been greater for some models of car than for others.

Evaluation of a Plan

Situation An insurance company is paying more money on car-theft claims than anticipated. To reduce these payments, the company is planning to offer discounts to customers whose cars have antitheft devices or alarm systems, because such cars are less likely to be stolen.

Reasoning *What piece of information would indicate that the plan is likely to succeed?* Pro-Tect wishes to reduce its annual payouts, and one way for that to happen is for fewer cars insured by Pro-Tect to be stolen. To help accomplish this, Pro-Tect is offering discounts to policyholders whose cars are so equipped, because cars equipped with antitheft devices or alarm systems are less likely to be stolen than are cars without such devices. What would interfere with the success of Pro-Tect's plan? Car owners would probably resist investing in antitheft devices or alarm systems if the cost of such systems is higher than the discount they will receive. So if Pro-Tect sets the discount at a level that makes installing antitheft devices seem like a bargain to car owners, the plan will most likely succeed.

- A Pro-Tect's plan is designed to increase the number of cars equipped with car alarms. If having more cars equipped with car alarms reduces those alarms' effectiveness in preventing thefts, then Pro-Tect's plan is unlikely to achieve its goal.
- B Pro-Tect's claims in relation to those of other insurance companies are not relevant to whether Pro-Tect's plan to reduce its own car-theft claims will achieve its goal.
- C **Correct.** This statement suggests that Pro-Tect's plan will provide an effective incentive for car owners to install antitheft devices; this statement therefore properly identifies information that indicates the plan is likely to achieve its goal.
- D Because Pro-Tect's plan does not involve raising the premiums it charges, restrictions on its ability to do so are irrelevant to whether that plan will achieve its goal.
- E Pro-Tect's plan does not distinguish among different models of car, so this statement indicates nothing about whether the proposed plan will succeed.

The correct answer is C.

DR00783

141. While the total enrollment of public elementary and secondary schools in Sondland is one percent higher this academic year than last academic year, the number of teachers there increased by three percent. Thus, the Sondland Education Commission's prediction of a teacher shortage as early as next academic year is unfounded.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the claim that the prediction of a teacher shortage as early as next academic year is unfounded?

- (A) Funding for public elementary schools in Sondland is expected to increase over the next ten years.
- (B) Average salaries for Sondland's teachers increased at the rate of inflation from last academic year to this academic year.
- (C) A new law has mandated that there be 10 percent more teachers per pupil in Sondland's public schools next academic year than there were this academic year.
- (D) In the past, increases in enrollments in public elementary and secondary schools in Sondland have generally been smaller than increases in the number of teachers.
- (E) Because of reductions in funding, the number of students enrolling in teacher-training programs in Sondland is expected to decline beginning in the next academic year.

Argument Evaluation

Situation In Sondland's public schools this academic year, the number of students is one percent higher and the number of teachers three percent higher than they were last academic year. For this reason, the Sondland Education Commission's prediction of a teacher shortage as early as next academic year is questionable.

Reasoning *What evidence would most weaken support for the claim that there will be no teacher shortage next academic year?* A teacher shortage will arise next academic year if the number of teachers needed will exceed the number of teachers employed. This will happen if the number of teachers needed increases without a sufficient increase in the number employed, or if the number employed decreases without a sufficient decrease in the number needed. Evidence that either or both of these changes will occur next academic year is evidence that the predicted shortage will occur, so any such evidence will weaken support for the claim that the prediction is unfounded.

- A Increased funding will likely allow more teachers to be hired but will not necessarily increase the need for teachers, so it does not support the prediction of a teacher shortage (and indeed it very slightly undermines the prediction). Also, the funding is expected to increase over ten years, not necessarily next year. Furthermore, we are not told who expects this increase or why. Their expectation may be unjustifiable.
- B A salary increase at the rate of inflation is equivalent to no change in the salary's actual value. The absence of a change in real salary in the past academic year does not by itself support any prediction of a change in the number of teachers needed or employed next academic year.
- C **Correct.** The schools will need a lot more teachers next academic year to satisfy this mandate. It may be difficult for the schools to hire enough teachers in time. This provides at least some reason to predict that a teacher shortage will result.
- D This means the number of students per teacher has been generally declining. It does not suggest that next academic year the number of teachers needed will increase, nor that the number employed will decrease.
- E This does support the prediction that a shortage of trained teachers will arise eventually. But the declining number of students in teacher-training programs next academic year probably will not reduce the number of teachers available to teach during that same year.

The correct answer is C.

CR05590

142. Art restorers who have been studying the factors that cause Renaissance oil paintings to deteriorate physically when subject to climatic changes have found that the oil paint used in these paintings actually adjusts to these changes well. The restorers therefore hypothesize that it is a layer of material called gesso, which is under the paint, that causes the deterioration.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the restorers' hypothesis?

- (A) Renaissance oil paintings with a thin layer of gesso are less likely to show deterioration in response to climatic changes than those with a thicker layer.
- (B) Renaissance oil paintings are often painted on wooden panels, which swell when humidity increases and contract when it declines.
- (C) Oil paint expands and contracts readily in response to changes in temperature, but it absorbs little water and so is little affected by changes in humidity.
- (D) An especially hard and nonabsorbent type of gesso was the raw material for moldings on the frames of Renaissance oil paintings.
- (E) Gesso layers applied by Renaissance painters typically consisted of a coarse base layer onto which several increasingly fine-grained layers were applied.

Argument Evaluation

Situation

Renaissance paintings are subject to deterioration due to changes in climate, but their actual paint is not a factor in this deterioration. Instead, restorers hypothesize, it is gesso, the material under the paint, that causes problems for the paintings.

Reasoning

What would most strongly support the hypothesis that gesso is causing the deterioration? An indication that gesso is affected by climatic changes would be most helpful in supporting the hypothesis. What could show that gesso is affected in this way? If the extent of a painting's deterioration is directly related to the amount of gesso used under that painting, then the gesso clearly plays some part in that deterioration.

- A **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a point supporting the hypothesis.
- B This suggests that another factor—the wood of the panels—has a role in the paintings' deterioration. Thus it weakens the hypothesis that gesso causes the deterioration.
- C This merely reinforces given information, that the paint itself is not responsible for the paintings' deterioration.
- D Because this gives no information about any connection between this especially hard and nonabsorbent type of gesso and the type of gesso used under the paint in Renaissance paintings, the properties and usage of the former type of gesso are irrelevant to the question of whether gesso is responsible for the paintings' deterioration.
- E Because we are told nothing about whether this technique of gesso application increases or decreases the likelihood that gesso will be affected by climatic change, it does not support the restorers' hypothesis.

The correct answer is A.

CRI0731

143. A newly discovered painting seems to be the work of one of two 17th-century artists, either the northern German Johannes Drechen or the Frenchman Louis Birelle, who sometimes painted in the same style as Drechen. Analysis of the carved picture frame, which has been identified as the painting's original 17th-century frame, showed that it is made of wood found widely in northern Germany at the time, but rare in the part of France where Birelle lived. This shows that the painting is most likely the work of Drechen.

Which of the following is an assumption that the argument requires?

- (A) The frame was made from wood local to the region where the picture was painted.
- (B) Drechen is unlikely to have ever visited the home region of Birelle in France.
- (C) Sometimes a painting so closely resembles others of its era that no expert is able to confidently decide who painted it.
- (D) The painter of the picture chose the frame for the picture.
- (E) The carving style of the picture frame is not typical of any specific region of Europe.

Argument Construction

Situation A 17th-century painting has been discovered that was either by Johannes Drechen from northern Germany or by French artist Louis Birelle. The painting's original picture frame is made of wood widely found in 17th-century northern Germany but rare in the French region where Birelle lived. So the painting was probably the work of Drechen.

Reasoning *Which of the five statements is an assumption required by the argument?* If the painting is correctly attributed to Drechen, then the wood that the frame was made from probably came from the region where Drechen lived and did his painting. The argument assumes that the specific wood used in the frame came from northern Germany rather than from some other place where that wood might have been found, and where (for all we know) Birelle might have visited.

- A **Correct.** Without an assumption equivalent to this, the argument would fail.
- B This is not a required assumption (unlike, for example, the following: Drechen did not give the picture frame to Birelle as a gift).
- C This is a truism but is not required to make the argument's conclusion well supported.
- D This does not need to be assumed; Drechen could, for example, have simply asked a local frame-maker to make a frame for his picture.
- E Neither the affirmation nor the denial of this statement is needed to underpin the argument.

The correct answer is A.

CR09120

144. Archaeologists working in the Andes Mountains recently excavated a buried 4,000-year-old temple containing structures that align with a stone carving on a distant hill to indicate the direction of the rising sun at the summer solstice. Alignments in the temple were also found to point toward the position, at the summer solstice, of a constellation known in Andean culture as the Fox. Since the local mythology represents the fox as teaching people how to cultivate and irrigate plants, the ancient Andeans may have built the temple as a religious representation of the fox.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument is based?

- (A) The constellation known as the Fox has the same position at the summer solstice as it did 4,000 years ago.
- (B) In the region around the temple, the summer solstice marks the time for planting.
- (C) The temple was protected from looters by dirt and debris built up over thousands of years.
- (D) Other structural alignments at the temple point to further constellations with agricultural significance.
- (E) The site containing the temple was occupied for a significant amount of time before abandonment.

Argument Construction

Situation A recently excavated 4,000-year-old temple contains structures that point toward the positions at the summer solstice of both the rising sun and a constellation known in local culture as the Fox. Local mythology represents the fox as teaching people how to cultivate and irrigate plants.

Reasoning *What must be true in order for the argument's premises to suggest that the temple was built to religiously represent the fox?* The argument's premises are all observations about current conditions: the current alignment at the summer solstice of the temple relative to the sunrise and to the constellation known as the Fox, the current local name for a constellation, and current local mythology. To support the conclusion about the temple's original purpose, the argument has to assume that all these conditions may still be essentially the same as they were 4,000 years ago when the temple was built.

- A **Correct.** If the constellation's position at the summer solstice relative to the temple is different from what it was 4,000 years ago, the temple must not have been aligned to point toward it when it was built. In that case, the argument's justification for associating the temple with that constellation and with the fox is undermined.
- B This does not have to be assumed for the argument to succeed, though if true, it might strengthen the argument by providing additional evidence associating the temple with the mythological fox as a teacher of agriculture. But the argument could be just as strong if the solstice were instead associated with agricultural activities other than planting.
- C Even if the temple was not protected from looters, the conditions described in the argument's premises may still be the same as they were 4,000 years ago.
- D This is not assumed. Additional structural alignments pointing to different constellations associated with mythological beings other than the fox might weaken or even undermine the argument's justification for associating the temple with the fox specifically.
- E The argument makes no assumption regarding how long the temple was occupied, or even regarding whether the temple was ever occupied.

The correct answer is A.

CR05065

145. Meat from chickens contaminated with salmonella bacteria can cause serious food poisoning. Capsaicin, the chemical that gives chili peppers their hot flavor, has antibacterial properties. Chickens do not have taste receptors for capsaicin and will readily eat feed laced with capsaicin. When chickens were fed such feed and then exposed to salmonella bacteria, relatively few of them became contaminated with salmonella.

In deciding whether the feed would be useful in raising salmonella-free chicken for retail sale, it would be most helpful to determine which of the following?

- (A) Whether feeding capsaicin to chickens affects the taste of their meat
- (B) Whether eating capsaicin reduces the risk of salmonella poisoning for humans
- (C) Whether chicken is more prone to salmonella contamination than other kinds of meat
- (D) Whether appropriate cooking of chicken contaminated with salmonella can always prevent food poisoning
- (E) Whether capsaicin can be obtained only from chili peppers

Argument Evaluation

Situation: Chickens will readily eat feed laced with capsaicin, which appears to protect them from contamination with salmonella bacteria that can cause food poisoning.

Questioning: *What information would help determine whether using the feed would be an effective strategy for raising salmonella-free chicken for retail sale?* In order for the strategy to be effective, it must be economically feasible for farmers to raise chickens using the feed, and there must be enough consumer demand for chickens raised this way. So any information about factors likely to affect either the economic feasibility of raising the chickens or consumer demand for them could be helpful in determining how useful the feed would be.

- A **Correct.** If chicken producers tried to market meat from capsaicin-fed chickens without knowing whether the taste is affected, they would risk alienating consumers. Of course, if they found that the taste is affected, they would then need to do further investigations to determine how consumers would likely respond to the difference. If consumers did not like the taste, this could negatively affect demand for the chickens. In that case, using the feed would not be an effective way to raise chickens for retail sale.
- B There are two ways this might be considered relevant. First, it might be thought that because capsaicin reduces the risk of salmonella poisoning in humans, it will also do so in chickens; but we already have good evidence of that in the argument. Second, it might be thought that, if the capsaicin does not produce chickens that are totally salmonella free, then if any capsaicin remains in the chickens, it will help prevent any humans who consume the chicken from getting salmonella poisoning. But the relevant issue is whether the capsaicin will make the chickens salmonella free, not whether humans will be protected whether the chickens are salmonella free or not.
- C The susceptibility of other types of meat to salmonella contamination would not affect the usefulness of the feed for preventing such contamination in chicken.
- D Presumably many people do not cook contaminated chicken appropriately, so consumers could still benefit from salmonella-free chicken whether or not appropriate cooking methods could prevent food poisoning.
- E Regardless of whether capsaicin can be obtained from other sources, chili peppers may be a perfectly viable source.

The correct answer is A.

CR04532

146. Which of the following most logically completes the argument below?

When mercury-vapor streetlights are used in areas inhabited by insect-eating bats, the bats feed almost exclusively around the lights, because the lights attract flying insects. In Greenville, the mercury-vapor streetlights are about to be replaced with energy-saving sodium streetlights, which do not attract insects. This change is likely to result in a drop in the population of insect-eating bats in Greenville, since _____.

- (A) the bats do not begin to hunt until after sundown
- (B) the bats are unlikely to feed on insects that do not fly
- (C) the highway department will be able to replace mercury-vapor streetlights with sodium streetlights within a relatively short time and without disrupting the continuity of lighting at the locations of the streetlights
- (D) in the absence of local concentrations of the flying insects on which bats feed, the bats expend much more energy on hunting for food, requiring much larger quantities of insects to sustain each bat
- (E) bats use echolocation to catch insects and therefore gain no advantage from the fact that insects flying in the vicinity of streetlights are visible at night

Argument Construction

Situation In areas with mercury-vapor streetlights, any insect-eating bats feed almost exclusively around the lights, which attract flying insects. In Greenville, mercury-vapor streetlights will soon be replaced with sodium streetlights that do not attract insects.

Reasoning *What evidence would suggest that the change in streetlights will reduce Greenville's population of insect-eating bats?* Since the sodium streetlights will not attract flying insects, the bats will probably stop focusing their feeding around Greenville's streetlights after the lights are changed. A statement providing evidence that this will make it harder for the bats to get enough food to sustain themselves would support the conclusion that the change is likely to reduce Greenville's bat population and thus would logically complete the argument.

- A Insect-eating bats existed long before streetlights did, so they can probably find insects away from streetlights even if they hunt only after sundown.
- B Greenville will almost certainly still have flying insects for the bats to eat after the change, even if those insects no longer gather around the streetlights.
- C If anything, such a smooth transition would be less likely to disturb the bats and therefore less likely to reduce their population.
- D **Correct.** Since there will be no local concentrations of flying insects around Greenville streetlights after the change, the bats will most likely have more trouble getting enough to eat, and that their local population will therefore fall.
- E The advantage that the bats gain from mercury-vapor streetlights comes from the high concentration of insects. The fact that the bats get no additional advantage from the insects' visibility tells us nothing about what affect the change to a different type of light might have.

The correct answer is D.

CR01353

147. Rats injected with morphine exhibit decreased activity of the immune system, the bodily system that fights off infections. These same rats exhibited heightened blood levels of corticosteroids, chemicals secreted by the adrenal glands. Since corticosteroids can interfere with immune-system activity, scientists hypothesized that the way morphine reduces immune responses in rats is by stimulating the adrenal glands to secrete additional corticosteroids into the bloodstream.

Which of the following experiments would yield the most useful results for evaluating the scientists' hypothesis?

- (A) Injecting morphine into rats that already have heightened blood levels of corticosteroids and then observing their new blood levels of corticosteroids
- (B) Testing the level of immune-system activity of rats, removing their adrenal glands, and then testing the rats' immune-system activity levels again
- (C) Injecting rats with corticosteroids and then observing how many of the rats contracted infections
- (D) Removing the adrenal glands of rats, injecting the rats with morphine, and then testing the level of the rats' immune-system responses
- (E) Injecting rats with a drug that stimulates immune-system activity and then observing the level of corticosteroids in their bloodstreams

Argument Evaluation

Situation Rats injected with morphine exhibit decreased immune-system activity and increased levels of corticosteroids, which are secreted by the adrenal glands and can interfere with immune-system activity.

Reasoning *What further experiment would help determine whether morphine reduces immune responses in rats by stimulating the adrenal glands to release more corticosteroids? Contrary to the scientists' hypothesis, the experimental results might have occurred because the morphine injections directly reduced immune-system activity. Or the injections might have blocked some mechanism that reduces corticosteroid levels in the blood, even if the morphine did not stimulate the adrenal glands to produce more corticosteroids. To evaluate whether the scientists' hypothesis is more plausible than these rival hypotheses, it would be helpful to know whether similar experimental results would occur after morphine injections even if adrenal gland activity did not change.*

- A Morphine could stimulate the adrenal glands of rats with normal corticosteroid levels to produce more corticosteroids, whether or not it does so in rats whose corticosteroid levels are already heightened.
- B Such an experiment would not involve morphine and thus would not help to determine how morphine affects immune-system activity in rats.
- C Whether or not rats contract infections may not reliably indicate their levels of immune-system activity.
- D **Correct.** If the immune system responses decreased after the morphine injections in this experiment, the hypothesis that it was by stimulation of the adrenal glands that morphine reduced immune-system activity would be undermined. But if no decrease in immune-system responses occurred, the hypothesis would be confirmed.
- E Even if the mechanism by which a drug other than morphine increases immune-system activity were discovered, this discovery would not necessarily reveal the mechanism by which morphine reduces immune-system activity.

The correct answer is D.

CR06831

148. Curator: If our museum lends *Venus* to the Hart Institute for their show this spring, they will lend us their Rembrandt etchings for our print exhibition next fall. Having those etchings will increase attendance to the exhibition and hence increase revenue from our general admission fee.

Museum Administrator: But *Venus* is our biggest attraction. Moreover the Hart's show will run for twice as long as our exhibition. So on balance the number of patrons may decrease.

The point of the administrator's response to the curator is to question

- (A) whether getting the Rembrandt etchings from the Hart Institute is likely to increase attendance at the print exhibition
- (B) whether the Hart Institute's Rembrandt etchings will be appreciated by those patrons of the curator's museum for whom the museum's biggest attraction is *Venus*
- (C) whether the number of patrons attracted by the Hart Institute's Rembrandt etchings will be larger than the number of patrons who do not come in the spring because *Venus* is on loan
- (D) whether, if *Venus* is lent, the museum's revenue from general admission fees during the print exhibition will exceed its revenue from general admission fees during the Hart Institute's exhibition
- (E) whether the Hart Institute or the curator's museum will have the greater financial gain from the proposed exchange of artworks

Argument Construction

Situation A curator and a museum administrator debate whether lending a particular artwork to the Hart Institute in exchange for a loan of some of the Hart Institute's artworks would increase or decrease attendance and revenue at the museum.

Reasoning *Which of the curator's explicit or implicit claims is the museum administrator questioning?* The administrator's statements that *Venus* is the museum's biggest attraction and that the Hart Institute's show will run twice as long as the museums exhibition do not directly conflict with any statement or assumption made by the curator. However, the administrator's conclusion is that on balance the number of patrons at the museum may decrease if the curator's proposal is followed. This conclusion calls into question the curator's claim that the proposal will increase revenue from the general admission fee, since that claim presupposes that on balance the proposal will increase the number of visitors to the museum. (The context suggests that the administrator is using the term *patrons* to mean visitors rather than donors.)

- A The administrator does not dispute that the Rembrandt etchings would probably increase attendance at the print exhibition but rather suggests that this increase would be exceeded by the loss of visitors to the museum while the Hart Institute borrows *Venus*.
- B Neither the curator nor the administrator comments on whether the patrons attracted to the Rembrandt etchings would be the same people attracted to *Venus*.
- C **Correct.** The curator implicitly infers that the former number will be larger than the latter, whereas the administrator questions this by asserting that the latter number may be larger than the former.
- D The administrator does not question whether the revenue during the print exhibition will exceed the revenue during the Hart Institute's exhibition, but rather whether it will exceed the loss of revenue during the Hart Institute's exhibition.
- E Neither the curator nor the administrator comments on whether the museum would gain more or less from the exchange than the Hart Institute would.

The correct answer is C.

CR03697

149. Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

Leaf beetles damage willow trees by stripping away their leaves, but a combination of parasites and predators generally keeps populations of these beetles in check. Researchers have found that severe air pollution results in reduced predator populations. The parasites, by contrast, are not adversely affected by pollution; nevertheless, the researchers' discovery probably does explain why leaf beetles cause particularly severe damage to willows in areas with severe air pollution, since _____.

- (A) neither the predators nor the parasites of leaf beetles themselves attack willow trees
- (B) the parasites that attack leaf beetles actually tend to be more prevalent in areas with severe air pollution than they are elsewhere
- (C) the damage caused by leaf beetles is usually not enough to kill a willow tree outright
- (D) where air pollution is not especially severe, predators have much more impact on leaf-beetle populations than parasites do
- (E) willows often grow in areas where air pollution is especially severe

Argument Construction

Situation Leaf beetles damage willow trees, but predators and parasites keep leaf beetle populations in check. Air pollution reduces populations of predators but not of parasites. Leaf beetles damage willows especially severely in areas with severe air pollution.

Reasoning *What would support the conclusion that air pollution's effects on the predator populations (but not on the parasite populations) explains why leaf beetles damage willows the most in areas with severe air pollution?* The word *since* preceding the blank space at the end of the passage indicates that the space should be filled with a premise supporting the conclusion stated immediately before the *since*. To support this conclusion, it would help to have evidence that predators play a predominant role in keeping leaf beetle populations in check, and thus that the reduction of predator populations by air pollution could be sufficient to enable leaf beetle populations to grow and cause especially severe damage.

- A The fact that neither the predators nor the parasites directly contribute to harming the trees offers no reason to conclude that a difference in how they are affected by pollution would contribute to the harm that the beetles cause to the trees.
- B If the parasites are more prevalent in areas with severe air pollution, then they are more likely to keep leaf beetle populations in check in those areas, despite the reduced predator populations. Thus, the decline in predator populations would more likely be insufficient to explain why the leaf beetles cause more damage in those areas.
- C This observation is irrelevant to whether the decline in predator populations explains why leaf beetles damage willow trees more severely in areas with severe air pollution.
- D **Correct.** This indicates that predators play a predominant role in keeping leaf beetle populations in check, so, as explained above, it supports the argument's conclusion.
- E This is not clearly relevant to whether the decline in predator populations explains why leaf beetles damage willow trees more severely in areas with severe air pollution. The argument's conclusion could just as easily be true regardless of whether willows grow in such polluted areas frequently or infrequently.

The correct answer is D.

CR05438

150. On May first, in order to reduce the number of overdue books, a children's library instituted a policy of forgiving fines and giving bookmarks to children returning all of their overdue books. On July first there were twice as many overdue books as there had been on May first, although a record number of books had been returned during the interim.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the apparent inconsistency in the results of the library's policy?

- (A) The librarians did not keep accurate records of how many children took advantage of the grace period, and some of the children returning overdue books did not return all of their overdue books.
- (B) Although the grace period enticed some children to return all of their overdue books, it did not convince all of the children with overdue books to return all of their books.
- (C) The bookmarks became popular among the children, so in order to collect the bookmarks, many children borrowed many more books than they usually did and kept them past their due date.
- (D) The children were allowed to borrow a maximum of five books for a two-week period, and hence each child could keep a maximum of fifteen books beyond their due date within a two-month period.
- (E) Although the library forgave overdue fines during the grace period, the amount previously charged the children was minimal; hence, the forgiveness of the fines did not provide enough incentive for them to return their overdue books.

Argument Construction

Situation After a library started forgiving fines and giving bookmarks to children who returned all their overdue books, the number of books returned greatly increased, but so did the number of overdue books.

Reasoning *Why might the policy have simultaneously increased the number of overdue books and the number of books being returned?* In order to increase both these numbers, the policy must have resulted in more books being checked out, kept past their due dates, and then returned. But why would the policy have promoted that behavior? One possibility is that it rewarded the behavior. The policy involved giving children bookmarks as rewards for returning overdue books, while removing the fines that penalized the children for doing so. If the children liked the bookmarks, they might have tried to get more of them by deliberately checking books out in order to keep them past their due dates before returning them to get the bookmarks.

- A Failing to keep accurate records of the number of children would not clearly increase the number of books being returned. And the policy change did not apply to children who returned only some of their overdue books.
- B This suggests that the policy had limited effects, but does not help to explain why it had apparently inconsistent effects.
- C **Correct.** This explains how the policy gave the children a motive to check out and return more books while also allowing them to keep more of the books past the due dates.
- D This restriction would have limited the number of overdue books and thus would not help to explain why that number increased.
- E This suggests that the policy had little effect but does not help to explain why it had apparently inconsistent effects.

The correct answer is C.

CR00653

151. A certain species of desert lizard digs tunnels in which to lay its eggs. The eggs must incubate inside the tunnel for several weeks before hatching, and they fail to hatch if they are disturbed at any time during this incubation period. Yet these lizards guard their tunnels for only a few days after laying their eggs.

Which of the following, if true, most helps explain why there is no need for lizards to guard their tunnels for more than a few days?

- (A) The eggs are at risk of being disturbed only during the brief egg-laying season when many lizards are digging in a relatively small area.
- (B) The length of the incubation period varies somewhat from one tunnel to another.
- (C) Each female lizard lays from 15 to 20 eggs, only about 10 of which hatch even if the eggs are not disturbed at any time during the incubation period.
- (D) The temperature and humidity within the tunnels will not be suitable for the incubating eggs unless the tunnels are plugged with sand immediately after the eggs are laid.
- (E) The only way to disturb the eggs of this lizard species is by opening up one of the tunnels in which they are laid.

Argument Construction

Situation Lizards of a certain species dig tunnels in which they lay their eggs. Although the eggs fail to hatch if disturbed during their several weeks of incubation, the lizards guard the tunnels for only a few days after laying the eggs.

Reasoning *What would help to explain why the lizards have to guard their tunnels for only a few days?* For the lizards to survive as a species, their behaviors must ensure that enough of their eggs hatch. Thus, they must successfully prevent enough of their eggs from being disturbed in the tunnels throughout the several weeks of incubation. If guarding the tunnels for only a few days accomplishes this, then some other factor must prevent the eggs from being disturbed during the remaining weeks. Evidence of any such factor would help to explain why the lizards do not have to guard the tunnels longer. For example, to protect the eggs without guarding them, the lizards might conceal the tunnel entrances after the first few days. Or animals likely to disturb the eggs might only be present for those first days, in which case there would be nothing for the lizards to guard against thereafter.

- A **Correct.** This suggests that the only creatures likely to disturb the eggs are other lizards of the same species digging tunnels to lay their own eggs at around the same time. If so, each lizard can safely leave its eggs unguarded after a few days because all the other lizards will have finished digging.
- B Even if the incubation period varies somewhat, the passage says it always lasts several weeks. So this does not explain why the lizards have to guard the tunnels for only a few days.
- C If many eggs fail to hatch even when undisturbed, that is all the more reason for the lizards to protect the remaining eggs from disturbance throughout the incubation period so that at least some will hatch. So it does not explain why the lizards guard their tunnels only for a few days.
- D Whether or not immediately plugging the tunnels with sand is enough to protect the eggs, this behavior does not explain why the lizards subsequently guard the tunnels for a few days and then leave for the rest of the incubation period.
- E Even if it is impossible to disturb the eggs without opening the tunnels, that does not explain why the lizards guard the tunnels for a few days and then leave for the rest of the incubation period.

The correct answer is A.

CR00677

152. Most banks that issue credit cards charge interest rates on credit card debt that are ten percentage points higher than the rates those banks charge for ordinary consumer loans. These banks' representatives claim the difference is fully justified, since it simply covers the difference between the costs to these banks associated with credit card debt and those associated with consumer loans.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously calls into question the reasoning offered by the banks' representatives?

- (A) Some lenders that are not banks offer consumer loans at interest rates that are even higher than most banks charge on credit card debt.
- (B) Most car rental companies require that their customers provide signed credit card charge slips or security deposits.
- (C) Two to three percent of the selling price of every item bought with a given credit card goes to the bank that issued that credit card.
- (D) Most people need not use credit cards to buy everyday necessities, but could buy those necessities with cash or pay by check.
- (E) People who pay their credit card bills in full each month usually pay no interest on the amounts they charge.

Argument Evaluation

Situation

Banks that issue credit cards tend to charge interest rates on the associated debt that are ten percentage points higher than the rates associated with "ordinary" consumer loans (consumer loans that are not associated with credit cards). Representatives of these banks have offered a justification of this practice, based on a claim that this difference in interest rates "simply covers the difference" in costs, to the banks, associated with these respective types of loans (loans associated with credit cards and consumer loans that are not associated with credit cards).

Reasoning

What additional facts would indicate a flaw in the bank representatives' argument? Given the description of the bank representatives' argument, we may assume that, by their estimation, the costs to banks associated with credit card debt are greater than the costs associated with other consumer loans. The representatives' argument, that the difference in interest rates "simply covers" this difference in costs, may then be seen as an argument that all of the extra money that the banks collect from the higher interest rates is *necessary* if the banks are to cover this difference in costs. If we can find a fact whereby the ten percentage point difference is not necessary to cover the difference in costs, then we may be able to "call into question" the bank representatives' argument.

- A The point of this response to the bank representatives' argument would seem to be that the relatively high interest rates on credit debt may be justified because certain other businesses charge even higher interest rates on consumer loans. Regardless of the merits of this response, it appears intended to *support* the argument of the representatives, whereas our task is to identify a fact that could be used to criticize the argument.
- B This purported fact does not address the argument concerning the interest rates on credit-card debt.
- C **Correct.** If two to three percent of the value of purchases made on credit cards goes to the issuing banks, then this money could be used to cover some of the difference in costs described by the bank representatives. The interest rates on credit cards could therefore be somewhat lower than they actually are, with the difference in costs nevertheless still fully covered. The difference in interest rates of ten percentage points may therefore not be necessary.
- D This point might be used in support of an argument that consumers have a genuine choice as to whether to use credit cards, and that they are therefore responsible for the higher rates of interest that they pay for credit-card debt. Such an argument would seem to *support* the position of bank representatives.
- E As with the point in option D, this point might seem to suggest that consumers bear some of the responsibility for the higher interest rates they pay, thus perhaps mitigating the responsibility of the banks. The point might thus seem to *support* the position of the banks' representatives.

The correct answer is C.

CR00726

153. Often patients with ankle fractures that are stable, and thus do not require surgery, are given follow-up x-rays because their orthopedists are concerned about possibly having misjudged the stability of the fracture. When a number of follow-up x-rays were reviewed, however, all the fractures that had initially been judged stable were found to have healed correctly. Therefore, it is a waste of money to order follow-up x-rays of ankle fractures initially judged stable.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- (A) Doctors who are general practitioners rather than orthopedists are less likely than orthopedists to judge the stability of an ankle fracture correctly.
- (B) Many ankle injuries for which an initial x-ray is ordered are revealed by the x-ray not to involve any fracture of the ankle.
- (C) X-rays of patients of many different orthopedists working in several hospitals were reviewed.
- (D) The healing of ankle fractures that have been surgically repaired is always checked by means of a follow-up x-ray.
- (E) Orthopedists routinely order follow-up x-rays for fractures of bones other than ankle bones.

Argument Evaluation

Often patients with ankle fractures that their orthopedists have judged not to require surgery are given follow-up x-rays to check whether the fracture healed correctly. An examination of a sample of those x-rays found that the ankle had, in each case, healed properly.

The question is which of the options, if true, would most strengthen the argument. The argument is based on data concerning follow-up x-rays, each of which revealed no problem with the orthopedist's initial judgment that the ankle fracture was stable (and would heal without surgery). This invites the question whether the follow-up x-rays are really needed. The argument concludes that they are a waste of money. But was the x-ray data truly representative of orthopedists generally? After all, some orthopedists—perhaps more experienced, better-trained, or employed at a facility with better staff or facilities—may be much better than others at judging ankle fractures. If we add the information that the data for the conclusion comes from many orthopedists working at many different hospitals, we have greater assurance that the x-ray data is representative, and the argument will be made much stronger.

- A Neither the study nor the conclusion that is drawn from it concerns general practitioners, so this point is irrelevant.
- B Naturally many ankle injuries do not involve fractures—x-rays may sometimes be used to determine this—but the argument concerns only cases where there have been ankle fractures.
- C **Correct.** This shows that the sample of x-ray data examined was probably sufficiently representative of cases of ankle fracture judged to be stable by orthopedists.
- D The argument does not concern cases of ankle fracture that have been surgically repaired.
- E The argument concerns only x-rays of ankles. From the information given here, we cannot infer that orthopedists are generally wasteful in routinely ordering follow-up x-rays.

The correct answer is C.

CR05431

154. In setting environmental standards for industry and others to meet, it is inadvisable to require the best results that state-of-the-art technology can achieve. Current technology is able to detect and eliminate even extremely minute amounts of contaminants, but at a cost that is exorbitant relative to the improvement achieved. So it would be reasonable instead to set standards by taking into account all of the current and future risks involved.

The argument given concerning the reasonable way to set standards presupposes that

- (A) industry currently meets the standards that have been set by environmental authorities
- (B) there are effective ways to take into account all of the relevant risks posed by allowing different levels of contaminants
- (C) the only contaminants worth measuring are generated by industry
- (D) it is not costly to prevent large amounts of contaminants from entering the environment
- (E) minute amounts of some contaminants can be poisonous

Argument Construction

Situation State-of-the-art technology can detect and eliminate even tiny amounts of environmental contaminants, but at a cost that is exorbitant relative to its benefits.

Reasoning *What must be true in order for the argument's premises to support its conclusion?* The argument is that environmental standards requiring the best results that state-of-the-art technology can provide are unreasonably expensive relative to their benefits, so it would be reasonable instead to set environmental standards that take into account all present and future risks from contaminants. In order for the premise to support the conclusion, the environmental standards based on present and future risks would have to be less expensive relative to their benefits than the *best results* environmental standards are. Furthermore, setting the *current and future risks* environmental standards cannot be reasonable unless it is feasible to assess present and future risks as those standards require.

- A The argument does not say which standards, if any, environmental authorities have set. In any case, such standards could be reasonable or unreasonable regardless of whether industry currently meets them.
- B **Correct.** If taking future risks into account were infeasible, then applying the *current and future risks* standards would also be infeasible. And setting those standards would be unreasonable if they could not feasibly be applied.
- C According to the stimulus, the proposed *current and future risks* standards would apply to industry *and others*. So those standards could be reasonable even if the unspecified *others* also generated contaminants worth measuring, and even if the standards required measuring those contaminants.
- D Even if it were costly to prevent large amounts of contaminants from entering the environment, the benefits of doing so to prevent present and future risks might outweigh the costs.
- E The *current and future risks* standards could take into account any poisoning risks posed by minute amounts of contaminants.

The correct answer is B.

CR05750

155. The chemical adenosine is released by brain cells when those cells are active. Adenosine then binds to more and more sites on cells in certain areas of the brain, as the total amount released gradually increases during wakefulness. During sleep, the number of sites to which adenosine is bound decreases. Some researchers have hypothesized that it is the cumulative binding of adenosine to a large number of sites that causes the onset of sleep.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most support for the researchers' hypothesis?

- (A) Even after long periods of sleep when adenosine is at its lowest concentration in the brain, the number of brain cells bound with adenosine remains very large.
- (B) Caffeine, which has the effect of making people remain wakeful, is known to interfere with the binding of adenosine to sites on brain cells.
- (C) Besides binding to sites in the brain, adenosine is known to be involved in biochemical reactions throughout the body.
- (D) Some areas of the brain that are relatively inactive nonetheless release some adenosine.
- (E) Stress resulting from a dangerous situation can preserve wakefulness even when brain levels of bound adenosine are high.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Adenosine is released from brain cells that are active. The amount of adenosine released increases during wakefulness, and it binds to more and more sites on cells in certain brain locations. The number of sites to which it is bound decreases during sleep. Researchers have hypothesized that the cumulative binding of adenosine to many sites causes the onset of sleep.

Reasoning *Which of the five pieces of information most strongly supports the hypothesis?* If the hypothesis is correct, then some factor that impedes the binding of adenosine should be closely associated with wakefulness. Therefore, finding some such factor, and observing that it is accompanied by wakefulness when the factor operates, would tend to confirm the hypothesis.

- A Without further, more specific information, this piece of information suffices neither to confirm nor to refute the hypothesis.
- B **Correct.** A finding that caffeine, known to induce wakefulness, inhibits adenosine from binding to sites on brain cells helps confirm the hypothesis.
- C This piece of information lacks a clear relevance to the hypothesized impact on sleep, and therefore does not help confirm the hypothesis.
- D This information lacks a clear relevance to the hypothesized impact on sleep, and therefore does not help confirm the hypothesis.
- E What this indicates is that stress may impede the hypothesized sleep-inducing effect of adenosine. It does not refute the hypothesis but does not confirm it either.

The correct answer is B.

CR01101

- 156.** A two-year study beginning in 1977 found that, among 85-year-old people, those whose immune systems were weakest were twice as likely to die within two years as others in the study. The cause of their deaths, however, was more often heart disease, against which the immune system does not protect, than cancer or infections, which are attacked by the immune system.

Which of the following, if true, would offer the best prospects for explaining deaths in which weakness of the immune system, though present, played no causal role?

- (A) There were twice as many infections among those in the study with the weakest immune systems as among those with the strongest immune systems.
- (B) The majority of those in the study with the strongest immune systems died from infection or cancer by 1987.
- (C) Some of the drugs that had been used to treat the symptoms of heart disease had a side effect of weakening the immune system.
- (D) Most of those in the study who survived beyond the two-year period had recovered from a serious infection sometime prior to 1978.
- (E) Those in the study who survived into the 1980s had, in 1976, strengthened their immune systems through drug therapy.

Argument Construction

Situation

This question presents a puzzling scenario and asks us to find a possible fact that could make the situation less puzzling. The scenario involves a study that was conducted a few decades ago on a certain group of older adults. Those with the weakest immune systems were much more likely to die within two years than were the other individuals in the study. However, among the individuals with the weakest immune systems, death was more often by heart disease, from which the immune system does not protect, than from cancer or infections, for which a strong immune system is protective.

Reasoning

For the participants in the study with the weakest immune systems, what might best explain the deaths that were not due to weakness of the immune system? We might expect that the people with the weakest immune systems would be more likely to die from diseases that a strong immune system would protect them from than from other diseases. An explanation of the deaths that were not due to weakness of the immune system would explain why this is not the case.

- A This point is irrelevant. The hypothesis that the participants in the study with the weakest immune systems had more infections than did the other participants does not explain why those participants died from conditions that were not infections.
- B Our question involves identifying a possible explanation for the deaths of the participants in the study with the weakest immune systems. This option, about the deaths of those with strong immune systems, is thus irrelevant.
- C **Correct.** This option suggests that those with heart disease—which would not have been due to weakness of the immune system—would have nevertheless had a weaker immune system due to the administration of certain drugs. Those with heart disease may for this reason have been among those with the weakest immune systems. If the individuals with weak immune systems due to treatment for heart disease formed a large-enough portion of the patients with the weakest immune systems, then we would have an explanation for why those with the weakest immune systems were more likely to die from heart disease than from infections or cancer.
- D This option is not specific enough for us to use in the explanation we are looking for. For example, the “serious” infections in question may have occurred well before the 1977 study. Furthermore, there may appear to be no significant relationship between having had a serious infection and death from a condition that was not an infection.

- E This option is also not specific enough to be a factor that might reasonably offer the explanation we are looking for. For example, given the information in this option, it could have been the case that all of the participants had the drug therapy.

The correct answer is C.

CR13093

157. Most scholars agree that King Alfred (A.D. 849–899) personally translated a number of Latin texts into Old English. One historian contends that Alfred also personally penned his own law code, arguing that the numerous differences between the language of the law code and Alfred's translations of Latin texts are outweighed by the even more numerous similarities. Linguistic similarities, however, are what one expects in texts from the same language, the same time, and the same region. Apart from Alfred's surviving translations and law code, there are only two other extant works from the same dialect and milieu, so it is risky to assume here that linguistic similarities point to common authorship.

The passage above proceeds by

- (A) providing examples that underscore another argument's conclusion
- (B) questioning the plausibility of an assumption on which another argument depends
- (C) showing that a principle if generally applied would have anomalous consequences
- (D) showing that the premises of another argument are mutually inconsistent
- (E) using argument by analogy to undermine a principle implicit in another argument

Argument Evaluation

Situation A historian argues that King Alfred must have written his own law code, since there are more similarities than differences between the language in the law code and that in Alfred's translations of Latin texts. Apart from Alfred's translations and law code, there are only two other extant works in the same dialect and from the same milieu.

Reasoning *How does the reasoning in the passage proceed?* The first sentence presents a claim that is not disputed in the passage. The second sentence presents a historian's argument. Implicitly citing the undisputed claim in the passage's first sentence as evidence, the historian proposes an analogy between the law code and Alfred's translations, arguing on the basis of this analogy that Alfred wrote the law code. The third sentence of the passage casts doubt on this analogy, pointing out that it could plausibly apply to texts that Alfred did not write. The fourth sentence suggests that too few extant texts are available as evidence to rule out the possibility raised in the third sentence. Thus, the third and fourth sentences are intended to undermine the historian's argument.

- A As explained above, the passage is intended to undermine the conclusion of the historian's argument, not to *underscore* (emphasize) it.
- B **Correct.** The passage's third and fourth sentences question the plausibility of the historian's assumption that no one but Alfred would have been likely to write a text whose language has more similarities to than differences from the language in Alfred's translations.
- C Although there might well be anomalous consequences from generalizing the assumption on which the historian's argument relies, the passage does not mention or allude to any such consequences.
- D The passage does not mention, or suggest the existence of, any inconsistencies among the premises of the historian's argument.
- E Although the historian argues by analogy, the passage does not itself argue by analogy; it does not suggest any specific counteranalogy to undermine the historian's argument.

The correct answer is B.

CR01355

158. Parland's alligator population has been declining in recent years, primarily because of hunting. Alligators prey heavily on a species of freshwater fish that is highly valued as food by Parlanders, who had hoped that the decline in the alligator population would lead to an increase in the numbers of these fish available for human consumption. Yet the population of this fish species has also declined, even though the annual number caught for human consumption has not increased. Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the decline in the population of the fish species?

- (A) The decline in the alligator population has meant that fishers can work in some parts of lakes and rivers that were formerly too dangerous.
- (B) Over the last few years, Parland's commercial fishing enterprises have increased the number of fishing boats they use.
- (C) Many Parlanders who hunt alligators do so because of the high market price of alligator skins, not because of the threat alligators pose to the fish population.
- (D) During Parland's dry season, holes dug by alligators remain filled with water long enough to provide a safe place for the eggs of this fish species to hatch.
- (E) In several neighboring countries through which Parland's rivers also flow, alligators are at risk of extinction as a result of extensive hunting.

Argument Construction

Situation The alligators in a certain region prey heavily on a certain species of fish that is prized for human consumption. However, although in recent years hunting has reduced the population of alligators in the region, the population of the prized freshwater fish species has declined. The annual number caught for human consumption has not increased.

Reasoning *What might explain the decline in the population of the prized fish species, despite both the decrease in population of another species that preys heavily on the prized fish and the lack of increase in fishing for the species for human consumption?* The population of the fish species declined, despite both the presence of a factor that we might be expected to produce an increase in the population of the species and the absence of a factor that we might ordinarily expect to explain the decrease. This situation may seem puzzling, and we may thus wish to find an explanation for it.

- A Given that fishers can work in parts of lakes and rivers that were formerly too dangerous to work in, we might expect fishing of the prized species to increase and thus expect the population of the species to decrease. Although this might explain a decrease in the population of the fish species if fishing for the species increased, we have been given reason to believe that fishing for the species *decreased*.
- B As with option A, the statement in this option suggests that fishing in the region may have increased and thus that fishing for the prized fish species for human consumption may have increased. This might explain the decrease in the population of the fish species if the statement were correct. However, we have been given that fishing for the prized fish species for human consumption has decreased.
- C The statement in this option provides an explanation of why the alligator hunting has occurred. Given that the alligators prey on the fish, this might help to explain an increase in the population of the prized fish species, had such an increase occurred. However, we are given that the population of the fish species in the region has decreased.
- D **Correct.** Despite the fact that alligators prey on the prized fish species, this statement describes a way in which the fish species may be dependent on the alligators, in such a way that a decline in the population of the alligators could contribute to a decline in the fish species.
- E The statement in this option serves to amplify a point that is given in the puzzling situation of a decline in the population of the fish species *despite* (among other factors) a decrease in the population of the alligators. It does not explain why a decline in the population of the alligator species may have contributed to a decline in the population of the fish species.

The correct answer is D.

CR05418

159. A company plans to develop a prototype weeding machine that uses cutting blades with optical sensors and microprocessors that distinguish weeds from crop plants by differences in shade of color. The inventor of the machine claims that it will reduce labor costs by virtually eliminating the need for manual weeding.

Which of the following is a consideration in favor of the company's implementing its plan to develop the prototype?

- (A) There is a considerable degree of variation in shade of color between weeds of different species.
- (B) The shade of color of some plants tends to change appreciably over the course of their growing season.
- (C) When crops are weeded manually, overall size and leaf shape are taken into account in distinguishing crop plants from weeds.
- (D) Selection and genetic manipulation allow plants of virtually any species to be economically bred to have a distinctive shade of color without altering their other characteristics.
- (E) Farm laborers who are responsible for the manual weeding of crops carry out other agricultural duties at times in the growing season when extensive weeding is not necessary.

Evaluation of a Plan

Situation A company plans to develop an automated weeding machine that would distinguish weeds from crop plants by differences in shade of color. It is supposed to reduce labor costs by eliminating the need for manual weeding.

Reasoning *Which option describes a consideration that would favor the company's plan?* The passage supports the plan by claiming that the machine would reduce labor costs by virtually eliminating weeding by hand. The correct option will be one that adds to this support. Labor costs will be reduced only if the machine works well. The machine relies on shade of color to distinguish between weeds and crop plants. If crop plants can be bred to have distinctive color without sacrificing other qualities, it would be more likely that the machine could be used effectively.

- A Greater variation among weed plants would make it more difficult for the machine to distinguish between weeds and crop plants, and this would make it less likely that the machine would be effective.
- B This option tends to disfavor the effectiveness of the machine. The more changeable the colors of the plants to be distinguished, the more complex the task of distinguishing between weeds and crop plants based on their color.
- C This option tends to disfavor the likely benefits of the machine because it indicates that manual weeding distinguishes weeds from crop plants by using criteria that the machine does not take into account. If the machine does not distinguish weeds from crop plants as accurately and reliably as manual weeding does, then the machine is less apt to make manual weeding unnecessary.
- D **Correct.** Making crop plants easily distinguishable from weeds would facilitate the effective use of the weeding machine.
- E This does not favor the company's implementing the plan to develop the machine. There would still be tasks other than weeding that would require hiring staff. Thus there would still be labor costs even if the need for manual weeding were eliminated.

The correct answer is D.

CR05079

160. Aroca City currently funds its public schools through taxes on property. **In place of this system, the city plans to introduce a sales tax of 3 percent on all retail sales in the city.** Critics protest that 3 percent of current retail sales falls short of the amount raised for schools by property taxes. The critics are correct on this point. **Nevertheless, implementing the plan will probably not reduce the money going to Aroca's schools.** Several large retailers have selected Aroca City as the site for huge new stores, and these are certain to draw large numbers of shoppers from neighboring municipalities, where sales are taxed at rates of 6 percent and more. In consequence, retail sales in Aroca City are bound to increase substantially.

In the argument given, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first presents a plan that the argument concludes is unlikely to achieve its goal; the second expresses that conclusion.
- (B) The first presents a plan that the argument concludes is unlikely to achieve its goal; the second presents evidence in support of that conclusion.
- (C) The first presents a plan that the argument contends is the best available; the second is a conclusion drawn by the argument to justify that contention.
- (D) The first presents a plan one of whose consequences is at issue in the argument; the second is the argument's conclusion about that consequence.
- (E) The first presents a plan that the argument seeks to defend against a certain criticism; the second is that criticism.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Aroca City plans to switch the source of its public school funding from property taxes to a new local sales tax.

Reasoning *What argumentative roles do the two portions in boldface play in the passage?* The first boldface portion simply describes the city's plan. The next two sentences in the passage describe an observation some critics have made in objecting to the plan and say that the observation is correct. But then the second boldface portion rejects the critics' implicit conclusion that the plan will reduce school funding. The final two sentences in the passage present reasons to accept the statement in the second boldface portion, so they are premises supporting it as a conclusion.

- A The argument concludes that the plan is unlikely to reduce funding for the schools. The passage does not mention the plan's goal, but presumably that goal is not to reduce school funding.
- B The second boldface portion presents the argument's conclusion, not evidence to support the conclusion. The passage does not mention the plan's goal, but presumably that goal is not to reduce school funding.
- C The passage does not say whether the plan is better than any other possible school funding plans.
- D **Correct.** The plan's likely effect on the amount of school funding is at issue in the argument, whose conclusion is that the plan probably will not reduce that funding.
- E The second boldface portion does not criticize the plan, but rather rejects a criticism of the plan by stating that the plan will probably not reduce school funding.

The correct answer is D.

CR06152

161. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

A photograph of the night sky was taken with the camera shutter open for an extended period. The normal motion of stars across the sky caused the images of the stars in the photograph to appear as streaks. However, one bright spot was not streaked. Even if the spot were caused, as astronomers believe, by a celestial object, that object could still have been moving across the sky during the time the shutter was open, since _____.

- (A) the spot was not the brightest object in the photograph
- (B) the photograph contains many streaks that astronomers can identify as caused by noncelestial objects
- (C) stars in the night sky do not appear to shift position relative to each other
- (D) the spot could have been caused by an object that emitted a flash that lasted for only a fraction of the time that the camera shutter was open
- (E) if the camera shutter had not been open for an extended period, it would have recorded substantially fewer celestial objects

Argument Construction

Situation In a photograph of the night sky taken with the camera shutter open for an extended period, the images of stars appeared as streaks because of the stars' normal motion across the sky, but one bright spot was not streaked.

Reasoning *What would most strongly suggest that a celestial object moving across the sky could have caused the spot?* An object moving across the sky that was bright throughout the time the camera shutter was open should have appeared as a streak in the photograph, just as the stars did. But if the moving object was bright for only a very brief moment, and thus not for an extended time while the camera shutter was open, the object's movement may not have been captured in the photograph, and thus would appear in the photograph as an unstreaked bright spot.

- A The argument is not about how bright the spot was compared to other objects in the photograph.
- B Streaks caused by noncelestial objects such as satellites or airplanes do not explain how only one of many celestial objects moving across the sky could have produced the unstreaked spot.
- C The passage indicates that the stars were shifting position relative to the camera, not relative to one another. In any case, this observation does not help to explain how a celestial object that may not have been a star but that was moving across the sky could have produced the unstreaked spot in the photograph.
- D **Correct.** As explained above, a moving celestial object that only produced a momentary flash of light would produce an unstreaked bright spot in the photograph.
- E This may be true, given that fewer celestial objects might have moved into the camera's range of view if the camera shutter had not been open as long. But it does not provide any evidence that a moving celestial object could have produced the unstreaked spot.

The correct answer is D.

CR09046

- i62. Economist: Paying extra for fair-trade coffee—coffee labeled with the Fairtrade logo—is intended to help poor farmers, because they receive a higher price for the fair-trade coffee they grow. But this practice may hurt more farmers in developing nations than it helps. By raising average prices for coffee, it encourages more coffee to be produced than consumers want to buy. This lowers prices for non-fair-trade coffee and thus lowers profits for non-fair-trade coffee farmers. To evaluate the strength of the economist's argument, it would be most helpful to know which of the following?

- (A) Whether there is a way of alleviating the impact of the increased average prices for coffee on non-fair-trade coffee farmers' profits
- (B) What proportion of coffee farmers in developing nations produce fair-trade coffee
- (C) Whether many coffee farmers in developing nations also derive income from other kinds of farming
- (D) Whether consumers should pay extra for fair-trade coffee if doing so lowers profits for non-fair-trade coffee farmers
- (E) How fair-trade coffee farmers in developing nations could be helped without lowering profits for non-fair-trade coffee farmers

Argument Evaluation

Situation Poor farmers receive higher prices for fair-trade coffee. But paying extra for fair-trade coffee lowers prices for non-fair-trade coffee and thus lowers profits for non-fair-trade coffee farmers.

Reasoning *What would be most helpful to know to evaluate how well the economist's observations support the conclusion that buying fair-trade coffee hurts more farmers in developing nations than it helps?* The economist suggests that buying fair-trade coffee benefits farmers who grow it because they receive higher prices, but that it hurts non-fair-trade coffee farmers by reducing their profits. So to know whether the practice hurts more farmers in developing nations than it helps, it would be helpful to know whether developing nations have more farmers who produce non-fair-trade coffee than produce fair-trade coffee.

- A Even if there were some potential way of alleviating the negative impact from buying fair-trade coffee on non-fair-trade coffee farmers, it still could be that the practice hurts more developing-nation farmers than it helps. Alleviating the negative impact does not entail that there is no negative impact.
- B **Correct.** If fewer than half of these farmers produce fair-trade coffee, then the economist's observations do suggest that buying fair-trade coffee hurts more coffee farmers in developing nations than it helps. But if more than half do, those observations suggest the contrary.
- C Although knowing this could be helpful in determining how intensely many farmers are economically affected by people buying fair-trade coffee, it is not helpful in determining whether more farmers are hurt than are helped.
- D The argument's conclusion is only about the economic impact of buying fair-trade coffee, not about how consumers should or should not respond to that impact.
- E Knowing how the fair-trade coffee farmers could potentially be helped without hurting the other coffee farmers is irrelevant to assessing whether the practice of buying fair-trade coffee hurts more developing-nation farmers than it helps.

The correct answer is B.

CR01887

163. Tanco, a leather manufacturer, uses large quantities of common salt to preserve animal hides. New environmental regulations have significantly increased the cost of disposing of salt water that results from this use, and, in consequence, Tanco is considering a plan to use potassium chloride in place of common salt. Research has shown that Tanco could reprocess the by-product of potassium chloride use to yield a crop fertilizer, leaving a relatively small volume of waste for disposal.

In determining the impact on company profits of using potassium chloride in place of common salt, it would be important for Tanco to research all of the following EXCEPT:

- (A) What difference, if any, is there between the cost of the common salt needed to preserve a given quantity of animal hides and the cost of the potassium chloride needed to preserve the same quantity of hides?
- (B) To what extent is the equipment involved in preserving animal hides using common salt suitable for preserving animal hides using potassium chloride?
- (C) What environmental regulations, if any, constrain the disposal of the waste generated in reprocessing the by-product of potassium chloride?
- (D) How closely does leather that results when common salt is used to preserve hides resemble that which results when potassium chloride is used?
- (E) Are the chemical properties that make potassium chloride an effective means for preserving animal hides the same as those that make common salt an effective means for doing so?

Evaluation of a Plan

Situation New environmental regulations will increase the costs of disposing of the salt water that results from the use of large amounts of common salt in leather manufacturing. The manufacturer is considering switching from common salt to potassium chloride, because the by-product of the latter could be reprocessed to yield a crop fertilizer, with little waste left over to be disposed.

Reasoning In order to determine whether it would be profitable to switch from using common salt to using potassium chloride, which of the five questions does the manufacturer NOT need to answer? The chemical properties making potassium chloride an effective means of preserving animal hides might be quite different from those that make common salt effective, but there is no particular reason for thinking that this would impact the profitability of switching to potassium chloride. The relevant effects on the preserved hides might be the same even if the properties that brought about those effects were quite different. Thus, without more information than is provided in the passage, this question is irrelevant.

- A The savings in waste disposal costs that would be gained by switching to potassium chloride could be cancelled out if the cost of potassium chloride needed far exceeded that for common salt.
- B If switching to potassium chloride would force the manufacturer to replace the equipment it uses for preserving hides, then it might be less profitable to switch.
- C Even though there is said to be relatively little waste associated with using potassium chloride in the process, if the costs of this disposal are very high due to environmental regulations, it might be less profitable to switch.
- D If the leather that results from the use of potassium chloride looks substantially different from that which results when common salt has been used, then the leather might be less attractive to consumers, which would adversely affect the economics of switching to potassium chloride.
- E **Correct.** Note that the question as stated here presupposes that potassium chloride and salt are both effective means for preserving animal hides—so it does not raise any issue as to whether potassium chloride is adequately effective or as effective as salt (clearly, an issue of effectiveness *would* be relevant to profitability).

The correct answer is E.

CR0499

164. Colorless diamonds can command high prices as gemstones. A type of less valuable diamonds can be treated to remove all color. Only sophisticated tests can distinguish such treated diamonds from naturally colorless ones. However, only 2 percent of diamonds mined are of the colored type that can be successfully treated, and many of those are of insufficient quality to make the treatment worthwhile. Surely, therefore, the vast majority of colorless diamonds sold by jewelers are naturally colorless.

A serious flaw in the reasoning of the argument is that

- (A) comparisons between the price diamonds command as gemstones and their value for other uses are omitted
- (B) information about the rarity of treated diamonds is not combined with information about the rarity of naturally colorless, gemstone diamonds
- (C) the possibility that colored diamonds might be used as gemstones, even without having been treated, is ignored
- (D) the currently available method for making colorless diamonds from colored ones is treated as though it were the only possible method for doing so
- (E) the difficulty that a customer of a jeweler would have in distinguishing a naturally colorless diamond from a treated one is not taken into account

Argument Evaluation

Situation Colored diamonds of a type that comprises 2 percent of all mined diamonds can be treated so that they are not easily distinguishable from more valuable, naturally colorless diamonds, but many are too low in quality for the treatment to be worthwhile.

Reasoning *Why do the argument's premises not justify the conclusion that the vast majority of colorless diamonds sold by jewelers are naturally colorless?* Since the type of colored diamonds that can be treated make up only 2 percent of all mined diamonds, and many diamonds of that type are too low in quality for treatment to be worthwhile, the vast majority of mined diamonds must not be treated to have their color removed. However, we are not told what proportion of all mined diamonds are naturally colorless. Naturally colorless diamonds may be far rarer even than the uncommon diamonds that have been treated to have their color removed. Thus, for all we can tell from the passage, it could well be that most colorless diamonds sold by jewelers have been treated to remove all color.

- A Even if some types of diamonds command higher prices for uses other than as gemstones, the types discussed in the passage evidently command high enough prices as gemstones to be sold as such by jewelers.
- B **Correct.** The argument does not work if naturally colorless diamonds are rarer than treated diamonds, as they may be for all we can tell from the information provided.
- C The argument's conclusion is only that jewelers sell more naturally colorless diamonds than diamonds treated to be colorless. Whether jewelers sell any colored diamonds or other gemstones is irrelevant.
- D The argument only concerns the types of colorless diamonds sold now, not the types that may be sold in the future if other treatment methods are discovered.
- E The argument does suggest this difficulty but implies that even so there are too few treated diamonds available for jewelers to sell in place of naturally colorless ones.

The correct answer is B.

CR1448

165. The Sumpton town council recently voted to pay a prominent artist to create an abstract sculpture for the town square. Critics of this decision protested that town residents tend to dislike most abstract art, and any art in the town square should reflect their tastes. But a town council spokesperson dismissed this criticism, pointing out that other public abstract sculptures that the same sculptor has installed in other cities have been extremely popular with those cities' local residents.

The statements above most strongly suggest that the main point of disagreement between the critics and the spokesperson is whether

- (A) it would have been reasonable to consult town residents on the decision
- (B) most Sumpton residents will find the new sculpture to their taste
- (C) abstract sculptures by the same sculptor have truly been popular in other cities
- (D) a more traditional sculpture in the town square would be popular among local residents
- (E) public art that the residents of Sumpton would find desirable would probably be found desirable by the residents of other cities

Argument Construction

Situation After the Sumpton town council voted to pay a prominent sculptor to create an abstract sculpture for the town square, critics protested the decision. A town council spokesperson responded to the critics.

Reasoning *What do the critics and the spokesperson mainly disagree about?* The critics argue that Sumpton residents dislike most abstract art and that art in the town square should reflect their taste. Since the critics are protesting the town council's decision, they are clearly inferring from the residents' general attitude toward abstract art that the residents will dislike the specific sculpture the prominent sculptor will create. The spokesperson replies by arguing that in other cities, sculptures by the same sculptor have been very popular with local residents. The spokesperson implicitly infers from this that the sculpture the prominent sculptor will create for Sumpton will be popular with Sumpton residents—and therefore that the critics are mistaken.

- A Neither the critics nor the spokesperson mentions consultation with the town residents on the decision.
- B **Correct.** As explained above, the critics raise points implicitly suggesting that the residents will dislike the sculpture, whereas the spokesperson responds with a point implicitly supporting the opposite conclusion.
- C The critics could concede that the sculptor's work has been popular in other cities, but nonetheless hold that Sumpton residents have different tastes from those of the other cities' residents.
- D The spokesperson gives no indication regarding the attitudes of Sumpton residents regarding traditional sculpture.
- E It may be that neither the critics nor the spokesperson holds this view. The spokesperson may hold that Sumpton residents are easier to please than residents of most other cities, whereas the critics may hold that Sumpton residents are far more traditional in their tastes than other cities' residents.

The correct answer is B.

CR09085

166. Jay: Of course there are many good reasons to support the expansion of preventive medical care, but arguments claiming that it will lead to greater societal economic gains are misguided. Some of the greatest societal expenses arise from frequent urgent-care needs for people who have attained a long life due to preventive care.

Sunil: Your argument fails because you neglect economic gains outside the health care system: society suffers an economic loss when any of its productive members suffer preventable illnesses.

Sunil's response to Jay makes which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Those who receive preventive care are not more likely to need urgent care than are those who do not receive preventive care.
- (B) Jay intends the phrase "economic gains" to refer only to gains accruing to institutions within the health care system.
- (C) Productive members of society are more likely than others to suffer preventable illnesses.
- (D) The economic contributions of those who receive preventive medical care may outweigh the economic losses caused by preventive care.
- (E) Jay is incorrect in stating that patients who receive preventive medical care are long-lived.

Argument Construction

Situation Some of the greatest societal expenses arise from frequent urgent-care needs for people who have reached old age thanks to preventive medical care. But society also suffers economic loss when any of its productive members suffer preventable illnesses.

Reasoning *What is Sunil assuming in his argument that Jay's argument fails?* Jay implies that by helping people live longer, expanding preventive medical care may actually increase the amount of urgent medical care people need over the course of their lives, and that societal expenses for this additional urgent care may equal or exceed any societal economic benefits from expanding preventive care. Sunil responds by implying that expanding preventive care would allow society to avoid economic losses from lost productivity caused by preventable illnesses. In order for Sunil's argument to establish that Jay's argument fails, the potential economic benefits that Sunil implies would arise from expanded preventive care must be greater than the economic losses from the increased need for urgent care that Jay points out.

- A This is not an assumption that underpins Sunil's suggestion that the societal economic benefits from expanded preventive care may exceed any resulting economic losses from urgent care.
- B If Jay intends the phrase "economic gains" to refer only to gains within the health care system, then Sunil's point about economic gains outside the health care system is not even relevant to Jay's argument about economic gains within it.
- C Even if productive members of society are not more likely than others to suffer preventable illnesses, it still may be true, as Sunil suggests, that the economic benefits of preventing productive members of society from suffering those illnesses may outweigh the economic losses of doing so. In that case, Jay's argument could still fail in the way Sunil indicates.
- D **Correct.** Sunil must assume this in order to rebut Jay's argument. As explained above, if the economic contributions of those receiving preventive care definitely do not outweigh the economic losses caused by preventive care, then Sunil's implicit point that expanding preventive care would help to prevent the loss of such contributions is insufficient to rebut Jay's argument.
- E Whether Jay is correct or incorrect in this respect, Sunil may be correct that Jay's argument fails because Jay has neglected to consider how preventive care produces larger economic gains outside the health care system.

The correct answer is D.

CR01766

167. Boreal owls range over a much larger area than do other owls of similar size. The reason for this behavior is probably that the small mammals on which owls feed are especially scarce in the forests where boreal owls live, and the relative scarcity of prey requires the owls to range more extensively to find sufficient food.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to confirm the explanation above?

- (A) Some boreal owls range over an area eight times larger than the area over which any other owl of similar size ranges.
- (B) Boreal owls range over larger areas in regions where food of the sort eaten by small mammals is sparse than they do in regions where such food is abundant.
- (C) After their young hatch, boreal owls must hunt more often than before in order to feed both themselves and their newly hatched young.
- (D) Sometimes individual boreal owls hunt near a single location for many weeks at a time and do not range farther than a few hundred yards.
- (E) The boreal owl requires less food, relative to its weight, than is required by members of other owl species.

Argument Evaluation

Explanation: The small mammals on which owls prey are relatively scarce in the forests where boreal owls live. That is why boreal owls range more extensively than do other, similarly sized owls in search of food.

Question: Which choice, if true, would most help confirm the proposed explanation? One way to confirm an explanation is by finding further information that one would expect to be true if the explanation is valid. If the explanation in the passage is valid, then one would expect that variations in the population density of available small-animal prey for boreal owls would be accompanied by variations in the ranges of the boreal owls. Naturally the population density of available small-animal prey is likely to be affected by how plentiful food is for those small animals.

- A The comparison between different groups of boreal owls is not relevant to the comparison between boreal owls and other owls.
- B **Correct.** This indicates that abundance of food for the boreal owls' small-animal prey in an area (and therefore abundance of small animals in that area) correlates with a smaller range for the boreal owls there. This strengthens the proposed explanation.
- C This option concerns a correlation between owls' need for food and the frequency with which owls hunt, whereas the phenomenon described in the passage and the proposed explanation have to do with the range over which owls hunt.
- D If one were to assume that boreal owls never hunt near a single location for weeks, that would in no way undermine the proposed explanation.
- E If anything, this option tends to undermine the proposed explanation, because it suggests the possibility that boreal owls need not make up for the relative scarcity of prey in their habitats by ranging over larger areas.

The correct answer is B.

CR12567

168. Microbiologist: A lethal strain of salmonella recently showed up in a European country, causing an outbreak of illness that killed two people and infected twenty-seven others. Investigators blame the severity of the outbreak on the overuse of antibiotics, since the salmonella bacteria tested were shown to be drug-resistant. But this is unlikely because patients in the country where the outbreak occurred cannot obtain antibiotics to treat illness without a prescription, and the country's doctors prescribe antibiotics less readily than do doctors in any other European country.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the microbiologist's reasoning?

- (A) Physicians in the country where the outbreak occurred have become hesitant to prescribe antibiotics since they are frequently in short supply.
- (B) People in the country where the outbreak occurred often consume foods produced from animals that eat antibiotics-laden livestock feed.
- (C) Use of antibiotics in two countries that neighbor the country where the outbreak occurred has risen over the past decade.
- (D) Drug-resistant strains of salmonella have not been found in countries in which antibiotics are not generally available.
- (E) Salmonella has been shown to spread easily along the distribution chains of certain vegetables, such as raw tomatoes.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Antibiotic-resistant salmonella caused an outbreak of illness in a European country where patients need prescriptions to obtain antibiotics and where doctors dispense such prescriptions less readily than in other European countries.

Reasoning *What evidence would most strongly suggest that overuse of antibiotics was likely responsible for the outbreak, despite the cited facts?* The microbiologist reasons that because patients need prescriptions to obtain antibiotics in the country where the outbreak occurred, and the country's doctors dispense such prescriptions less readily than doctors in other European countries do, antibiotics are probably not being overused in the country—so antibiotic overuse was probably not responsible for the outbreak. Implicit in the microbiologist's reasoning is the assumption that overuse of antibiotics, if it had occurred, could probably have resulted only from overprescribing of antibiotics by physicians to treat illness in people in the country in question. Any evidence casting doubt on this complex assumption would suggest a weakness in the microbiologist's reasoning.

- A This strengthens the argument by providing additional evidence that antibiotics are not being overprescribed in the country.
- B **Correct.** This weakens the microbiologist's argument by indicating that an assumption implicit in the argument may be false: the salmonella outbreak could easily be explained by overuse of antibiotics in livestock feed (perhaps imported from other countries).
- C Even if antibiotic use has risen in the two neighboring countries, antibiotics still might be underused in both countries.
- D This suggests that antibiotic-resistant salmonella arises only in countries where antibiotics are used; even if this were true it would be quite compatible with the microbiologist's argument and does not weaken that argument.
- E This describes one mechanism by which salmonella can spread in a population; it says nothing about whether an outbreak of antibiotic-resistant strains of salmonella might have been caused by antibiotic overuse.

The correct answer is B.

CR03416

169. Historian: Newton developed mathematical concepts and techniques that are fundamental to modern calculus. Leibniz developed closely analogous concepts and techniques. It has traditionally been thought that these discoveries were independent. Researchers have, however, recently discovered notes of Leibniz's that discuss one of Newton's books on mathematics. Several scholars have argued that since **the book includes a presentation of Newton's calculus concepts and techniques**, and since the notes were written before Leibniz's own development of calculus concepts and techniques, it is virtually certain that **the traditional view is false**. A more cautious conclusion than this is called for, however. Leibniz's notes are limited to early sections of Newton's book, sections that precede the ones in which Newton's calculus concepts and techniques are presented.

In the historian's reasoning, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is a claim that the historian rejects; the second is a position that that claim has been used to support.
- (B) The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion about which the historian expresses reservations; the second is that conclusion.
- (C) The first provides evidence in support of a position that the historian defends; the second is that position.
- (D) The first and the second each provide evidence in support of a position that the historian defends.
- (E) The first has been used in support of a position that the historian rejects; the second is a conclusion that the historian draws from that position.

Argument Construction

Situation A historian discusses a controversy about whether or not Leibniz developed calculus concepts and techniques independently of Newton.

Reasoning *What argumentative roles do the two portions in boldface play in the passage?* The first four sentences of the passage simply provide background information. Both boldface sections are within the fifth sentence, which reports an argument by *several scholars*. The key word *since* indicates that the first boldface section is a premise in the scholars' argument. A second premise preceded by another *since* follows in the next clause. The final clause of the fifth sentence reveals that the second boldface section is the conclusion of the scholars' argument. In the sixth sentence, the historian expresses misgivings about the scholars' conclusion, for reasons presented in the seventh and final sentence.

- A The historian does not reject the claim that Newton's book includes a presentation of Newton's calculus concepts and techniques. Instead, the historian merely points out that Leibniz's notes do not cover those sections of Newton's book.
- B **Correct.** The first boldface section is one of two premises in the scholars' argument, and the second boldface section is that argument's conclusion. In the following sentence the historian expresses reservations about that conclusion.
- C The historian does not defend the scholars' conclusion but rather expresses misgivings about it.
- D The second boldface section is the scholars' conclusion and does not present any evidence. Nor does it support the historian's position that a more cautious conclusion is called for.
- E The second boldface section presents not the historian's conclusion but rather the scholars' conclusion, about which the historian expresses misgivings.

The correct answer is B.

CR03867

170. For over two centuries, no one had been able to make Damascus blades—blades with a distinctive serpentine surface pattern—but a contemporary sword maker may just have rediscovered how. Using iron with trace impurities that precisely matched those present in the iron used in historic Damascus blades, this contemporary sword maker seems to have finally hit on an intricate process by which he can produce a blade indistinguishable from a true Damascus blade.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest support for the hypothesis that trace impurities in the iron are essential for the production of Damascus blades?

- (A) There are surface features of every Damascus blade—including the blades produced by the contemporary sword maker—that are unique to that blade.
- (B) The iron with which the contemporary sword maker made Damascus blades came from a source of iron that was unknown two centuries ago.
- (C) Almost all the tools used by the contemporary sword maker were updated versions of tools that were used by sword makers over two centuries ago.
- (D) Production of Damascus blades by sword makers of the past ceased abruptly after those sword makers' original source of iron became exhausted.
- (E) Although Damascus blades were renowned for maintaining a sharp edge, the blade made by the contemporary sword maker suggests that they may have maintained their edge less well than blades made using what is now the standard process for making blades.

Argument Evaluation

Situation A sword maker may have recently rediscovered how to make Damascus blades using iron with trace impurities matching those in the iron from which historic Damascus blades were wrought.

Reasoning *What evidence would suggest that the trace impurities are essential for producing Damascus blades?* The passage says the sword maker seems to have created blades indistinguishable from historic Damascus blades by using iron with the same trace impurities found in those blades. But that does not prove the trace impurities are essential to the process. Evidence suggesting that Damascus blades have never been made from iron without the trace impurities would support the hypothesis that the trace impurities are essential to their manufacture.

- A Damascus blades could vary in their surface features whether or not trace impurities are essential for their manufacture.
- B Whatever the source of the iron the contemporary sword maker used, it contains the same trace impurities as the iron historically used to make Damascus blades, which is what the hypothesis is about.
- C If anything, this might cast doubt on the hypothesis by suggesting that the special tools rather than the trace impurities could account for the distinctive features of Damascus blades.
- D **Correct.** This suggests that when the historic sword makers lost access to the special iron with its trace impurities, they could no longer make Damascus blades. Thus, it supports the hypothesis that the trace impurities are necessary for manufacturing Damascus blades.
- E Even if Damascus blades maintained their edges less well than most contemporary blades do, the trace impurities may not have been essential for manufacturing them.

The correct answer is D.

CR01903

171. Images from ground-based telescopes are invariably distorted by the Earth's atmosphere. Orbiting space telescopes, however, operating above Earth's atmosphere, should provide superbly detailed images. Therefore, ground-based telescopes will soon become obsolete for advanced astronomical research purposes.

Which of the following statements, if true, would cast the most doubt on the conclusion drawn above?

- (A) An orbiting space telescope due to be launched this year is far behind schedule and over budget, whereas the largest ground-based telescope was both within budget and on schedule.
- (B) Ground-based telescopes located on mountain summits are not subject to the kinds of atmospheric distortion which, at low altitudes, make stars appear to twinkle.
- (C) By careful choice of observatory location, it is possible for large-aperture telescopes to avoid most of the kind of wind turbulence that can distort image quality.
- (D) When large-aperture telescopes are located at high altitudes near the equator, they permit the best Earth-based observations of the center of the Milky Way Galaxy, a prime target of astronomical research.
- (E) Detailed spectral analyses, upon which astronomers rely for determining the chemical composition and evolutionary history of stars, require telescopes with more light-gathering capacity than space telescopes can provide.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Earth's atmosphere distorts images from ground-based telescopes, whereas space telescopes orbiting above the atmosphere should provide superbly detailed images.

Reasoning *What evidence would undermine the claim that ground-based telescopes will soon become obsolete for advanced astronomical research?* The argument implicitly assumes that advanced astronomical research can be accomplished more effectively with the more detailed, less distorted images produced by space telescopes and that therefore almost all advanced astronomical research will soon be conducted with space telescopes. This reasoning would be undermined by evidence that ground-based telescopes have substantial advantages for advanced astronomical research despite their distorted images or by evidence that space telescopes will not soon become common or affordable enough to support most advanced astronomical research.

- A Even if this is true, there may be several orbiting space telescopes that will be, or have been, launched on schedule and within budget, so this option does not cast doubt on the conclusion of the argument.
- B Ground-based telescopes on mountain summits are still subject to more atmospheric distortion than are space telescopes orbiting above the atmosphere.
- C Atmospheric distortion of telescopic images may result mainly from factors other than wind turbulence.
- D Even the best Earth-based observations of the center of the Milky Way Galaxy may be vastly inferior to space-based observations.
- E **Correct.** This indicates an inherent limitation of space-based telescopes: unlike Earth-based telescopes, they lack the light-gathering capacity that astronomers need to perform one of their primary tasks, i.e., detailed spectral analyses. So Earth-based telescopes are unlikely to soon become obsolete.

The correct answer is E.

CR07562

- i72. Generally scientists enter their field with the goal of doing important new research and accept as their colleagues those with similar motivation. Therefore, when any scientist wins renown as an expounder of science to general audiences, most other scientists conclude that this popularizer should no longer be regarded as a true colleague.

The explanation offered above for the low esteem in which scientific popularizers are held by research scientists assumes that

- (A) serious scientific research is not a solitary activity, but relies on active cooperation among a group of colleagues
- (B) research scientists tend not to regard as colleagues those scientists whose renown they envy
- (C) a scientist can become a famous popularizer without having completed any important research
- (D) research scientists believe that those who are well known as popularizers of science are not motivated to do important new research
- (E) no important new research can be accessible to or accurately assessed by those who are not themselves scientists

Argument Construction

Situation

Research scientists desire to do important new research and treat as colleagues just those who have a similar desire. When a scientist becomes popular among a general audience for explaining principles of science, other scientists have less esteem for this popularizer, no longer regarding such a scientist as a serious colleague.

Reasoning

What assumption do research scientists make about scientists who become popularizers? The community of scientists shares a common goal: to do important new research. What would cause this community to disapprove of a popularizer and to cease to regard the popularizer as a colleague? It must be because many scientists believe that becoming a popularizer is incompatible with desiring to do important new research.

- A Many scientists make this assumption, of course—but it is not an assumption on which the explanation specifically depends. The explanation concerns the scientists' motivation, not their style of doing research.
- B This statement gives another reason that scientists may reject a popularizer, but because it is not the reason implied in the passage, it is not assumed.
- C Even if this is true, it does not address the core issue of the argument: what scientists believe about the *motivation* of popularizers.
- D **Correct.** This statement properly identifies an assumption on which the explanation for scientists' rejection of popularizers depends.
- E The passage is not concerned with whether nonscientists can understand new research, but rather with the beliefs and motivations of scientists who reject popularizers as colleagues.

The correct answer is D.

CR07676

173. Urban planner: When a city loses population due to migration, property taxes in that city tend to rise. This is because there are then fewer residents paying to maintain an infrastructure that was designed to support more people. Rising property taxes, in turn, drive more residents away, compounding the problem. Since the city of Stonebridge is starting to lose population, the city government should therefore refrain from raising property taxes.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the urban planner's argument?

- (A) If Stonebridge does not raise taxes on its residents to maintain its infrastructure, the city will become much less attractive to live in as that infrastructure decays.
- (B) Stonebridge at present benefits from grants provided by the national government to help maintain certain parts of its infrastructure.
- (C) If there is a small increase in property taxes in Stonebridge and a slightly larger proportion of total revenue than at present is allocated to infrastructure maintenance, the funding will be adequate for that purpose.
- (D) Demographers project that the population of a region that includes Stonebridge will start to increase substantially within the next several years.
- (E) The property taxes in Stonebridge are significantly lower than those in many larger cities.

Argument Evaluation

Situation When a city loses population due to migration, fewer residents remain to pay to maintain the city's infrastructure, so property taxes tend to rise. These rising property taxes then drive even more residents away. The city of Stonebridge is starting to lose population, so Stonebridge's government should not raise property taxes.

Reasoning *What would weaken the urban planner's justification for concluding that Stonebridge's government should refrain from raising property taxes?* The urban planner implicitly reasons that raising property taxes in Stonebridge in order to maintain the city's infrastructure would make the city lose even more residents, leaving even fewer paying to maintain the infrastructure, and that this would worsen the funding problem the tax increase would have been intended to solve. The urban planner's argument would be weakened by any evidence that raising property taxes in Stonebridge would not drive residents away or that refraining from raising property taxes would cause the same problems as raising them would cause, or worse.

- A **Correct.** This suggests that refraining from raising property taxes could drive more residents out of Stonebridge than raising them would, and thus would not help the city avoid the problem the urban planner describes.
- B This does slightly weaken the argument because the grants may still be provided to maintain certain parts of the infrastructure, even if increased property taxes drive more residents away. But losing more residents could still make it harder to raise enough funds to maintain the rest of the city's infrastructure, as the urban planner argues.
- C Even if this approach would address the immediate maintenance funding problem, the small increase in property taxes could still drive more residents away, forcing additional future tax increases on those who remain, just as the urban planner suggests.
- D This does slightly weaken the argument, but the residents who will move to the region might still avoid moving to Stonebridge if the property taxes there are too high, and those who live in Stonebridge might still move to other cities in the region.
- E Residents fleeing Stonebridge because of high property taxes would likely avoid moving to the many larger cities with even higher property taxes, but they might be happy to move to many other places with low property taxes.

The correct answer is A.

CR01338

174. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

Utrania was formerly a major petroleum exporter, but in recent decades economic stagnation and restrictive regulations inhibited investment in new oil fields. In consequence, Utranian oil exports dropped steadily as old fields became depleted. Utrania's currently improving economic situation, together with less-restrictive regulations, will undoubtedly result in the rapid development of new fields. However, it would be premature to conclude that the rapid development of new fields will result in higher oil exports, because _____.

- (A) the price of oil is expected to remain relatively stable over the next several years
- (B) the improvement in the economic situation in Utrania is expected to result in a dramatic increase in the proportion of Utranians who own automobiles
- (C) most of the investment in new oil fields in Utrania is expected to come from foreign sources
- (D) new technology is available to recover oil from old oil fields formerly regarded as depleted
- (E) many of the new oil fields in Utrania are likely to be as productive as those that were developed during the period when Utrania was a major oil exporter

Argument Construction

Situation A country that had been a major oil exporter has seen its exports decline in recent decades due to economic stagnation, a failure to invest in new fields, and the steady depletion of its old fields. But looser regulations and an improving economy will bring rapid development of new oil fields in the country.

Reasoning *Which of the options would most logically complete the argument?* The passage describes the conditions that led to Utrania's no longer being a major oil exporter: a lack of investment in new oil fields due to a stagnant economy and restrictive regulations. The passage then says that due to changed regulatory and economic conditions, there will now be rapid development of new oil fields. Nonetheless, this might not bring about an increase in Utrania's oil exports. To logically complete the argument, one must explain how oil exports might not increase even when the condition that led to decreased oil exports has been removed. Suppose there were an increase in domestic oil consumption. A dramatic increase in the rate of car ownership in Utrania could reasonably be expected to significantly increase domestic oil consumption, which could eat up the added oil production from the new fields.

- A This choice is incorrect. There is no reason why stable oil prices should prevent Utrania's oil exports from increasing.
- B **Correct.** An increase in car ownership would increase Utrania's oil consumption—and this supports the claim that oil exports might not increase.
- C If anything, this suggests that oil exports should increase. So it would not be a good choice for completion of the argument.
- D The advent of new technology allowing oil to be extracted from fields previously thought to be depleted would mean that there is even more reason to think that Utrania's oil exports will increase.
- E This does not help to explain why exports would not increase. On the contrary, it suggests that the new fields will lead to increased exports.

The correct answer is B.

CR09592

175. The use of growth-promoting antibiotics in hog farming can weaken their effectiveness in treating humans because such use can spread resistance to those antibiotics among microorganisms. But now the Smee Company, one of the largest pork marketers, may stop buying pork raised on feed containing these antibiotics. Smee has 60 percent of the pork market, and farmers who sell to Smee would certainly stop using antibiotics in order to avoid jeopardizing their sales. So if Smee makes this change, it will probably significantly slow the decline in antibiotics' effectiveness for humans.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument above?

- (A) Other major pork marketers will probably stop buying pork raised on feed containing growth-promoting antibiotics if Smee no longer buys such pork.
- (B) The decline in hog growth due to discontinuation of antibiotics can be offset by improved hygiene.
- (C) Authorities are promoting the use of antibiotics to which microorganisms have not yet developed resistance.
- (D) A phaseout of use of antibiotics for hogs in one country reduced usage by over 50 percent over five years.
- (E) If Smee stops buying pork raised with antibiotics, the firm's costs will probably increase.

Argument Evaluation

Smee Company

Using growth-promoting antibiotics in hog farming can produce widespread resistance to antibiotics among microorganisms, thereby making the antibiotics less effective in treating humans. The Smee Company, a pork marketer with 60 percent of the pork market, may stop buying pork raised on feed containing these antibiotics.

Conclusion

What additional evidence would most help to support the conclusion that if Smee makes the change, it will significantly slow the decline in antibiotics' effectiveness for humans? We are already informed that if Smee makes the change, it will eliminate the use of antibiotics in hog feed by farmers supplying at least 60 percent of the pork market. The argument would be strengthened by evidence that Smee's decision would indirectly cause use of the antibiotics to stop more broadly, for example in hog farms supplying significantly more than 60 percent of the total amount of pork marketed.

- A **Correct.** This suggests that if Smee makes the change, hog farmers supplying other major pork marketers will also have to stop using antibiotics in hog feed, making the change more widespread and thus probably more effective.
- B Even if the decline in hog growth from discontinuing the antibiotics cannot be offset, many hog farmers will still have to stop using the antibiotics as a result of Smee's decision. On the other hand, even if the decline can be offset with improved hygiene, that change might be too expensive or difficult to be worth its benefits for most hog farmers.
- C Whatever new antibiotics authorities are promoting, microorganisms may soon develop resistance to them as well. Smee may or may not refuse to buy pork raised on feed containing these new antibiotics.
- D This is evidence that Smee's decision may significantly reduce antibiotic use in hogs, but it provides no evidence of how this reduction may affect antibiotics' effectiveness for humans.
- E If anything, this provides reason to suspect that Smee will not stick with the change for long after the costs increase, so it weakens rather than strengthens the argument that the change will significantly slow the decline in antibiotics' effectiveness.

The correct answer is A.

CR10678

176. In an experiment, volunteers walked individually through a dark, abandoned theater. Half of the volunteers had been told that the theater was haunted and the other half that it was under renovation. The first half reported significantly more unusual experiences than the second did. The researchers concluded that reports of encounters with ghosts and other supernatural entities generally result from prior expectations of such experiences.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the researchers' reasoning?

- (A) None of the volunteers in the second half believed that the unusual experiences they reported were supernatural.
- (B) All of the volunteers in the first half believed that the researchers' statement that the theater was haunted was a lie.
- (C) Before being told about the theater, the volunteers within each group varied considerably in their prior beliefs about supernatural experiences.
- (D) Each unusual experience reported by the volunteers had a cause that did not involve the supernatural.
- (E) The researchers did not believe that the theater was haunted.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Volunteers in an experiment walked through a dark, abandoned theater. Those who had been told the theater was haunted reported more unusual experiences than those who had been told it was under renovation.

Reasoning *What evidence would most strongly suggest that the experimental results do not indicate that reports of supernatural encounters result from prior expectations of such experiences?* The researcher assumes that the half of the volunteers who had been told the theater was haunted were more inclined to expect supernatural experiences in the theater than were the other half of the volunteers. Based on this assumption and the greater incidence of reports of unusual experiences among the first half of the volunteers, the researcher concludes that prior expectation of supernatural experiences makes people more likely to report such experiences. The researchers' reasoning would be weakened by evidence that the volunteers did not actually have the expectations the researchers assumed them to have, or by evidence that any such expectations did not influence their reports.

- A This strengthens the argument by indicating that the volunteers whom the researchers did not lead to expect supernatural experiences reported no such experiences.
- B **Correct.** If none of the volunteers believed the researchers' claim that the theater was haunted, then the implicit assumption that several of those volunteers expected supernatural experiences in the theater is flawed, and so the inference that their prior expectations probably account for their reports of supernatural experiences is flawed.
- C This is compatible with the researchers' inference and does not undermine it. Even if the volunteers' initial beliefs about supernatural experiences varied, the researchers' claims about the theater might have strongly influenced how many volunteers in each group expected to have such experiences in the theater specifically.
- D The researchers argue that the volunteers' prior expectations account for all the reports of unusual experiences, and this is compatible with there being no genuine supernatural occurrences in the theater.
- E Whatever the researchers personally believed about the theater, they might still have successfully influenced the volunteers' beliefs about it.

The correct answer is B.

CR05665

177. In order to reduce dependence on imported oil, the government of Jalica has imposed minimum fuel-efficiency requirements on all new cars, beginning this year. The more fuel-efficient a car, the less pollution it produces per mile driven. As Jalicans replace their old cars with cars that meet the new requirements, annual pollution from car traffic is likely to decrease in Jalica.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- (A) In Jalica, domestically produced oil is more expensive than imported oil.
- (B) The Jalican government did not intend the new fuel-efficiency requirement to be a pollution-reduction measure.
- (C) Some pollution-control devices mandated in Jalica make cars less fuel-efficient than they would be without those devices.
- (D) The new regulation requires no change in the chemical formulation of fuel for cars in Jalica.
- (E) Jalicans who get cars that are more fuel-efficient tend to do more driving than before.

Argument Evaluation

Situation The Jalican government is requiring all new cars to meet minimum fuel-efficiency requirements starting this year. Cars that are more fuel efficient produce less pollution per mile driven.

Reasoning *What evidence would suggest that annual pollution from car traffic will not decrease in Jalica, despite the new policy?* Air pollution from car traffic is unlikely to decrease if the new standards will result in more cars on the road or more miles driven per car; or if air pollution from car traffic in Jalica is increasing because of unrelated factors such as growing numbers of Jalicans who can afford cars, construction of more roads, etc. Evidence that any of these factors is present would cast doubt on the argument's conclusion and thus weaken the argument.

- A The question at issue is not whether the new policy will reduce dependence on imported oil as the government intends, but rather whether it will reduce air pollution from car traffic.
- B A government policy may have consequences that the government did not intend it to have.
- C Even if these pollution-control devices make cars less fuel efficient, the new fuel-efficiency standards may still improve cars' average fuel efficiency and thereby reduce air pollution.
- D Even if the fuel is unchanged, the new fuel-efficiency standards may still result in cars using less fuel and may thereby reduce air pollution.
- E **Correct.** If the new fuel-efficient cars are driven more miles per year than older cars are, they may produce as much or more pollution per year than older cars do even though they produce less pollution per mile driven.

The correct answer is E.

CR01173

178. Plantings of cotton bioengineered to produce its own insecticide against bollworms, a major cause of crop failure, sustained little bollworm damage until this year. This year the plantings are being seriously damaged by bollworms. Bollworms, however, are not necessarily developing resistance to the cotton's insecticide. Bollworms breed on corn, and last year more corn than usual was planted throughout cotton-growing regions. So it is likely that the cotton is simply being overwhelmed by corn-bred bollworms.

In evaluating the argument, which of the following would it be most useful to establish?

- (A) Whether corn could be bioengineered to produce the insecticide
- (B) Whether plantings of cotton that does not produce the insecticide are suffering unusually extensive damage from bollworms this year
- (C) Whether other crops that have been bioengineered to produce their own insecticide successfully resist the pests against which the insecticide was to protect them
- (D) Whether plantings of bioengineered cotton are frequently damaged by insect pests other than bollworms
- (E) Whether there are insecticides that can be used against bollworms that have developed resistance to the insecticide produced by the bioengineered cotton

Argument Evaluation

Situation Although plantings of cotton bioengineered to produce an insecticide to combat bollworms were little damaged by the pests in previous years, they are being severely damaged this year. Since the bollworms breed on corn, and there has been more corn planted this year in cotton-growing areas, the cotton is probably being overwhelmed by the corn-bred bollworms.

Reasoning *In evaluating the argument, which question would it be most useful to have answered?* The argument states that the bioengineered cotton crop failures this year (1) have likely been due to the increased corn plantings and (2) not due to the pests having developed a resistance to the insecticide. This also implies (3) that the failures are not due to some third factor.

It would be useful to know how the bioengineered cotton is faring in comparison to the rest of this year's cotton crop. If the bioengineered cotton is faring better against the bollworms, that fact would support the argument because it would suggest that the insecticide is still combating bollworms. If, on the other hand, the bioengineered cotton is being more severely ravaged by bollworms than is other cotton, that suggests that there is some third cause that is primarily at fault.

- A This would probably be useful information to those trying to alleviate the bollworm problem in bioengineered cotton. But whether such corn could be developed has no bearing on what is causing the bioengineered cotton to be damaged by bollworms this year.
- B **Correct.** If bollworm damage on non-bioengineered cotton is worse than usual this year, then bollworm infestation in general is simply worse than usual, so pesticide resistance does not need to be invoked to explain the bollworm attacks on the bioengineered cotton.
- C Even if other crops that have been bioengineered to resist pests have not successfully resisted them, that fact would not mean that the same is true of this cotton. Furthermore, the facts already suggest that the bioengineered cotton has resisted bollworms.
- D Whether other types of pests often damage bioengineered cotton has no bearing on why bollworms are damaging this type of cotton more this year than in the past.
- E This, too, might be useful information to those trying to alleviate the bollworm problem in bioengineered cotton, but it is not particularly useful in evaluating the argument. Even if there are pesticides that could be used against bollworms that have developed resistance to the insecticide of the bioengineered cotton, that does not mean that such pesticides are being used this year.

The correct answer is B.

CR03331

179. Typically during thunderstorms most lightning strikes carry a negative electric charge; only a few carry a positive charge. Thunderstorms with unusually high proportions of positive-charge strikes tend to occur in smoky areas near forest fires. The fact that smoke carries positively charged smoke particles into the air above a fire suggests the hypothesis that the extra positive strikes occur because of the presence of such particles in the storm clouds.

Which of the following, if discovered to be true, most seriously undermines the hypothesis?

- (A) Other kinds of rare lightning also occur with unusually high frequency in the vicinity of forest fires.
- (B) The positive-charge strikes that occur near forest fires tend to be no more powerful than positive strikes normally are.
- (C) A positive-charge strike is as likely to start a forest fire as a negative-charge strike is.
- (D) Thunderstorms that occur in drifting clouds of smoke have extra positive-charge strikes weeks after the charge of the smoke particles has dissipated.
- (E) The total number of lightning strikes during a thunderstorm is usually within the normal range in the vicinity of a forest fire.

Argument Evaluation

Stem Thunderstorms with unusually high proportions of positive-charge lightning strikes tend to occur in smoky areas near forest fires. Smoke carries positively charged particles into the air above fires, suggesting that smoke particles in storm clouds are responsible for the higher proportion of positive strikes.

Reasoning *What would cast doubt on the hypothesis that the extra positive-charge lightning strikes in thunderstorms near forest fires result from positively charged smoke particles carried into the storm clouds?* The hypothesis would be weakened by evidence that the positively charged smoke particles do not enter the storm clouds in the first place, or that they do not retain their charge in the clouds long enough to produce an effect, or that their positive charge cannot affect the charges of the storm's lightning strikes in any case, or that some other factor tends to make the lightning strikes above these storms positively charged.

- A It could be that positively charged smoke particles cause these other kinds of rare lightning, too, so this does not seriously undermine the hypothesis.
- B The hypothesis is not about the power of the positive-charge lightning strikes, only about why a high proportion of them occur in thunderstorms near forest fires.
- C The hypothesis is about why positive-charge strikes tend to occur in smoky areas near forest fires that have already started before the strikes occur. Furthermore, an equal likelihood of positive-charge and negative-charge strikes starting fires cannot explain a correlation between fires and positive-charge strikes specifically.
- D **Correct.** This means that even when drifting clouds of smoke persist for weeks after a fire, when the charge of their particles has already dissipated, the smoke somehow still makes the strikes positively charged in any thunderstorms arising within it. If so, some factor other than positively charged smoke particles must affect the strikes' charge.
- E This information does not undermine the hypothesis. The hypothesis does not concern the possibility that there might be more lightning strikes in the vicinity of forest fires; rather it concerns the proportion of all such lightning strikes that are positively charged.

The correct answer is D.

CR01140

180. Many gardeners believe that the variety of clematis vine that is most popular among gardeners in North America is *jackmanii*. This belief is apparently correct since, of the one million clematis plants sold per year by the largest clematis nursery in North America, ten percent are *jackmanii*.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) The nursery sells more than ten different varieties of clematis.
- (B) The largest clematis nursery in North America sells nothing but clematis plants.
- (C) Some of the *jackmanii* sold by the nursery are sold to gardeners outside North America.
- (D) Most North American gardeners grow clematis in their gardens.
- (E) For all nurseries in North America that specialize in clematis, at least ten percent of the clematis plants they sell are *jackmanii*.

Argument Construction

Situation Of the clematis plants sold by the largest clematis nursery in North America, 10 percent are *jackmanii*, which many gardeners believe to be the most popular variety of clematis in North America.

Reasoning *What must be true in order for the fact that 10 percent of the clematis sold at the nursery are jackmanii to provide evidence that jackmanii is the most popular variety of clematis in North America?* The argument assumes that sales of different varieties of clematis at the nursery reflect the relative levels of popularity of those varieties among North American gardeners. It also assumes that *jackmanii* is the best-selling clematis variety at the nursery, an assumption which requires that less than 10 percent of the nursery's clematis sales are of any one variety other than *jackmanii*.

- A **Correct.** Suppose the nursery sold ten or fewer varieties of clematis. Then at least one variety other than *jackmanii* would have to account for at least 10 percent of the nursery's clematis sales, so *jackmanii* would not be the best-selling clematis variety at the nursery as the argument assumes.
- B The argument only concerns how popular *jackmanii* is relative to other varieties of clematis, not relative to any plants other than clematis that the nursery may sell.
- C If anything, this would weaken the argument by suggesting that the nursery's *jackmanii* sales might reflect *jackmanii*'s popularity outside North America more than its popularity within North America.
- D This would indicate that clematis is a popular plant among North American gardeners, not that *jackmanii* is the most popular variety of clematis.
- E Even if *jackmanii* accounts for less than 10 percent of clematis sales at a few individual nurseries, it may still account for 10 percent or more of North American clematis sales overall.

The correct answer is A.

GR06422

181. Since 1990 the percentage of bacterial sinus infections in Aqadestan that are resistant to the antibiotic perxicillin has increased substantially. Bacteria can quickly develop resistance to an antibiotic when it is prescribed indiscriminately or when patients fail to take it as prescribed. Since perxicillin has not been indiscriminately prescribed, health officials hypothesize that the increase in perxicillin-resistant sinus infections is largely due to patients' failure to take this medication as prescribed.

Which of the following, if true of Aqadestan, provides most support for the health officials' hypothesis?

- (A) Resistance to several other commonly prescribed antibiotics has not increased since 1990 in Aqadestan.
- (B) A large number of Aqadestanis never seek medical help when they have a sinus infection.
- (C) When it first became available, perxicillin was much more effective in treating bacterial sinus infections than any other antibiotic used for such infections at the time.
- (D) Many patients who take perxicillin experience severe side effects within the first few days of their prescribed regimen.
- (E) Aqadestani health clinics provide antibiotics to their patients at cost.

Argument Construction

Statement: In Aqadestan the percentage of bacterial sinus infections resistant to the antibiotic perxicillin has been increasing even though perxicillin has not been indiscriminately prescribed.

Reasoning: *What evidence most strongly suggests that the main reason perxicillin-resistant sinus infections are becoming more common is that patients are failing to take perxicillin as prescribed?* Any evidence suggesting that patients have in fact been failing to take perxicillin as prescribed would support the hypothesis, as would any evidence casting doubt on other possible explanations for the increasing proportion of perxicillin-resistant sinus infections.

- A This suggests that some factor specific to perxicillin is increasing bacterial resistance to it, but that could be true whether or not the factor is patients' failure to take perxicillin as prescribed.
- B If anything, this weakens the argument by suggesting that most people with sinus infections are never prescribed perxicillin, and that therefore relatively few people are getting prescriptions and then failing to follow them.
- C The relative effectiveness of perxicillin when it first became available does not suggest that the reason it is now becoming less effective is that many patients are failing to take it as prescribed.
- D **Correct.** These side effects would discourage patients from taking perxicillin as prescribed, so their existence provides evidence that many patients are not taking it as prescribed.
- E If the clinics do not charge extra for perxicillin, that would make it more affordable and hence easier for many patients to take as prescribed.

The correct answer is D.

CR07793

182. Psychologist: In a study, researchers gave 100 volunteers a psychological questionnaire designed to measure their self-esteem. The researchers then asked each volunteer to rate the strength of his or her own social skills. The volunteers with the highest levels of self-esteem consistently rated themselves as having much better social skills than did the volunteers with moderate levels. This suggests that attaining an exceptionally high level of self-esteem greatly improves one's social skills.

The psychologist's argument is most vulnerable to criticism on which of the following grounds?

- (A) It fails to adequately address the possibility that many of the volunteers may not have understood what the psychological questionnaire was designed to measure.
- (B) It takes for granted that the volunteers with the highest levels of self-esteem had better social skills than did the other volunteers, even before the former volunteers had attained their high levels of self-esteem.
- (C) It overlooks the possibility that people with very high levels of self-esteem may tend to have a less accurate perception of the strength of their own social skills than do people with moderate levels of self-esteem.
- (D) It relies on evidence from a group of volunteers that is too small to provide any support for any inferences regarding people in general.
- (E) It overlooks the possibility that factors other than level of self-esteem may be of much greater importance in determining the strength of one's social skills.

Argument Evaluation

Situation In a psychological study of 100 volunteers, those found to have the highest self-esteem consistently rated themselves as having much better social skills than did those found to have moderate self-esteem.

Reasoning *What is wrong with the psychologist citing the study's results to justify the conclusion that exceptionally high self-esteem greatly improves social skills?* The psychologist reasons that the study shows a correlation between very high self-esteem and how highly one rates one's social skills, and that this correlation in turn suggests that very high self-esteem improves social skills. This argument is vulnerable to at least two criticisms: First, the argument assumes that the volunteers' ratings of their own social skills are generally accurate. But very high self-esteem might in many cases result from a tendency to overestimate oneself and one's skills, including one's social skills. Second, the argument fails to address the possibility that good social skills promote high self-esteem rather than vice versa, as well as the possibility that some third factor (such as a sunny disposition or fortunate circumstances) promotes both high self-esteem and good social skills.

- A An experiment's subjects do not have to understand the experiment's design in order for the experimental results to be accurate.
- B To the contrary, the argument concludes that the volunteers with the highest self-esteem attained their enhanced social skills as a result of attaining such high self-esteem.
- C **Correct.** As explained above, very high self-esteem may often result from a tendency to overestimate oneself in general, and thus to overestimate one's social skills.
- D A group of 100 volunteers is large enough for an experiment to provide at least a little support for at least some inferences regarding people in general.
- E As explained above, the argument overlooks the possibility that some third factor may play a significant role in determining the strength of one's social skills. But even if some factor other than self-esteem is more important in determining the strength of social skills, that would still be compatible with very high self-esteem being of some importance in improving one's social skills.

The correct answer is C.

CR06826

183. A product that represents a clear technological advance over competing products can generally command a high price. Because **technological advances tend to be quickly surpassed** and companies want to make large profits while they still can, **many companies charge the maximum possible price for such a product**. But large profits on the new product will give competitors a strong incentive to quickly match the new product's capabilities. Consequently, the strategy to maximize overall profit from a new product is to charge less than the greatest possible price.

In the argument above, the two portions in **boldface** play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is a consideration raised to argue that a certain strategy is counterproductive; the second presents that strategy.
- (B) The first is a consideration raised to support the strategy that the argument recommends; the second presents that strategy.
- (C) The first is a consideration raised to help explain the popularity of a certain strategy; the second presents that strategy.
- (D) The first is an assumption, rejected by the argument, that has been used to justify a course of action; the second presents that course of action.
- (E) The first is a consideration that has been used to justify adopting a certain strategy; the second presents the intended outcome of that strategy.

Argument Construction

Often, when a company comes out with an innovative product, it will price the product as high as it can to maximize profits before the competitors quickly catch up. But this is not a good strategy because the very high price of the new product only encourages competitors to match the technological advance more quickly.

Which option best describes the roles that the boldface portions play in the argument? This type of item concerns only the argument's structure—the way it is intended to work, not the quality of the argument or what might strengthen or weaken the argument. So even if a boldface portion could be used by the argument in a certain way, all that matters is its actual intended role. The fact that *technological advances tend to be quickly surpassed* serves to partly explain why *many companies charge the maximum possible price for such a product*. In other words, the first boldface portion helps explain the popularity of the strategy presented in the second boldface portion. The conclusion of the argument, however, is that the strategy exemplified in this latter boldface portion is unwise, so the argument as a whole opposes that strategy.

- A Although the first boldface portion could be used as part of an argument that the strategy presented in the second boldface portion is counterproductive, that is not how it is used here. Rather, it immediately follows the word *because* and serves to explain the occurrence of what is described in the second boldface portion.
- B This is clearly wrong because the second boldface portion presents the strategy that the argument opposes.
- C **Correct.** It is the only choice that is consistent with the analysis of the reasoning presented above.
- D The first boldface portion is not an assumption rejected by the argument; rather, it is affirmed in the argument.
- E The argument does not expressly claim that the first boldface portion has been used to justify the strategy of setting the price as high as possible, although it implies that this is part of the justification that those adopting the strategy would give. More clearly, the second boldface portion does not describe the intended outcome of the strategy, but rather the means of bringing about that intended outcome (maximizing profits, by means of high prices).

The correct answer is C.

CR0554

184. Gortland has long been narrowly self-sufficient in both grain and meat. However, as per capita income in Gortland has risen toward the world average, per capita consumption of meat has also risen toward the world average, and it takes several pounds of grain to produce one pound of meat. Therefore, since per capita income continues to rise, whereas domestic grain production will not increase, Gortland will soon have to import either grain or meat or both.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) The total acreage devoted to grain production in Gortland will not decrease substantially.
- (B) The population of Gortland has remained relatively constant during the country's years of growing prosperity.
- (C) The per capita consumption of meat in Gortland is roughly the same across all income levels.
- (D) In Gortland, neither meat nor grain is subject to government price controls.
- (E) People in Gortland who increase their consumption of meat will not radically decrease their consumption of grain.

Argument Construction

Situation A country previously self-sufficient in grain and meat will soon have to import one or the other or both because its consumption of meat has risen as per capita income has risen. It takes several pounds of grain to produce one pound of meat.

Reasoning *What conditions must be true for the conclusion to be true?* Meat consumption is rising. What about grain consumption? A sharp reduction in the amount of grain directly consumed by meat eaters could compensate for increased meat consumption, making the conclusion false. If people did radically decrease their grain consumption, it might not be necessary to import grain or meat. Since the argument concludes that the imports are necessary, it assumes that direct consumption of grain by those who begin to eat meat will not plunge.

- A The argument makes no assumptions about the acreage devoted to grain; it assumes only that the demand for grain will rise.
- B The argument is based on rising per capita income, not population levels.
- C The argument involves only meat consumption in general, not its distribution by income level. Since
- D the argument does not refer to price controls, it cannot depend on an assumption about them.
- E **Correct.** This statement properly identifies the assumption that those who begin to eat meat do not then greatly decrease their direct consumption of grains.

The correct answer is E.

CR05625

185. Political Advertisement:

Mayor Delmont's critics complain about the jobs that were lost in the city under Delmont's leadership. Yet the fact is that not only were more jobs created than were eliminated, but each year since Delmont took office the average pay for the new jobs created has been higher than that year's average pay for jobs citywide. So it stands to reason that throughout Delmont's tenure the average paycheck in this city has been getting steadily bigger.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument in the advertisement?

- (A) The unemployment rate in the city is higher today than it was when Mayor Delmont took office.
- (B) The average pay for jobs in the city was at a ten-year low when Mayor Delmont took office.
- (C) Each year during Mayor Delmont's tenure, the average pay for jobs that were eliminated has been higher than the average pay for jobs citywide.
- (D) Most of the jobs eliminated during Mayor Delmont's tenure were in declining industries.
- (E) The average pay for jobs in the city is currently lower than it is for jobs in the suburbs surrounding the city.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Every year since Mayor Delmont took office, average pay for new jobs has exceeded average pay for jobs citywide. So, the average paycheck in the city has been increasing since Delmont took office.

Reasoning *Which option, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument?* If average pay for new jobs continually exceeds that for jobs generally, new jobs pay better (on average) than old jobs that still exist. But suppose the following occurred. Every year all of the highest paying jobs are eliminated and replaced with somewhat lower-paying jobs that still pay more than the average job. The result would be that every year the average pay for a new job would be greater than that for existing jobs, but the average pay for all jobs would nonetheless decrease. Thus, if every year during the mayor's tenure the jobs that were eliminated paid better on average than jobs citywide, that would seriously weaken the argument: the conclusion could be false even if the information on which it is based is true.

- A The percentage of people in the city who have a job has no direct bearing on whether the average pay for jobs citywide is increasing or decreasing.
- B Whether the average pay was low when the mayor took office in comparison to the ten preceding years is immaterial to the comparison addressed in the argument's conclusion.
- C **Correct.** This information weakens the argument because it opens up the possibility that the jobs eliminated had higher average pay than the jobs created during Mayor Delmont's tenure. This in turn would mean that the average pay was not increasing during Mayor Delmont's tenure.
- D This, too, has no bearing on the argument, because we have no information about the average pay for jobs in those declining industries.
- E This is also irrelevant. No comparison is made (or implied) in the argument between jobs in the city and jobs in the suburbs.

The correct answer is C.

CR04930

186. To prevent a newly built dam on the Chiff River from blocking the route of fish migrating to breeding grounds upstream, the dam includes a fish pass, a mechanism designed to allow fish through the dam. Before the construction of the dam and fish pass, several thousand fish a day swam upriver during spawning season. But in the first season after the project's completion, only 300 per day made the journey. Clearly, the fish pass is defective.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- (A) Fish that have migrated to the upstream breeding grounds do not return down the Chiff River again.
- (B) On other rivers in the region, the construction of dams with fish passes has led to only small decreases in the number of fish migrating upstream.
- (C) The construction of the dam stirred up potentially toxic river sediments that were carried downstream.
- (D) Populations of migratory fish in the Chiff River have been declining slightly over the last 20 years.
- (E) During spawning season, the dam releases sufficient water for migratory fish below the dam to swim upstream.

Argument Evaluation

Situation A new dam includes a mechanism called a fish pass designed to allow fish to migrate upstream past the dam to their breeding grounds. The number of migrating fish fell from several thousand per day before the dam was built to three hundred per day in the first season after it was built, indicating—according to the argument—that the fish pass is defective.

Reasoning *What evidence would suggest that the fish pass is not defective?* The argument implicitly reasons that a defective fish pass would make it difficult for the fish to migrate, which would explain why the number of migrating fish fell when the dam was completed. Any evidence suggesting an alternative explanation for the reduced number of migrating fish, such as an environmental change that occurred when the dam was built, would cast doubt on the argument's reasoning.

- A A defective fish pass could prevent most of the fish from migrating upstream regardless of whether those that succeed ever return downstream.
- B This would suggest that dams with properly functioning fish passes do not greatly reduce the number of migrating fish, so it would provide further evidence that the fish pass in this particular dam is defective.
- C **Correct.** This suggests that the toxic sediments may have poisoned the fish and reduced their population. A smaller fish population could be sufficient to explain the reduced number of fish migrating, which casts doubt on the argument's assumption that the explanation for their declining numbers involves the fish pass.
- D A slight and gradual ongoing decline in migratory fish populations would not explain an abrupt and extreme decline right after the dam was built.
- E This supports the argument's proposed explanation for the declining fish population by ruling out the alternative explanation that the dam does not release enough water for the fish to migrate.

The correct answer is C.

CR09969

187. Music critic: Fewer and fewer musicians are studying classical music, decreasing the likelihood that those with real aptitude for such music will be performing it. Audiences who hear these performances will not appreciate classical music's greatness and will thus decamp to other genres. So to maintain classical music's current meager popularity, we must encourage more young musicians to enter the field.

Which of the following, if true, most weakens the music critic's reasoning?

- (A) Musicians who choose to study classical music do so because they believe they have an aptitude for the music.
- (B) Classical music's current meager popularity is attributable to the profusion of other genres of music available to listeners.
- (C) Most people who appreciate classical music come to do so through old recordings rather than live performances.
- (D) It is possible to enjoy the music in a particular genre even when it is performed by musicians who are not ideally suited for that genre.
- (E) The continued popularity of a given genre of music depends in part on the audience's being able to understand why that genre attained its original popularity.

Argument Evaluation

Solution Fewer musicians are studying classical music. This reduces the likelihood that those performing the music will have real aptitude for it, which in turn reduces audience's appreciation of classical music performances.

Reasoning *What evidence would cast the most doubt on the support provided for the conclusion that encouraging more young musicians to study classical music is necessary in order to maintain the genre's meager popularity?* The music critic's argument is that because fewer talented classical musicians are performing, audiences hearing their performances will fail to appreciate the genre, and thus will abandon it. The critic reasons that to solve this problem, it will be necessary to encourage more young musicians to study classical music so that audiences will eventually be exposed to more talented classical performers and decide the genre is worthwhile after all. The argument would be weakened, for example, by evidence that hearing unremarkable live performances does not really drive many people away from classical music, or that the number of audience members hearing great performances does not depend much on the number of talented performers, or that encouraging young musicians to study classical music is either ineffective or not the only effective way to increase the number of talented classical performers.

- A This does not weaken the critic's reasoning. However much confidence musicians studying classical music have in their own talent, a decline in the total number of classical musicians will probably result in a decline in the number of truly talented classical musicians, just as the critic assumes.
- B The critic is only proposing a way to at least maintain classical music's current meager popularity, which might be accomplished even if the profusion of other genres prevents classical music's popularity from increasing.
- C **Correct.** This suggests that classical music's meager popularity could at least be maintained by encouraging people to listen to great old recordings of classical music rather than by increasing the supply of great live performances.
- D This does weaken the argument slightly. But even if a few audience members manage to enjoy mediocre classical music performances, they might still be more strongly drawn to other genres with more talented performers.
- E Listeners exposed to more impressive live performances of classical music by talented performers would probably better understand why classical music was once popular than would listeners exposed only to mediocre classical performances.

The correct answer is C.

CR05656

188. Commemorative plaques cast from brass are a characteristic art form of the Benin culture of West Africa. Some scholars, noting that the oldest surviving plaques date to the 1400s, hypothesize that brass-casting techniques were introduced by the Portuguese, who came to Benin in 1485 A.D. But Portuguese records of that expedition mention cast-brass jewelry sent to Benin's king from neighboring Ife. So it is unlikely that Benin's knowledge of brass casting derived from the Portuguese. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- (A) The Portuguese records do not indicate whether their expedition of 1485 included metalworkers.
- (B) The Portuguese had no contact with Ife until the 1500s.
- (C) In the 1400s the Portuguese did not use cast brass for commemorative plaques.
- (D) As early as 1500 A.D., Benin artists were making brass plaques incorporating depictions of Europeans.
- (E) Copper, which is required for making brass, can be found throughout Benin territory.

Argument Construction

Situation The oldest surviving cast-brass plaques from the Benin culture date to the 1400s. Records of a Portuguese expedition to Benin in 1485 mention cast-brass jewelry sent to Benin's king from neighboring Ife.

Reasoning *What additional evidence, when combined with the argument's premises, would most help support the conclusion that Benin's knowledge of brass casting did not derive from the Portuguese?* The argument is that since the expedition records indicate that cast-brass jewelry from Ife was already known in Benin when the Portuguese first came there, Benin's knowledge of brass casting probably did not derive from the Portuguese. This argument assumes that receiving the brass-cast jewelry from Ife could have transmitted knowledge of brass casting to Benin, and also that knowledge of brass casting in Ife did not itself derive from the Portuguese. Any evidence supporting either of these assumptions would strengthen the argument.

- A This is compatible with a Portuguese origin for brass-casting in Benin. The expedition might well have included metalworkers even if the records do not mention whether it did. Furthermore, other Portuguese expeditions with metalworkers might have quickly followed the initial expedition.
- B **Correct.** If the Portuguese had no contact with Ife before 1500, then Ife's earlier knowledge of brass casting did not derive directly from the Portuguese. This increases the likelihood that knowledge of brass-casting in Benin did not derive from the Portuguese, even if it derived from Ife.
- C This is compatible with a Portuguese origin for brass-casting in Benin. Even if the Portuguese did not use cast brass for commemorative plaques, they could have used it for jewelry or other items they brought to Benin or manufactured there, and thus they could have transmitted the knowledge to the Benin culture.
- D This leaves open the possibility that the Benin culture learned about brass casting from the Portuguese in 1485 and started using it to produce plaques of this type by 1500.
- E Even if copper has always been common in the Benin territory, brass-casting techniques could have been introduced by the Portuguese.

The correct answer is B.

5.0 Sentence Correction

5.0 Sentence Correction

Sentence correction questions appear in the Verbal section of the GMAT® exam. The Verbal section uses multiple-choice questions to measure your ability to read and comprehend written material, to reason and evaluate arguments, and to correct written material to conform to standard written English. Because the Verbal section includes passages from several different content areas, you may be generally familiar with some of the material; however, neither the passages nor the questions assume detailed knowledge of the topics discussed. Sentence correction questions are intermingled with critical reasoning and reading comprehension questions throughout the Verbal section of the test. You will have 65 minutes to complete the Verbal section or about 1¾ minutes to answer each question.

Sentence correction questions present a statement in which words are underlined. The questions ask you to select the best expression of the idea or relationship described in the underlined section from the answer options. The first answer choice always repeats the original phrasing, whereas the other four provide alternatives. In some cases, the original phrasing is the best choice. In other cases, the underlined section has obvious or subtle errors that require correction. These questions require you to be familiar with the stylistic conventions and grammatical rules of standard written English and to demonstrate your ability to improve incorrect or ineffective expressions.

You should begin these questions by reading the sentence carefully. Note whether there are any obvious grammatical errors as you read the underlined section. Then read the five answer choices carefully. If there was a subtle error you did not recognize the first time you read the sentence, it may become apparent after you have read the answer choices. If the error is still unclear, see whether you can eliminate some of the answers as being incorrect. Remember that in some cases, the original selection may be the best answer.

5.1 Some Comments About How It Works

Sentence Correction questions require a good understanding of how the conventions of standard written English can be used for effective communication. However, that understanding does not have to come from extensive explicit training in grammar and usage or from knowledge of specialized linguistic terminology. Many people may have the needed insights without being able to explain them in technical terms. Analogously, without knowing the scientific name of baker's yeast or the chemistry of the Maillard reaction, a talented baker or food critic may be able to tell whether a loaf of bread was properly prepared. This is not to say that explicit training in grammar and usage is unhelpful. As an adjunct to critical reading and writing experience, it can be a useful approach to developing insights into good written communication. It is good to be cautious, though; books and websites offering advice about how to write may occasionally stipulate outmoded or idiosyncratic rules that are not generally followed in effective professional writing.

The problems posed in Sentence Correction take a different approach and fall within a different domain from those in the other Verbal Section types. But like those other types, they test skills of critical reasoning, problem solving, and reading comprehension. Sentence Correction tasks can be aptly thought of as requiring detective work. A key part of this work consists of understanding the differences among formulations offered in the answer choices and in seeing that some do not make sense when they are plugged into the larger sentence. In this way, the Sentence Correction questions pose some of the most refined and closely targeted reading comprehension tasks in the GMAT exam. To see why certain wordings do not work, you will need to use critical analysis, forming hypotheses about what the writer is trying to express and being ready to revise the hypotheses as you read through the answer choices.

The more difficult questions are not essentially designed to test for knowledge of rules or facts that are harder to learn or that require more technical training. Difficulty often stems from complexity and subtlety among the interconnected parts of the sentence and involves critical application of principles that all astute users of English should understand. Sentence Correction tasks are puzzles of a sort, but they are not merely arbitrarily contrived. Typically, the incorrect answer choices represent flaws that even an experienced writer might introduce by temporarily losing track of the structure of a sentence or by accidentally moving a piece of text to an unintended position.

Sometimes you may be able to think of a wording that works better than any of the options presented, but the task is to find the most effective of the available choices within the parameters of the problem posed. In writing, there are almost always tradeoffs. For example, conciseness is sometimes the enemy of precision and adequate specificity. Certain types of redundancy can be annoying and can make the writer seem inept, but other types of repetition and paraphrasing can improve readability and comprehension. Language serves many purposes, not all of which are cooperative or directly informative. In sincere straightforwardly informative writing—although not in all advertising, entertainment, and poetry—one should minimize ambiguity, yet in the end every sentence is at least somewhat open to multiple interpretations. Because one can never absolutely eliminate the risk of unintended interpretations, Sentence Correction answers should minimize that risk relative to the context, setting, and ordinary assumptions about the intent of the writer. It is safe to assume that any GMAT Sentence Correction sentence you encounter will be intended to sincerely inform, instruct, or inquire, rather than to parody bad writing, confuse the reader, or provoke laughter, outrage, or derision.

You will not be expected to take sides in contentious controversies about grammar, usage, or style or to apply rules that are widely regarded as highly pedantic or outdated. A few of these are mentioned in the discussions of the specific categories that follow.

5.2 The Eight Sentence Correction Categories

The problems to be solved in Sentence Correction questions are classified into eight grammar and usage categories. Each incorrect answer choice contains a flaw in at least one of these categories, and some span two or more categories. Each test contains questions representing a wide range of different types of problems. In the answer explanations in section 5.9, the categories shown in the heading for each question are the most salient, but many of the questions contain problems in other categories as well. Although these eight categories represent the full range of Sentence Correction problems, the discussions within each category below are not exhaustive and are not intended as a comprehensive guide to English grammar and usage. For each category, the discussion aims to provide a general understanding of the kinds of reasoning that may be involved in solving Sentence Correction problems of that type.

Agreement

Effective verbal communication requires clarity about how the elements of a sentence relate to one another. The conventions of agreement help maintain such clarity; constructions that violate these conventions can be confusing or even nonsensical. There are two types of agreement: subject-verb agreement and agreement of terms that have the same referent.

Subject-verb agreement: Singular subjects take singular verbs, whereas plural subjects take plural verbs. Standard contemporary English makes few distinctions in verb form among persons and numbers, but most English verbs do have a distinct present-tense form for third person singular, and *to be* has distinctive forms for first person singular (*am, was*).

Examples:

Correct: "I **walk** to the store."

Incorrect: "I **walks** to the store."

Correct: "Each of the circuits **has** its own switch."

Incorrect: "Each of the circuits **have** its own switch."

Correct: "The masses **have** spoken."

Incorrect: "The masses **has** spoken."

Agreement between terms that have the same referent: A pronoun that stands for another element in the discourse—a noun, a noun phrase, or another pronoun—must agree with its antecedent in person, number, and gender. Where a noun or noun phrase has the same referent as another noun or noun phrase, the two terms should agree in number.

Examples:

Correct: "When **you** dream, **you** are usually asleep."

Incorrect: "When **one** dreams, **you** are usually asleep."

The incorrect version is by no means ungrammatical, but it is puzzling and appears not to be intended to mean what it literally says. Thus, it is also a matter of logical predication and rhetorical construction, categories that are discussed under those headings below.

Correct: "I threw away the banana and the mango because **they were** both spoiled."

Incorrect: "I threw away the banana and the mango because **it was** both spoiled."

Correct: "The engineers are **friends** of mine."

Incorrect: "The engineers are **a friend** of mine."

Almost all educated users of English have internalized the conventions of agreement, yet we all occasionally make mistakes of this sort by accident or because we lose track of the structure of our wording. Keep in mind that as you evaluate different wording choices, context is vitally important. We can see immediately that an entire clause consisting of the words "You is working" would be incorrect. On the other hand, that same sequence of words is correct in the following sentence: "The team member who used to assist you is working on a different project now." This is easy to see, but doing so depends on recognizing that the subject of *is* is not *you* but rather the entire noun phrase preceding the verb. This recognition may be either intuitive or based on explicit analysis.

Similarly, no one would seriously claim that the plural *they* should stand for the singular noun *proposal*, but one might more easily overlook the failure of agreement in the following sentence: "From among the six submitted proposals, they chose number four, believing that they could be more easily implemented than the other five." Many readers may see the problem quickly, but in doing so they are noting some complex features of the sentence structure. In principle, *they* could refer to the six proposals or to those who chose from among them, but neither of those tentative interpretations makes sense. Here the reasoning overlaps with that involved in the category of logical predication. The choosers are not the sorts of things that could be implemented, and the comparative phrase *than the other five* rules out the hypothesis that the antecedent of *they* is the plural *six submitted proposals*. Changing *they* to *it* resolves the discrepancy by using a pronoun that clearly has the singular noun phrase *number four* as its antecedent.

Some complicating factors to consider:

When analyzing potential agreement issues in Sentence Correction, keep in mind that not all cases conform obviously and straightforwardly to the most basic rules of agreement. Here are a few special considerations. These are not intended to be exhaustive.

Quantities and quantifying phrases: In some cases, formally plural quantities may take plural verbs, and in other cases they are construed as singular. For example, “Six dollars were withdrawn from the box, one at a time” is correct, but so is “Six dollars is a high price for that.”

Quantifying phrases (such as *a number of* and *a percentage of*) often function as subject modifiers in what could appear to be a subject position. In such cases, they are treated similarly to numbers. “A large proportion of the trees are flowering” is essentially like “Three of the trees are flowering.” In other cases, similar phrases function as subjects. Consider, for example, the following correct phrases: “a small percentage of our profits is reinvested” and “a small percentage of our employees oppose the new plan.”

As a pronoun, *each* is singular, distributing individually to the members of the set or collection referred to, as illustrated in “Each of the circuits has its own switch.” When *each* is used as an adjective before a noun, the noun is singular (“Each machine has been inspected”), but in the predicate position *each* modifies the entire plural collection (“The machines have each been inspected”).

Plurals that appear singular: All English users are aware that for some words the plural is the same as the singular (*sheep* and *deer*, for example), but there are subtle cases, as when a formally singular noun referring to a group or culture is construed as plural. No simple rule governs the use of such terms; one can say, for example, “the British are” or “the Inuit are” but not “the German are” or “the Cuban are.” *Police* is plural, but many similar group words, such as *navy*, are typically construed as singular.

Collective nouns construed as singular or plural: Many nouns referring to groups of people or collections of things have a singular form (team, choir, platoon, crew, assembly, for example). In some editorial styles—and especially in British usage—these can sometimes be construed as plural. This occurs where the writer’s intention is to distribute the predicate to the individual members of the group rather than to refer to the group as a single abstract entity. Thus, one may say “the staff are working in small groups” but also “the staff is larger than it used to be.”

Plurals construed as singular: Some formally plural nouns, such as *news* are construed as singular in normal usage. A title that has a plural form (such as *The Grapes of Wrath*) takes a singular verb if it refers to a single work, and some names of organizations or political entities may be construed as singular, even though they have a plural form. For example, the phrase *the Cayman Islands* may be singular when referring to the country as a political entity and plural when referring to the islands as multiple pieces of land.

Singular verbs that could appear plural: For most English verbs (with the notable exception of *to be*), the infinitive is the same as the present plural, and the present subjunctive for all persons is the same as the infinitive. Furthermore, the singular past subjunctive is the same as the plural. Thus, there is a risk that at first glance a correct verb form used with a singular subject may appear plural. “The researcher suspend further testing” and “I were you” would be incorrect as complete sentences, but in the following sentences they are in the subjunctive mood and are correct: “We considered it imperative that the researcher suspend further testing.” “I wouldn’t do that if I were you.” As a complete sentence, “The mayor attend the hearings” would be incorrect, but in the sentence, “In none of these cases will either the councilor or the mayor attend the hearings,” the verb form is correct; it is an infinitive preceded by the auxiliary verb *will*.

Some issues that are not tested:

The following are a few examples of issues that are outside the scope of the agreement-related Sentence Correction questions.

Especially in informal discourse, the plural pronoun *they* and related forms *them*, *their*, and *theirs* are sometimes used as nonspecific, genderless ways of referring to a singular person. Consider, for example, “Somebody left their notebook on the conference room table.” The reasoning surrounding such usage and the alternatives (*he*, *she*, *she or he*, *she/he*) is complex and evolving. You should not expect to see questions that require you to judge which usage is preferable.

Although you should be able to recognize commonly used irregular plurals or special classes of plurals (such as *phenomena*, *cacti*, *genera*), you will not be asked to correct an improper plural spelling. For example, you will not be asked to correct “the genuses are” to “the genera are.”

You will also not be expected to know whether certain highly technical terms or local organization names take singular or plural verbs and pronouns unless the context makes it clear whether they are singular or plural. For example, those who are very familiar with the Centers for Disease Control (a U.S. government organization) will know that it is normally referred to in the singular, but others would not be able to determine this merely from seeing the name.

Diction

Sentences that are structurally well formed can still be confusing, or can make the writer seem inept, if the words are not chosen appropriately and effectively. Effective diction involves using the right part of speech and observing other conventions regarding which words to use in which contexts. Word choices involving agreement and verb form may also be thought of partly as matters of diction, but they are treated separately under the Agreement and Verb Form headings. The diction issues you may encounter in Sentence Correction are too many and varied to list here, but here are a few salient categories into which risks of ineffective diction may fall:

Parts of speech: Even accomplished writers sometimes accidentally use an inappropriate part of speech, such as an adjective where an adverb is needed or a preposition where a conjunction is needed.

Examples:

Correct: “I could *easily* tell that the cat was friendly.”

Incorrect: “I could *easy* tell that the cat was friendly.”

Correct: “The concerto was *beautiful*.”

Incorrect: “The concerto was *beautifully*.”

Pronoun cases: Pronouns should be in the right case. A writer might compromise clarity by using a subject form of a pronoun as an object or vice versa or a reflexive pronoun in a nonreflexive context.

Examples:

Correct: “*She* and her friend were walking in the park.”

Incorrect: “*Her* and her friend were walking in the park.”

Correct: “We sent an email to *them*.”

Incorrect: “We sent an email to *they*.”

Correct: "I gave ~~him~~ a good performance rating."

Incorrect: "I gave ~~himself~~ a good performance rating."

Counting and quantifying: Although the conventions for quantification of mass nouns and count nouns have some subtle complexities, keep in mind the general rule that mass nouns are quantified by an amount, whereas count nouns are quantified by numbers or by words (such as *many*) that indicate multiple units. Except in certain technical mathematical contexts, *less* and *least* are typically reserved for comparisons of amount or degree, whereas *fewer* and *fewest* express comparisons of number. However, *more* and *most* are used for both comparisons of number and comparisons of degree. *Both* is appropriate only in referring to two entities or qualities.

Examples:

Correct: "We bought only a ~~small amount of~~ rice." "She wished me ~~much happiness~~."

Incorrect: "We bought only ~~a few~~ rice." "She wished me ~~many happinesses~~."

Correct: "~~Fewer~~ deliveries arrived today than yesterday."

Incorrect: "~~Less~~ deliveries arrived today than yesterday."

Correct: "~~All five of the~~ trees in the garden need pruning."

Incorrect: "~~Both of the five~~ trees in the garden need pruning."

Prepositions: Subtle differences of relationship are often expressed by different prepositions that function similarly to one another. Consider, for example, in/into/within, to/toward, on/onto/above, through/throughout, beside/besides, beside/along/against, and on/over/above.

Examples:

Correct: "We were standing ~~beside~~ the river."

Incorrect: "We were standing ~~besides~~ the river."

The incorrect version can also be thought of as displaying a problem of logical predication in that it appears to say illogically that the river was also standing.

Correct: "The editor was sitting ~~in~~ his office all afternoon."

Incorrect: "The editor was sitting ~~into~~ his office all afternoon."

Word choices that are inherently very simple and obvious can become a little more difficult in complex settings, and a Sentence Correction answer choice that appears appropriate on its own may not work when plugged into the larger sentence. In isolation, "distributed throughout" is recognizable as a standard phrase, but in the following sentence it does not make sense: "The computers were distributed throughout the generosity of a group of donors." Replacing *throughout* with *through* solves the problem. The issue here is a matter not only of diction but also of logical predication: the wording causes the sentence to make an illogical claim about the computers.

"We were confident" is fine as a freestanding sentence, but it is nonsense in the following context:

"The lawyer who consulted with we were confident that we could negotiate a settlement." This displays combined problems of diction (*with we*), agreement (the plural *were* with the singular subject *lawyer*), and grammatical construction. "Us was confident" is strange out of context, but substituting *us was* for the offending part of the sentence solves the problem: "The lawyer who consulted with us was confident that we could negotiate a settlement."

Some complicating factors to consider:

The following are only a few examples of the types of subtleties and complexities that may be involved in deciding what words are appropriate.

Potentially misleading grammatical constructions: In some contexts, a verb might superficially appear to require an adverb in the predicate position when in fact a predicate adjective is appropriate. For example, it is correct to say “the surface feels rough” rather than “the surface feels roughly.” “The animal does not smell well” means something very different from “the animal does not smell good.” Both can be correct depending on what the writer wants to convey.

Words ending in *ing* that are derived from verbs (such as *going*, *assessing*, and *hurting*) can often be either gerunds or participles. Generally, in carefully crafted formal writing, a pronoun or noun that modifies a gerund will be possessive (“The schedule depends on our receiving the materials on time,” not “depends on us receiving”). However, in similar constructions the *ing* word is intended as a participle with the noun or pronoun as its subject. This can be seen in the following two examples: (1) “I was concerned about my friend’s lying on the ground.” Here the focus of the concern is on the situation the friend was in. (2) “I was concerned about my friend lying on the ground.” In this case, the writer may intend the focus to be explicitly on the friend who was in that situation.

Words with multiple functions: In English, almost any noun can function as an adjective. Nouns that function also as verbs are well known (as in “she chaired the meeting” or “he tabled the motion”), but words that are not normally used as verbs can also be pressed into special service as verbs on an ad hoc basis. One could say, for example, “She plans to greenhouse her tender plants when the weather turns cold.” Some words regularly function as both adjectives and adverbs. One can say, for example, both “This is a hard job” and “We are working hard.” Likewise, *fast* is used correctly as both adjective and adverb in the following sentence: “This is not usually a fast train, but it is moving fast at this moment.”

Considerations in applying between and among: *Among* is generally not appropriate for relationships that involve only two entities. It is standard to say “the distance between my house and yours,” not “the distance among my house and yours.” *Among* is usually needed instead of *between* for relationships involving more than two entities, but there are exceptions. *Between* is sometimes the more accurate preposition to use where the relationship holds, independently, between each member of the group and some other member. Thus, for example, it would be appropriate to say, “In planning your trip to the five destinations, consider the distances between cities and the driving conditions you may encounter.”

Some issues that are not tested:

The following are a few examples of issues that are outside the scope of the diction-related Sentence Correction questions.

Which/that: Some American publishers have adopted the convention that *which*, used as a relative pronoun, should always be nonrestrictive and should be replaced with *that* in restrictive contexts (as in “laws which have been repealed are no longer enforced” versus “laws that have been repealed are no longer enforced”). You should not expect to see questions for which the deciding factor is merely whether the writer adheres to this convention.

Object words with “to be”: Some usage advisors prescribe the use of nominative (subject) pronouns in both the subject position and the object position with the verb *to be*. According to this convention, “If I were her, I would be happy to accept the job” is incorrect; it should be “If I were she, I would be happy

to accept the job." In some contexts, this latter form of expression could seem annoyingly stilted and pedantic and thus could violate other standards of effective expression. You should not expect to see questions for which the deciding factor is merely whether the writer adheres to this convention.

Slang, archaic diction, and words that are distinctively regional or limited to certain subsets of English: You will not be expected, for example, to correct *thou* or *you-all* to *you*, to understand that *skint* could be paraphrased as *lacking resources*, to judge whether *mickle* is a synonym of *muckle* or whether either of these should be paraphrased with *large*, or to understand that *give* (a test) in some usages is synonymous with *take* (a test) in others.

Variant forms and spellings: You will not be asked to choose between variant forms that have the same function and meaning. Some examples of such variant pairs are: *whilst/while*, *toward/towards*, *until/till*, and *outward/outwards*.

Grammatical Construction

Many issues of agreement, verb form, parallelism, diction, and idiom can be described as matters of grammar, but those categories by no means cover the full range of grammar-related tasks in Sentence Correction. The Grammatical Construction category concerns issues of grammar that are not treated elsewhere in this classification scheme. For the most part, these are matters of syntax—the ways in which the elements of a sentence are arranged. Effective communication depends on shared understandings between the writer and reader about how the relative positions of words and phrases help convey meaning. A series of words and punctuation marks that does not follow predictable conventions of syntax can be puzzling, annoying, or even incomprehensible. Here are a few major principles guiding effective grammatical construction:

Complete structure: In English, a well-formed sentence or independent clause needs both a subject and a predicate containing a main verb.

Examples:

Correct: "The shipping company promised that the package would be delivered on time."

Incorrect: "The shipping company that the package would be delivered on time."

Here the main subject, *the shipping company*, has no verb; the only verb phrase, *would be delivered*, has *the package* as its subject and is embedded in the clause beginning with *that*.

Correct: "In any case, the contract is acceptable."

Incorrect: "In any case is acceptable."

In this incorrect example, there is no discernible subject.

Correct: "Rushing to defend its nest, the swan pecked at the intruder."

Incorrect: "Rushing to defend its nest. The swan pecked at the intruder."

The first part of this incorrect example represents a stereotypical variety of incompletely formed sentence known as a sentence fragment. Sentence fragments are punctuated as sentences but are grammatically incomplete and often seem to be left stranded from a preceding or following sentence.

Clear and correct linkages and punctuation: For clarity of meaning, the elements of a sentence need to be linked to, and separated from, one another with standard punctuation and with appropriate links such as conjunctions and relative pronouns.

Examples:

Correct: "The cupboard contained two boxes of tea, a bag of rice, and a jar of pickles."

Incorrect: "The cupboard contained two boxes of tea a bag of rice, and contained a jar of pickles."

In this case, the structure is both ungrammatical and confusingly nonparallel. Issues of the latter type are discussed under the Parallelism heading below.

Correct: "The weather yesterday was hot, and there were thunderstorms in the evening."

Incorrect: "The weather yesterday was hot there were thunderstorms in the evening."

Correct: "We should cancel the cricket match; the rain will continue all afternoon."

Incorrect: "We should cancel the cricket match the rain will continue, all afternoon."

Proper ordering of words and phrases: A sentence whose components do not follow standard conventions for English governing the sequence of parts can be confusing and can make the writer appear unfamiliar with the language.

Examples:

Correct: "The director's name is Juan."

Incorrect: "Is Juan, the director's name."

Correct: "The geranium has outgrown its pot and will need to be transplanted to a larger container."

Incorrect: "Outgrown its pot to a larger container and the geranium will need to be transplanted."

Correct: "Please call me tomorrow to discuss the contract."

Incorrect: "To discuss me please the contract tomorrow call."

This is an extreme case of obviously ungrammatical word arrangement. Incoherent word sequences such as this are sometimes described as "word salad." To the extent that this example makes any sense, it also appears illogically to be asking someone to telephone a contract and thus displays a problem of logical predication (discussed later under that heading).

To see how an answer choice affects a sentence's grammatical construction, you may need to analyze the relationship between widely separated parts. Consider the sentence, "If you clean the filter before it becomes so clogged that it impedes the flow can prevent costly repairs in the long run." It is important to see that the main verb phrase is *can prevent*; the intervening verbs are embedded in the clause modifying *clean the filter*. The opening phrase, *if you clean . . .* is not grammatically structured to function as a subject, but if that phrase is replaced with *cleaning*, the sentence becomes well formed and makes sense: "Cleaning the filter before it becomes so clogged that it impedes the flow can prevent costly repairs in the long run." The problem with *if you clean* involves both grammatical construction and verb form (discussed later under that heading).

Consider also the following ungrammatical sentence: "The headphones provided with the audio player that although she bought them last year, they never worked." The phrase "she bought last year never worked" would be ungrammatical in isolation, but if substituted for the boldface phrase, it makes the sentence grammatically correct: "The headphones provided with the audio player that **she bought last year never worked**." The crucial relationship here is between the opening words (*the headphones*) and the final phrase of the sentence.

Some complicating factors to consider:

Idiomatic constructions: Some idiomatic wording formats, especially those that use parallel structure to express comparisons, are widely treated as well-formed sentences even though they do not follow the basic conventions of grammatical construction. Some examples are: “The greater the thread count, the higher the price.” “Better a small nutritious meal than a large unwholesome one.” “Here today, gone tomorrow.”

Inverted structures: In contemporary English, standard sentence structure puts subjects ahead of their verbs, but there are many exceptions for special purposes, including some quotations, negative constructions, and questions. Each of the following is readily recognizable as a well-formed sentence: “Tell me about it,” said his uncle. “Were you at the meeting?” “In neither case could I find the needed information.”

Elliptical constructions: In informal contexts and in many formal contexts where economy of words and smoothness of flow are key considerations, certain sentence elements may be omitted when the writer’s intent is entirely clear without them. For example, *that* is often omitted at the start of a relative clause, as in “The film I saw last night was boring” or “I was afraid they might be angry.” It is also often considered acceptable to omit infinitive verbs in some cases to avoid awkward repetition, with the preposition *to* left dangling, as in “I reviewed the report even though I didn’t want to.”

Some issues that are not tested:

The following are a few examples of issues that are outside the scope of the grammatical-construction-related Sentence Correction questions.

Fragments that function as complete sentences in special contexts: A group of words that has no subject or no verb can sometimes stand as a well-formed sentence. “No” can be a complete sentence in answer to a stated or hypothetical question, as can “The one on the left.” Similarly, a clause beginning with a conjunction and not followed by any other clause can sometimes be an acceptable sentence, as, for example, “Because the delivery was late.” Exclamations such as “Not again!” are also complete and well formed in special contexts. You should not expect to see a Sentence Correction question that appears likely to be drawn from a context in which it is intended to function in any of these ways or as a headline, title, or line of poetry.

Punctuation as editorial style: You will need to judge issues of punctuation only insofar as they involve standard conventions that make a difference for the meaning and coherence of the sentence. Beyond the basic grammatical principles, some punctuation conventions vary by region or academic discipline, are matters of pure style, or are determined by publishers or editors for their own purposes. You will not need to judge, for example, whether a comma should be inside or outside a closing quotation mark, whether emphasis should be indicated by italics, or whether an apostrophe should be inserted before the *s* in a plural non-word such as *IOUs/IOU’s* or *1980s/1980’s*.

Idiom

Idioms are standard forms of expression that consist of ordinary words but whose uses cannot be inferred from the meanings of their component parts or the basic conventions of grammar and usage. There is ultimately no logical reason why English speakers say “on average” rather than “at average” or “depending on” rather than “depending from.” This is simply how we do things. Thus, knowing idiomatic constructions is rather like knowing vocabulary words. Accidentally using the wrong combination of words in an idiomatic construction or structuring a phrase in an unidiomatic way can make it difficult

for readers to discern the writer's intended meaning. Here are a few major categories of idiomatic wording issues that you may encounter in Sentence Correction:

Prepositions with abstract concepts: For abstract concepts there is no top, bottom, inside, or outside, yet with these we often use the same prepositions that denote spatial relationships between concrete objects. There are some patterns, but for the most part knowing which preposition to use with which abstract noun or verb depends on familiarity. The idiomatic pairings of prepositions with abstract concepts are far too many and varied to list here. A few illustrations are: *in* love, different *from* (also different *to* in British usage), *in* a while, *on* guard, *at* work.

Examples:

Correct: "With regard to your party invitation, I may not be able to go, because I will be *on call* at the clinic that evening."

Incorrect: "On regard with your party invitation, I may not be able to go, because I will be *in call* at the clinic that evening."

Correct: "The cost of the repairs will *depend on* what clever solutions the contractors *come up with*."

Incorrect: "The cost of the repairs will *depend from* what clever solutions the contractors *come out through*."

Correlatives: Certain standard correlative structures provide economical ways of expressing relationships between concepts. For example, it can be more efficient to say "Neither she nor he is going" than to say "He is not going, and she is also not going." However, if such structures are not skillfully handled in accordance with standard conventions, they can be puzzling and misleading. Other examples of such idiomatic correlative structures are *as . . . as*, *more/less/greater/smaller/etc. . . than*, and *not only . . . but also*.

Examples:

Correct: "Neither the pomegranates *nor* the melons have arrived yet from the vendor."

Incorrect: "Neither the pomegranates have arrived yet *neither* the melons from the vendor."

Correct: "She was almost *as* sure that if we installed this system it would fail *as* that we would need some such system."

Incorrect: "She was almost *as* sure that if we installed this system it would fail *than* that we would need some such system."

Correct: "The prolonged drought is stressing *not only* the rabbits *but also* the wallabies."

Incorrect: "The prolonged drought is stressing the rabbits, *not* the wallabies *just only*."

Verb phrases: Many combinations of verbs with adverbs or prepositions, or with both adverbs and prepositions, have conventional meanings that do not follow directly from the meanings of their component parts. These include such phrases as *give up*, *give up on*, *come through with*, *come up*, *come up with*, *come down with*, *do without*, *have at*, *get over*, *get on with*, *go through*, *go through with*, and *get through with*. Similarly, there are many idiomatic combinations of verb and object, such as *have had it*, *make waves*, *make one's mark*, and *put one's finger on*.

Examples:

Correct: "The investigator has *given up on* determining what *happened to* the missing funds."

Incorrect: "The investigator has *given through over* determining what *happened on* the missing funds."

Correct: "When they checked the patient's temperature, it *turned out* that he was *running a fever*."

Incorrect: "When they checked the patient's temperature, it *veered off* that he was *doing a fever*."

Pronouns with no reference: English requires stated subjects in most sentences with active verb forms. Where there is no real subject, one uses specific referentless placeholder pronouns: *it* and *there*.

Examples:

Correct: “*It was raining* yesterday.”

Incorrect: “*They were raining* yesterday.”

Correct: “*There are* several reasons to prefer this theory over the proposed alternative.”

Incorrect: “*Several reasons are* to prefer this theory over the proposed alternative.”

Compound modifiers: Some adverbs and adjectives are idiomatically built out of multiple words. A few examples are: *all in all*, *by and by*, *by and large*, *on the whole*, *through and through*, *on the up and up*, and *on the other hand* (sometimes, but not always, correlated with *on the one hand*).

Examples:

Correct: “She listened to the radio *off and on* throughout the day.”

Incorrect: “She listened to the radio *off but again on* throughout the day.”

Correct: “You wondered whether anyone would mention you at the meeting; *in fact*, two people *did so*.”

Incorrect: “You wondered whether anyone would mention you at the meeting; *in the fact*, two people *did thus and so*.”

Idiom-related problems do not always involve identifying malformed idioms. Sometimes the crucial insight may involve determining which of multiple idiomatic meanings is intended or whether a phrase should be treated as an idiom or a non-idiom. The meaning of the sentence “She asked for information *on* purpose of the order I had submitted” is unclear. However, a plausible hypothesis is that the writer meant to say “information *on the purpose*,” with *on* serving as an informal equivalent of *regarding*. On that reading, the apparent use of the idiom *on purpose* results from an accidental juxtaposition of the two words. Substituting a phrase such as *regarding the* for the boldface word *on* can turn this into a meaningful, well-formed sentence: “She asked for information *regarding the* purpose of the order I had submitted.”

In the following sentence, *as long as* could appear at first glance to refer to a length of time: “We should be able to restart our assembly line tomorrow *as long as receiving* the replacement parts today.” However, on that interpretation the temporal relationship does not make sense. The sentence can be made coherent by replacing *receiving* with *we receive*, but doing so requires reinterpreting the phrase *as long as* so that it functions as an idiom equivalent to *provided that*. The sentence then becomes “We should be able to restart our assembly line tomorrow *as long as we receive* the replacement parts today.”

Some complicating factors to consider:

Here are just a few of the many subtleties that one may encounter in judging whether idiomatic usages are correct and effective:

Similar phrases often have very different idiomatic uses and meanings; consider, for example, *come through with*, *come down with*, and *come up with*. Some idiomatic preposition-plus-noun phrases have alternate forms. For example, it is correct to say either “with regard to” or “in regard to.” Many idiomatic phrases have multiple meanings, which are not always similar. For example, *come out* within some contexts means *express* and in others *publish* or *begin marketing*.

For many idiomatic expressions, there are special exceptions to the standard forms. For example, *not only . . . but* phrases are standardly completed with *also*, but there are special cases in which *also* is unnecessary or misleading. This can be seen in the following sentence: “Surprisingly, the endangered species was found not only at the lowest elevations but throughout the entire valley.” If the lowest elevations referred to are in the valley, *but also* would misleadingly seem to indicate that the entire valley was a separate category rather than a more general category encompassing the lower elevations.

Words that form standard pairs, such as *neither* and *nor*, often have other meanings and uses as well. In some contexts, *neither* or *nor* might appear at first glance to need the other term. However, *neither* often occurs as an adjective (as in “neither book has been opened”), a pronoun (as in “neither of them has been opened”), or a freestanding clause negator (as in “My supervisor is not fond of filing reports, but neither am I”). Similarly, *nor* can occur without *neither* (as in “None of the strata in the escarpment were fractured in the earthquake, nor were any of the exposed formations displaced”).

Some issues that are not tested:

GMAT Sentence Correction questions neither assess nor presuppose knowledge of obsolete forms of idiomatic expression, highly specialized technical jargon, distinctive dialect constructions, or slang idioms that have not become standard forms of expression.

Logical Predication

Correct grammar is by no means the only type of structural relationship that matters for effective communication. Logical relationships among sentence elements are also crucial. A writer may accidentally structure a completely grammatical sentence in a way that has unintended meanings or implications. Issues of logical predication intersect with all the other categories discussed here and are involved in many of the Sentence Correction questions. Here are a few ways in which they may occur:

Position and scope of modifiers: Modifiers should be positioned so it is clear what word or words they are meant to modify. If modifiers are not positioned clearly, they can cause illogical references or comparisons or otherwise distort the meaning of the sentence.

Examples:

Correct: “I put **the cake that I baked** by the door.”

Incorrect: “I put the cake by **the door that I baked**.”

Although the better-worded version contains the potentially ambiguous phrase *I baked by the door*, the meaning is made clear by the fact that *put the cake* requires completion by an indication of where or how the cake was put. Therefore, *by the door* binds to the verb *put*.

Correct: “**Concerned that the snake might be venomous, the workers** left it in the crate untouched.”
 Incorrect: “**Concerned that it might be venomous, the snake** was left untouched by **the workers in the crate**.”

Pronoun-antecedent relationships: A misplaced pronoun can bind to the wrong noun, pronoun, or noun phrase and thus create an unintended meaning.

Examples:

Correct: “The baker informed the customers **that the cakes were moldy** and would have to be discarded.”
 Incorrect: “The baker informed **the customers that they were moldy** and the cakes would have to be discarded.”

Correct: “**After reviewing** the report from the consultants, **the company** may consider changing the logo.”

Incorrect: “**After it has reviewed** the report from the consultants, **the logo** may be considered for changing by the company.”

Compatibility of concepts: Careless wording can cause a predicate to say something inconsistent with the nature of the subject and vice versa.

Examples:

Correct: “The **three types** of wildlife most often seen in the park are sparrows, mallards, and squirrels, **in that order.**”

Incorrect: “The **single** most often **type** of wildlife seen in the park is the sparrow, the mallard, and the squirrel, **in that order.**”

Correct: “Stock prices **rose** abruptly today **to an all-time high.**”

Incorrect: “Stock prices **dropped** abruptly today **to an all-time high.**”

Ellipses and extraneous elements: Omission of a crucial word or phrase or inclusion of an extraneous element can shift the subject to an unintended element while leaving the sentence grammatically well formed. Accidents of this sort can also make an unintended noun or pronoun the subject or object of a verb.

Examples:

Correct: “Work on the stadium renovations **is temporarily at** a standstill.”

Incorrect: “Work on the stadium renovations **is temporarily** a standstill.”

Here the omission of *at* causes the sentence to make an illogical claim about the work (that it is a standstill).

Correct: “**The car was traveling** slowly along the highway.”

Incorrect: “**The car's speed was traveling** slowly along the highway.”

The redundant reference to speed causes this sentence to say, absurdly, that the speed was traveling along the highway.

Reversed relationships: An unintended meaning can result from accidentally or misguidedly reversing a relationship between sentence elements.

Examples:

Correct: “Last week’s unusually high sales of electric fans can almost certainly be **blamed on** the unseasonably hot weather.”

Incorrect: “Last week’s unusually high sales of electric fans can almost certainly be **blamed for** the unseasonably hot weather.”

(This also involves an issue of idiomatic usage of prepositions (discussed under the Idiom category above).

Correct: “**Forecasters said the cold front** will move through the region tomorrow.”

Incorrect: “**Forecasters, said the cold front,** will move through the region tomorrow.”

Ambiguous words and phrases: Writers should be cautious in using words or phrases that have multiple standard meanings. Often the context makes it clear which meaning is intended, but sometimes it does not. Paraphrasing to rule out unwanted meanings can sometimes require adding words or increasing the structural complexity of a sentence.

Examples:

Correct: "She has studied Greek and **speaks** that language **in addition to** Gujarati."

Incorrect: "She has studied Greek and **speaks it as well as** Gujarati."

As well as is an entirely acceptable equivalent of *and also* or *in addition to*, but it can be an unfortunate choice of words for a context in which *well* makes perfect sense as an evaluative judgment. Since there is no firm basis for deciding which way the latter version is intended, an alternate correct version could be "She has studied Greek and speaks it as well as she speaks Gujarati."

Correct: "Although visitors **are not permitted to** enter the loading docks, they **might** occasionally wander into the area."

Incorrect: "Although visitors **may not** enter the loading docks, they **may** occasionally wander into the area."

Here again, there is no firm basis for deciding which way the latter version is intended. In the incorrect version, both occurrences of *may* could mean either *are permitted to* or *might*.

Few incorrect answers in actual Sentence Correction questions will be as easy to dismiss as the most obvious of these illustrative examples. Most logical predication decisions will require careful analysis of the relationships between the answer choice and the nonunderlined portions of the sentence. Be alert for all types of problematic relationships among sentence parts, not just for stereotypical dangling modifiers.

Some complicating factors:

Given that all Sentence Correction questions are presented out of context, there may be no basis for certainty about which of several possible interpretations the writer intended to convey. You will not be given multiple equally good versions of a sentence and asked to guess which one accurately represents the writer's true intention. In principle, almost any illogically constructed sentence could be intended to convey a bizarre meaning. One could hypothesize that the writer of the first example under *Position and scope of modifiers* really did intend to say that she or he had baked the door. Even on that hypothesis, the most reasonable judgment for Sentence Correction purposes would be that the sentence is poorly constructed. A careful writer who wants to convey a straightforward message should make it clear that the unusual meaning is the intended one instead of leading the reader to believe that she or he is ineptly trying to convey the more plausible meaning.

Some issues that are not tested:

Occasionally, you may find a poorly worded version of a sentence amusing. However, you should not expect to see Sentence Correction sentences that can be most charitably interpreted as jokes. Among the answer choices, there will always be a serious way of resolving ambiguities and illogical meanings.

Parallelism

Words or phrases that have similar roles in a sentence should be treated in ways that make the similarity clear. This often requires ensuring that parallel clauses have parallel structure, that verbs having the same function are in the same form, and that elements within the scope of a modifier all relate to the modifier in the same way. Here are some major categories in which parallelism can be an issue:

Elements of a series: Where the elements of a series all have the same role or function, they should be in parallel form.

Examples:

Correct: "I ~~ate~~ supper, ~~went~~ for a walk, and then ~~visited~~ some friends."

Incorrect: "I ~~ate~~ supper, then ~~walking~~, and then ~~visitation~~ of some friends."

Correct: "She tackled the problem ~~calmly, efficiently, and analytically~~."

Incorrect: "She tackled the problem ~~calmly, by being efficient in tickling it, and was amalytic~~."

In both these examples, the nonparallel version is also awkward and wordy. Problems of these types are further discussed under the category of rhetorical construction.

Correlations and comparisons: The sides of a correlative structure often need parallel treatment to make the relationship clear and accurate.

Examples:

Correct: "We are neither ~~planning to~~ hire any new developers nor ~~trying to~~ find ways to reduce the workloads of the current staff."

Incorrect: "We are planning neither ~~to hire~~ any new developers nor ~~attempts at finding ways to~~ reduce workloads of the current staff."

Correct: "We were impressed not only ~~by the~~ beauty of the inlets and beaches but also ~~by the~~ diversity of the plant life."

Incorrect: "We were impressed not only ~~by the~~ beauty of the inlets and beaches but also ~~the diversity of~~ the plant life ~~impressed us~~."

Issues of scope and repetition of elements: To determine what elements of a sentence should be made parallel to each other, it is sometimes necessary to determine how much of the wording should fall within the scope of a verb, preposition, or modifier. The scope may determine which elements need to be in parallel form and whether certain elements need to be repeated. Issues of this type overlap with those illustrated above.

Examples:

Correct: "He mended the torn fabric with ~~a needle and thread~~."

Incorrect: "He ~~mended~~ the torn fabric ~~with a needle and~~ ~~mended it with~~ ~~thread~~."

Assuming that the needle and thread were used together as a unit, the repetition of *with* misrepresents the relationship. In the correct version, the parallelism is between the two nouns, which are both within the scope of *mended with*. In the incorrect version, the parallelism is between the two verb phrases *mended with . . .* and *mended with . . .*.

Correct: "He ~~punched holes~~ in the decoration ~~with a needle~~ and ~~tied~~ it to the lamp ~~with thread~~."

Incorrect: "He ~~punched holes~~ in and ~~tied~~ the decoration to the lamp with ~~a needle and thread~~."

Correct: "The house that was **on fire** was **on the list** of historically significant buildings."
 Incorrect: "The house was **on fire and the list** of historically significant buildings."

On functions so differently in the two phrases that it makes no sense to subsume both the fire and the list under a single occurrence of the preposition. Therefore, we need the repetition of *on*.

Correct: "The mixture contains **dates, raisins, and figs.**"
 Incorrect: "The mixture **contains** dates, **contains** raisins, and **contains** figs."

The correct version has a parallelism among the three objects of the verb *contains*. In the incorrect version, the verb is awkwardly repeated, creating an unnecessary parallelism among three verb phrases. This also displays a problem of rhetorical construction.

Corresponding series: Where the elements of one series are supposed to correspond to those of another series, the order of elements in each series should parallel the order of elements in the other. This parallelism can help prevent confusion about how the two series relate to each other without using cumbersome repetition.

Example:

Correct: "Last week we had four meetings, of which the **first, second, and third** were on **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday** and the last on Friday."

Incorrect: "Last week we had four meetings, of which the last was on Friday, with the **first, second, and third** being on **Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday**."

Grammatical considerations: Some requirements of parallelism, including some of those illustrated above, are also requirements of grammatical construction.

Examples:

Correct: "If **the warranty has expired, we will have to pay** for the repairs."

Incorrect: "If **the warranty has expired, our paying** for the repairs." In the correct version, the two sides of the conditional are parallel in that each is a complete clause with a subject and predicate.

Correct: "**The shipping delays** and **the two-day closure** have caused a backlog of orders."

Incorrect: "**The shipping delays** and **we were closed** for two days have caused a backlog of orders." To function properly as subjects of *have caused*, both of the stated causes need to be in the form of noun phrases.

Some complicating factors:

Problems of idiomatic structure and of logical predication sometimes involve parallelism as well. The following sentence displays all three: "Not only the CEO, and also the executive vice president's proposed policies, have been distributed to the relevant people in middle management." In presenting a faulty parallelism between the *not only* term and the *and also* term, it appears illogically to claim that the CEO has been distributed. It also falls short of the clarity that could be achieved with a more standardly idiomatic *not only . . . but also* structure.

Agreement, as discussed under that heading above, represents a special kind of parallelism. For example, where a singular noun and a pronoun refer to the same thing, the two terms should be parallel in both being singular, and when a verb has a plural subject, the two should be parallel in both being plural. However, in the Sentence Correction classification scheme, agreement is treated as a distinct category. Thus, agreement-related answer explanations in section 5.9 of this book will not automatically carry the parallelism label as well.

Some issues that are not tested:

Sentence Correction questions do not require decisions about purely aesthetic or decorative types of parallelism. For example, you will not be asked to decide whether a rhymed pair such as *highways and byways* would be preferable to another phrase that is equivalent in meaning and function.

Rhetorical Construction

A sentence that is grammatically and idiomatically correct and conforms to good standards of parallelism and logical predication may still be unclear or annoying or may appear ineptly written. Rhetorical construction problems arise in many ways, including the following.

Economy of wording: Superfluous words or unneeded punctuation, pointless redundancies, or convoluted structures that do not enhance precision and adequacy of detail can make a sentence confusing or simply annoying.

Examples:

Correct: “Bananas are almost always harvested green and allowed to ripen in transit or on supermarket shelves.”

Incorrect: “With regard to the ways in which people harvest bananas, people almost always harvest such fruits—fruits of the banana variety—in a green condition, and since the thus-harvested bananas have a low ripeness level, people allow these unripe future-delectable-golden morsels to do their ripening while traveling ensconced in cargo devices after harvest, or even when, after transit, they have landed serenely on supermarket shelves.”

Correct: “We will carefully review your memo and let you know whether we are interested in the solutions you propose.”

Incorrect: “We will “review”—i.e., carefully scrutinize—your memo submitted, letting you know, vis-à-vis the memo’s contained proposal details, whether there is interest, on our part, or not, in those.”

Precision and adequacy of detail: Wording that is too vague, sparse, indeterminate, or incomplete can fail to effectively communicate the intended message. Precision often requires the inclusion of details and qualifying phrases. How much specificity and qualification are required depends on the purpose of the communication. Scientific and legal contexts, for example, often require far more precision than do casual communications between friends.

Examples:

Correct: “In medical diagnosis, influenza can be understood as an acute respiratory infection caused by any of the influenza viruses.”

Incorrect: “In medical diagnosis, influenza can be understood as when a virus affects you.”

Correct: “The contractor shall deliver the completed materials, as defined in Section 5 of this agreement, no later than the thirtieth calendar day after the date on which the signed and ratified contract is distributed to the contracting parties.”

Incorrect: “The contractor shall finish taking the actions for relevant agreement sections in a month of distribution and related events.”

The latter version of this sentence is indisputably badly constructed and very vague. The judgment that the former version is acceptable is based on the adequacy of the wording for the apparently intended purpose, but there is no way to tell, without background information, whether it refers to the right agreement section or delivery deadline.

Active and passive voice: The better-worded version of the “banana” sentence above uses passive verbs (*are harvested and [are] allowed*). Passive voice is a means of bringing the object of a verb into the subject position. It can sometimes be more straightforward and economical than active voice where the cause of an effect is unknown or irrelevant. However, passive-voice constructions are often objectionably vague, awkward, or indirect.

Examples:

Correct: “We **had** lunch in the hotel and then **spent** the afternoon **looking** at paintings and sculptures in the museum.”

Incorrect: “Lunch **was had** in the hotel **by** us before the afternoon **was spent** in the museum where there were paintings and sculptures **being looked at**.”

Correct: “The fruits **are left** to dry for two weeks and then **collected, sorted**, and **packaged** for shipment.”

Incorrect: “**Relevant people leave** the fruits to dry for two weeks, and then **people, devices, and systems collect** and sort them and package them before **someone or something ships** them.”

Other types of awkwardness and inelegance: Problems of rhetorical construction take many different forms, some of which do not fall neatly into standard categories.

Examples:

Correct: “As expected, she did the job very well.”

Incorrect: “Expectedly, the goodness of her doing the job was considerable.”

Correct: “She hoped that humans would be able to explore some of the planets in other solar systems.”

Incorrect: “Her hope was for other solar systems’ planets’ possible human exploration.”

Some complicating factors:

Because rhetorical construction is one of the points tested in Sentence Correction, some people might be tempted to guess that shorter answer choices are a safer bet than longer ones. Wordiness is a stereotypical feature of some inelegant writing, and teachers and writing coaches often emphasize conciseness as a goal. Conversely, some might guess that a longer version or one with more qualifiers and caveats is more likely correct. No such guessing strategy is justified. Sentence Correction questions are designed to represent a wide range of issues. Highly professional expert question writers and test assemblers would be extremely unlikely to create predictable patterns that could be exploited in guessing. There is simply no substitute for careful analysis and understanding of the content of each question and answer choice.

Some issues that are not tested:

Sentence Correction questions do not require judgments about rhetorical appropriateness that depend on knowledge of highly technical or specialized vocabulary or syntax. Similarly, you should not expect to see questions for which the deciding factor is merely whether the writer uses jargon or buzzwords. For example, you would not be asked to determine whether *contact* might be preferable to *reach out to*—or whether *sunsetting* might be an effective substitute for *phasing out*—in a sentence such as: “I will reach out to various stakeholders to leverage decisions about the timeframe for phasing out the product.”

Verb Form

Verbs should be in the right tenses and moods and should have the right relationships to other verbs. Uses of infinitives and participles should follow standard conventions so that the intended meanings are clear. Some of the problems posed in Sentence Correction questions involve choices among verb tenses, but many are concerned with other verb-form issues. Here are some categories in which verb-form problems may occur:

Temporal relationships: Because Sentence Correction questions are presented without any context, it is sometimes impossible to tell when they were written or whether the events they refer to were in the past, present, or future from the writer's point of view. Therefore, to the extent that verb tenses are at issue, they are often a matter of internal coherence of the parts of the sentence.

Examples:

Correct: "Chili peppers **belong** to the Solanaceae family of flowering plants."

Incorrect: "Chili peppers **are belonging** to the Solanaceae family of flowering plants."

The present progressive form is used unidiomatically in the incorrect version. That form indicates that the event or condition referred to is ongoing at the time of writing and may not continue. The simple present form *belong* is coherent with the permanence and timelessness of the stated fact.

Correct: "I am looking forward to my stay in Tianjin, a city that I **have never visited** before."
 Incorrect: "I am looking forward to my stay in Tianjin, a city that I **will never visit** before."

In the correct version, the present perfect form *have never visited* effectively describes the writer's relationship to unspecified times in the past. In the incorrect version, the future form *will* is incompatible with the past-looking perspective indicated by *before* and *visited*.

Correct: "When the researcher **begins** the next phase of the experiment, she **will have been working** on the experiment for six weeks."

Incorrect: "When the researcher **will begin** the next phase of the experiment, she **had been working** on the experiment for six weeks."

The simple present, as used in the correct version, is the appropriate way in English to express a future event on which another future event is predicated. One could similarly use the present perfect *has begun*, which would have a slightly different nuance of meaning. In the incorrect version, *when . . . will begin* is unidiomatic, and the past perfect *had been working* makes no sense in this future context.

Correct: "When I **arrived** at the office, my colleagues **had** already **left**."

Incorrect: "When I **arrived** at the office, my colleagues **will** already **have been leaving**."

In the correct version, the past perfect form *had left* clearly indicates that the action of leaving was already completed at the past time referred to by the simple past form *arrived*. In the incorrect version, the future perfect progressive form makes no sense in relation to the overall past setting established by the verb *arrived*.

Conditionals and subjunctives: Conditional verb forms referring to conjectural or counterfactual events are typically created with the auxiliary *would*. *Would* constructions often require the antecedent (the "if" clause) to be in subjunctive form, but subjunctives have other purposes as well. Although English uses subjunctives less commonly than do some other languages, such forms are sometimes needed to clarify the meaning of a sentence. They appear in prescriptive and conjectural contexts and make

no commitment to whether an action will occur. Consider the difference between the following two sentences: “It is important that he eats high-calorie meals.” “It is important that he eat high-calorie meals.” The former presupposes that the person actually does eat such meals, and it says that the fact that he does so is important. Using the subjunctive form, the latter prescribes his eating high-calorie meals but makes no commitment to whether he actually does so. For some persons and tenses, the subjunctive is indistinguishable from the past or some other indicative forms.

Examples:

Correct: “If the piano **needed** tuning, I would pay to have that done, but I don’t believe it needs tuning.”
 Incorrect: “When the piano **will need** tuning, I would pay to have that done, but I don’t believe it needs tuning.”

Correct: “**Were** the piano out of tune, **I would pay** to have it tuned.”

Incorrect: “**The piano be** out of tune, **I pay** to have it tuned.”

Correct: “If the piano **is** out of tune, **I will pay** to have it tuned.”

Incorrect: “If the piano **were** out of tune, **I am going to pay** to have it tuned.”

Auxiliary verbs: English uses auxiliary verbs for many purposes, some of which are mentioned in the discussions of temporal relationships and conditionals above. For effective communication, the use of auxiliary verbs should conform to standard conventions.

Examples:

Correct: “**Does** the professor **teach** that course often?”

Incorrect: “**Teaches** the professor that course often?”

In contemporary English, interrogative forms of most verbs are created using appropriate forms of the auxiliary verb *to do*. The simple inversion of subject and verb seen in the incorrect version is an obsolete form.

Correct: “We **cannot** find the website you recommended.”

Incorrect: “We **do not can** find the website you recommended.”

Can is a modal verb whose negative and interrogative forms are not created with *do*. Furthermore, *can* is one of a few verbs that have no infinitive form; its infinitive is expressed by a phrase such as *to be able*.

Correct: “The new book **might** turn out **to be** a best seller.”

Incorrect: “The new book **might will** turn out **being** a best seller.”

Treatment of participles, gerunds, and infinitives: Present participles (such as *finding* and *taking*) are used with the verb *to be* to express progressive verb forms (*is finding*, *had been taking*). They also function as modifiers in phrases such as “he bought the book, hoping he would like it” and as nouns in phrases such as “his buying the book was unexpected.” When used as nouns, they are known as gerunds. Past participles (such as *found* and *taken*) are used with the verb *to have* to express perfect verb forms (*has found*, *will have taken*). They also function as adjectives in phrases such as “the book published last year” and “the plant is withered.” The infinitive form is used for verbs that are modified by other verbs. With some modifying verbs, the infinitive must be preceded by *to*. With other verbs (certain modal and auxiliary verbs) it must not. With yet others (such as *help*, *go*, and *need*) it can be used either with or without *to*. Infinitives can be treated as nouns, serving as subjects or objects of verbs, as in “to laugh at one’s own mistakes can be therapeutic.”

Examples:

- Correct: “**Having** nowhere else to go, I **wandered** through the airport all day.”
 Incorrect: “**My having** nowhere else to go **wandered** through the airport all day.”

In that the incorrect version makes *having* the subject of *wandered*, it also exemplifies a problem of logical predication (discussed under that heading above).

- Correct: “**Widely disliked**, the software went unused.”
 Incorrect: “**To have widely disliked** it, the software went unused.”

Like the one above, this example contains a problem of both verb form and logical predication.

- Correct: “You **must make** the reservation at least two days in advance.”
 Incorrect: “You **must to make** the reservation at least two days in advance.”

- Correct: “My colleague **went to find** another microphone.”
 Incorrect: “My colleague **went find** another microphone.”

Although such expressions as *go find* and *go get* are standard, they are unidiomatic in affirmative past tenses, which require the preposition *to* with the infinitive (“went to find”).

Some complicating factors to consider:

English verb forms and surrounding idiomatic wording conventions have many peculiarities and nuances. The following are reminders of just a few such complications.

It is important to keep in mind that the subtleties of how English tenses are used cannot always be inferred from the names of the tenses. For example, in some other European languages, actions that are currently occurring are indicated by the simple present tense. English typically uses the present progressive form for that purpose, as in “The dog is barking” or “The car is running.” The simple present tense in English is typically reserved instead for events and conditions that occur at indefinite or unspecified times or that recur, as in “Dogs bark for various reasons” or “The car runs on unleaded fuel.”

“Going to (do or happen)” is a standard way of expressing the future tense, but unlike in French, there is no parallel form “coming from (doing or happening).” To indicate that an action was recently completed, English uses the idiom *has/have/had just*, as in “I had just finished composing the email.”

The preposition *to* has many different uses in combination with verbs. These differences can sometimes lead to ambiguous constructions and potential confusion. Stereotypically, *to* before a verb is thought of as an infinitive marker, but it can also indicate purpose or intention. Thus, for example, “I need your truck to haul the boxes” is indeterminate between two meanings. More precise expressions of these could be “I need your truck so that I can haul the boxes” and “It is essential for me that your truck haul the boxes.” The latter may seem very formal but could be appropriate where precision is needed. *To* with a verb can also be prescriptive, as in “The borrower is to pay a fine if the materials are not returned by the due date,” or simply predictive, as in “The visitors are to arrive soon.” It can even express a past tense in a construction such as “but I was never to see him again” or “she was the last one to leave the building.”

Shall also has multiple meanings. As a simple future-tense indicator, it is an alternative to *will* for first person verbs (“I shall tell you about it tomorrow”). However, it can also be used prescriptively, similarly to *must*, as in “The borrower shall pay a fine if the materials are not returned by the due date.”

Some issues that are not tested:

You may hear that some usage advisors object to placing anything between *to* and an infinitive verb, as in “to finally reach the destination.” You should not expect to see Sentence Correction questions for which the deciding factor is merely whether the writer follows this advice. However, you might encounter a sentence that is awkward and unclear because too many words—or words that would go better elsewhere—are crammed in between the preposition and the verb. This occurs in the following sentence: “I try to remember to scrupulously every day before I leave work log off my computer.” This is an issue of general unclarity and inelegance falling under the heading of rhetorical construction, and not a mere case of “split infinitive.”

5.3 Study Suggestions

There are two basic ways you can study for sentence correction questions:

- **Read material that reflects standard usage.**

One way to gain familiarity with the basic conventions of standard written English is simply to read. Suitable material will usually be found in good magazines and nonfiction books, editorials in outstanding newspapers, and the collections of essays used by many college and university writing courses.

- **Review basic rules of grammar and practice with writing exercises.**

Begin by reviewing the grammar rules laid out in this chapter. Then, if you have school assignments (such as essays and research papers) that have been carefully evaluated for grammatical errors, it may be helpful to review the comments and corrections.

5.4 What Is Measured

Sentence correction questions test three broad aspects of language proficiency:

- **Correct expression**

A correct sentence is grammatically and structurally sound. It conforms to all the rules of standard written English, including noun-verb agreement, noun-pronoun agreement, pronoun consistency, pronoun case, and verb tense sequence. A correct sentence will not have dangling, misplaced, or improperly formed modifiers; unidiomatic or inconsistent expressions; or faults in parallel construction.

- **Effective expression**

An effective sentence expresses an idea or relationship clearly and concisely as well as grammatically. This does not mean that the choice with the fewest and simplest words is necessarily the best answer. It means that there are no superfluous words or needlessly complicated expressions in the best choice.

- **Proper diction**

An effective sentence also uses proper diction. (Diction refers to the standard dictionary meanings of words and the appropriateness of words in context.) In evaluating the diction of a sentence, you must be able to recognize whether the words are well chosen, accurate, and suitable for the context.

5.5 Test-Taking Strategies

1. Read the entire sentence carefully.

Try to understand the specific idea or relationship that the sentence should express.

2. Evaluate the underlined passage for errors and possible corrections before reading the answer choices.

This strategy will help you discriminate among the answer choices. Remember, in some cases the underlined passage is correct.

3. Read each answer choice carefully

The first answer choice always repeats the underlined portion of the original sentence. Choose this answer if you think that the sentence is best as originally written, but do so only after examining all the other choices.

4. Try to determine how to correct what you consider to be wrong with the original sentence.

Some of the answer choices may change things that are not wrong, whereas others may not change everything that is wrong.

5. Make sure that you evaluate the sentence and the choices thoroughly.

Pay attention to general clarity, grammatical and idiomatic usage, economy and precision of language, and appropriateness of diction.

6. Read the whole sentence, substituting the choice that you prefer for the underlined passage.

A choice may be wrong because it does not fit grammatically or structurally with the rest of the sentence. Remember that some sentences will require no correction. When the given sentence requires no correction, choose the first answer.

5.6 The Directions

These are the directions that you will see for sentence correction questions when you take the GMAT exam. If you read them carefully and understand them clearly before going to sit for the test, you will not need to spend too much time reviewing them once you are at the test center and the test is underway.

Sentence correction questions present a sentence, part or all of which is underlined. Beneath the sentence, you will find five ways of phrasing the underlined passage. The first answer choice repeats the original underlined passage; the other four are different. If you think the original phrasing is best, choose the first answer; otherwise, choose one of the others.

This type of question tests your ability to recognize the correctness and effectiveness of expression in standard written English. In choosing your answer, follow the requirements of standard written English; that is, pay attention to grammar, choice of words, and sentence construction. Choose the answer that produces the most effective sentence; this answer should be clear and exact, without awkwardness, ambiguity, redundancy, or grammatical error.

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5.7 Sample Questions

Each of the sentence correction questions presents a sentence, part of or all of which is underlined. Beneath the sentence you will find five ways of phrasing the underlined part. The first of these repeats the original; the other four are different. Follow the requirements of standard written English to choose your answer, paying attention to grammar, word choice, and sentence construction. Select the answer that produces the most effective sentence; your answer should make the sentence clear, exact, and free of grammatical error. It should also minimize awkwardness, ambiguity, and redundancy.

*SC01545

189. With respect to most species of animals, they are evenly divided in right- or left-handedness, unlike humans.
- With respect to most species of animals, they are evenly divided in right- or left-handedness, unlike humans.
 - With respect to right- or left-handedness, most species of animals are evenly divided, unlike in humans.
 - Unlike humans, most species of animals are evenly divided with respect to right- or left-handedness.
 - Unlike in humans, most species of animals with respect to right- or left-handedness are evenly divided.
 - Unlike humans, with respect to right- or left-handedness, in most species of animals it is evenly divided.

SC07435

190. Using digital enhancements of skull fragments from five prehistoric hominids dating to more than 350,000 years ago, anthropologists argue that these human ancestors probably had hearing similar to that of people today.
- anthropologists argue that these human ancestors
 - anthropologists argue, so these human ancestors
 - anthropologists argue, these human ancestors
 - these human ancestors, anthropologists argue,
 - these human ancestors are argued by anthropologists to have

SC14890

191. The interior minister explained that one of the village planning proposal's best characteristics was their not detracting from the project's overall benefit by being a burden on the development budget.
- one of the village planning proposal's best characteristics was their not detracting
 - one of the village's planning proposal's best characteristics were its not taking
 - one of the best characteristics of the village's planning proposal was that it did not detract
 - a best characteristic of the village planning proposal was, it did not take
 - among the village planning proposal's best characteristics, one was, it did not detract

SC02940

192. Like ants, termites have an elaborate social structure in which a few individuals reproduce and the rest are serving the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or they battle intruders.
- are serving the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or they battle
 - are serving the colony in that they tend juveniles, gather food, build the nest, or battle
 - serve the colony, tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or by battling
 - serve the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, by building the nest, or by battling
 - serve the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or battling

*These numbers correlate with the online test bank question number. See the GMAT Verbal Review Online Index in the back of this book.

SC01519

193. Global warming is said to be responsible for extreme weather changes, which, like the heavy rains that caused more than \$2 billion in damages and led to flooding throughout the state of California, and the heat wave in the northeastern and midwestern United States, which was also the cause of a great amount of damage and destruction.

- (A) which, like the heavy rains that caused more than \$2 billion in damages and led to flooding throughout the state of California,
- (B) which, like the heavy rains that throughout the state of California caused more than \$2 billion in damages and led to flooding,
- (C) like the heavy flooding that, because of rains throughout the state of California, caused more than \$2 billion in damages,
- (D) such as the heavy flooding that led to rains throughout the state of California causing more than \$2 billion in damages,
- (E) such as the heavy rains that led to flooding throughout the state of California, causing more than \$2 billion in damages,

SC02548

194. Hundreds of species of fish generate and discharge electric currents, in bursts or as steady electric fields around their bodies, using their power either to find and attack prey, to defend themselves, or also for communicating and navigating.

- (A) either to find and attack prey, to defend themselves, or also for communicating and navigating
- (B) either for finding and attacking prey, defend themselves, or for communication and navigation
- (C) to find and attack prey, for defense, or communication and navigation
- (D) for finding and attacking prey, to defend themselves, or also for communication and navigation
- (E) to find and attack prey, to defend themselves, or to communicate and navigate

SC05367

195. Native to South America, when peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century they were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being so similar to the Bambara groundnut, a popular indigenous plant.

- (A) when peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century they were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being
- (B) peanuts having been introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being
- (C) peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were
- (D) peanuts, introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were
- (E) peanuts, introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and having been quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were

SC03552

196. It stood twelve feet tall, weighed nine thousand pounds, and wielded seven-inch claws, and *Megatherium americanum*, a giant ground sloth, may have been the largest hunting mammal ever to walk the Earth.

- (A) It stood twelve feet tall, weighed nine thousand pounds, and wielded seven-inch claws, and *Megatherium americanum*, a giant ground sloth,
- (B) It stood twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, and wielding seven-inch claws, *Megatherium americanum* was a giant ground sloth and
- (C) The giant ground sloth *Megatherium americanum*, having stood twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, and wielding seven-inch claws, it
- (D) Standing twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, and wielding seven-inch claws, *Megatherium americanum*, a giant ground sloth,
- (E) Standing twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, it wielded seven-inch claws, and the giant ground sloth *Megatherium americanum*

SC04083

197. Studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, DNA evidence was recovered by scientists, who were able to deduce from this that an epidemic of malaria struck in the empire's waning days.

- (A) Studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, DNA evidence was recovered by scientists, who were able to deduce from this
- (B) In studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, DNA evidence was recovered by scientists, who were able to deduce from this
- (C) Scientists recovered DNA evidence from studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, being able to deduce from this
- (D) Skeletons unearthed near Rome allowed scientists to recover DNA evidence, and they were able to deduce from it
- (E) Scientists studying skeletons unearthed near Rome recovered DNA evidence from which they were able to deduce

SC01594

198. Butterflies come in more than 17,000 species, displaying a wing pattern unique to each one.

- (A) displaying a wing pattern unique to each one
- (B) displaying a unique wing pattern in each
- (C) each uniquely displaying a wing pattern
- (D) each of which displays a unique wing pattern
- (E) each of which uniquely displays a wing pattern

SC04652

199. A March 2000 Census Bureau survey showed that Mexico accounted for more than a quarter of all foreign-born residents of the United States, the largest share for any country to contribute since 1890, when about 30 percent of the country's foreign-born population was from Germany.

- (A) the largest share for any country to contribute
- (B) the largest share that any country has contributed
- (C) which makes it the largest share for any country to contribute
- (D) having the largest share to be contributed by any country
- (E) having the largest share to have been contributed by any country

SC01579

200. Recently declassified information from military satellites in orbit thousands of miles above the Earth show the planet continually bombarded by large meteoroids that explode with the power of atomic bomb blasts.

- (A) show the planet continually bombarded by
- (B) show continual bombing of the planet by
- (C) show a continual bombardment of the planet from
- (D) shows continually that the planet is bombarded from
- (E) shows that the planet is continually bombarded by

SC06922

201. The themes that Rita Dove explores in her poetry is universal, encompassing much of the human condition while occasionally she deals with racial issues.

- (A) is universal, encompassing much of the human condition while occasionally she deals
- (B) is universal, encompassing much of the human condition, also occasionally it deals
- (C) are universal, they encompass much of the human condition and occasionally deals
- (D) are universal, encompassing much of the human condition while occasionally dealing
- (E) are universal, they encompass much of the human condition, also occasionally are dealing

SC04026

202. Child development specialists believe that, in confining babies much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers, muscle development can be inhibited.

- (A) that, in confining babies much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers, muscle development can be inhibited
- (B) that, in their confinement much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers, muscle development can be inhibited in babies
- (C) that confining babies much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers can inhibit muscle development
- (D) that babies, if confined much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers can inhibit muscle development
- (E) that strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers can, if babies are confined to them much of the time, result in muscle development being inhibited

SC06159

203. Travelers to Mars would have to endure low levels of gravity for long periods of time, avoid large doses of radiation, contend with the chemically reactive Martian soil, and perhaps even having to ward off contamination by Martian life-forms.
- (A) contend with the chemically reactive Martian soil, and perhaps even having to ward
 (B) contend with the chemically reactive Martian soil, and perhaps even warding
 (C) contend with the chemically reactive Martian soil, and perhaps even ward
 (D) contending with the chemically reactive Martian soil, and perhaps even to ward
 (E) contending with the chemically reactive Martian soil, and perhaps even warding

SC01482

204. Together with Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary, the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the first underwater park in the United States, provide 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers, which includes more than 500 species of fish and 55 varieties of coral.
- (A) provide 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers, which includes
 (B) provide for underwater explorers 165 square nautical miles of marine life, which include
 (C) provide 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers and includes
 (D) provides 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers and including
 (E) provides underwater explorers with 165 square nautical miles of marine life, including

SC01481

205. While Hollywood makes films primarily for entertainment, the motion picture was not first developed to entertain, but it was to allow detailed analysis of animal motion.
- (A) was not first developed to entertain, but it was
 (B) was developed not first to entertain, but it was
 (C) was first developed not to entertain, but
 (D) did not first develop for entertainment, but
 (E) did not first develop for entertainment, but it was

SC01069

206. The personal income tax did not become permanent in the United States until the First World War; before that time the federal government was dependent on tariffs to be their main source of revenue.
- (A) the federal government was dependent on tariffs to be their main source of revenue
 (B) the federal government had depended on tariffs as its main source of revenue
 (C) tariffs were what the federal government was dependent on to be its main source of revenue
 (D) the main source of revenue for the federal government was dependent on tariffs
 (E) for their main source of revenue, tariffs were depended on by the federal government

SC02628

207. In 1776 Adam Smith wrote that it is young people who have “the contempt of risk and the presumptuous hope of success” needed to found new businesses.
- (A) who have
 (B) with
 (C) having
 (D) who are those with
 (E) who are the ones to have

SC04198

208. Palladium prices have soared, with Russia restricting exports and because automakers have started using it to make the huge engines in sport utility vehicles and other light trucks.
- (A) Palladium prices have soared, with Russia restricting exports and because automakers have started using
 (B) Palladium prices have soared, with Russia restricting exports, in addition to automakers that have started to use
 (C) Prices for palladium have soared as Russia has restricted exports and automakers have started using
 (D) Prices for palladium have soared as Russia has been restricting exports, in addition to automakers starting to use
 (E) Prices for palladium have soared because Russia is restricting exports, as well as automakers that have started using

SC02303

209. The gyrfalcon, an Arctic bird of prey, has survived a close brush with extinction; its numbers are now five times greater than when the use of DDT was sharply restricted in the early 1970's.

- (A) extinction; its numbers are now five times greater than
- (B) extinction; its numbers are now five times more than
- (C) extinction, their numbers now fivefold what they were
- (D) extinction, now with fivefold the numbers they had
- (E) extinction, now with numbers five times greater than

SC01543

210. Variability in individual physical traits both are determined through genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between these factors.

- (A) both are determined through genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between
- (B) are both determined by genetic factors, environmental factors, as well as interaction among
- (C) both is determined by genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between
- (D) is determined through genetic factors, environmental factors, as well as interaction among
- (E) is determined by genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between

SC06613

211. In his *Uses of Enchantment* (1976), it was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually are an instructive reflection of a child's natural and necessary "killing off" of successive phases in his or her own development.

- (A) it was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually are
- (B) it was the assertion of psychologist Bruno Bettelheim that what is apparently the cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually is
- (C) psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that what is apparently the cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually is
- (D) psychologist Bruno Bettelheim asserted that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually are
- (E) psychologist Bruno Bettelheim asserted that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales is actually

SC06012

212. After weeks of uncertainty about the course the country would pursue to stabilize its troubled economy, officials reached a revised agreement with the International Monetary Fund, pledging the enforcement of substantially greater budget discipline as that which was originally promised and to keep inflation below ten percent.

- (A) the enforcement of substantially greater budget discipline as that which was originally promised and to keep inflation below ten percent
- (B) the enforcement of substantially greater budget discipline than originally promised and keeping inflation below the ten percent figure
- (C) to enforce substantially greater budget discipline than originally promised and to keep inflation below ten percent
- (D) to enforce substantially greater budget discipline than that which was originally promised and keeping inflation less than the ten percent figure
- (E) to enforce substantially greater budget discipline as that which was originally promised and to keep inflation less than ten percent

SC01596

213. A new satellite sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles is called POLAR, giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field.

- (A) A new satellite sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles is called POLAR, giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field.
- (B) A new satellite called POLAR that is giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field, sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles.
- (C) Scientists are getting their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field, from a new satellite sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles called POLAR.
- (D) Sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles, a new satellite called POLAR is giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field.
- (E) Sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles, scientists' best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field, is coming from a new satellite called POLAR.

SC05787

214. The treasury market dropped in response to a decrease in the value of the dollar and to continued concern that the economy might be growing as fast as to accelerate inflation and drive interest rates higher.

- (A) that the economy might be growing as fast as
- (B) that the economy might be growing fast enough
- (C) with the economy's possibly growing so fast as
- (D) with the possibility of the economy growing fast enough so as
- (E) with the possibility of the economy possibly growing fast enough

SC01704

215. Japanese researchers are producing a series of robots that can identify human facial expressions, to which they will then respond; their goal is primarily creating a robot that will empathize with us.

- (A) expressions, to which they will then respond; their goal is primarily creating
- (B) expressions, then responding to them; primarily to create
- (C) expressions and then respond to them; the researchers' primary goal is to create
- (D) expressions as well as giving a response to them; their primary goal is creation of
- (E) expressions and responding to them; primarily, the researchers' goal is creating

SC03724

216. Despite a growing population, in 1998 the United States used 38 billion fewer gallons of water a day when comparing it to the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier.

- (A) day when comparing it to the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier
- (B) day than it did during the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier
- (C) day than were used almost 20 years earlier, which had been the all-time high consumption
- (D) day, compared to almost 20 years earlier, that having been the all-time high consumption day,
- (E) which is in comparison to the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier

SC01600

217. A federal advisory panel proposes expanding a national computerized file to permit law-enforcement agencies to track people under criminal investigation but have not yet been charged.

- (A) under criminal investigation but
- (B) under criminal investigation, but who
- (C) under criminal investigation, but they
- (D) who are under criminal investigation, but they
- (E) who are under criminal investigation but

SC03779

218. Analysts believe that whereas bad decisions by elected leaders can certainly hurt the economy, no administration can really be said to control or manage all of the complex and interrelated forces that determine the nation's economic strength.

- (A) no administration can really be said to control
- (B) no administration can be said that it really controls
- (C) that no administration can really be said to control
- (D) that no administration can really be said that it controls
- (E) that it cannot be said that any administration really controls

SC03146

219. Nearly unrivaled in their biological diversity, coral reefs provide a host of benefits that includes the supply of protein for people, protecting shorelines, and they contain biochemical sources for new life-saving medicines.

- (A) coral reefs provide a host of benefits that includes the supply of protein for people, protecting shorelines,
- (B) coral reefs provide a host of benefits: they supply people with protein, they protect the shorelines,
- (C) coral reefs provide a host of benefits that include supplying protein for people, as well as shoreline protection,
- (D) a coral reef provides a host of benefits; they supply protein for people, the protecting of shorelines,
- (E) a coral reef provides a host of benefits, including protein for people, protecting shorelines,

SC12367

220. Literacy opened up entire realms of verifiable knowledge to ordinary men and women having been previously considered incapable of discerning truth for themselves.

- (A) having been previously considered incapable of discerning truth for themselves
- (B) who had previously been considered incapable of discerning truth for themselves
- (C) previously considered incapable of discerning truth for himself or herself
- (D) of whom it had previously been considered they were incapable of discerning truth for themselves
- (E) who had previously been considered incapable of discerning truth for himself or herself

SC01915

221. In early Mesopotamian civilization, castor oil served not only as a laxative, but also a skin-softening lotion and it was a construction lubricant for sliding giant stone blocks over wooden rollers.

- (A) not only as a laxative, but also a skin-softening lotion and it was a construction
- (B) as not only a laxative, but also a skin-softening lotion, and it was a construction
- (C) not only as a laxative but also as a skin-softening lotion and as a construction
- (D) as not only a laxative but as a skin-softening lotion and in construction, as a
- (E) not only as a laxative, but a skin-softening lotion and in construction, a

SC06935

222. An analysis of tree bark all over the globe shows that chemical insecticides have often spread thousands of miles from where they were originally used.

- (A) that chemical insecticides have often spread thousands of miles from where they were originally used
- (B) that chemical insecticides have spread, often thousands of miles from their original use
- (C) chemical insecticides, having often spread thousands of miles from where they were used originally
- (D) chemical insecticides, often spreading thousands of miles from where their original use
- (E) chemical insecticides, often spreading thousands of miles from where they were originally used

SC02241

223. According to the Economic Development Corporation of Los Angeles County, if one were to count the Los Angeles metropolitan area as a separate nation, it would have the world's eleventh largest gross national product, that is bigger than that of Australia, Mexico, or the Netherlands.

- (A) if one were to count the Los Angeles metropolitan area as a separate nation, it would have the world's eleventh largest gross national product, that is
- (B) if the Los Angeles metropolitan area is counted as a separate nation, it has the world's eleventh largest gross national product, that being
- (C) if the Los Angeles metropolitan area were a separate nation, it would have the world's eleventh largest gross national product,
- (D) were the Los Angeles metropolitan area a separate nation, it will have the world's eleventh largest gross national product, which is
- (E) when the Los Angeles metropolitan area is counted as a separate nation, it has the world's eleventh largest gross national product, thus

SC02444

224. According to some economists, the July decrease in unemployment so that it was the lowest in two years suggests that the gradual improvement in the job market is continuing.

- (A) so that it was the lowest in two years
- (B) so that it was the lowest two-year rate
- (C) to what would be the lowest in two years
- (D) to a two-year low level
- (E) to the lowest level in two years

SC04215

225. Developed by Pennsylvania's Palatine Germans about 1750, Conestoga wagons, with high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie and they had a floor curved upward on either end so as to prevent cargo from shifting on steep grades.

- (A) wagons, with high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie and they had a floor curved upward on either end so as to prevent
- (B) wagons, with high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie, and with a floor that was curved upward at both ends to prevent
- (C) wagons, which had high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie, and floors curved upward on their ends so that they prevented
- (D) wagons had high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie, and a floor that was curved upward at both ends to prevent
- (E) wagons had high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie and floors curving upward at their ends so that it prevented

SC01002

226. The reason many people consider the Mediterranean island to be ungovernable is because that the inhabitants long ago learned to distrust and neutralize all written laws.

- (A) is because that the inhabitants long ago learned to distrust and neutralize
- (B) is the inhabitants long ago learned distrusting and neutralizing
- (C) was because of the inhabitants long ago learning to distrust and to be neutralizing
- (D) is that the inhabitants long ago learned to distrust and to neutralize
- (E) was on account of the inhabitants long ago learning to distrust and neutralize

SC03916

227. Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer fibers and is less likely to leave an unsightly scar.

- (A) Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer
- (B) Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut having been made along these so-called Langer's lines severs less
- (C) Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut made along these so-called Langer's lines severs fewer
- (D) With the collagen fibers in skin lining up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever less
- (E) With the collagen fibers in skin lining up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer

SC01639

228. The completion in 1925 of the Holland Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, which permitted 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour and was hailed as the decade's \$48 million engineering masterpiece.

- (A) Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, which permitted 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour and
- (B) Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways and permitting 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour, it
- (C) Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways and permitting 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour,
- (D) Tunnel linked Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, which permitted 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour and
- (E) Tunnel linked Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, permitting 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour,

SC06699

229. In A.D. 391, resulting from the destruction of the largest library of the ancient world at Alexandria, later generations lost all but the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* among Greek epics, most of the poetry of Pindar and Sappho, and dozens of plays by Aeschylus and Euripides.

- (A) resulting from the destruction of the largest library of the ancient world at Alexandria,
- (B) the destroying of the largest library of the ancient world at Alexandria resulted and
- (C) because of the result of the destruction of the library at Alexandria, the largest of the ancient world,
- (D) as a result of the destruction of the library at Alexandria, the largest of the ancient world,
- (E) Alexandria's largest library of the ancient world was destroyed, and the result was

SC02399

230. The nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote the only eyewitness account of the great eruption of Vesuvius in two letters to the historian Tacitus.

- (A) The nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote the only eyewitness account of the great eruption of Vesuvius in two letters to the historian Tacitus.
- (B) To the historian Tacitus, the nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote two letters, being the only eyewitness accounts of the great eruption of Vesuvius.
- (C) The only eyewitness account is in two letters by the nephew of Pliny the Elder writing to the historian Tacitus an account of the great eruption of Vesuvius.
- (D) Writing the only eyewitness account, Pliny the Elder's nephew accounted for the great eruption of Vesuvius in two letters to the historian Tacitus.
- (E) In two letters to the historian Tacitus, the nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote the only eyewitness account of the great eruption of Vesuvius.

SC00980

231. Nearly two tons of nuclear-reactor fuel have already been put into orbit around the Earth, and the chances of a collision involving such material increase greatly as the amount of both space debris and satellites continue to rise.

- (A) as the amount of both space debris and satellites continue to rise
- (B) as the rise continues in both the amount of satellites and space debris
- (C) as the amount of space debris and the number of satellites continue to rise
- (D) with the continually increasing amount of space debris and the number of satellites
- (E) with the amount of space debris continuing to increase along with the number of satellites

SC03315

232. The World Wildlife Fund has declared that global warming, a phenomenon that most scientists agree is caused by human beings' burning of fossil fuels, will create havoc among migratory birds by harming their habitats as a result of altering the environment.

- (A) by harming their habitats as a result of altering the environment
- (B) by altering the environment to the extent of it harming their habitats
- (C) by altering the environment in ways harmful to their habitats
- (D) from the fact that their habitats will be harmed by the environment being altered
- (E) from the fact that the environment will be altered and this will harm their habitats

SC05244

233. Tropical bats play an important role in the rain forest ecosystem, aiding in the dispersal of cashew, date, and fig seeds; pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly help the producing of tequila by pollinating agave plants.

- (A) pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly help the producing of
- (B) pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly helping to produce
- (C) pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and they indirectly help to produce
- (D) they pollinate banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly help producing
- (E) they pollinate banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; indirectly helping the producing of

SC04346

234. A recent court decision has qualified a 1998 ruling that workers cannot be laid off if they have been given reason to believe that their jobs will be safe, provided that their performance remains satisfactory.

- (A) if they have been given reason to believe that their jobs will
- (B) if they are given reason for believing that their jobs would still
- (C) having been given reason for believing that their jobs would
- (D) having been given reason to believe their jobs to
- (E) given reason to believe that their jobs will still

SC02614

235. Thomas Eakins' powerful style and his choices of subject—the advances in modern surgery, the discipline of sport, the strains of individuals in tension with society or even with themselves—was as disturbing to his own time as it is compelling for ours.

- (A) was as disturbing to his own time as it is
- (B) were as disturbing to his own time as they are
- (C) has been as disturbing in his own time as they are
- (D) had been as disturbing in his own time as it was
- (E) have been as disturbing in his own time as

SC01492

236. As well as heat and light, the sun is the source of a continuous stream of atomic particles known as the solar wind.

- (A) As well as heat and light, the sun is the source of a continuous stream
- (B) Besides heat and light, also the sun is the source of a continuous stream
- (C) Besides heat and light, the sun is also the source of a continuous streaming
- (D) The sun is the source not only of heat and light, but also of a continuous stream
- (E) The sun is the source of not only heat and light but, as well, of a continuous streaming

SC04874

237. Of all the record companies involved in early jazz, the three most prominent were Columbia, Victor, and Okeh.

- (A) Of all the record companies involved in early jazz, the three most prominent were Columbia, Victor, and Okeh.
- (B) Three most prominent record companies of all the ones that were involved in early jazz were Columbia, Victor, and Okeh.
- (C) Columbia, Victor, and Okeh were, of all the record companies involved in early jazz, the three of them that were most prominent.
- (D) Columbia, Victor, and Okeh were three most prominent of all the record companies involved in early jazz.
- (E) Out of all the record companies that were involved in early jazz, three of them that were the most prominent were Columbia, Victor, and Okeh.

SC02370

238. Analysts blamed May's sluggish retail sales on unexciting merchandise as well as the weather, colder and wetter than was usual in some regions, which slowed sales of barbecue grills and lawn furniture.

- (A) colder and wetter than was usual in some regions, which slowed
- (B) which was colder and wetter than usual in some regions, slowing
- (C) since it was colder and wetter than usually in some regions, which slowed
- (D) being colder and wetter than usually in some regions, slowing
- (E) having been colder and wetter than was usual in some regions and slowed

SC05309

239. Twenty-two feet long and 10 feet in diameter, the AM-1 is one of the many new satellites that is a part of 15 years effort of subjecting the interactions of Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces to detailed scrutiny from space.

- (A) satellites that is a part of 15 years effort of subjecting the interactions of Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces
- (B) satellites, which is a part of a 15-year effort to subject how Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces interact
- (C) satellites, part of 15 years effort of subjecting how Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces are interacting
- (D) satellites that are part of an effort for 15 years that has subjected the interactions of Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces
- (E) satellites that are part of a 15-year effort to subject the interactions of Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces

SC01451

240. Since 1992, in an attempt to build up the Atlantic salmon population in each of the seven rivers in which salmon still spawn, state officials in Maine have stocked them with fry raised in hatcheries from eggs produced by wild fish found in that particular river.

- (A) them
- (B) the river
- (C) the rivers
- (D) each river
- (E) that river

SC02382

241. On the tournament roster are listed several tennis students, most all of which play as good as their instructors.

- (A) most all of which play as good
- (B) most all of whom play as good
- (C) almost all of which play as well
- (D) almost all of whom play as good
- (E) almost all of whom play as well

SC07143

242. In 1974 a large area of the surface of Mercury was photographed from varying distances, which revealed a degree of cratering similar to that of the Moon's.

- (A) which revealed a degree of cratering similar to that of the Moon's
- (B) to reveal a degree of cratering similar to the Moon
- (C) revealing a degree of cratering similar to that of the Moon
- (D) and revealed cratering similar in degree to the Moon
- (E) that revealed cratering similar in degree to that of the Moon

SC04248

243. Under high pressure and intense heat, graphite, the most stable form of pure carbon, changes into the substance commonly referred to as diamond and remaining this way whether or not the heat and pressure are removed.

- (A) remaining this way whether or not
- (B) remaining like that even as
- (C) remaining as such whether or not
- (D) remains in this way although
- (E) remains thus even when

SC05894

244. The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings that surpassed Wall Street's estimates and announced the first in a series of price cuts intended to increase sales further.

- (A) The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings that surpassed Wall Street's estimates and announced the first in a series of price cuts intended to increase sales further.
- (B) The report of the computer company showed strong second-quarter earnings, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, and they announced the first in a series of price cuts that they intend to increase sales further.
- (C) Surpassing Wall Street's estimates, the report of the computer company showed strong second-quarter earnings, and, for the purpose of increasing sales further, they announced the first in a series of price cuts.
- (D) The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, and announcing the first in a series of price cuts for the purpose of further increasing sales.
- (E) The computer company, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, reported strong second-quarter earnings, while announcing that to increase sales further there would be the first in a series of price cuts.

SC01562

245. Long overshadowed by the Maya and Aztec civilizations, historians are now exploring the more ancient Olmec culture for the legacy it had for succeeding Mesoamerican societies.

- (A) historians are now exploring the more ancient Olmec culture for the legacy it had for succeeding Mesoamerican societies
- (B) historians' exploration is now of the more ancient Olmec culture's legacy to the Mesoamerican societies succeeding them
- (C) the legacy of the more ancient Olmec culture to the Mesoamerican societies that succeeded them is what historians are now exploring
- (D) the more ancient Olmec culture is now being explored by historians for its legacy to succeeding Mesoamerican societies
- (E) the Olmec culture is more ancient and had a legacy to succeeding Mesoamerican societies that historians are now exploring

SC02457

246. Being a United States citizen since 1988 and born in Calcutta in 1940, author Bharati Mukherjee has lived in England and Canada, and first came to the United States in 1961 to study at the Iowa Writers' Workshop.
- (A) Being a United States citizen since 1988 and born in Calcutta in 1940, author Bharati Mukherjee has
- (B) Having been a United States citizen since 1988, she was born in Calcutta in 1940; author Bharati Mukherjee
- (C) Born in Calcutta in 1940, author Bharati Mukherjee became a United States citizen in 1988; she has
- (D) Being born in Calcutta in 1940 and having been a United States citizen since 1988, author Bharati Mukherjee
- (E) Having been born in Calcutta in 1940 and being a United States citizen since 1988, author Bharati Mukherjee

SC02605

247. As a result of record low temperatures, the water pipes on the third floor froze, which caused the heads of the sprinkler system to burst, which released torrents of water into offices on the second floor.
- (A) which caused the heads of the sprinkler system to burst, which released torrents of water
- (B) which caused the heads of the sprinkler system to burst and which released torrents of water
- (C) which caused the heads of the sprinkler system to burst, torrents of water were then released
- (D) causing the heads of the sprinkler system to burst, then releasing torrents of water
- (E) causing the heads of the sprinkler system to burst and release torrents of water

SC03403

248. Archaeologists in Ireland believe that a recently discovered chalice, which dates from the eighth century, was probably buried to keep from being stolen by invaders.
- (A) to keep from
- (B) to keep it from
- (C) to avoid
- (D) in order that it would avoid
- (E) in order to keep from

SC01981

249. The bank holds \$3 billion in loans that are seriously delinquent or in such trouble that they do not expect payments when due.
- (A) they do not expect payments when
- (B) it does not expect payments when it is
- (C) it does not expect payments to be made when they are
- (D) payments are not to be expected to be paid when
- (E) payments are not expected to be paid when they will be
- SC01435
250. A researcher claims that a tornado of a given size and strength is likely to cause more deaths, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, in the southeastern region of the United States than in the northeastern.
- (A) A researcher claims that a tornado of a given size and strength is likely to cause more deaths, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, in the southeastern region of the United States than in the northeastern.
- (B) A researcher claims that a tornado, if of a given size and strength, is likely both proportionately and in absolute numbers to cause more deaths in the southeastern region of the United States than in the northeastern.
- (C) A researcher claims that, with a tornado of a given size and strength, it is likely to cause more death, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, in the southeastern rather than in the northeastern region of the United States.
- (D) If a tornado is of a given size and strength, a researcher claims, it is more likely, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, to cause death if it is in the southeastern region of the United States rather than in the northeastern region.
- (E) Both proportionately and in absolute numbers, a researcher claims that a tornado of a given size and strength is likely to cause more deaths in the southeastern region of the United States rather than in the northeastern.

SC04603

251. Heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved from the previous year, only look less appetizing than their round and red supermarket cousins, often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but are more flavorful.

- (A) cousins, often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but are
- (B) cousins, often green and striped, or with plenty of bumps and bruises, although
- (C) cousins, often green and striped, or they have plenty of bumps and bruises, although they are
- (D) cousins; they are often green and striped, or with plenty of bumps and bruises, although
- (E) cousins; they are often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but they are

SC06684

252. Faced with an estimated \$2 billion budget gap, the city's mayor proposed a nearly 17 percent reduction in the amount allocated the previous year to maintain the city's major cultural institutions and to subsidize hundreds of local arts groups.

- (A) proposed a nearly 17 percent reduction in the amount allocated the previous year to maintain the city's major cultural institutions and to subsidize
- (B) proposed a reduction from the previous year of nearly 17 percent in the amount it was allocating to maintain the city's major cultural institutions and for subsidizing
- (C) proposed to reduce, by nearly 17 percent, the amount from the previous year that was allocated for the maintenance of the city's major cultural institutions and to subsidize
- (D) has proposed a reduction from the previous year of nearly 17 percent of the amount it was allocating for maintaining the city's major cultural institutions, and to subsidize
- (E) was proposing that the amount they were allocating be reduced by nearly 17 percent from the previous year for maintaining the city's major cultural institutions and for the subsidization

SC05381

253. In the textbook publishing business, the second quarter is historically weak, because revenues are low and marketing expenses are high as companies prepare for the coming school year.

- (A) low and marketing expenses are high as companies prepare
- (B) low and their marketing expenses are high as they prepare
- (C) low with higher marketing expenses in preparation
- (D) low, while marketing expenses are higher to prepare
- (E) low, while their marketing expenses are higher in preparation

SC01485

254. Because of the sharp increases in the price of gold and silver, the value of Monica Taylor's portfolio rose as her daughter-in-law's dropped.

- (A) as her daughter-in-law's dropped
- (B) while her daughter-in-law's has dropped
- (C) as there was a drop in her daughter-in-law's
- (D) while that of her daughter-in-law's dropped
- (E) as it dropped for her daughter-in-law's

SC02791

255. Ms. Chambers is among the forecasters who predict that the rate of addition to arable lands will drop while those of loss rise.

- (A) those of loss rise
- (B) it rises for loss
- (C) those of losses rise
- (D) the rate of loss rises
- (E) there are rises for the rate of loss

SC00987

256. In keeping with her commitment to her Christian faith, Sojourner Truth demonstrated as a public speaker a dedication both to the nonviolent abolition of slavery as well as for women to be emancipated.

- (A) a dedication both to the nonviolent abolition of slavery as well as for women to be emancipated
- (B) her being dedicated to both the nonviolent abolishing of slavery as well as for women's emancipation
- (C) a dedication to both the nonviolent abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women
- (D) that she was dedicated both to abolishing slavery nonviolently and to emancipate women
- (E) her dedication both to the nonviolent abolition of slavery and emancipation of women

SC01972

257. Less than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, and they occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.

- (A) Less than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, and they occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.
- (B) Less than 400 Sumatran rhinos, surviving on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.
- (C) Occupying a small fraction of the species' former range, the Malay peninsula and the islands of Sumatra and Borneo are where fewer than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive.
- (D) Occupying a small fraction of the species' former range, fewer than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo.
- (E) Surviving on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, less than 400 Sumatran rhinos occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.

SC11068

258. Certain pesticides can become ineffective if used repeatedly in the same place; one reason is suggested by the finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals.

- (A) Certain pesticides can become ineffective if used repeatedly in the same place; one reason is suggested by the finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals.
- (B) If used repeatedly in the same place, one reason that certain pesticides can become ineffective is suggested by the finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals.
- (C) If used repeatedly in the same place, one reason certain pesticides can become ineffective is suggested by the finding that much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes are found in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than those that are free of such chemicals.
- (D) The finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals is suggestive of one reason, if used repeatedly in the same place, certain pesticides can become ineffective.
- (E) The finding of much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in those that are free of such chemicals suggests one reason certain pesticides can become ineffective if used repeatedly in the same place.

SC11854

259. While some academicians believe that business ethics should be integrated into every business course, others say that students will take ethics seriously only if it would be taught as a separately required course.

- (A) only if it would be taught as a separately required course
- (B) only if it is taught as a separate, required course
- (C) if it is taught only as a course required separately
- (D) if it was taught only as a separate and required course
- (E) if it would only be taught as a required course, separately

SC08272

260. Whether they will scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or stop doing business with us altogether depends on whether the changes that their management has proposed will be fully implemented.

- (A) Whether they will scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or stop doing business with us altogether depends on whether the changes that their management has proposed will be fully implemented.
- (B) Whether they scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or whether they discontinue their business with us altogether depends on the changes their management has proposed, if fully implemented or not.
- (C) Their either scaling back their orders in the future to pre-2003 levels, or their outright termination of business with us, depends on their management's proposed changes being fully implemented or not.
- (D) Whether they will scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or stop doing business with us altogether depends if the changes that their management has proposed become fully implemented.
- (E) They will either scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels, or they will stop doing business with us altogether dependent on whether the changes their management has proposed will be fully implemented, or not.

SC00975

261. Until 1868 and Disraeli, Great Britain had no prime ministers not coming from a landed family.

- (A) Until 1868 and Disraeli, Great Britain had no prime ministers not coming
- (B) Until 1868 and Disraeli, Great Britain had had no prime ministers who have not come
- (C) Until Disraeli in 1868, there were no prime ministers in Great Britain who have not come
- (D) It was not until 1868 that Great Britain had a prime minister—Disraeli—who did not come
- (E) It was only in 1868 and Disraeli that Great Britain had one of its prime ministers not coming

SC02011

262. Around 1900, fishermen in the Chesapeake Bay area landed more than seventeen million pounds of shad in a single year, but by 1920, overfishing and the proliferation of milldams and culverts that have blocked shad migrations up their spawning streams had reduced landings to less than four million pounds.

- (A) that have blocked shad migrations up their spawning streams had reduced landings to less
- (B) that blocked shad from migrating up their spawning streams had reduced landings to less
- (C) that blocked shad from migrating up their spawning streams reduced landings to a lower amount
- (D) having blocked shad from migrating up their spawning streams reduced landings to less
- (E) having blocked shad migrations up their spawning streams had reduced landings to an amount lower

SC04492

263. By offering lower prices and a menu of personal communications options, such as caller identification and voice mail, the new telecommunications company has not only captured customers from other phone companies but also forced them to offer competitive prices.

- (A) has not only captured customers from other phone companies but also forced them
- (B) has not only captured customers from other phone companies, but it also forced them
- (C) has not only captured customers from other phone companies but also forced these companies
- (D) not only has captured customers from other phone companies but also these companies have been forced
- (E) not only captured customers from other phone companies, but it also has forced them

SC06132

264. After suffering \$2 billion in losses and 25,000 layoffs, the nation's semiconductor industry, which makes chips that run everything from computers and spy satellites to dishwashers, appears to have made a long-awaited recovery.

- (A) computers and spy satellites to dishwashers, appears to have
- (B) computers, spy satellites, and dishwashers, appears having
- (C) computers, spy satellites, and dishwashers, appears that it has
- (D) computers and spy satellites to dishwashers, appears that it has
- (E) computers and spy satellites as well as dishwashers, appears to have

SC04588

265. Over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, monkeys and marmosets have a hearing sensitivity remarkably similar to humans, above which the sensitivity begins to differ,

- (A) Over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, monkeys and marmosets have a hearing sensitivity remarkably similar to humans
- (B) Compared to humans, the hearing sensitivity of monkeys and marmosets are remarkably similar over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz
- (C) Compared to humans over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, the hearing sensitivity of monkeys and marmosets is remarkably similar
- (D) The hearing sensitivity of monkeys and marmosets, when compared to humans over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, is remarkably similar
- (E) The hearing sensitivity of monkeys, marmosets, and humans is remarkably similar over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz

SC03998

266. The computer company has announced that it will purchase the color-printing division of a rival company for \$950 million, which is part of a deal that will make it the largest manufacturer in the office color-printing market.

- (A) million, which is part of a deal that will make
- (B) million, a part of a deal that makes
- (C) million, a part of a deal making
- (D) million as a part of a deal to make
- (E) million as part of a deal that will make

SC03289

267. Kudzu, an Asian vine that has grown rampantly in the southern United States since introducing it in the 1920s to thwart soil erosion, has overrun many houses and countless acres of roadside.

- (A) that has grown rampantly in the southern United States since introducing it in the 1920s to thwart
- (B) that has grown rampantly in the southern United States, since it was introduced in the 1920s for thwarting
- (C) that has grown rampant in the southern United States since it was introduced in the 1920s to thwart
- (D) growing rampant in the southern United States since introducing it in the 1920s for thwarting
- (E) growing rampantly in the southern United States, since it was introduced in the 1920s to thwart

SC01712

268. Unable to build nests or care for their young, a female cowbird lays up to 40 eggs a year in the nests of other birds, including warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and thrushes.

- (A) a female cowbird lays up to 40 eggs a year in the nests of other birds, including
- (B) a female cowbird will use the nests of other birds to lay up to 40 eggs a year, including those of
- (C) female cowbirds use the nests of other birds to lay up to 40 eggs a year, including those of
- (D) female cowbirds lay up to 40 eggs a year in the nests of other birds, including
- (E) up to 40 eggs a year are laid by female cowbirds in the nests of other birds, including

SC01954

269. Bluegrass musician Bill Monroe, whose repertory, views on musical collaboration, and vocal style were influential on generations of bluegrass artists, was also an inspiration to many musicians, that included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music differed significantly from his own.

- (A) were influential on generations of bluegrass artists, was also an inspiration to many musicians, that included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music differed significantly from
- (B) influenced generations of bluegrass artists, also inspired many musicians, including Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music differed significantly from
- (C) was influential to generations of bluegrass artists, was also inspirational to many musicians, that included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music was different significantly in comparison to
- (D) was influential to generations of bluegrass artists, also inspired many musicians, who included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, the music of whom differed significantly when compared to
- (E) were an influence on generations of bluegrass artists, was also an inspiration to many musicians, including Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music was significantly different from that of

SC12645

270. In many of the world's regions, increasing pressure on water resources has resulted both from expanding development, changes in climate, and from pollution, so that the future supply in some of the more arid areas is a concern going forward.

- (A) both from expanding development, changes in climate, and from pollution, so that the future supply in some of the more arid areas is a concern going forward
- (B) both from expanding development or changes in climate, and pollution, so that future supplies in some of the more arid areas are a concern
- (C) from expanding development, changes in climate, and also from pollution, so that the future supply in some of the more arid areas is a matter of concern going forward
- (D) from expanding development, changes in climate, and pollution, so that future supplies in some of the more arid areas are a concern
- (E) from expansion of development, changes in climate, and from pollution, so that supplies in some of the more arid areas are a future concern

SC01747

271. The computer company's present troubles are a result of technological stagnation, marketing missteps, and managerial blunders so that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct it.

- (A) so that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct it
- (B) so that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct
- (C) in that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct them
- (D) that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct
- (E) that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct them

SC11880

272. The root systems of most flowering perennials either become too crowded, which results in loss in vigor, and spread too far outward, producing a bare center.

- (A) which results in loss in vigor, and spread
- (B) resulting in loss in vigor, or spreading
- (C) with the result of loss of vigor, or spreading
- (D) resulting in loss of vigor, or spread
- (E) with a resulting loss of vigor, and spread

SC11910

273. In theory, international civil servants at the United Nations are prohibited from continuing to draw salaries from their own governments; in practice, however, some governments merely substitute living allowances for their employees' paychecks, assigned by them to the United Nations.

- (A) for their employees' paychecks, assigned by them
- (B) for the paychecks of their employees who have been assigned
- (C) for the paychecks of their employees, having been assigned
- (D) in place of their employees' paychecks, for those of them assigned
- (E) in place of the paychecks of their employees to have been assigned by them

SC05216

274. Industry analysts said that the recent rise in fuel prices may be an early signal of the possibility of gasoline and heating oil prices staying higher than usually through the end of the year.

- (A) of the possibility of gasoline and heating oil prices staying higher than usually through
- (B) of the possibility that gasoline and heating oil prices could stay higher than usual throughout
- (C) of prices of gasoline and heating oil possibly staying higher than usually through
- (D) that prices of gasoline and heating oil could stay higher than they usually are throughout
- (E) that prices of gasoline and heating oil will stay higher than usual through

SC07141

275. The Anasazi settlements at Chaco Canyon were built on a spectacular scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each, were connected by a complex regional system of roads.

- (A) scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each, were
- (B) scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each,
- (C) scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms, each that had been
- (D) scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms and with each
- (E) scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms, each had been

SC07056

276. Even though the overall consumer price index did not change in April, indicating the absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise have fallen over the last several months.

- (A) April, indicating the absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise have fallen
- (B) April, indicating that any general inflation or deflation were absent, prices in several categories of merchandise fell
- (C) April and indicated that absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise fell
- (D) April, having indicated the absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise fell
- (E) April, which indicated that any general inflation or deflation were absent, prices in several categories of merchandise have fallen

SC12460

277. Despite Japan's relative isolation from world trade at the time, the prolonged peace during the Tokugawa shogunate produced an almost explosive expansion of commerce.

- (A) Japan's relative isolation from world trade at the time, the prolonged peace during the Tokugawa shogunate
- (B) the relative isolation of Japan from world trade at the time and the Tokugawa shogunate's prolonged peace, it
- (C) being relatively isolated from world trade at the time, the prolonged peace during Japan's Tokugawa shogunate
- (D) Japan's relative isolation from world trade at the time during the Tokugawa shogunate, prolonged peace
- (E) its relative isolation from world trade then, prolonged peace in Japan during the Tokugawa shogunate

SC02333

278. Government officials announced that restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciative increase in the level of the river resulted from the intermittent showers that had fallen throughout the area the day before.

- (A) restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciative increase in the level of the river
- (B) restricting the use of water would continue because there had not been any appreciative increase in the river's level that
- (C) the use of water would continue to be restricted because not any appreciable increase in the river's level had
- (D) restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciable increase in the level of the river had
- (E) using water would continue being restricted because not any appreciable increase in the level of the river

SC04732

279. According to United States census data, while there was about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home.

- (A) while there was about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home
- (B) there were about one-third of mothers with young children who worked outside the home in 1975; in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home
- (C) in 1975 about one-third of mothers with young children worked outside the home; in 2000, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home
- (D) even though in 1975 there were about one-third of mothers with young children who worked outside the home, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home in 2000
- (E) with about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home in 2000

SC04672

280. Clouds are formed from the evaporation of the oceans' water that is warmed by the sun and rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.

- (A) Clouds are formed from the evaporation of the oceans' water that is warmed by the sun and rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.
- (B) Clouds form by the sun's warmth evaporating the water in the oceans, which rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.
- (C) Warmed by the sun, ocean water evaporates, rises high into the atmosphere, and condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust to form clouds.
- (D) The water in the oceans evaporates, warmed by the sun, rises high into the atmosphere, and condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust, which forms clouds.
- (E) Ocean water, warmed by the sun, evaporates and rises high into the atmosphere, which then condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust to form as clouds.

SC02664

281. Schistosomiasis, a disease caused by a parasitic worm, is prevalent in hot, humid climates, and it has become more widespread as irrigation projects have enlarged the habitat of the freshwater snails that are the parasite's hosts for part of its life cycle.

- (A) the freshwater snails that are the parasite's hosts for part of its life cycle
- (B) the freshwater snails that are the parasite's hosts in part of their life cycle
- (C) freshwater snails which become the parasite's hosts for part of its life cycles
- (D) freshwater snails which become the hosts of the parasite during the parasite's life cycles
- (E) parasite's hosts, freshwater snails which become their hosts during their life cycles

SC07754

282. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz was making the case for women's equality long before the cause had a name: Born in the mid-seventeenth century in San Miguel Nepantla, Mexico, the convent was the perfect environment for Sor Juana to pursue intellectual pursuits, achieving renown as a mathematician, poet, philosopher, and playwright.

- (A) the convent was the perfect environment for Sor Juana to pursue intellectual pursuits, achieving
- (B) Sor Juana found the convent provided the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits, and she went on to achieve
- (C) the convent provided the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits for Sor Juana; going on to achieve
- (D) Sor Juana found the convent provided the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits; achieving
- (E) the convent was, Sor Juana found, the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits, and she went on to achieve

SC14406

283. By devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, in 1797–1798 Henry Cavendish's apparatus enabled him to arrive at an astonishingly accurate figure for the weight of the earth.

- (A) By devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, in 1797–1798 Henry Cavendish's apparatus enabled him
- (B) In 1797–1798, by devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, Henry Cavendish's apparatus enabled him
- (C) Henry Cavendish devised an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employed uncommonly precise measurements, and in 1797–1798 was able
- (D) Having devised an instrument from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employment of uncommonly precise measurements, Henry Cavendish in 1797–1798 was able
- (E) By devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, Henry Cavendish was able in 1797–1798

SC08285

284. The growth projected for these storms in different computerized weather models varies widely.

- (A) projected for these storms in different computerized weather models varies widely
- (B) for these storms is projected in different computerized models of weather to vary widely
- (C) of these storms, projected in different computerized weather models, vary widely
- (D) projected for these storms, which vary widely in different computerized weather models
- (E) that varies widely for these storms are projected in different computerized weather models

SC02131

285. By using a process called echolocation to analyze the echoes of the high-pitched sounds they produce, bats can determine not only the distance to an object, but they also can determine its shape and size and the direction in which it is moving.

- (A) can determine not only the distance to an object, but they also can determine
- (B) not only can determine the distance to an object but also
- (C) can determine not only the distance to an object but also
- (D) not only can determine its distance from an object but also
- (E) can determine not only their distance from an object, but they can also determine

SC06205

286. Carbon dioxide, which traps heat in the atmosphere and helps regulate the planet's surface temperature, is constantly being exchanged between the atmosphere on the one hand and the oceans and terrestrial plants on the other.

- (A) exchanged between the atmosphere on the one hand and the oceans and terrestrial plants on the other
- (B) exchanged, on the one hand, between the atmosphere and the oceans and terrestrial plants, on the other
- (C) exchanged between, on the one hand, the atmosphere, with the oceans and terrestrial plants, on the other
- (D) exchanged, on the one hand, among the oceans and terrestrial plants, and the atmosphere, on the other
- (E) exchanged among the oceans and terrestrial plants on the one hand and the atmosphere on the other

SC01990

287. Floating in the waters of the equatorial Pacific, an array of buoys collects and transmits data on long-term interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere, interactions that affect global climate.

- (A) atmosphere, interactions that affect
- (B) atmosphere, with interactions affecting
- (C) atmosphere that affects
- (D) atmosphere that is affecting
- (E) atmosphere as affects

SC04344

288. Sixty-five million years ago, according to some scientists, an asteroid bigger than Mount Everest slammed into North America, which, causing plant and animal extinctions, marks the end of the geologic era known as the Cretaceous Period.

- (A) which, causing plant and animal extinctions, marks
- (B) which caused the plant and animal extinctions and marks
- (C) and causing plant and animal extinctions that mark
- (D) an event that caused plant and animal extinctions, which marks
- (E) an event that caused the plant and animal extinctions that mark

SC02338

289. Although the first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted was in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell, it had not been announced until February 1968.

- (A) Although the first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted was in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell, it had not been announced until February 1968.
- (B) Although not announced until February 1968, in the summer of 1967 graduate student Jocelyn Bell observed the first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted.
- (C) Although observed by graduate student Jocelyn Bell in the summer of 1967, the discovery of the first sighted pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, had not been announced before February 1968.
- (D) The first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted was observed in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell, but the discovery was not announced until February 1968.
- (E) The first sighted pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, was not announced until February 1968, while it was observed in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell.

SC02766

290. Sound can travel through water for enormous distances, prevented from dissipating its acoustic energy as a result of boundaries in the ocean created by water layers of different temperatures and densities.

- (A) prevented from dissipating its acoustic energy as a result of
- (B) prevented from having its acoustic energy dissipated by
- (C) its acoustic energy prevented from dissipating by
- (D) its acoustic energy prevented from being dissipated as a result of
- (E) preventing its acoustic energy from dissipating by

SC10996

291. Last year, land values in most parts of the pinelands rose almost so fast, and in some parts even faster than what they did outside the pinelands.

- (A) so fast, and in some parts even faster than what they did.
- (B) so fast, and in some parts even faster than, those
- (C) as fast, and in some parts even faster than, those
- (D) as fast as, and in some parts even faster than, those
- (E) as fast as, and in some parts even faster than what they did

SC03010

292. The North American moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing it must leap or go around them.

- (A) moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing it must leap or go around them
- (B) moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees while predators pursuing them must leap or go around
- (C) moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods and to step easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing them must leap over or go around them
- (D) moose has long legs, enabling it to move quickly through the woods and to step easily over downed trees while predators pursuing them must leap or go around
- (E) moose has long legs that enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees while predators pursuing it must leap over or go around them

SC07885

293. Early administrative decisions in China's Ming Dynasty eventually caused a drastic fall in tax revenues, a reduction in military preparedness, the collapse of the currency system, and failed to make sufficient investment in vital transportation infrastructure.

- (A) the collapse of the currency system, and failed
- (B) the collapse of the currency system, and failing
- (C) and the collapse of the currency system, also failed
- (D) the collapse of the currency system, as well as failing
- (E) and the collapse of the currency system, as well as a failure

SC11017

294. Seismologists studying the earthquake that struck northern California in October 1989 are still investigating some of its mysteries: the unexpected power of the seismic waves, the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and the strange electromagnetic signals detected hours before the temblor.

- (A) the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and the strange electromagnetic signals detected hours before the temblor
- (B) the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and strange electromagnetic signals were detected hours before the temblor
- (C) the upward thrust threw one man straight into the air, and hours before the temblor strange electromagnetic signals were detected
- (D) one man was thrown straight into the air by the upward thrust, and hours before the temblor strange electromagnetic signals were detected
- (E) one man who was thrown straight into the air by the upward thrust, and strange electromagnetic signals that were detected hours before the temblor

SC10878

295. The type of behavior exhibited when an animal recognizes itself in a mirror comes within the domain of “theory of mind,” thus is best studied as part of the field of animal cognition.

- (A) of “theory of mind,” thus is best
- (B) “theory of mind,” and so is best to be
- (C) of a “theory of mind,” thus it is best
- (D) of “theory of mind” and thus is best
- (E) of the “theory of mind,” and so it is best to be

SC11054

296. Unlike the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka are concentrated in the monsoon months, June to September, and the skies are generally clear for the rest of the year.

- (A) Unlike the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka
- (B) Unlike the United States farmers who can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka
- (C) Unlike those of the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, most parts of Sri Lanka's rains
- (D) In comparison with the United States, whose farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka
- (E) In the United States, farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, but in most parts of Sri Lanka, the rains

SC01564

297. In preparation for the prediction of a major earthquake that will hit the state, a satellite-based computer network is being built by the California Office of Emergency Services for identifying earthquake damage and to pinpoint the most affected areas within two hours of the event.

- (A) In preparation for the prediction of a major earthquake that will hit the state, a satellite-based computer network is being built by the California Office of Emergency Services for identifying
- (B) In preparing for the prediction that a major earthquake will hit the state, the California Office of Emergency Services is building a satellite-based computer network that will identify
- (C) In preparing for a major earthquake that is predicted to hit the state, the California Office of Emergency Services is building a satellite-based computer network to identify
- (D) To prepare for the prediction of a major earthquake hitting the state, a satellite-based computer network is being built by the California Office of Emergency Services to identify
- (E) To prepare for a major earthquake that is predicted to hit the state, the California Office of Emergency Services is building a satellite-based computer network that will identify

SC06727

298. Once numbering in the millions worldwide, it is estimated that the wolf has declined to 200,000 in 57 countries, some 11,000 of them to be found in the lower 48 United States and Alaska.

- (A) it is estimated that the wolf has declined to 200,000 in 57 countries, some
- (B) the wolf is estimated to have declined to 200,000 in 57 countries, with approximately
- (C) the wolf has declined to an estimate of 200,000 in 57 countries, some
- (D) wolves have declined to an estimate of 200,000 in 57 countries, with approximately
- (E) wolves have declined to an estimated 200,000 in 57 countries, some

SC11926

299. As business grows more complex, students majoring in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming increasingly successful in the job market.

- (A) majoring in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming increasingly
- (B) who major in such specialized areas as finance and marketing are becoming more and more
- (C) who majored in specialized areas such as those of finance and marketing are being increasingly
- (D) who major in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming more and more
- (E) having majored in such specialized areas as finance and marketing are being increasingly

SC04682

300. Created in 1945 to reduce poverty and stabilize foreign currency markets, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have, according to some critics, continually struggled to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—but neglected their intended beneficiaries in the developing world.

- (A) continually struggled to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—but neglected
- (B) continually struggled as they try to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—while neglecting that of
- (C) continually struggled to meet their major shareholders' expectations—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—but neglected that of
- (D) had to struggle continually in trying to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—while neglecting that of
- (E) struggled continually in trying to meet their major shareholders' expectations—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—and neglecting

SC01911

301. Unlike auto insurance, the frequency of claims does not affect the premiums for personal property coverage, but if the insurance company is able to prove excessive loss due to owner negligence, it may decline to renew the policy.

- (A) Unlike auto insurance, the frequency of claims does not affect the premiums for personal property coverage,
- (B) Unlike with auto insurance, the frequency of claims do not affect the premiums for personal property coverage,
- (C) Unlike the frequency of claims for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage are not affected by the frequency of claims,
- (D) Unlike the premiums for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage are not affected by the frequency of claims,
- (E) Unlike with the premiums for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage is not affected by the frequency of claims,

5.8 Answer Key

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 189. C | 218. A | 247. E | 276. B |
| 190. A | 219. B | 248. B | 277. A |
| 191. C | 220. B | 249. C | 278. D |
| 192. E | 221. C | 250. A | 279. C |
| 193. E | 222. A | 251. E | 280. C |
| 194. E | 223. C | 252. A | 281. A |
| 195. C | 224. E | 253. A | 282. B |
| 196. D | 225. D | 254. D | 283. E |
| 197. E | 226. D | 255. D | 284. A |
| 198. D | 227. C | 256. C | 285. C |
| 199. B | 228. C | 257. D | 286. A |
| 200. E | 229. D | 258. A | 287. A |
| 201. D | 230. E | 259. B | 288. E |
| 202. C | 231. C | 260. A | 289. D |
| 203. C | 232. C | 261. D | 290. C |
| 204. E | 233. B | 262. B | 291. D |
| 205. C | 234. A | 263. C | 292. E |
| 206. B | 235. B | 264. A | 293. E |
| 207. A | 236. D | 265. E | 294. A |
| 208. C | 237. A | 266. E | 295. D |
| 209. A | 238. B | 267. C | 296. E |
| 210. E | 239. E | 268. D | 297. C |
| 211. E | 240. D | 269. B | 298. E |
| 212. C | 241. E | 270. D | 299. B |
| 213. D | 242. C | 271. D | 300. A |
| 214. B | 243. E | 272. D | 301. D |
| 215. C | 244. A | 273. B | |
| 216. B | 245. D | 274. E | |
| 217. E | 246. C | 275. A | |

5.9 Answer Explanations

The following discussion of sentence correction is intended to familiarize you with the most efficient and effective approaches to these kinds of questions. The particular questions in this chapter are generally representative of the kinds of sentence correction questions you will encounter on the GMAT.

SC01545

189. With respect to most species of animals, they are evenly divided in right- or left-handedness, unlike humans.
- With respect to most species of animals, they are evenly divided in right- or left-handedness, unlike humans.
 - With respect to right- or left-handedness, most species of animals are evenly divided, unlike in humans.
 - Unlike humans, most species of animals are evenly divided with respect to right- or left-handedness.
 - Unlike in humans, most species of animals with respect to right- or left-handedness are evenly divided.
 - Unlike humans, with respect to right- or left-handedness, in most species of animals it is evenly divided.

Rhetorical construction; Parallel construction

The sentence contrasts humans with other species with respect to the distribution of left-handedness and right-handedness. Issues include use of the correct prepositions and the correct placement of component phrases such as *unlike humans*.

- This is wordy because the phrase beginning *with respect to* is redundant, given the pronoun *they*, which refers to *most species of animals*. Placing the phrase *unlike humans* at the end of the sentence tends to blunt the force of the comparison between humans and other animals.
- The *in* preceding *humans* makes the sentence incorrect. Because the intended contrast is between humans and most species of animals, the reference to humans would be better placed closer to the phrase *most species of animals*.

- C** **Correct.** The start of the sentence immediately highlights the contrast between humans and most animal species. The adverbial phrase *with respect to right- or left-handedness* is placed adjacent to the verbal phrase that it modifies (*are evenly divided*).
- D** The *in* preceding *humans* makes the sentence incorrect. Placing the adverbial phrase *with respect to right- or left-handedness* immediately following *animals* is confusing; it would be better placed immediately following the verbal phrase that it modifies (*are evenly divided*).
- E** To make the intended contrast clear, the reference to humans should be adjacent to (and parallel to) the reference to most species of animals. But the use of *in* in one case but not in the other makes the references nonparallel. For clarity, the adverbial phrase *with respect to right- or left-handedness* should follow the verbal phrase that it modifies (*are evenly divided*).

The correct answer is C.

SC07435

190. Using digital enhancements of skull fragments from five prehistoric hominids dating to more than 350,000 years ago, anthropologists argue that these human ancestors probably had hearing similar to that of people today.
- anthropologists argue that these human ancestors
 - anthropologists argue, so these human ancestors
 - anthropologists argue, these human ancestors
 - these human ancestors, anthropologists argue,
 - these human ancestors are argued by anthropologists to have

*These numbers correlate with the online test bank question number. See the GMAT Verbal Review Online Index in the back of this book.

Logical predication; Diction

The verb *argue* here, because it expresses the idea of arguing for a position or theory, should be followed directly by a clause introduced by *that*, without a pause. Verb forms ending with *-ing* with understood subjects, like the one beginning this sentence, must have their subject supplied elsewhere—preferably by the subject of the main clause.

- A **Correct.** *Argue* is followed immediately by a *that* clause, and the subject of *using* is supplied by *anthropologists*.
- B *Argue* is not directly followed by a *that* clause; moreover, by continuing with *so . . .* the sentence does not coherently express the intended idea.
- C *Argue* is not directly followed by a *that* clause.
- D The subject of the main clause, *these human ancestors*, will illogically be taken as the subject of *using*.
- E The subject of the main clause, *these human ancestors*, will illogically be taken as the subject of *using*.

The correct answer is A.

SC14890

19. The interior minister explained that one of the village planning proposal's best characteristics was their not detracting from the project's overall benefit by being a burden on the development budget.
- (A) one of the village planning proposal's best characteristics was their not detracting
 - (B) one of the village's planning proposal's best characteristics were its not taking
 - (C) one of the best characteristics of the village's planning proposal was that it did not detract
 - (D) a best characteristic of the village planning proposal was, it did not take
 - (E) among the village planning proposal's best characteristics, one was, it did not detract

Agreement; Rhetorical construction

The noun phrase beginning with *one* is singular, as is one of its constituent parts, *the village planning proposal*, so any pronouns for which it is the antecedent should be singular; furthermore, any verb for which the noun phrase beginning with *one . . .* is the subject should be in the singular. The verb *detract* is more appropriate to the thought being expressed than *take*.

- A The plural pronoun *their* has a singular noun phrase as its antecedent, namely, *the village planning proposal*. (It is illogical to take the antecedent of *their* to be *best characteristics*.)
- B The plural verb *were* does not agree with the singular subject. Also, the verb *taking* should be replaced by the verb *detracting*.
- C **Correct.** The verb is correctly in the singular form.
- D *A best characteristic* is awkward; the idea is better phrased as *one of the best characteristics*. Also the verb *take* should be replaced by the verb *detract*.
- E Instead of the awkward sequence *one was, it did not*, a better choice would be *was that it did not*.

The correct answer is C.

SC02940

192. Like ants, termites have an elaborate social structure in which a few individuals reproduce and the rest are serving the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or they battle intruders.
- (A) are serving the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or they battle
 - (B) are serving the colony in that they tend juveniles, gather food, build the nest, or battle
 - (C) serve the colony, tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or by battling
 - (D) serve the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, by building the nest, or by battling
 - (E) serve the colony by tending juveniles, gathering food, building the nest, or battling

Parallelism; Rhetorical construction

The sentence most effectively uses parallel structure to contrast two types of termites in the social structure of termite colonies: those who reproduce, and those who serve the colony in a number of ways. The progressive verb form *are serving* should be changed to simple present tense *serve* to parallel *reproduce*. In the final list of responsibilities, parallelism demands that all assume the gerund form as objects of the preposition: *by tending . . . gathering . . . building . . . or battling*.

- A The progressive verb form *are serving* is inappropriate for this general claim about termite behavior. It should parallel the previous verb *reproduce*. It is unnecessary to introduce a new clause *or they battle intruders*, because *battling* is another way some termites serve the colony and should therefore be expressed as another object of the preposition *by*.
- B *In that they* is an awkward and wordy construction—a poor substitute for *by* in this context.
- C The preposition *by* clarifies *how* the termites serve their colony and should govern all of the task descriptions, not just the final one.
- D There is no need to repeat the preposition *by*, because all tasks can be described in a series of parallel objects of the same preposition. To violate parallel structure by omitting the preposition before one gerund but repeating it for the rest confuses the reader.
- E **Correct.** The sentence uses proper parallel structure and is clear and concise.

The correct answer is E.

SC01519

193. Global warming is said to be responsible for extreme weather changes, which, like the heavy rains that caused more than \$2 billion in damages and led to flooding throughout the state of California, and the heat wave in the northeastern and midwestern United States, which was also the cause of a great amount of damage and destruction.
- (A) which, like the heavy rains that caused more than \$2 billion in damages and led to flooding throughout the state of California,

- (B) which, like the heavy rains that throughout the state of California caused more than \$2 billion in damages and led to flooding,
- (C) like the heavy flooding that, because of rains throughout the state of California, caused more than \$2 billion in damages,
- (D) such as the heavy flooding that led to rains throughout the state of California causing more than \$2 billion in damages,
- (E) such as the heavy rains that led to flooding throughout the state of California, causing more than \$2 billion in damages,

Grammatical construction: Logical predication

This sentence introduces the claim that global warming is considered to be the cause of extreme weather changes and then illustrates these changes with two examples introduced by the phrase *such as*. The correct causal sequence of events in the first example is heavy rain, which caused *significant damage and flooding*. The relative pronoun *which*, referring to *changes*, is lacking a verb to complete the relative clause.

- A The relative pronoun, *which*, is without a verb. The phrase *which, like the heavy rains* incorrectly suggests that the *extreme weather* is something different from the *heavy rains* and the *heat wave*, and that each of these three phenomena separately caused damage and destruction.
- B As in (A), the relative pronoun has no verb to complete the phrase, and the sequence of events in the first example positions costly destruction and flooding as two separate or unrelated results of the rain.
- C The causal sequence in the first example is confusing, suggesting, somewhat implausibly, that heavy flooding occurred on its own but caused damage only because of the rain.
- D The sequential logic of the first example is confused—indicating, implausibly, that flooding caused heavy rain and that the rain, but not the flooding, caused more than \$2 billion in damages.

- E** **Correct.** This version of the sentence correctly uses the phrase *such as* to introduce the two examples of extreme weather changes, and it correctly identifies the sequence of events in the first example.

The correct answer is E.

SC02548

194. Hundreds of species of fish generate and discharge electric currents, in bursts or as steady electric fields around their bodies, using their power either to find and attack prey, to defend themselves, or also for communicating and navigating.

- (A) either to find and attack prey, to defend themselves, or also for communicating and navigating
- (B) either for finding and attacking prey, defend themselves, or for communication and navigation
- (C) to find and attack prey, for defense, or communication and navigation
- (D) for finding and attacking prey, to defend themselves, or also for communication and navigation
- (E) to find and attack prey, to defend themselves, or to communicate and navigate

Idiom; Verb form

The sentence explains that fish discharge electric currents for several purposes, which are most efficiently and effectively described in a parallel structure: *to find and attack, to defend, or to communicate and navigate*. The use of *either* is inappropriate in this sentence because more than two uses of electric currents are listed; idiomatic usage requires *either* to be followed by *or* to identify alternatives, not by *also*.

- A *Either* inappropriately introduces a list of more than two alternatives, and it should not be followed by *or also*; parallelism requires that *for communicating and navigating* be changed to *to communicate and navigate*.
- B *Defend* is not parallel with the list of gerunds, leaving the reader to wonder how to make sense of *defend themselves*.

- C** The lack of parallelism obscures the relationships among the items in the series; it is especially confusing to list an infinitive phrase (*to find . . .*), an object of a preposition (*for defense*), and nouns with no grammatical connection to the verb phrase (*communication and navigation*).

- D** This answer choice also violates parallelism by mixing an infinitive with objects of the preposition *for*. *Or also* is an unidiomatic, contradictory expression.

- E** **Correct.** The different ways in which the various species of fish use their electric power are correctly expressed in a series of parallel infinitives.

The correct answer is E.

SC05367

195. Native to South America, when peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century they were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being so similar to the Bambarra groundnut, a popular indigenous plant.

- (A) when peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century they were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being
- (B) peanuts having been introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because of being
- (C) peanuts were introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and were quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were
- (D) peanuts, introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were
- (E) peanuts, introduced to Africa by Portuguese explorers early in the sixteenth century and having been quickly adopted into Africa's agriculture, probably because they were

Grammatical construction; Logical predication

The opening adjectival phrase *Native to South America* must be followed immediately by the noun it modifies: *peanuts*. The sentence makes two main points about peanuts—they were introduced to Africa and they were quickly adopted there. The most efficient way to make these points is to make *peanuts* the subject of two main verbs: *were introduced* and *were . . . adopted*.

- A When incorrectly intervenes between the opening adjectival phrase and the noun it modifies, and it is also unnecessary because *early in the sixteenth century* explains when. *Because of being* is wordy and indirect.
- B This version of the sentence has no main verb, since *having been introduced* and *quickly adopted* both introduce adjectival phrases.
- C **Correct.** The sentence is properly structured and grammatically correct.
- D This version of the sentence has no main verb because *introduced* and *adopted* both function as adjectives.
- E This version of the sentence has no main verb because *introduced* and *having been . . . adopted* function as adjectives.

The correct answer is C.

SC03552

196. It stood twelve feet tall, weighed nine thousand pounds, and wielded seven-inch claws, and Megatherium americanum, a giant ground sloth, may have been the largest hunting mammal ever to walk the Earth.

- (A) It stood twelve feet tall, weighed nine thousand pounds, and wielded seven-inch claws, and *Megatherium americanum*, a giant ground sloth,
- (B) It stood twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, and welding seven-inch claws, *Megatherium americanum* was a giant ground sloth and
- (C) The giant ground sloth *Megatherium americanum*, having stood twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, and welding seven-inch claws, it
- (D) Standing twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, and welding seven-inch claws, *Megatherium americanum*, a giant ground sloth,

- (E) Standing twelve feet tall, weighing nine thousand pounds, it wielded seven-inch claws, and the giant ground sloth *Megatherium americanum*

Grammatical construction; Parallelism

The point of the sentence is to describe several features of *Megatherium americanum*, to identify this creature as a giant ground sloth, and to speculate about its status as the largest hunting mammal in Earth's history. *Megatherium americanum* is therefore the sole subject of the sentence. When its features are presented as parallel adjective phrases and its common identification is presented as an appositive, a single main verb *may have been* is all that is required to complete the sentence. When the conjunction *and* constructs a compound sentence, the subjects *it* and *ground sloth* or *Megatherium americanum* appear to name separate entities.

- A The compound sentence structure suggests that *it* and *Megatherium americanum* are two separate entities, making it unclear what, if anything, the pronoun refers to.
- B As in (A), *it* and *Megatherium americanum* appear to name different entities. This a run-on sentence; the comma after *claws* is not sufficient to join the two main clauses in a single sentence. The series describing the sloth is also nonparallel.
- C The present-perfect tense of the first participial phrase in the series (*having stood*) is not parallel with the (timeless) present tense of the other two participials. The introduction of the main subject *it* leaves *ground sloth* without a verb.
- D **Correct.** The series of present-tense participial phrases describes the main subject, *Megatherium americanum*, which is clarified by the common name expressed as an appositive.
- E The identity of *it* is ambiguous, and the second subject of the compound sentence *giant ground sloth* appears to name something other than *it*. This makes the sentence ungrammatical.

The correct answer is D.

SC04083

197. Studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, DNA evidence was recovered by scientists, who were able to deduce from this that an epidemic of malaria struck in the empire's waning days.

- (A) Studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, DNA evidence was recovered by scientists, who were able to deduce from this
- (B) In studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, DNA evidence was recovered by scientists, who were able to deduce from this
- (C) Scientists recovered DNA evidence from studying skeletons unearthed near Rome, being able to deduce from this
- (D) Skeletons unearthed near Rome allowed scientists to recover DNA evidence, and they were able to deduce from it
- (E) Scientists studying skeletons unearthed near Rome recovered DNA evidence from which they were able to deduce

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The sentence explains that scientists recovered DNA evidence from skeletons, revealing evidence of malaria. As the sentence is written, the participial phrase *studying skeletons* is misplaced; grammatically it modifies the subject of the main clause, thus illogically indicating that the *evidence* studied the skeletons.

- A The participial phrase *studying skeletons* illogically modifies *evidence*.
- B The participial phrase *studying skeletons* illogically modifies *evidence*.
- C The sentence incorrectly states that DNA evidence was recovered from *studying skeletons* rather than from the skeletons; the phrase *being able to deduce from this* is awkward and wordy.
- D The construction *skeletons . . . allowed scientists* gives the action of the sentence to the skeletons rather than the scientists; the antecedent of the pronoun *they* is ambiguous, possibly referring either to *scientists* or to *skeletons*.

- E **Correct.** *Scientists* is the subject of the main clause, and *studying skeletons* correctly modifies *scientists*.

The correct answer is E.

SC01594

198. Butterflies come in more than 17,000 species, displaying a wing pattern unique to each one.

- (A) displaying a wing pattern unique to each one
- (B) displaying a unique wing pattern in each
- (C) each uniquely displaying a wing pattern
- (D) each of which displays a unique wing pattern
- (E) each of which uniquely displays a wing pattern

Diction; Logical predication

As well as noting the surprisingly large number of butterfly species, the sentence probably seeks to make the point that no two species have the same wing pattern. Which of the suggested ways of conveying this information is clearest and unambiguous?

- A In a conversational context, the thought underlying this version would probably be successfully understood by most listeners. However, the participle *displaying* modifies *butterflies*, not *species*. Thus the sentence as written seems to say, illogically, that each butterfly displays a wing pattern unique to each one.
- B The phrase *in each* is illogical: what cannot have been intended in the given sentence is that all 17,000 species display a single wing pattern.
- C This produces nonsense: all butterflies presumably display some wing pattern; it is not clear, however, what it could mean to “uniquely” display a wing pattern.
- D **Correct.** In the given phrase, the *which* refers to *17,000 species*; it conveys exactly the same information as the following sentence: *Each of 17,000 species displays a unique wing pattern.* Both convey the information that no two of the species have the same wing pattern.
- E It is not clear what it could mean to “uniquely” display a wing pattern.

The correct answer is D.

SC04652

199. A March 2000 Census Bureau survey showed that Mexico accounted for more than a quarter of all foreign-born residents of the United States, the largest share for any country to contribute since 1890, when about 30 percent of the country's foreign-born population was from Germany.

- (A) the largest share for any country to contribute
- (B) the largest share that any country has contributed
- (C) which makes it the largest share for any country to contribute
- (D) having the largest share to be contributed by any country
- (E) having the largest share to have been contributed by any country

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

This sentence claims that the 2000 Census showed that at the time Mexico's contribution to the foreign-born population of United States residents exceeded that of any other country since 1890. It makes the comparison in an appositive that modifies *more than a quarter of all foreign-born residents of the United States*.

- A The phrase *for any country to contribute* makes the sentence wordy and indirect.
- B **Correct.** This form of the appositive is the most efficient way to express the comparison. Depending on when the sentence was written and what the writer intended to express, the verb form could be either *had contributed* or *has contributed*. The use of *has contributed* implies that, from the perspective of the sentence, the comparison between German-born U.S. residents and those from other countries still holds true.
- C The antecedents of the relative pronoun *which* and the pronoun *it* are ambiguous. Along with the prepositional phrase, the pronouns contribute wordiness and indirection.
- D This construction is awkward, wordy, and indirect, and the use of the present tense of the infinitive is inappropriate.
- E This construction is awkward, wordy, and indirect.

The correct answer is B.

SC01579

200. Recently declassified information from military satellites in orbit thousands of miles above the Earth show the planet continually bombarded by large meteoroids that explode with the power of atomic bomb blasts.

- (A) show the planet continually bombarded by
- (B) show continual bombardment of the planet by
- (C) show a continual bombardment of the planet from
- (D) shows continually that the planet is bombarded from
- (E) shows that the planet is continually bombarded by

Agreement; Idiom

The sentence indicates that information shows the planet to be continually bombarded by meteors. However, the plural verb *show* incorrectly corresponds to the word *satellites* in the prepositional phrase *from military satellites*, rather than to the singular subject *information*. The correct combination of subject and verb is *information shows*.

- A The singular subject *information* does not agree with the plural verb *show*.
- B The singular subject *information* does not agree with the plural verb *show*. The verbal noun *bombarding* (rather than *bombardment*) is awkward and unnecessary.
- C The singular subject *information* does not agree with the plural verb *show*. *Bombardment from* is an unidiomatic way of expressing the intended relationship. This construction appears to indicate, illogically, that someone or something located on the large, exploding meteoroids is sending the bombardment to Earth.
- D *Continually* should modify *bombarded*, not *shows*. *Bombardment from* is an unidiomatic way of expressing the intended relationship. This construction appears to indicate, illogically, that someone or something located on the large, exploding meteoroids is sending the bombardment to Earth.
- E **Correct.** The singular subject *information* agrees with the singular verb *shows*.

The correct answer is E.

SC06922

201. The themes that Rita Dove explores in her poetry is universal, encompassing much of the human condition while occasionally she deals with racial issues.

- (A) is universal, encompassing much of the human condition while occasionally she deals
- (B) is universal, encompassing much of the human condition, also occasionally it deals
- (C) are universal, they encompass much of the human condition and occasionally deals
- (D) are universal, encompassing much of the human condition while occasionally dealing
- (E) are universal, they encompass much of the human condition, also occasionally are dealing

Agreement; Grammatical construction

The plural subject of the sentence, *themes*, requires the plural verb *are* in place of *is*. Because the *themes* of Dove's poetry *encompass* the human condition and *deal* with racial issues, there is no need to make this a compound sentence by introducing a new grammatical subject, *she*, in a final clause. A single subject with two parallel verbs is the clearest and most efficient form for this sentence.

- A The plural subject disagrees with the singular verb. The sentence should retain the focus on the single subject *themes* rather than introduce a new subject and clause at the end.
- B The plural subject disagrees with the singular verb. Because *also occasionally it deals with* ... introduces a new main clause, the comma between *condition* and *also* is an insufficient connector (creating a comma splice).
- C The comma between *universal* and *they* is an insufficient connector, creating a comma splice; the singular verb *deals* does not agree with the plural subject *they*.
- D **Correct.** The plural verb *are* agrees with the plural subject. The sentence is effectively worded and grammatically correct.
- E The comma between *universal* and *they* creates a comma splice. There is no subject for the verb *are dealing*.

The correct answer is D.

SC04026

202. Child development specialists believe that, in confining babies much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers, muscle development can be inhibited.

- (A) that, in confining babies much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers, muscle development can be inhibited
- (B) that, in their confinement much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers, muscle development can be inhibited in babies
- (C) that confining babies much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers can inhibit muscle development
- (D) that babies, if confined much of the time to strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers can inhibit muscle development
- (E) that strollers, high chairs, playpens, and walkers can, if babies are confined to them much of the time, result in muscle development being inhibited

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The point of the sentence is that confining babies can inhibit muscle development. As it is written, however, *muscle development* is the subject of the sentence, and the sentence appears to be saying that muscle development confines babies much of the time. Furthermore, the passive construction *can be inhibited* could even be seen as illogically suggesting that inhibiting development is the purpose of confinement. The sentence can be expressed more clearly and concisely by making *confining* the subject of the verb *can inhibit*: *confining babies ... can inhibit muscle development*.

- A The intended meaning of the sentence is obscured. The sentence appears to indicate that muscle development confines babies much of the time, which surely is not what is intended.
- B The antecedent of *their* should be *babies*, but given that *babies* comes far after the pronoun, the reader is liable to take the antecedent of *their* to be *child development specialists*.

- C **Correct.** The sentence clearly and concisely indicates that *confining babies . . . can inhibit muscle development*.
- D The word *babies* is the subject of the verb *can inhibit*, suggesting incorrectly that babies inhibit their own or someone else's muscle development.
- E This sentence uses an awkward and wordy construction to indicate that the sites of confinement *can result in muscle development being inhibited*, when in fact the confinement itself is the cause.

The correct answer is C.

SC06159

203. Travelers to Mars would have to endure low levels of gravity for long periods of time, avoid large doses of radiation, contend with the chemically reactive Martian soil, and perhaps even having to ward off contamination by Martian life-forms.

- (A) contend with the chemically reactive Martian soil, and perhaps even having to ward
- (B) contend with the chemically reactive Martian soil, and perhaps even warding
- (C) contend with the chemically reactive Martian soil, and perhaps even ward
- (D) contending with the chemically reactive Martian soil, and perhaps even to ward
- (E) contending with the chemically reactive Martian soil, and perhaps even warding

Parallelism; Grammatical construction

This sentence provides a list of three conditions Mars travelers would certainly have to contend with, along with one additional thing they might have to do—*ward off contamination by Martian life-forms*. The items in the list are most clearly and effectively structured in parallel—as phrases beginning with infinitive verb forms—to *endure*, (to) *avoid*, (to) *contend*, (to) *ward off*. Because the sentence introduces all these actions as something travelers *would have to do*, repeating the *hav[ing]* to construction in the final item of the list is redundant.

- A The phrase *having to* is not parallel with the other items in the list, and it unnecessarily repeats the sense of the introductory phrase,

which identifies all items in the list as things travelers *would have to do*.

- B The verb form *warding* is not parallel with the other items in the list.
- C **Correct.** The sentence uses proper grammar and parallel construction.
- D The participial form *contending* violates the parallel structure of the list of infinitive phrases. The reader is misled into thinking that *contending with chemically reactive Martian soil* describes what travelers would have to do to avoid radiation doses.
- E The participial phrases *contending with* and *warding off* violate the parallel structure established by the list of infinitive phrases.

The correct answer is C.

SC01182

204. Together with Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary, the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the first underwater park in the United States, provide 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers, which includes more than 500 species of fish and 55 varieties of coral.

- (A) provide 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers, which includes
- (B) provide for underwater explorers 165 square nautical miles of marine life, which include
- (C) provide 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers and includes
- (D) provides 165 square nautical miles of marine life for underwater explorers and including
- (E) provides underwater explorers with 165 square nautical miles of marine life, including

Agreement; Grammatical construction

The sentence mentions two marine sites, but the grammatical subject of the sentence refers to only one of them, so the use of the plural verb *provide* is incorrect. The antecedent of *which* is unclear; for example, it cannot be *explorers*, since the singular verb *includes* indicates that its subject *which* must also be singular. Thus, the antecedent must be the singular noun phrase *marine life*. However, the sentence would be clearer and less awkward if this antecedent were placed closer to *which*.

- A This cannot be correct, given the problems described.
- B The plural *provide* is incorrect. The plural verb *include* indicates that one of the preceding noun phrases, e.g., *165 square nautical miles*, or *underwater explorers*, should be the antecedent, but neither of these readings would convey a coherent meaning.
- C The plural *provide* is incorrect, as the subject is singular (*Key Largo Marine Sanctuary* is not part of the subject). Stating that the park (as opposed to the marine life) “includes” 500 species does not seem to capture the intended meaning.
- D The portion that precedes *and* here is correct; however, *and including* creates a grammatically incorrect sentence fragment.
- E **Correct.** The use of a participial phrase introduced by *including* avoids the need to use a relative clause introduced by *which*, but serves the same function as would a relative clause with antecedent *marine life*.

The correct answer is E.

SC01481

205. While Hollywood makes films primarily for entertainment, the motion picture was not first developed to entertain, but it was to allow detailed analysis of animal motion.
- (A) was not first developed to entertain, but it was
 (B) was developed not first to entertain, but it was
 (C) was first developed not to entertain, but
 (D) did not first develop for entertainment, but
 (E) did not first develop for entertainment, but it was

Grammatical construction; Parallelism

The sentence expresses, in an awkward and unclear manner, the thought that the initial development of the motion picture was for science rather than for entertainment. One flaw in the given sentence concerns the placement of *not*; another flaw is that the pronoun *it* has no clear antecedent (its antecedent does not seem to be *the motion picture*, for example).

- A The placement of *not* suggests that it is intended to negate a verbal phrase *was first developed*, but this makes no sense in context. As noted, the pronoun *it* lacks a clear antecedent.
- B As noted, the pronoun *it* lacks a clear antecedent. Only if *first* meant “primarily” could the phrase *not first to entertain* make some sense in context.
- C **Correct.** This accurately conveys the claim that the intended purpose of the motion picture when it was first developed was not entertainment but something else, i.e., scientific observation. The parallelism between *to entertain* and *to allow* removes unnecessary wordiness.
- D The placement of *not* is inappropriate, given the intended meaning. The parallelism noted earlier is missing here.
- E The word *not* seems, misleadingly, to negate the verb *first developed*, which would fail to convey the intended sense of the given sentence. The antecedent of *it* is unclear. The parallelism noted earlier is missing here.

The correct answer is C.

SC01069

206. The personal income tax did not become permanent in the United States until the First World War; before that time the federal government was dependent on tariffs to be their main source of revenue.
- (A) the federal government was dependent on tariffs to be their main source of revenue
 (B) the federal government had depended on tariffs as its main source of revenue
 (C) tariffs were what the federal government was dependent on to be its main source of revenue
 (D) the main source of revenue for the federal government was dependent on tariffs
 (E) for their main source of revenue, tariffs were depended on by the federal government

Agreement; Logical predication

The First World War is designated as past tense in the opening clause of this sentence. The relationship between that time and whatever happened earlier can be most clearly indicated by

using the past-perfect tense for the earlier events. [T]he federal government is a singular subject of the second clause, so a singular pronoun, *its* rather than *their*, must refer to it. The phrase *was dependent on* causes unnecessary wordiness, as does the passive construction in E.

- A The plural pronoun *their* inappropriately refers to the singular noun *government*.
- B **Correct.** The pronoun *its* agrees with the singular subject *government*, and the past perfect, active verb *had depended* refers clearly to government activity prior to the First World War.
- C This version of the sentence is wordy because of the inverted word order that makes the subject of the second clause an object of the preposition *on*.
- D This version of the sentence nonsensically makes *source* the subject of the verb *was [dependent on]*.
- E The plural possessive pronoun *their* does not agree with its singular antecedent *government*. In fact, because of the placement of *tariffs* immediately after the opening prepositional phrase, *their* seems at first to refer to *tariffs*, which is illogical. The passive verb form *were depended on* is wordy and indirect.

The correct answer is B.

SC02628

207. In 1776 Adam Smith wrote that it is young people who have “the contempt of risk and the presumptuous hope of success” needed to found new businesses.
- (A) who have
 - (B) with
 - (C) having
 - (D) who are those with
 - (E) who are the ones to have

Grammatical construction; Rhetorical construction

This sentence identifies which people have the attitudes needed to be successful entrepreneurs, according to the economist Adam Smith. The main clause *it is young people* is followed by a

relative clause that modifies *young people* and defines the attributes important to their ability to found businesses: caring little about risk and being extremely optimistic about succeeding. The use of the idiomatic construction *it is . . . who* is a way of placing primary emphasis on the question that Smith addressed with the quoted words.

- A **Correct.** The relative clause beginning *who have* grammatically and concisely identifies the relevant attitudes that *young people* have.
- B In this version, the relative clause modifying *young people* is replaced with a prepositional phrase, introduced by *with*. This clause appears to modify *young people* restrictively. Thus, the sentence simply identifies a subcategory of young people (those with *the contempt of risk . . .*) and does not clearly explain which *people* have the attitudes that Smith identifies.
- C Replacing the relative clause with a participial phrase introduced by *having* makes the sentence incomplete, since the point of the sentence is to explain which *people have* the attitudes that Smith identifies.
- D Inserting the phrase *are those with* makes the sentence awkward and wordy.
- E The word group *are the ones to have* is less concise than the simple verb *have* and fails to convey the meaning that is clearly intended.

The correct answer is A.

SC04198

208. Palladium prices have soared, with Russia restricting exports and because automakers have started using it to make the huge engines in sport utility vehicles and other light trucks.
- (A) Palladium prices have soared, with Russia restricting exports and because automakers have started using
 - (B) Palladium prices have soared, with Russia restricting exports, in addition to automakers that have started to use
 - (C) Prices for palladium have soared as Russia has restricted exports and automakers have started using

- (D) Prices for palladium have soared as Russia has been restricting exports, in addition to automakers starting to use
- (E) Prices for palladium have soared because Russia is restricting exports, as well as automakers that have started using

Parallelism: Rhetorical construction

The sentence indicates that a rapid increase in palladium prices is related to a restriction in Russian exports and to the fact that automakers have started using palladium to make engines. It makes sense to see the increase in palladium prices as being a result of the other two factors, and the sentence should clearly suggest this link. Furthermore, the grammatical construction of the sentence should display parallelism. For instance, if the phrase *Russia restricting exports* is used, then the parallel phrase *automakers having started* should be used so as to create a parallel construction. On the other hand, if the clause *Russia has restricted exports* is used, then the clause *automakers have started* should be paired with it to create a parallel structure.

- A The use of the word *with* before *Russia restricting exports* does not clearly indicate the causal link between this restriction and the price increases. Furthermore, *with Russia restricting exports* is not appropriately parallel with *because automakers have started using*.
- B The use of the word *with* before *Russia restricting exports* does not clearly indicate the causal link between this restriction and the price increases. Also, *with Russia restricting exports* is not appropriately grammatically parallel with *automakers that have started to use*.
- C **Correct.** The use of the word *as* suggests a possible causal link between the price increases and the combination of Russia's restriction of exports and automakers' use of palladium in the manufacture of engines. The sentence also displays an appropriate grammatical parallelism among *Prices for palladium have soared*, *Russia has restricted exports*, and *automakers have started using*.

- D There is not an appropriate grammatical parallelism between *Russia has been restricting exports* and *automakers starting to use*.
- E There is not an appropriate grammatical parallelism between *Russia is restricting exports* and *automakers that have started using*.

The correct answer is C.

SC02303

209. The gyrfalcon, an Arctic bird of prey, has survived a close brush with extinction; its numbers are now five times greater than when the use of DDT was sharply restricted in the early 1970's.

- (A) extinction; its numbers are now five times greater than
- (B) extinction; its numbers are now five times more than
- (C) extinction, their numbers now fivefold what they were
- (D) extinction, now with fivefold the numbers they had
- (E) extinction, now with numbers five times greater than

Agreement; Diction; Logical predication

The original sentence contains no errors. The semicolon correctly connects the closely related ideas in the two independent clauses. *The gyrfalcon* is the antecedent for *its* in the second phrase.

- A **Correct.** The original sentence correctly uses a singular pronoun, *its*, to refer to the singular antecedent *gyrfalcon*, and it properly uses the construction *its numbers are . . . greater than*.
- B The use of *more* instead of *greater* inappropriately implies that there are now more numbers, rather than more gyrfalcons.
- C The pronoun *their* is plural, and thus incorrect, since the antecedent *gyrfalcon* is singular. *Fivefold what they were* is awkward and nonstandard and implies that there are now more numbers, rather than more gyrfalcons.

- D The pronoun *they* is plural, and thus incorrect, since the antecedent *gyrfalcon* is singular. The comma introduces a confusing phrase seeming to modify *extinction*. *Fivefold the numbers they had* is awkward and nonstandard and implies that there are now more numbers, rather than more gyrfalcons.
- E The comma introduces a confusing phrase seeming to modify *extinction*.

The correct answer is A.

SC01543

210. Variability in individual physical traits both are determined through genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between these factors.

- (A) both are determined through genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between
- (B) are both determined by genetic factors, environmental factors, as well as interaction among
- (C) both is determined by genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between
- (D) is determined through genetic factors, environmental factors, as well as interaction among
- (E) is determined by genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between

Agreement; Grammatical construction

In discussing the factors that produce variations in individuals' physical traits, the sentence uses the structure *both . . . and . . .* unnecessarily and incorrectly: this structure can coordinate exactly two elements of a sentence, whereas here, three elements (genetic factors, environmental factors, and interaction between them) are named. The preposition *by* is more idiomatic than *through* with *determined*. The subject of the sentence is the noun phrase *variability in . . . traits*, so the verb of which it is subject must be singular, whereas *are* is plural. The preposition *among* (unlike *between*) is normally used to indicate some relationship involving more than two elements.

- A This has multiple problems, as indicated. Replacing *both are determined through* with the phrase *is determined by* would greatly improve the overall structure of the given sentence.

- B The verb *are* is plural but should be singular, since its subject is singular. The word *both* should be omitted. Introducing *as well as* into the sentence without certain other changes is not an improvement; the phrase is not substitutable for *and* without further changes elsewhere in the sentence.
- C The word *both* in this case raises the expectation that exactly two elements would be coordinated, but this does not occur here.
- D The preposition *through* is unidiomatic with *determined*. The phrase *as well as* cannot be used in the same way as *and* can (in this case, to coordinate three elements in a series).
- E **Correct.** The singular verb *is* has *variability* as its subject. Three elements in a series are coordinated, using two commas plus *and*. The preposition *between* is correctly used to refer to a relationship involving two sets of factors.

The correct answer is E.

SC06613

211. In his *Uses of Enchantment* (1976), it was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually are an instructive reflection of a child's natural and necessary "killing off" of successive phases in his or her own development.

- (A) it was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually are
- (B) it was the assertion of psychologist Bruno Bettelheim that what is apparently the cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually is
- (C) psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that what is apparently the cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually is
- (D) psychologist Bruno Bettelheim asserted that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales actually are
- (E) psychologist Bruno Bettelheim asserted that the apparently cruel and arbitrary nature of many fairy tales is actually

Agreement; Rhetorical construction

The sentence attributes to psychologist Bruno Bettelheim a particular view regarding the nature of fairy tales. The construction *it was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that* lacks the clarity and directness of the more active construction *Bruno Bettelheim asserted that*. The subject of the subordinate clause containing *nature of many fairy tales actually are* is the singular noun *nature*, not the plural noun in the prepositional phrase *of fairy tales*. Thus, the verb of that clause should be *is*, not *are*.

- A *It was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that* is wordy and awkward. Presumably this phrase is intended to be equivalent to *Bettelheim asserted that* (just as *it is my opinion that* is another way of saying *I believe that*). However, given the surrounding structure of the sentence, *it* appears to refer to some unnamed entity or condition that occurs in Bettelheim's book, and the entire sequence *was . . . development* appears to be predicated of the subject *it*. The plural verb *are* does not agree with the singular subject *nature*.
- B *It was psychologist Bruno Bettelheim's assertion that* is wordy and awkward. Presumably this phrase is intended to be equivalent to *Bettelheim asserted that* (just as *it is my opinion that* is another way of saying *I believe that*). However, given the surrounding structure of the sentence, *it* appears to refer to some unnamed entity or condition that occurs in Bettelheim's book, and the entire sequence *was . . . development* appears to be predicated of the subject *it*. The plural verb *are* does not agree with the singular subject *nature*.
- C According to the most plausible parsing of the sentence, everything that follows *asserted that* is intended to express Bettelheim's assertion. On that interpretation, though, the sentence is ungrammatical; the subject of the main clause, *assertion*, is not paired with a verb. If the verb *is* were paired with the subject *assertion*, the sentence would be nonsensical.
- D The plural verb *are* does not agree with the singular subject *nature*.

E **Correct.** The construction *Bruno Bettelheim asserted* gives vigor to the main clause, and the singular verb *is* agrees with the subject *nature* in the subordinate clause.

The correct answer is E.

SC06012

212. After weeks of uncertainty about the course the country would pursue to stabilize its troubled economy, officials reached a revised agreement with the International Monetary Fund, pledging the enforcement of substantially greater budget discipline as that which was originally promised and to keep inflation below ten percent.

- (A) the enforcement of substantially greater budget discipline as that which was originally promised and to keep inflation below ten percent
- (B) the enforcement of substantially greater budget discipline than originally promised and keeping inflation below the ten percent figure
- (C) to enforce substantially greater budget discipline than originally promised and to keep inflation below ten percent
- (D) to enforce substantially greater budget discipline than that which was originally promised and keeping inflation less than the ten percent figure
- (E) to enforce substantially greater budget discipline as that which was originally promised and to keep inflation less than ten percent

Logical predication; Parallelism

This sentence explains the two-part strategy an unnamed country agreed to pursue in order to stabilize its economy. Nominalization (*the enforcement of . . .*) and an incorrect form of comparison (*as that which was . . .*) in the account of the first strategy causes excessive wordiness and indirection and makes the account of the first strategy nonparallel with the account of the second strategy. To reduce wordiness and achieve parallelism, both strategies pledged by the country should be presented in infinitive form (*to enforce . . . and to keep . . .*). The sentence also needs to employ the correct comparative form *greater discipline than . . .*.

- A The two strategies (*the enforcement of* and *keeping*) are not presented in parallel form; the nominalized presentation of the first

strategy is wordy and indirect, and the comparative form is incorrect.

- B The two strategies (*the enforcement of* and *keeping*) are not presented in parallel form.
- C **Correct.** The comparative form is correct, and the two strategies are presented in parallel form, as infinitives completing the verb *pledged*.
- D The two strategies are not presented in parallel form, and the comparative form is unnecessarily wordy.
- E The comparative form is incorrect and wordy.

The correct answer is C.

SC01596

213. A new satellite sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles is called POLAR, giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field.

- (A) A new satellite sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles is called POLAR, giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field.
- (B) A new satellite called POLAR that is giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field, sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles.
- (C) Scientists are getting their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field, from a new satellite sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles called POLAR.
- (D) Sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles, a new satellite called POLAR is giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field.
- (E) Sweeping over the poles at altitudes of up to 32,000 miles, scientists' best look yet at the magnetosphere, the region of space under the invisible influence of Earth's magnetic field, is coming from a new satellite called POLAR.

Logical predication; Grammatical construction

The point of the sentence is that a *new satellite* is *giving scientists their best look yet at the magnetosphere*. As the sentence is written, the participial phrase *giving scientists ... magnetosphere* illogically modifies the preceding clause *A new ... is called POLAR*, suggesting illogically that the naming of the satellite is what provides scientists with a look at the magnetosphere. The sentence can be constructed more clearly with *satellite* as the subject of the main clause and *is giving* as its verb.

- A The participial phrase *giving scientists ... magnetosphere* illogically modifies the whole preceding clause, rather than *satellite*.
- B The subject *satellite* has no corresponding verb that would create an independent clause; the word *that* introduces a subordinate clause, and the overall result is merely a sentence fragment.
- C The modifier *called POLAR* is awkwardly placed too far away from the word *satellite*, which it is intended to modify; in its current incorrect position, it appears to modify *altitudes*.
- D Correct.** The sentence is constructed clearly with *satellite* and *is giving* as the subject and verb of the main clause, and the modifiers are placed appropriately near the words they are meant to modify.
- E *Sweeping* incorrectly modifies *look*, and the main subject *look* is awkwardly paired with the verb *is coming from*.

The correct answer is D.

SC05787

214. The treasury market dropped in response to a decrease in the value of the dollar and to continued concern that the economy might be growing as fast as to accelerate inflation and drive interest rates higher.

- (A) that the economy might be growing as fast as
- (B) that the economy might be growing fast enough
- (C) with the economy's possibly growing so fast as
- (D) with the possibility of the economy growing fast enough so as

- (E) with the possibility of the economy possibly growing fast enough

Idiom; Rhetorical construction

This sentence expresses a possible condition related to the relative speed of the economy's growth. The possible condition is expressed succinctly through the modal verb *might* in the subordinate clause *that the economy might be growing*. However, the correct idiom for expressing the relative speed is *fast enough to* precipitate negative economic consequences—not *as fast as*.

- A *As fast as* is not the correct idiom.
- B **Correct.** The possible condition is expressed succinctly using the modal verb *might*, and idioms are used correctly.
- C *Concern with* is not the correct idiom; the phrases *economy's possibly growing* and *so fast as to* are wordy and awkward.
- D *Concern with* is not the correct idiom; the phrase *possibility of the economy growing fast enough so as to* is wordy and awkward.
- E *Concern with* is not the correct idiom; *possibility* and *possibly* are unnecessarily and awkwardly repetitive.

The correct answer is B.

SC01704

215. Japanese researchers are producing a series of robots that can identify human facial expressions, to which they will then respond; their goal is primarily creating a robot that will empathize with us.

- (A) expressions, to which they will then respond; their goal is primarily creating
- (B) expressions, then responding to them; primarily to create
- (C) expressions and then respond to them; the researchers' primary goal is to create
- (D) expressions as well as giving a response to them; their primary goal is creation of
- (E) expressions and responding to them; primarily, the researchers' goal is creating

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

This sentence uses two complete clauses to present two main topics—the capabilities of robots designed by Japanese researchers and the goal that motivates this design. The first clause most effectively uses a succession of parallel verbs to describe what the robots can do: *identify* expressions and *respond* to them. Beginning the second clause with the possessive pronoun *their* creates ambiguity, because it is not clear whether the pronoun refers to the robots or the researchers.

- A The pronouns *they* and *their* in this version of the sentence are ambiguous, possibly referring to both researchers and robots.
- B The phrase *then responding to them* should be converted to a main verb to parallel *identify* and to make clear that the robots can do these two things. The semicolon should be followed by a complete clause, but in this version of the sentence it is followed by an adverbial phrase.
- C **Correct.** The wording is concise and unambiguous.
- D The phrase *as well as giving a response to them* is wordy; the pronoun *their* is ambiguous.
- E *Responding* is the wrong verb form—it should be an infinitive to parallel *identify*.

The correct answer is C.

SC03724

216. Despite a growing population, in 1998 the United States used 38 billion fewer gallons of water a day when comparing it to the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier.

- (A) day when comparing it to the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier
- (B) day than it did during the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier
- (C) day than were used almost 20 years earlier, which had been the all-time high consumption
- (D) day, compared to almost 20 years earlier, that having been the all-time high consumption
- (E) day, which is in comparison to the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier

Rhetorical construction; Logical predication

When making a direct comparison (in this case, with *fewer*), the standard way to express the object of comparison is with *than*. Here, the sentence uses *fewer . . . when comparing it to*, which not only is unidiomatic, but also creates an illogical predication: *United States* is the only possible subject for the verb *comparing* (surely the sentence doesn't mean to say the United States used 38 billion fewer gallons at the time it was making some comparison!). Also, what is the antecedent of *it* here? Grammatically, there is no clear candidate.

- A Instead of using *fewer . . . than*, this version uses the unidiomatic *fewer . . . when comparing it to*, which also introduces a logical predication problem.
- B **Correct.** *Fewer than* is correct, and this version of the sentence has no logical predication problems.
- C This has a logical predication problem: because the relative clause beginning with *which* immediately follows *almost 20 years earlier*, it seems that the time period is being described as having been *the all-time high consumption*.
- D *Fewer than* is preferable to *fewer . . . compared to*; also, there is a logical predication problem: because the phrase beginning with *that* immediately follows *almost 20 years earlier*, it seems that the time period is being described as having been *the all-time high consumption*.
- E This is awkwardly and confusingly worded. Rather than comparing the United States' water usage in 1998 to its water usage nearly 20 years earlier, this appears illogically to compare the United States' water usage in 1998 to a period of time, namely *the period of all-time highest consumption almost 20 years earlier*.

The correct answer is B.

SC01600

217. A federal advisory panel proposes expanding a national computerized file to permit law-enforcement agencies to track people under criminal investigation but have not yet been charged.

- (A) under criminal investigation but
- (B) under criminal investigation, but who
- (C) under criminal investigation, but they
- (D) who are under criminal investigation, but they
- (E) who are under criminal investigation but

Parallelism; Grammatical construction

The sentence describes a proposal to allow law-enforcement agencies to track people who have not been charged with a crime but are under investigation. However, the description of the group is flawed, in that the two defining properties—not having been charged; being under investigation—are not expressed in a parallel form: the verb *have been charged* lacks a grammatically correct subject.

- A The adjectival phrase *under criminal investigation*, modifying *people*, is nonparallel to *have not yet been charged*; the latter is a mere sentence fragment.
- B The required parallelism is lacking here. The word *but* introduces a sentence fragment.
- C The required parallelism is lacking here: we have an adjectival phrase, and the coordinate conjunction *but* introducing what appears to be an independent clause. It is unclear what the antecedent of the pronoun *they* is.
- D The required parallelism is lacking here: we have a relative clause, followed by the coordinate conjunction *but* introducing what appears to be an independent clause. It is structurally unclear what the antecedent of the pronoun *they* is.
- E **Correct.** The relative pronoun *who* has *people* as its antecedent and introduces a complex relative clause containing two parallel verbal phrases correctly coordinated with the conjunction *but*.

The correct answer is E.

SC03779

218. Analysts believe that whereas bad decisions by elected leaders can certainly hurt the economy, no administration can really be said to control or manage all of the complex and interrelated forces that determine the nation's economic strength.

- (A) no administration can really be said to control
- (B) no administration can be said that it really controls
- (C) that no administration can really be said to control
- (D) that no administration can really be said that it controls
- (E) that it cannot be said that any administration really controls

Grammatical construction; Verb form

The point of this sentence is to explain analysts' common two-part belief about the limited power of elected officials to control a national economy. It presents this belief as the direct object in the main clause, *[a]nalysts believe*, and introduces it with the subordinating conjunction *that*, which governs both the positive dependent clause (*decisions . . . can hurt*) introduced by *whereas*, and the subsequent negative independent clause (*no administration can . . . be said to control . . .*). The additional appearances of *that* in some of the versions of the sentence are ungrammatical.

- A** **Correct.** Introduced by the subordinating conjunction *that*, the complex clause succinctly contrasts leaders' powers to hurt the economy with their inability to control all economic forces.
- B** The idiom *can be said to* would be appropriate, but *no administration can be said that it* is ungrammatical.
- C** The repetition of *that* is ungrammatical, since both clauses are governed by the initial appearance of *that* after *[a]nalysts believe*.
- D** This version of the sentence combines the mistakes described in (B) with those described in (C).

- E** The repetition of *that* is ungrammatical, since both clauses are governed by the first appearance of *that*. The appearance of *it* makes the sentence unnecessarily wordy and convoluted.

The correct answer is A.

SC03146

219. Nearly unrivaled in their biological diversity, coral reefs provide a host of benefits that includes the supply of protein for people, protecting shorelines, and they contain biochemical sources for new life-saving medicines.
- (A) coral reefs provide a host of benefits that includes the supply of protein for people, protecting shorelines,
 - (B) coral reefs provide a host of benefits: they supply people with protein, they protect the shorelines,
 - (C) coral reefs provide a host of benefits that include supplying protein for people, as well as shoreline protection,
 - (D) a coral reef provides a host of benefits; they supply protein for people, the protecting of shorelines,
 - (E) a coral reef provides a host of benefits, including protein for people, protecting shorelines,

Parallelism; Agreement

When listing several items (here, benefits of coral reefs), they should be expressed in a parallel way, such as by using all noun phrases or all full clauses. Also, pronoun subjects in one clause that refer to the subject of a preceding clause should agree in number.

- A** The three items after *includes* are not parallel (*the supply; protecting shorelines; they contain*).
- B** **Correct.** The three items after *benefits* are parallel (*they supply; they protect; they contain*). The subject of the next clause (*they*) is correctly plural given that its antecedent is *coral reefs*.
- C** The three items after *include* are not parallel: *supplying, shoreline protection, they contain*.
- D** The three items after *benefits* are not parallel (*they supply; the protecting of; they contain*), and in the next clause they is the incorrect

pronoun given that the antecedent here is the singular *a coral reef*.

- E The three items after *benefits* are not parallel (*protein; protecting; they contain*), and in the next clause *they* is the incorrect pronoun given that the antecedent here is the singular *a coral reef*.

The correct answer is B.

SC12367

220. Literacy opened up entire realms of verifiable knowledge to ordinary men and women having been previously considered incapable of discerning truth for themselves.

- (A) having been previously considered incapable of discerning truth for themselves
- (B) who had previously been considered incapable of discerning truth for themselves
- (C) previously considered incapable of discerning truth for himself or herself
- (D) of whom it had previously been considered they were incapable of discerning truth for themselves
- (E) who had previously been considered incapable of discerning truth for himself or herself

Rhetorical construction; Agreement

The phrase beginning with *having been* modifies the noun phrase *ordinary men and women*. In cases like this, it is best to use a full relative clause, starting with *that* or a relative pronoun such as *which* or *who*, instead of a clause with the -*ing* form of the verb. Also, *themselves* is the correct form of a reflexive pronoun to refer back to the plural noun phrase *ordinary men and women*.

- A A phrase starting with the -*ing* verb form, instead of with *that* or *who*, is awkward in this context.
- B **Correct.** A relative clause correctly beginning with *who* is used, and *themselves* is the correct form for the reflexive pronoun.
- C *Himself or herself* is not the correct form for the plural reflexive pronoun.
- D Though the relative and reflexive pronouns are grammatically correct, the relative clause

(the clause that starts with *of whom*) is unnecessarily long and complex.

- E *Himself or herself* is not the correct form for the plural reflexive pronoun.

The correct answer is B.

SC01915

221. In early Mesopotamian civilization, castor oil served not only as a laxative, but also a skin-softening lotion and it was a construction lubricant for sliding giant stone blocks over wooden rollers.

- (A) not only as a laxative, but also a skin-softening lotion and it was a construction
- (B) as not only a laxative, but also a skin-softening lotion, and it was a construction
- (C) not only as a laxative but also as a skin-softening lotion and as a construction
- (D) as not only a laxative but as a skin-softening lotion and in construction, as a
- (E) not only as a laxative, but a skin-softening lotion and in construction, a

Parallelism; Rhetorical construction

The sentence indicates three uses for castor oil. The first two are correctly joined using the correlative conjunction *not only, but also*. However, the three uses are not listed in parallel grammatical form. The sentence would be better with three adverb phrases beginning with *as*: *as a laxative, as a skin-softening lotion, and as a construction lubricant*.

- A The three uses for castor oil are not listed in parallel grammatical form since the first is an adverb phrase, the second is a noun phrase, and the third is an independent clause, which is ungrammatically conjoined to the preceding part of the sentence without an intervening comma.
- B The three uses for castor oil are not listed in parallel grammatical form since the first two are noun phrases and the third is an independent clause.

- C** **Correct.** The three uses for castor oil are listed as parallel adverb phrases, and the correlative conjunction *not only, but also* is constructed correctly.
- D** The three uses for castor oil are not listed in parallel grammatical form. The placing of *not only* after *as* is incorrect; the phrase *in construction* is also incorrectly placed.
- E** The word *as* is missing from the second and third elements of the correlative conjunction, so the three uses for castor oil are not listed correctly in parallel grammatical form.

The correct answer is C.

SC06935

222. An analysis of tree bark all over the globe shows that chemical insecticides have often spread thousands of miles from where they were originally used.

- (A) that chemical insecticides have often spread thousands of miles from where they were originally used
- (B) that chemical insecticides have spread, often thousands of miles from their original use
- (C) chemical insecticides, having often spread thousands of miles from where they were used originally
- (D) chemical insecticides, often spreading thousands of miles from where their original use
- (E) chemical insecticides, often spreading thousands of miles from where they were originally used

Grammatical construction; Diction

To express the intended meaning, *shows* can be followed by a clause beginning with *that*. Another option would be to use the special clause type *show + noun phrase + ing verb form*, such as *show chemical insecticides spreading many miles*—but there should be no pause in the middle of a

construction of this latter type. If there is such a pause, then *chemical insecticides* becomes the direct object of *show*, and the following verb-*ing* phrase is an awkward attempt at a modifier of this object. Note also that if something spreads, it spreads from a place or an entity; other ways of expressing this idea in the answer choices are awkward or illogical. Verbs without overt subjects (such as *spreading here*) normally are to be understood as having the same subject as the main clause.

- A** **Correct.** *Show* is correctly followed by a *that* clause, and a place is correctly identified (*from where*) as the source of the spread.
- B** *Show* is followed by a *that* clause, but insecticides are illogically said to have spread from a use, rather than from a place.
- C** *Show* can sometimes take a direct object (here, *chemical insecticides*). However, the construction used here makes *analysis* the subject of *having*. Thus it appears to say, illogically, that the analysis shows that the analysis itself has spread from where the insecticides were used.
- D** *Show* can sometimes take a direct object (here, *chemical insecticides*). However, the construction used here makes *analysis* the subject of *spreading*. Thus, it appears to say, illogically, that the analysis shows that the analysis itself often spreads from where the insecticides were used. Also, *where their original use* is grammatically incorrect (*where they were originally used* is a correct alternative).
- E** *Show* can sometimes take a direct object (here, *chemical insecticides*). However, the construction used here makes *analysis* the subject of *spreading*. Thus, it appears to say, illogically, that the analysis shows that the analysis itself often spreads from where the insecticides were used.

The correct answer is A.

SC02241

223. According to the Economic Development Corporation of Los Angeles County, if one were to count the Los Angeles metropolitan area as a separate nation, it would have the world's eleventh largest gross national product, that is bigger than that of Australia, Mexico, or the Netherlands.

- (A) if one were to count the Los Angeles metropolitan area as a separate nation, it would have the world's eleventh largest gross national product, that is
- (B) if the Los Angeles metropolitan area is counted as a separate nation, it has the world's eleventh largest gross national product, that being
- (C) if the Los Angeles metropolitan area were a separate nation, it would have the world's eleventh largest gross national product,

- (D) were the Los Angeles metropolitan area a separate nation, it will have the world's eleventh largest gross national product, which is
- (E) when the Los Angeles metropolitan area is counted as a separate nation, it has the world's eleventh largest gross national product, thus

Diction; Verb form

The point of this sentence is to explain the implications of a contrary-to-fact state of affairs (Los Angeles metropolitan area as a nation). The subjunctive verb form is needed (*were . . . would have*). To attribute this proposed state of affairs to the calculations of an anonymous agent (*one*) causes unnecessary wordiness. The implication of the hypothetical situation is that the Los Angeles area would have the eleventh-largest gross national product (GNP) in the world, a GNP that is further described as larger than the GNP of any of three nations named. This descriptive information is most efficiently presented as a terminal adjective phrase.

- A By introducing the subject *one*, the opening clause becomes unnecessarily wordy and indirect. The relative clause at the end of the sentence causes additional wordiness. The present indicative verb form *is* in the phrase *that is bigger than . . .* is inconsistent with the conditional context established earlier in the sentence (*were . . . would*). Since Los Angeles is not a nation, its *national* product is purely hypothetical and contrary to fact.
- B Because the *if* clause introduces a situation that is contrary to fact, the verbs *is counted* and *has* should be subjunctive and conditional, respectively (*were counted* and *would have*). The relative pronoun phrase *that being* is awkward, wordy, and repetitive.
- C **Correct.** The subjunctive mood of the verbs is appropriate to the contrary-to-fact situation being described, and the terminal adjective phrase without an introductory relative pronoun is an appropriate way of making the comparison among GNPs.
- D Although the opening subjunctive verb is appropriate, it must be followed by a conditional verb in the main clause; the relative clause at the end of the

sentence, beginning with *which is*, is indirect and wordy. As in (A), *is* is not the most appropriate verb form to express a counterfactual condition.

- E The verbs *is counted . . . has* are incorrect for describing a contrary-to-fact situation. Beginning the final adjective phrase with the word *thus* makes the relationship of the phrase to the rest of the sentence unclear.

The correct answer is C.

SC02444

224. According to some economists, the July decrease in unemployment so that it was the lowest in two years suggests that the gradual improvement in the job market is continuing.

- (A) so that it was the lowest in two years
 (B) so that it was the lowest two-year rate
 (C) to what would be the lowest in two years
 (D) to a two-year low level
 (E) to the lowest level in two years

Idiom; Rhetorical construction

In this sentence, *decrease* is used as a noun and cannot grammatically be modified by the adverbial *so that*. The simple prepositional phrase *to the lowest level in two years* is a precise, concise alternative.

- A The use of *so that it was* to modify a noun is ungrammatical, and *it* could refer to either *decrease* or *unemployment*.
- B The use of *so that it was* to modify a noun is ungrammatical. *It* could refer to either *decrease* or *unemployment*, and the word *rate* is unclear.
- C Use of the conditional *would* to state a fact is nonstandard; *lowest* should refer to a noun such as *level*.
- D The meaning of *to a two-year low level* is unclear, and the phrase is unidiomatic.
- E **Correct.** This sentence uses a clear, simple phrase that conveys an unambiguous meaning.

The correct answer is E.

SC04215

225. Developed by Pennsylvania's Palatine Germans about 1750, Conestoga wagons, with high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie and they had a floor curved upward on either end so as to prevent cargo from shifting on steep grades.
- (A) wagons, with high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie and they had a floor curved upward on either end so as to prevent
- (B) wagons, with high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie, and with a floor that was curved upward at both ends to prevent
- (C) wagons, which had high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie, and floors curved upward on their ends so that they prevented
- (D) wagons had high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie, and a floor that was curved upward at both ends to prevent
- (E) wagons had high wheels capable of crossing rutted roads, muddy flats, and the nonroads of the prairie and floors curving upward at their ends so that it prevented

Logical predication; Parallelism; Grammatical construction

The main subject of this sentence is *Conestoga wagons* and the main verb is *had*. The opening participial phrase describes the origin of the wagons, and the rest of the sentence describes the features they possessed. These features must be presented in parallel form as objects of the verb *had*. The sentence first presented is a fragment; the prepositional phrase *with . . .* leaves the subject *Conestoga wagons* without a verb. When the verb *had* finally appears, a new subject *they* has been unnecessarily introduced.

- A The subject *wagons* is without a verb. The introduction of a new subject *they* is unnecessary. Given the absence of *had* after *wagons* and of a comma after *prairie*, it is also ungrammatical.
- B This version of the sentence has no main verb for the subject *wagons*.

- C As in (A) and (B), this version of the sentence fails to provide a main verb for the subject *wagons*.
- D **Correct.** The main verb *had* completes the subject *wagons* and accommodates the two direct objects, *wheels* and *a floor*. The comma after *prairie* helps to clarify that *floors* is a direct object of *had*, parallel with *high wheels*.
- E The referent for *it* is ambiguous.

The correct answer is D.

SC01002

226. The reason many people consider the Mediterranean island to be ungovernable is because that the inhabitants long ago learned to distrust and neutralize all written laws.
- (A) is because that the inhabitants long ago learned to distrust and neutralize
- (B) is the inhabitants long ago learned distrusting and neutralizing
- (C) was because of the inhabitants long ago learning to distrust and to be neutralizing
- (D) is that the inhabitants long ago learned to distrust and to neutralize
- (E) was on account of the inhabitants long ago learning to distrust and neutralize

Verb form; Grammatical construction

The sentence provides a reason for why “many people” consider a certain Mediterranean island to be “ungovernable.” It has the form *X is Y*, with *X* a noun phrase that refers to the reason in terms of what is being explained. *Y* provides the explanation.

- A This sentence has two words next to one another that would each, by itself, have the same function. Each of *because* and *that* could serve alone to introduce the explanation and is provided by portion *Y*. Furthermore, in addition to introducing a redundancy, the two words together make the sentence ungrammatical. Removing any one of these words would resolve this issue.
- B If the word *that* were inserted between *is* and *the*, then it would be more immediately clear, when reading this sentence, where the explanation begins (immediately after the

- word *that*). Furthermore, *learned distrusting and neutralizing all written laws* should be *learned to distrust and to neutralize all written laws*.
- C In this sentence, the verb *consider* needs to agree with *was*. As it stands, *consider* pertains to the present while *was* pertains to the past.
- D **Correct.** This sentence follows recommendations made in connection with sentence A.
- E As in sentence C, the verb *consider* needs to agree with *was*.

The correct answer is D.

SG03916

227. Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer fibers and is less likely to leave an unsightly scar.

- (A) Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer
- (B) Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut having been made along these so-called Langer's lines severs less
- (C) Because the collagen fibers in skin line up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut made along these so-called Langer's lines severs fewer
- (D) With the collagen fibers in skin lining up in the direction of tension, surgical cuts made along these so-called Langer's lines sever less
- (E) With the collagen fibers in skin lining up in the direction of tension, a surgical cut made along these so-called Langer's lines sever fewer

Agreement; Diction

This sentence explains a causal connection between the alignment of collagen fibers and the impact of a particular type of surgical cut. *Because* is appropriate to express that causal relationship. The singular verb in the phrase *is less likely to leave* requires a singular subject (*cut*) and must be coordinated with another singular verb (*severs*). Because *fibers* are countable, the correct modifier is *fewer* rather than *less*.

- A The plural subject *cuts* does not agree with the singular verb *is*.
- B The verb form *having been made* is inconsistent with the present tense verb *severs*; *less* inappropriately modifies countable *fibers*.
- C **Correct.** The adverbial conjunction *because* accurately captures the causal relationship expressed by the sentence. The singular subject *cut* agrees with the singular verbs *severs* and *is*, and *fewer* appropriately modifies countable *fibers*.
- D The preposition *with* does not capture the causal relationship expressed by the sentence; the plural subject *cuts* does not agree with the singular verbs (*severs* and *is*); and *less* is an inappropriate modifier for countable *fibers*.
- E As in (D), the preposition *with* fails to capture the causal relationship between alignment of fibers and scarring. The plural verb *sever* does not agree with the singular subject *cut* and the subsequent singular verb *is*.

The correct answer is C.

SG01639

228. The completion in 1925 of the Holland Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, which permitted 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour and was hailed as the decade's \$48 million engineering masterpiece.

- (A) Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, which permitted 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour and
- (B) Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways and permitting 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour, it
- (C) Tunnel, linking Manhattan with New Jersey's highways and permitting 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour,
- (D) Tunnel linked Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, which permitted 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour and
- (E) Tunnel linked Manhattan with New Jersey's highways, permitting 2,000 cars to pass through each tube every hour,

Grammatical construction; Parallelism

The sentence (not a properly grammatical sentence as it stands) reports that the completion of the Holland Tunnel was hailed as an engineering masterpiece. Parenthetically, it seeks to describe characteristics of the tunnel that made it useful and perhaps help explain its enthusiastic reception. Questions to consider include: what is the proper antecedent of the relative pronoun *which*? And how would the tunnel's two major characteristics be best described?

- A The relative pronoun *which* is adjacent to *New Jersey's highways*, but contextually, *the completion of the Holland Tunnel* (or perhaps *the Holland Tunnel*) seems to be the pronoun's antecedent. The relative clause has two verbal phrases *permitted . . . and was hailed . . .* coordinated with *and*. However, there is no properly grammatical sentence here, since there is no independent clause.
- B The participial phrases *linking . . . highways* and *permitting . . . hour* are parallel and coordinated by *and*. This portion is correct and describes two characteristics of the tunnel. However, the addition of the pronoun *it* makes what precedes it into a mere sentence fragment, so there is no properly grammatical sentence here.
- C **Correct.** The complex phrase *linking . . . hour* correctly exhibits parallelism between two participial phrases and modifies *the Holland Tunnel*. The phrase functions parenthetically, and the sentence as a whole has a coherent grammatical structure.
- D The antecedent of the relative pronoun *which* is unclear and makes this version fail. Is it *New Jersey's highways*, the whole preceding clause, or *the completion of the Holland Tunnel*? The relative pronoun is the subject both of *permitted* and of *was hailed* in the complex relative clause and must have the same antecedent in both cases. As the subject of *was hailed*, the pronoun's antecedent is *the completion of the Holland Tunnel*. As the subject of *permitted*, the pronoun cannot grammatically have that as its antecedent. Thus the complex relative clause *which permitted . . . masterpiece* is grammatically incoherent.

- E This version makes *was hailed . . . masterpiece* into a mere sentence fragment, not properly coordinated with the remainder of the sentence.

The correct answer is C.

SC06699

229. In A.D. 391, resulting from the destruction of the largest library of the ancient world at Alexandria, later generations lost all but the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* among Greek epics, most of the poetry of Pindar and Sappho, and dozens of plays by Aeschylus and Euripides.

- (A) resulting from the destruction of the largest library of the ancient world at Alexandria,
- (B) the destroying of the largest library of the ancient world at Alexandria resulted and
- (C) because of the result of the destruction of the library at Alexandria, the largest of the ancient world,
- (D) as a result of the destruction of the library at Alexandria, the largest of the ancient world,
- (E) Alexandria's largest library of the ancient world was destroyed, and the result was

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction; Grammatical construction

Because it is introduced by a participle, the phrase that begins *resulting from* illogically modifies *later generations*. Substituting the idiom *as a result of* for *resulting from* corrects this error. *The largest library of the ancient world at Alexandria* is both cumbersome and ambiguous because it suggests that the *ancient world* was located *at* (and only at) *Alexandria*. This problem is best corrected by breaking the series of phrases into two distinct parts: *the library at Alexandria, the largest of the ancient world*. Here, the second phrase clearly modifies the first.

- A *Resulting from* illogically modifies *later generations*. The series of prepositional phrases is confusing and ambiguous.
- B *The destroying of* is wordy and awkward. *And* creates a second main clause, which would need to be appropriately punctuated with a comma before *and*.
- C *Because of the result of* is redundant.

- D **Correct.** *As a result of* begins the phrase clearly and correctly in this sentence; the *library* rather than the *ancient world* is properly located at *Alexandria*; *the largest of the ancient world* correctly modifies *library*.
- E *Alexandria's largest library of the ancient world* is an illogical reference. *The result was* must be followed by *that*.

The correct answer is D.

SC02399

230. The nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote the only eyewitness account of the great eruption of Vesuvius in two letters to the historian Tacitus.
- (A) The nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote the only eyewitness account of the great eruption of Vesuvius in two letters to the historian Tacitus.
- (B) To the historian Tacitus, the nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote two letters, being the only eyewitness accounts of the great eruption of Vesuvius.
- (C) The only eyewitness account is in two letters by the nephew of Pliny the Elder writing to the historian Tacitus an account of the great eruption of Vesuvius.
- (D) Writing the only eyewitness account, Pliny the Elder's nephew accounted for the great eruption of Vesuvius in two letters to the historian Tacitus.
- (E) In two letters to the historian Tacitus, the nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote the only eyewitness account of the great eruption of Vesuvius.

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The challenge in this sentence lies in the correct placement of a prepositional phrase. In the original version, the placement of *in two letters to the historian Tacitus* appears to suggest that Vesuvius erupted in the letters themselves. Placing the phrase at the beginning of the sentence solves the problem.

- A The sentence suggests that the eruption of Vesuvius took place in the letters themselves.

- B Beginning the sentence with *to the historian Tacitus* is clumsy and unclear. The verb phrase *being . . .* seems illogically to modify *the nephew*, creating the awkward suggestion that *the nephew was the eyewitness accounts*.
- C The sentence's meaning is unclear due to an extended sequence of prepositional phrases.
- D *An account* is a narrative record; *to account for* means to be the cause of. Using both in the same sentence is confusing and here suggests that the nephew caused the eruption. The sentence also suggests that the eruption of Vesuvius took place in the letters themselves.
- E **Correct.** The placement of the prepositional phrase at the beginning of the sentence clarifies the meaning of the sentence; the construction of the rest of the sentence is straightforward.

The correct answer is E.

SC00980

231. Nearly two tons of nuclear-reactor fuel have already been put into orbit around the Earth, and the chances of a collision involving such material increase greatly as the amount of both space debris and satellites continue to rise.
- (A) as the amount of both space debris and satellites continue to rise
- (B) as the rise continues in both the amount of satellites and space debris
- (C) as the amount of space debris and the number of satellites continue to rise
- (D) with the continually increasing amount of space debris and the number of satellites
- (E) with the amount of space debris continuing to increase along with the number of satellites

Diction; Rhetorical construction

This sentence opens with a main clause stating a condition (two tons of nuclear-reactor fuel orbiting the Earth) and follows this with a second main clause stating possible consequences of combining this condition (amount of space debris) with a second condition (rising number of satellites). Because debris is not a countable noun, it must be described as an *amount*; satellites are countable, so they must be referred to as a *number*, not an *amount*.

- A *Amount* is an inappropriate descriptor for satellites.
- B *Amount* is an inappropriate descriptor for satellites. *Both* should be followed by two nouns, but here it is followed by only one, so the comparison is grammatically incorrect.
- C **Correct.** The sentence is unambiguous and grammatically correct and uses *amount* and *number* correctly.
- D By attaching the adjective *increasing* only to *amount of space debris*, the sentence fails to indicate that the number of satellites is also growing. This leaves the function of *and the number of satellites* uncertain and confusing.
- E This version of the sentence is indirect, wordy, and confusing.

The correct answer is

C. SC03315

232. The World Wildlife Fund has declared that global warming, a phenomenon that most scientists agree is caused by human beings' burning of fossil fuels, will create havoc among migratory birds by harming their habitats as a result of altering the environment.

- (A) by harming their habitats as a result of altering the environment
- (B) by altering the environment to the extent of it harming their habitats
- (C) by altering the environment in ways harmful to their habitats
- (D) from the fact that their habitats will be harmed by the environment being altered
- (E) from the fact that the environment will be altered and this will harm their habitats

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The sentence describes a declaration by the World Wildlife Fund that global warming will "create havoc" among migratory birds in certain respects, which are specified in the underlined portion. The underlined portion thus needs to specify, in a clear and focused fashion, how, according to the World Wildlife Fund, global warming will create havoc for the birds.

- A The description in this option of the effects of global warming among migratory birds is convoluted and confusing. First, the sentence as written does not specify who or what is altering the environment. Second, given the reasonable guess that it is global warming that is or will harm the environment, the order of the listing of the causal elements is confusing. According to the sentence, global warming will alter the environment and then this altering will harm the habitat of birds. However, although this sentence accurately describes what causes what, the elements are listed in an order that does not correspond to the order of causation ("global warming" is followed by "harming the habitats," which is followed by "altering the environment").
- B This sentence uses the word *extent*, followed by a condition, *it harming their habitats*, intended to imply a certain level of *extent*. The extent is great enough to harm the habitat of the birds. However, as worded, the sentence does not provide a clear condition on the level of extent. For example, in *it harming their habitat*, it is not clear what *it* refers to. The word *it* could refer to the environment or to the extent of change to the environment.
- C **Correct.** This sentence clearly specifies how global warming will "create havoc" for the birds.
- D This sentence, like sentence A, is convoluted and confusing, in part because, when reading the sentence, it is unnecessarily difficult to understand what is supposed to be causing what. Note that, although the meaning of this option is more or less the same as that of sentence C, this sentence, sentence D, is much more difficult to process.
- E This sentence is unnecessarily wordy and difficult to process. Sentence C is a much better choice.

The correct answer is C.

SC05244

233. Tropical bats play an important role in the rain forest ecosystem, aiding in the dispersal of cashew, date, and fig seeds; pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly help the producing of tequila by pollinating agave plants.

- (A) pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly help the producing of
- (B) pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly helping to produce
- (C) pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and they indirectly help to produce
- (D) they pollinate banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; and indirectly help producing
- (E) they pollinate banana, breadfruit, and mango trees; indirectly helping the producing of

Parallelism; Diction

The sentence indicates three ways in which tropical bats play an important role in the rainforest ecosystem, but it does not express these three ways by using appropriately parallel grammatical constructions. The first two ways mentioned—*aiding in the dispersal of cashew, date, and fig seeds* and *pollinating banana, breadfruit, and mango trees*—are expressed using participial phrases (which function as adjectives), whereas the third is expressed as part of a compound predicate—*and indirectly help the producing of tequila by pollinating agave plants* (also note that *the producing of* involves a poor choice of words, and would be better expressed by writing *to produce* or perhaps *with the production of*).

- A The phrases beginning with *aiding*, *pollinating*, and *help* are not appropriately parallel grammatical constructions. Also *the producing of* is awkward and would be better worded as *to produce* or *with the production of*.
- B **Correct.** This sentence has an appropriate grammatical parallelism and involves no questionable word choices.
- C The construction of the sentence is not appropriately parallel.
- D The construction of the sentence is not appropriately parallel and *producing* is a questionable choice of words (*to produce* would be better).

- E The construction of the sentence is not appropriately parallel and *the producing of* is a questionable choice of words (*to produce* or perhaps *with the production of* would be better).

The correct answer is B.

SC04346

234. A recent court decision has qualified a 1998 ruling that workers cannot be laid off if they have been given reason to believe that their jobs will be safe, provided that their performance remains satisfactory.

- (A) if they have been given reason to believe that their jobs will
- (B) if they are given reason for believing that their jobs would still
- (C) having been given reason for believing that their jobs would
- (D) having been given reason to believe their jobs to
- (E) given reason to believe that their jobs will still

Verb form; Idiom

This sentence asserts that a court decision has qualified a 1998 ruling. It then goes on to explain the series of conditions stipulated by that ruling: workers cannot be laid off if *they have been given* (prior) *reason to believe* that continued satisfactory job performance *will* (always) ensure that their jobs are safe. To express these complicated temporal relationships, the present tense passive verb *cannot be laid off* describes the assurance provided by the ruling; the present-perfect, passive verb describes the prior condition *have been given . . .*, and the future tense verb *will be* describes the outcome the workers can expect. The idiom *reason to believe* succinctly describes the assurance given to workers.

- A **Correct.** The sequence of conditions makes sense, and the idiom is correct.
- B The present tense *are given* fails to clarify that the assurance of job security must precede the workers' confidence that they cannot be laid off. The phrase *reason for believing* (singular, with no article) is unidiomatic and in this context is inappropriate.

- C This version appears to be presenting *having been given reason . . .* as a restrictive modifier of *laid off*. This makes the sentence very awkward and hard to make sense of, and it obscures the requisite nature of the condition (that workers had been given prior reason to think their jobs were safe). *Reason for believing* is unidiomatic.
- D Without a comma after *off*, it is unclear what *having been given reason . . .* modifies; the string of infinitive phrases is awkward and confusing.
- E As in (D), it is unclear what the participial phrase (in this case, *given reason to believe*) is supposed to modify.

The correct answer is

A. SC02614

235. Thomas Eakins' powerful style and his choices of subject—the advances in modern surgery, the discipline of sport, the strains of individuals in tension with society or even with themselves—was as disturbing to his own time as it is compelling for ours.
- (A) was as disturbing to his own time as it is
 (B) were as disturbing to his own time as they are
 (C) has been as disturbing in his own time as they are
 (D) had been as disturbing in his own time as it was
 (E) have been as disturbing in his own time as

Agreement; Verb form

The compound subject of this sentence, *style and choices*, is followed by singular verbs, *was* and *is*, and a singular pronoun, *it*. The compound subject requires the plural verbs *were* and *are* and the plural pronoun *they*.

- A The verbs and pronoun are singular, but the subject is plural.
 B **Correct.** Verbs (*were, are*) and pronoun (*they*) agree with the plural subject in this sentence.
 C *Has been* is singular and illogically indicates that Eakins' time continues today.
 D *Had been* indicates a time anterior to some other past time; *it was* is singular and the wrong tense.

- E *Have been* illogically indicates that Eakins' time continues into the present day.

The correct answer is B.

SC01492

236. As well as heat and light, the sun is the source of a continuous stream of atomic particles known as the solar wind.

- (A) As well as heat and light, the sun is the source of a continuous stream
 (B) Besides heat and light, also the sun is the source of a continuous stream
 (C) Besides heat and light, the sun is also the source of a continuous streaming
 (D) The sun is the source not only of heat and light, but also of a continuous stream
 (E) The sun is the source of not only heat and light but, as well, of a continuous streaming

Idiom; Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The underlined section must be revised to eliminate modification errors and to clarify meaning by using parallel construction. *As well as heat and light* cannot logically modify the sun, as grammar requires; the sentence seems to suggest that heat, light, and the sun are the source of the solar wind. The sentence can be improved by employing the construction *not only x . . . but also y*; *x* and *y* should be parallel.

- A *As well as heat and light* is misplaced and potentially confusing.
 B *Besides heat and light* is confusing. The word order of *also the sun* is awkward.
 C *Besides heat and light* is unclear. *Streaming* should be the more straightforward *stream*.
 D **Correct.** This sentence uses the *not only . . . but also* construction to solve the modification error; *of heat and light* is parallel to *of a continuous stream*.
 E *As well* is incorrect in the *not only . . . but also* construction. *Heat and light* is not parallel to *of a continuous streaming*. *Streaming* should be the more straightforward *stream*.

The correct answer is D.

SC04874

237. Of all the record companies involved in early jazz, the three most prominent were Columbia, Victor, and OKeah.

- (A) Of all the record companies involved in early jazz, the three most prominent were Columbia, Victor, and OKeah.
- (B) Three most prominent record companies of all the ones that were involved in early jazz were Columbia, Victor, and OKeah.
- (C) Columbia, Victor, and OKeah were, of all the record companies involved in early jazz, the three of them that were most prominent.
- (D) Columbia, Victor, and OKeah were three most prominent of all the record companies involved in early jazz.
- (E) Out of all the record companies that were involved in early jazz, three of them that were the most prominent were Columbia, Victor, and OKeah.

Diction; Rhetorical construction

This sentence aims to emphasize the special prominence of just three specific companies, as opposed to all other companies. Where *three most prominent companies* is not preceded by a definite article, it is unidiomatic. To indicate that these three were more prominent than any others, it should say *the three most prominent companies*. If the intention were, instead, to indicate that these companies were merely among a number of highly prominent ones, it should say *three of the most prominent companies*. Also, in general, one should avoid relative clause constructions when simple adjectives can express the same idea more simply.

- A **Correct.** *The three . . .* is used, and *prominent* modifies the understood *companies* in a concise way.
- B *The* is omitted before *three*, and *of all the ones that were involved* is inferior to a simpler expression such as *of all the ones involved*.
- C *The three of them that were most prominent* is long and awkward; *the three most prominent* is shorter and simpler.
- D *The* is omitted before *three*.

- E Not only is *the* omitted, but *three of them that were the most prominent* is too long and complex, compared to *the three most prominent*.

The correct answer is A.

SC02370

238. Analysts blamed May's sluggish retail sales on unexciting merchandise as well as the weather, colder and wetter than was usual in some regions, which slowed sales of barbecue grills and lawn furniture.

- (A) colder and wetter than was usual in some regions, which slowed
- (B) which was colder and wetter than usual in some regions, slowing
- (C) since it was colder and wetter than usually in some regions, which slowed
- (D) being colder and wetter than usually in some regions, slowing
- (E) having been colder and wetter than was usual in some regions and slowed

Logical predication; Diction

The sentence must clearly indicate that the inclement weather had slowed retail sales. Relative pronouns, such as *which*, should follow as closely as possible the nouns to which they refer. The adjective *usual*, rather than the adverb *usually*, is required when modifying a noun. The phrase *wetter than usual* is correct and concise.

- A The insertion of *was* is unnecessary and misleading. The referent of *which* is unclear, because *regions*, not *weather*, is the nearest noun.
- B **Correct.** This sentence is concise, correct, and idiomatic, and *which* has a clear referent, *the weather*.
- C With the linking verb *was*, the adjective *usual* is needed in place of the adverb *usually*. The referent of *which* is unclear because *regions*, not *weather*, is the nearest noun.
- D This construction is unclear and can be seen as unintentionally indicating that the analysts were colder and wetter. The adjective *usual* should be used instead of the adverb *usually* to modify the noun *weather*.

- E This construction is unclear and can be seen as unintentionally indicating that the analysts were colder and wetter. The insertion of *was* is unnecessary and misleading.

The correct answer is B.

SC05309

239. Twenty-two feet long and 10 feet in diameter, the AM-1 is one of the many new satellites that is a part of 15 years effort of subjecting the interactions of Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces to detailed scrutiny from space.

- (A) satellites that is a part of 15 years effort of subjecting the interactions of Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces
- (B) satellites, which is a part of a 15-year effort to subject how Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces interact
- (C) satellites, part of 15 years effort of subjecting how Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces are interacting
- (D) satellites that are part of an effort for 15 years that has subjected the interactions of Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces
- (E) satellites that are part of a 15-year effort to subject the interactions of Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces

Rhetorical construction; Logical predication

This sentence describes one satellite and identifies it as part of a larger space project designed to scrutinize Earth's ocean, land, and atmospheric interactions. The relative pronoun *that* refers to satellites, so it should be followed by a plural verb. The idiomatic expression is *effort to* rather than *effort of*. The correct adjectival term is *15-year* rather than *15 years*.

- A The relative pronoun *that* refers to satellites, so it should be followed by the plural verb *are*; *effort to* is the correct idiomatic expression; as an adjective, *15 years* becomes *15-year*.
- B In this version of the sentence, it is unclear what the relative pronoun *which* refers to—if it refers to *satellites*, it should be followed by a plural verb. Presenting the object of the verb *subject* as a phrase beginning with *how*

and ending with the verb *interact* produces a sentence that seems to be about how various conditions react to detailed scrutiny from space.

- C This sentence too seems to be making a nonsensical statement about how conditions are interacting to detailed scrutiny. It is not clear whether *part* refers to *satellites* or the *AM-1*.
- D This version is wordy and confusing because of the sequence of relative clauses beginning with *that*.
- E **Correct.** The sentence is clearly worded and logically coherent.

The correct answer is E.

SC01451

240. Since 1992, in an attempt to build up the Atlantic salmon population in each of the seven rivers in which salmon still spawn, state officials in Maine have stocked them with fry raised in hatcheries from eggs produced by wild fish found in that particular river.

- (A) them
- (B) the river
- (C) the rivers
- (D) each river
- (E) that river

Rhetorical construction; Diction

The meaning that the sentence was intended to convey is clear, but because the plural *them* is discordant with the singulars *each* and *that particular river*, the sentence fails to express its intended meaning coherently.

- A The earlier part of the sentence uses the phrase *each of the seven rivers*, so the plural *them* is inappropriate.
- B The phrase *the river* is singular but can refer only to a particular river, whereas *each* refers to the individual rivers in the group of seven.
- C The plural *the rivers* does not match the singular *each* in the earlier part of the sentence.

- D **Correct.** The phrase *each river* is consistent with the earlier reference to “each of the seven rivers.”
- E Although *that river* is singular, it can only refer to a particular river, but no particular river is referred to in the earlier part of the sentence.

The correct answer is D.

SC02382

241. On the tournament roster are listed several tennis students, most all of which play as good as their instructors.

- (A) most all of which play as good
 (B) most all of whom play as good
 (C) almost all of which play as well
 (D) almost all of whom play as good
 (E) almost all of whom play as well

Idiom; Diction

The standard formal, written word to express a quantity just short of everything is *almost*, not *most*. With animate entities such as people, *who(m)* is preferred over *which*. For all but a few exceptional verbs, adverbial modifiers (*well*) are correct as opposed to adjectival ones (*good*).

- A None of *most*, *which*, or *good* are the preferred forms.
 B *Most* and *good* are not the correct standard forms.
 C Although *almost* and *well* are fine, *which* is not.
 D Although *almost* and *whom* are fine, *good* is not.
 E **Correct.** All of *almost*, *whom*, and *well* are correct.

The correct answer is E.

SC07143

242. In 1974 a large area of the surface of Mercury was photographed from varying distances, which revealed a degree of cratering similar to that of the Moon's.

- (A) which revealed a degree of cratering similar to that of the Moon's
 (B) to reveal a degree of cratering similar to the Moon
 (C) revealing a degree of cratering similar to that of the Moon

- (D) and revealed cratering similar in degree to the Moon
 (E) that revealed cratering similar in degree to that of the Moon

Logical predication; Parallelism

This sentence's second clause, expressing what the imaging of Mercury showed, must be linked to the first clause in a grammatically correct way. This is best done either by an appositive relative clause (requiring the relative marker *which*), or by a clause starting with a nonfinite verb (*to reveal* or *revealing*). Also, whatever is said to be similar to a degree of cratering (on Mercury) should also be a degree of cratering (on the Moon); this must be expressed clearly.

- A The use of *which* is correct, but *that of the Moon's* is inferior to *that of the Moon*, because the possessive 's and *that of the* redundantly express the same idea. *That of the Moon's* appears to refer, illogically, to cratering of some unspecified thing that belongs to the Moon, not cratering of the Moon itself.
 B *To reveal* is acceptable, but *to the Moon* incorrectly compares a physical entity (the Moon) to a degree of cratering.
 C **Correct.** *Revealing* is a good way to start the second clause, and *to that of the Moon* properly contrasts two degrees of cratering.
 D *And* is incorrect as a way to introduce the second clause; *to the Moon* makes the wrong sort of comparison.
 E *That* is not the correct way to introduce an appositive relative clause. *That* is typically used restrictively, whereas the comma preceding it makes the ensuing clause nonrestrictive. This leaves the meaning unclear.

The correct answer is C.

SC04248

243. Under high pressure and intense heat, graphite, the most stable form of pure carbon, changes into the substance commonly referred to as diamond and remaining this way whether or not the heat and pressure are removed.

- (A) remaining this way whether or not
 (B) remaining like that even as

- (C) remaining as such whether or not
 (D) remains in this way although
 (E) remains thus even when

Parallelism; Rhetorical construction

This sentence tells of two things that happen to graphite under intense heat and pressure, and these are best presented as parallel predicates—*changes* and *remains*. *Thus* is the most economical way to say *this way, like that, as such, or in this way*.

- A *Remaining* should be a main verb, parallel with *changes*.
 B *Remaining* should be parallel with the other main verb, *changes*; *even as* suggests the meaning of *while*, which is not the intent of the sentence.
 C *Remaining* should be parallel with *changes*; *whether or not* is unnecessarily wordy.
 D *In this way* is unnecessarily wordy; *although* indicates that the heat and pressure are always or definitely removed, but this makes little sense in relation to the rest of the sentence.
 E **Correct.** The sentence coherently refers to the possibility of heat and pressure being removed. The sentence is clear and concise and properly uses parallel verb forms.

The correct answer is E.

SC05894

244. The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings that surpassed Wall Street's estimates and announced the first in a series of price cuts intended to increase sales further.

- (A) The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings that surpassed Wall Street's estimates and announced the first in a series of price cuts intended to increase sales further.
 (B) The report of the computer company showed strong second-quarter earnings, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, and they announced the first in a series of price cuts that they intend to increase sales further.
 (C) Surpassing Wall Street's estimates, the report of the computer company showed strong second-quarter earnings, and, for the purpose of increasing sales further, they announced the first in a series of price cuts.

- (D) The computer company reported strong second-quarter earnings, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, and announcing the first in a series of price cuts for the purpose of further increasing sales.
 (E) The computer company, surpassing Wall Street's estimates, reported strong second-quarter earnings, while announcing that to increase sales further there would be the first in a series of price cuts.

Logical predication; Idiom

The point of the sentence is to describe two actions of the computer company: its earnings report and its announcement of a price cut. To present this information most efficiently, the sentence requires a singular subject “the computer company” and compound verbs (*reported* and *announced*). To indicate that it is the company’s earnings and not the report that surpassed Wall Street’s estimates, the relative clause *that surpassed . . .* must immediately follow *earnings*.

- A **Correct.** The sentence makes clear that the company is responsible for reporting its earnings and announcing its sales plan; the placement of the relative clause *that surpassed . . .* makes it clear that the company’s earnings, not the report, surpassed Wall Street’s estimate.
 B Because this compound sentence opens the first clause with the subject *the report*, and relegates the computer company to the position of object of a preposition, the referent of the subject of the second clause *they* is obscured—particularly since *they* is plural and the intended referent *company* is singular. The function of *that* in the final clause is ambiguous and confusing.
 C The placement of the opening modifier *surpassing . . .* makes it modify *report* rather than *estimate*. The plural pronoun *they* does not agree with its intended antecedent, *company*.
 D *Surpassing . . .* and the parallel phrase *announcing . . .* both appear to modify the entire opening clause, representing parallel functions of the company’s report of its earnings.

- E The placement of *surpassing . . .* makes that phrase modify *reported . . .* The conjunction *while* indicates that the announcement and the report occurred simultaneously. The phrase *there would be . . .* introduces unnecessary wordiness and indirection.

The correct answer is A.

SC01562

245. Long overshadowed by the Maya and Aztec civilizations, historians are now exploring the more ancient Olmec culture for the legacy it had for succeeding Mesoamerican societies.

- (A) historians are now exploring the more ancient Olmec culture for the legacy it had for succeeding Mesoamerican societies
- (B) historians' exploration is now of the more ancient Olmec culture's legacy to the Mesoamerican societies succeeding them
- (C) the legacy of the more ancient Olmec culture to the Mesoamerican societies that succeeded them is what historians are now exploring
- (D) the more ancient Olmec culture is now being explored by historians for its legacy to succeeding Mesoamerican societies
- (E) the Olmec culture is more ancient and had a legacy to succeeding Mesoamerican societies that historians are now exploring

Logical predication; Idiom

The sentence notes that historians are exploring the contributions of the ancient Olmec culture to societies that came after it. The sentence structure is flawed, however.

- A The sentence's initial phrase is, nonsensically, predicated of *historians* rather than of *Olmec culture*. The wording *for the legacy it had for* is verbose, the repetition of *for* is awkward, and the second *for* is unidiomatic with *legacy*.
- B The sentence's initial phrase *long . . . civilizations* is, nonsensically, predicated of *exploration*. The wording *is now of* is unnecessarily awkward (for example, the phrase *now focuses on* would not be so).
- C The context suggests that the sentence's initial phrase *long . . . civilizations* is more likely meant to be predicated of a noun

phrase referring to another civilization (or culture), thus making *the legacy* be the subject of the sentence (as opposed to *the more ancient Olmec culture*). The relative *what* and its antecedent are too widely separated from each other; also, the construction *is what . . .* is unnecessarily awkward.

- D **Correct.** This version is logically and structurally correct. Making *the more ancient Olmec culture* the subject of the main clause—the most logical subject, given the initial modifying phrase referring to civilizations—has required a change in the verb form, from active to passive. The preposition *to* following *legacy* is idiomatic.
- E This shifts the emphasis, compared with the given sentence, to how far back in time the Olmec culture existed. Unlike the given sentence, it makes the historians' current preoccupation with the Olmec culture seem secondary. The wording *had a legacy to* is unnecessarily awkward.

The correct answer is D.

SC02457

246. Being a United States citizen since 1988 and born in Calcutta in 1940, author Bharati Mukherjee has lived in England and Canada, and first came to the United States in 1961 to study at the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

- (A) Being a United States citizen since 1988 and born in Calcutta in 1940, author Bharati Mukherjee has
- (B) Having been a United States citizen since 1988, she was born in Calcutta in 1940; author Bharati Mukherjee
- (C) Born in Calcutta in 1940, author Bharati Mukherjee became a United States citizen in 1988; she has
- (D) Being born in Calcutta in 1940 and having been a United States citizen since 1988, author Bharati Mukherjee
- (E) Having been born in Calcutta in 1940 and being a United States citizen since 1988, author Bharati Mukherjee

Verb form; Rhetorical construction

Being . . . since 1988 and born in Calcutta in 1940 is an awkward, wordy construction, which presents an unclear and potentially confusing chronological order. Since in the correct version of the sentence the original phrase (*being . . .*) has been made into a main clause, a semicolon should separate it from the second main clause beginning *she has lived*.

- A The phrases are expressed in an illogical and potentially confusing sequence.
- B *Having been* suggests that the citizenship came chronologically before the birth. The pronoun *she* is the subject of the first clause; since the author's name is mentioned only after the semicolon, *she* has no clear referent.
- C **Correct.** In this sentence, the sequence of events is expressed logically, grammatically, and concisely in each independent clause.
- D The progressive verb forms *being born* and *having been* illogically suggest continuous action and fail to establish a logical time sequence. The sentence is wordy and awkward.
- E The progressive verb forms *having been born* and *being* illogically suggest continuous action and fail to establish a logical time sequence. The sentence is wordy and awkward.

The correct answer is C.

SC02605

247. As a result of record low temperatures, the water pipes on the third floor froze, which caused the heads of the sprinkler system to burst, which released torrents of water into offices on the second floor.

- (A) which caused the heads of the sprinkler system to burst, which released torrents of water
- (B) which caused the heads of the sprinkler system to burst and which released torrents of water
- (C) which caused the heads of the sprinkler system to burst, torrents of water were then released
- (D) causing the heads of the sprinkler system to burst, then releasing torrents of water
- (E) causing the heads of the sprinkler system to burst and release torrents of water

Logical predication; Grammatical construction

This sentence describes a causal sequence of events leading to flooded second-floor offices. One of the steps, sprinkler heads bursting, was presumably simultaneous with the release of torrents of water, so it is best to present these events as actions attached to the same subject (*heads of the sprinkler system*). The sentence as given attempts to explain the sequence in a chain of relative clauses, using the pronoun *which* to introduce successive steps. The precise referent of this relative pronoun is somewhat obscure—it appears to refer to the entire preceding clause—and the sequence separates the simultaneous bursting of heads and releasing of water into two temporally separate events.

- A The referent of the second *which* is obscure, and the sentence implausibly separates bursting heads and releasing of torrents into two temporally separate events.
- B Joining the relative pronouns with the conjunction *and* makes the freezing of the water pipes the subject of both *caused . . .* and *released . . .*. Thus, it seems to indicate, somewhat implausibly, that the freezing of the pipes directly released torrents of water independently of its causing the sprinkler heads to burst.
- C The passive verb *were . . . released* obscures the causal sequence behind the releasing of torrents of water. The introduction of a new independent clause without a conjunction is ungrammatical and makes this version a run-on sentence.
- D As in (B), the structure of this version makes the freezing of the pipes the subject of both *causing . . .* and *releasing . . .*. The introduction of the sequential marker *then* divides the bursting of heads and releasing of torrents of water into two separate events in the sequence. It indicates, implausibly, that the pipes' freezing directly released torrents of water after it had also caused the sprinkler heads to burst.

- E **Correct.** The elimination of the relative pronouns clarifies the causal sequence of events, and the double infinitives *to burst* and *(to) release* underscores the simultaneity of these events.

The correct answer is E.

SC03403

248. Archaeologists in Ireland believe that a recently discovered chalice, which dates from the eighth century, was probably buried to keep from being stolen by invaders.
- (A) to keep from
 (B) to keep it from
 (C) to avoid
 (D) in order that it would avoid
 (E) in order to keep from

Grammatical construction; Logical predication

The phrase *to keep from being stolen* is incomplete and does not indicate what might be stolen. Inserting a pronoun makes it clear that it is the chalice that might be stolen.

- A The pronoun *it* is needed for clarity.
 B **Correct.** The sentence is clarified by inserting the word *it*, which refers back to *chalice*.
 C This suggests that the chalice acts to prevent its own theft. The pronoun *it* is needed for clarity.
 D This suggests that the chalice acts to prevent its own theft. The pronoun *it* is needed for clarity. *In order that it would* is wordy.
 E The pronoun *it* is needed for clarity.

The correct answer is B.

SC01981

249. The bank holds \$3 billion in loans that are seriously delinquent or in such trouble that they do not expect payments when due.
- (A) they do not expect payments when
 (B) it does not expect payments when it is
 (C) it does not expect payments to be made when they are

- (D) payments are not to be expected to be paid when
 (E) payments are not expected to be paid when they will be

Agreement; Logical predication; Verb form

The plural pronoun *they* cannot be used to refer to the singular noun *bank*. The structure of *they do not expect payments when due* is awkward and unclear.

- A *Bank* requires the singular pronoun *it*, not the plural pronoun *they*. The structure of *when due* creates ambiguity in meaning.
 B *Payments* is a plural noun, so the singular *it* is incorrect.
 C **Correct.** In this correct sentence, pronouns and their referents agree, as do subjects and their verbs. The addition of the modifying phrase *to be made* clarifies the meaning of the sentence.
 D The active voice is preferable here, since the passive voice leaves it unclear who does not expect the payments to be made. *Payments . . . to be paid* is redundant. *Are not to be* incorrectly suggests that the writer is prescribing that the payments not be expected.
 E The active voice is preferable here, since the passive voice leaves it unclear who does not expect the payments to be made. *Payments . . . to be paid* is redundant. *Will be* is not the correct verb form.

The correct answer is C.

SC01435

250. A researcher claims that a tornado of a given size and strength is likely to cause more deaths, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, in the southeastern region of the United States than in the northeastern.

- (A) A researcher claims that a tornado of a given size and strength is likely to cause more deaths, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, in the southeastern region of the United States than in the northeastern.

- (B) A researcher claims that a tornado, if of a given size and strength, is likely both proportionately and in absolute numbers to cause more deaths in the southeastern region of the United States than in the northeastern.
- (C) A researcher claims that, with a tornado of a given size and strength, it is likely to cause more death, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, in the southeastern rather than in the northeastern region of the United States.
- (D) If a tornado is of a given size and strength, a researcher claims, it is more likely, both proportionately and in absolute numbers, to cause death if it is in the southeastern region of the United States rather than in the northeastern region.
- (E) Both proportionately and in absolute numbers, a researcher claims that a tornado of a given size and strength is likely to cause more deaths in the southeastern region of the United States rather than in the northeastern.

Grammatical construction; Diction

The sentence clearly and correctly reports a researcher's claim about the relative incidence of fatalities from a tornado of any given size in two different regions of the United States. It states that the incidence of fatalities in the southeastern region would be greater both in number and as a percentage of the affected population than would the incidence in the northeastern region. Some issues to note about the erroneous sentences are: use of *rather than* instead of simply *than*; use of the singular *death* instead of the plural; the placement of the adverbial phrase *both proportionately . . . numbers*; and the use of *if*-statements.

- A** **Correct.** The sentence, though expressing a complex thought, does so clearly and coherently and avoids errors related to the issues mentioned.
- B** The researcher's claim is not that a tornado of a certain magnitude is likely to cause more fatalities in the southeastern than in the northeastern region; rather the claim is that a tornado of any given magnitude will cause more deaths in the southeastern region than in the northeastern.

- C** This sentence is unnecessarily awkward because of the adverbial phrase beginning *with* and the use of *it* to refer to *a tornado*. The singular *death* does not go well with the mention of numbers, which indicates the counting of individual deaths. The number of deaths in one region is being compared with the number in another; for that purpose, *rather than* is unidiomatic, as opposed to *than*.
- D** Beginning the sentence with this *if*-clause suggests that the claimed likelihood of variation in regional incidence of fatalities is conditional on the tornado being of a certain minimum size and strength. Nothing suggests that this is the claim that the given sentence meant to attribute to the researcher. Also, the matter at issue is not whether there would be any death (singular) but rather what the incidence of fatalities (plural) would be in each of two different regions. Another error is that the placement of the adverbial phrase *both proportionately . . . numbers* makes it function as a modifier of the verbal phrase *is more likely*.
- E** The placement of the adverbial phrase *both proportionately . . . numbers* seems nonsensically to make it modify the verb *claims*, and does not reflect the intended meaning of the given sentence. The use of *rather than* instead of *than* is an incorrect usage for the comparison intended.

The correct answer is A.

SC04603

251. Heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved from the previous year, only look less appetizing than their round and red supermarket cousins, often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but are more flavorful.
- (A) cousins, often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but are
- (B) cousins, often green and striped, or with plenty of bumps and bruises, although
- (C) cousins, often green and striped, or they have plenty of bumps and bruises, although they are
- (D) cousins; they are often green and striped, or with plenty of bumps and bruises, although

- (E) cousins; they are often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises, but they are

Logical predication; Grammatical construction

The sentence is intended to say that, although heirloom tomatoes may appear to be less appetizing than the round, red supermarket variety, the often green and striped or bumpy and bruised heirloom tomatoes actually are more flavorful. Any version of the sentence in which *green and striped, have bumps and bruises, or are more flavorful* appear to modify *round and red supermarket cousins* is ill-formed.

- A In this version of the sentence, *often green and striped, have plenty of bumps and bruises, and are more flavorful* all illogically appear to modify *round and red supermarket cousins* rather than *heirloom tomatoes*.
- B In this version of the sentence as well, *often green and striped, with plenty of bumps and bruises, and although more flavorful* all illogically appear to modify *round and red supermarket cousins* rather than *heirloom tomatoes*.
- C In this version of the sentence, *often green and striped* illogically appears to modify *round and red supermarket cousins* rather than *heirloom tomatoes*.
- D Although in this version *green and striped* and *with plenty of bumps and bruises* clearly, and correctly, modify *heirloom tomatoes*, the *or in they are often green and striped, or with plenty of bumps and bruises* is unnecessary and awkward. Furthermore, the final clause is ungrammatical and should say *although they are more flavorful*.
- E **Correct.** In this version of the sentence, *green and striped, with plenty of bumps and bruises, and are more flavorful* clearly, and correctly, modify *heirloom tomatoes*, and the phrases in the sentence are appropriately parallel with one another.

The correct answer is E.

S006684

252. Faced with an estimated \$2 billion budget gap, the city's mayor proposed a nearly 17 percent reduction in the amount allocated the previous year to maintain the city's major cultural institutions and to subsidize hundreds of local arts groups.

- (A) proposed a nearly 17 percent reduction in the amount allocated the previous year to maintain the city's major cultural institutions and to subsidize
- (B) proposed a reduction from the previous year of nearly 17 percent in the amount it was allocating to maintain the city's major cultural institutions and for subsidizing
- (C) proposed to reduce, by nearly 17 percent, the amount from the previous year that was allocated for the maintenance of the city's major cultural institutions and to subsidize
- (D) has proposed a reduction from the previous year of nearly 17 percent of the amount it was allocating for maintaining the city's major cultural institutions, and to subsidize
- (E) was proposing that the amount they were allocating be reduced by nearly 17 percent from the previous year for maintaining the city's major cultural institutions and for the subsidization

Rhetorical construction; Parallelism

The original sentence contains no errors. It uses the parallel construction *to maintain* and *to subsidize* to show clearly the two areas where the *17 percent reduction* in funds will be applied. In addition, the *17 percent reduction* is closely followed by *the amount allocated the previous year*, making it clear what is being reduced by 17 percent.

- A **Correct.** The sentence uses parallel construction and a well-placed modifier.
- B *To maintain* and *for subsidizing* are not parallel. The sentence is imprecise, and *it* does not have a clear antecedent.
- C *For the maintenance* and *to subsidize* are not parallel, and the sentence is wordy.
- D *For maintaining* and *to subsidize* are not parallel, *it* does not have a clear antecedent, and the sentence structure makes it unclear just what the writer is claiming.

- E *Maintaining and the subsidization* are not parallel, *they* does not have a clear antecedent, and the sentence structure makes it unclear just what the writer is claiming.

The correct answer is A.

SC05381

253. In the textbook publishing business, the second quarter is historically weak, because revenues are low and marketing expenses are high as companies prepare for the coming school year.
- (A) low and marketing expenses are high as companies prepare
 (B) low and their marketing expenses are high as they prepare
 (C) low with higher marketing expenses in preparation
 (D) low, while marketing expenses are higher to prepare
 (E) low, while their marketing expenses are higher in preparation

Parallelism; Logical predication

This sentence is correctly written. It uses parallel structure to give two reasons why textbook publishers have weak second quarters: *revenues are low and expenses are high*. The construction *as companies prepare for the coming school year* is clear, as opposed to the awkward constructions using the ambiguous plural pronouns *they* and *their*.

- A **Correct.** This sentence uses the parallel forms *are low . . . are high* and employs the unambiguous *companies* as the subject of *prepare*.
 B *Their* seems illogically to refer to *revenues*. The subject of *prepare* is the ambiguous *they*.
 C *Higher* is not parallel to *low*, and it gives no indication of what the comparison is supposed to be (*Higher than what?*). This construction makes it appear, illogically, that the low revenues have higher marketing expenses.
 D *Higher* is not parallel to *low* and is illogical. The infinitive construction *to prepare . . .* is awkward.

- E *Higher* is not parallel to *low* and is illogical since no comparison is being made; *their* has no clear referent.

The correct answer is A.

SC01485

254. Because of the sharp increases in the price of gold and silver, the value of Monica Taylor's portfolio rose as her daughter-in-law's dropped.
- (A) as her daughter-in-law's dropped
 (B) while her daughter-in-law's has dropped
 (C) as there was a drop in her daughter-in-law's
 (D) while that of her daughter-in-law's dropped
 (E) as it dropped for her daughter-in-law's

Parallelism; Rhetorical construction

The sentence attempts to explain two opposing trends in portfolio value: the value of one person's portfolio rose as the value of another person's portfolio dropped. Note, however, that the sentence as given here refers to a rise in value and a drop in a portfolio: this indicates a failure in required parallelism. The comparison, properly expressed, would mention *the value of Monica*

Taylor's portfolio and *the value of her daughter-in-law's portfolio*.

- A This is incorrect because it refers to the daughter-in-law's portfolio, not to the value of her portfolio.
 B The conjunction *while* is appropriate here, but the sentence lacks the parallelism needed to clearly compare the opposing trends in portfolio value.
 C This is wordy and lacks the required parallelism already mentioned.
 D **Correct.** The phrase *that of her daughter-in-law's* is a way of referring to the value of her daughter-in-law's portfolio. The antecedent of *that* is *the value*. The phrase *Monica Taylor's portfolio* is parallel to *her daughter-in-law's portfolio*; each involves a noun with a possessive that functions adjectively. The word *portfolio* is understood, not explicit.

- E Lacking the parallelism noted, this is unnecessarily awkward. Structurally, the pronoun *it* can logically have as antecedent either *the value of Monica Taylor's portfolio* or *Monica Taylor's portfolio*, but neither of these readings yields a correct sentence.

The correct answer is D.

SC02791

255. Ms. Chambers is among the forecasters who predict that the rate of addition to arable lands will drop while those of loss rise.

- (A) those of loss rise
 (B) it rises for loss
 (C) those of losses rise
 (D) the rate of loss rises
 (E) there are rises for the rate of loss

Logical predication; Parallelism

The forecaster is making predictions about two different rates. The forecast changes in the rates can be compared using the construction *the rate of x will drop while the rate of y rises*; *x* and *y* should be parallel.

- A There is no referent for *those*.
 B *It refers to the rate of addition*, creating a nonsensical statement.
 C There is no referent for *those*. *Of losses* should be singular to parallel *of addition*.
 D **Correct.** This sentence uses a construction that clearly states the predicted changes in the rates; the rates are expressed in parallel ways.
 E *There are rises for* is wordy and unidiomatic.

The correct answer is D.

SC00937

256. In keeping with her commitment to her Christian faith, Sojourner Truth demonstrated as a public speaker a dedication both to the nonviolent abolition of slavery as well as for women to be emancipated.

- (A) a dedication both to the nonviolent abolition of slavery as well as for women to be emancipated

- (B) her being dedicated to both the nonviolent abolishing of slavery as well as for women's emancipation
 (C) a dedication to both the nonviolent abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women
 (D) that she was dedicated both to abolishing slavery nonviolently and to emancipate women
 (E) her dedication both to the nonviolent abolition of slavery and emancipation of women

Parallelism; Rhetorical construction

The sentence describes Sojourner Truth's dedication, as a public speaker, to the nonviolent abolition of slavery and to the emancipation of women. It thus provides a list of two things that Sojourner Truth was dedicated to: the nonviolent abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women. Although there are various ways of describing this list, the two elements need to be described in a parallel fashion.

- A This sentence begins the description of the list with the beginning of the construction *both to . . . and to*. If implemented properly, this construction will describe the elements of the list in parallel. However, as the sentence is written, the second element of the list, *as for women to be emancipated*, is not parallel to the first element, *to the nonviolent abolition of slavery*.
 B This sentence, with *to* before *both*, begins the description of the list with a somewhat different construction than Sentence A does. In this case, *the nonviolent abolishing of slavery* needs to be made parallel with *for women's emancipation*. As written, the sentence presents a severe case of lack of parallelism.
 C **Correct.** This sentence correctly implements the construction *to both . . . and . . .*. In particular, *the nonviolent abolition of slavery* is parallel to *the emancipation of women*.
 D This sentence begins the description of the list with the same construction as in sentence A, *both to . . . and to . . .*. In this case, *abolishing slavery nonviolently* is not parallel to *emancipate women*.

- E This sentence uses the same construction as in sentences A and D: *both to ... and to ...*. In this case, *to the nonviolent abolition of slavery* is not parallel to *emancipation of women*. If *to the* were inserted immediately before *emancipation of women*, then the parallelism issue would be resolved.

The correct answer is C.

SC01972

257. Less than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, and they occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.

- (A) Less than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, and they occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.
- (B) Less than 400 Sumatran rhinos, surviving on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.
- (C) Occupying a small fraction of the species' former range, the Malay peninsula and the islands of Sumatra and Borneo are where fewer than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive.
- (D) Occupying a small fraction of the species' former range, fewer than 400 Sumatran rhinos survive on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo.
- (E) Surviving on the Malay peninsula and on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, less than 400 Sumatran rhinos occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.

Diction; Logical Predication

Because the number of Sumatran rhinos has been given, the comparative term *fewer* rather than *less* should be used to account for their numbers. In order to clarify that habitat currently occupied by the rhinos is but a small fraction of their former range, the information about their dwindling habitat is most efficiently presented in an opening participial phrase describing the rhinos, followed by a main clause in which the number of surviving rhinos is the subject, with the predicate explaining where the rhinos currently live. By presenting the information about the population

and range of rhinos in two separate independent clauses, the sentence as written does not clarify that the former range of the rhinos once extended beyond the peninsula and the islands.

- A *Less* is inappropriate for describing the specific number of surviving Sumatran rhinos. The separate independent clauses obscure the fact that the rhinos' range used to extend beyond the peninsula and the two islands. The referent of *they* is unclear.
- B *Less* is inappropriate for describing the specific number of surviving Sumatran rhinos. By using a nonrestrictive phrase *surviving ...*, the sentence suggests that fewer than 400 rhinos—perhaps only a portion of the total number—occupy a small fraction of the species' former range.
- C The opening participial phrase somewhat illogically modifies *peninsula and ... islands* rather than the rhinos.
- D **Correct.** The opening participial phrase correctly modifies *fewer than 400 ... rhinos*, a phrase that uses the correct comparative term.
- E The comparative term *less* is inappropriate for describing the number of rhinos.

The correct answer is D.

SC11068

258. Certain pesticides can become ineffective if used repeatedly in the same place; one reason is suggested by the finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals.

- (A) Certain pesticides can become ineffective if used repeatedly in the same place; one reason is suggested by the finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals.
- (B) If used repeatedly in the same place, one reason that certain pesticides can become ineffective is suggested by the finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals.

- (C) If used repeatedly in the same place, one reason certain pesticides can become ineffective is suggested by the finding that much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes are found in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than those that are free of such chemicals.
- (D) The finding that there are much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in soils that are free of such chemicals is suggestive of one reason, if used repeatedly in the same place, certain pesticides can become ineffective.
- (E) The finding of much larger populations of pesticide-degrading microbes in soils with a relatively long history of pesticide use than in those that are free of such chemicals suggests one reason certain pesticides can become ineffective if used repeatedly in the same place.

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The sentence is correctly constructed; it has two independent clauses connected by a semicolon. *If used repeatedly in the same place* clearly and correctly modifies *certain pesticides*.

- A **Correct.** The sentence is correctly constructed; the modifier *if used repeatedly in the same place* is correctly placed.
- B *If used repeatedly in the same place* modifies *one reason* when it should modify *certain pesticides*.
- C *If used repeatedly in the same place* modifies *one reason* when it should modify *certain pesticides*. The absence of *in* in the phrase *than those . . .* makes the comparison unclear.
- D *If used repeatedly in the same place* ambiguously modifies *one reason* when it should clearly modify *certain pesticides*.
- E The comparison *the finding of much larger populations . . . than in those that . . .* is improperly constructed in a way that makes *the finding* appear to refer awkwardly to a discovery of larger populations rather than to a research conclusion about the presence of such populations.

The correct answer is A.

SC11854

259. While some academicians believe that business ethics should be integrated into every business course, others say that students will take ethics seriously only if it would be taught as a separately required course.

- (A) only if it would be taught as a separately required course
- (B) only if it is taught as a separate, required course
- (C) if it is taught only as a course required separately
- (D) if it was taught only as a separate and required course
- (E) if it would only be taught as a required course, separately

Rhetorical construction; Verb form; Diction

Conditional constructions require specific verb tenses. For a present condition, like this debate between academicians, the subordinate clause introduced by *if* uses the present indicative, and the main clause uses the future tense: *y will happen* (main clause) *only if x happens* (subordinate clause). Logically, the *course* is to be both *separate* and *required*, so the two adjectives should equally modify the noun and thus be separated by a comma: *separate, required course*.

- A The verb tense in the *if* clause is incorrect. The adverb *separately* should be the adjective *separate*.
- B **Correct.** This sentence has the correct verb tense, and the two adjectives equally modify the noun.
- C The placement of *only* distorts the meaning; it should precede *if*. *A course required separately* is unclear.
- D The verb tense in the *if* clause is incorrect. The placement of *only* distorts the meaning.
- E The verb tense in the *if* clause is incorrect. The placement of *only* distorts the meaning. The adjective *separate* should be used instead of the adverb *separately* and should precede the noun.

The correct answer is B.

SC08272

260. Whether they will scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or stop doing business with us altogether depends on whether the changes that their management has proposed will be fully implemented.

- (A) Whether they will scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or stop doing business with us altogether depends on whether the changes that their management has proposed will be fully implemented.
- (B) Whether they scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or whether they discontinue their business with us altogether depends on the changes their management has proposed, if fully implemented or not.
- (C) Their either scaling back their orders in the future to pre-2003 levels, or their outright termination of business with us, depends on their management's proposed changes being fully implemented or not.
- (D) Whether they will scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels or stop doing business with us altogether depends if the changes that their management has proposed become fully implemented.
- (E) They will either scale back their orders to pre-2003 levels, or they will stop doing business with us altogether dependent on whether the changes their management has proposed will be fully implemented, or not.

Rhetorical construction; Diction

This sentence expresses a dependency between two sets of options: the first is scaling back orders versus stopping all business, and the second is fully implementing changes versus not fully implementing changes. In each case, the most succinct way to express the two options is the *whether X (or Y)* construction, which immediately and clearly signals the presence of two opposed options. In linking the two sets of options, *depend* or *dependent* requires the preposition *on*.

- A** **Correct.** Each set of options is expressed concisely with a single *whether*, and *depend* is followed by *on*.
- B** The first set of options is expressed by means of a second, redundant and illogical *whether*; the second set is expressed in an unclear way,

unnecessarily delaying the identification of the two options until the very end. *Depends on the changes . . . if fully implemented or not* makes the meaning unclear. This could be an awkward way of trying to say that the outcome depends on whether the changes will be made, but it could just as plausibly be an attempt to say that the outcome depends on the changes, regardless of whether the changes will be fully implemented.

- C** Both sets of options are expressed without *whether*, and the first set does not even explicitly say that there is such an option. As a result, the existence of two dependent sets of options is unclear until the end of the sentence.
- D** The first set of options is correctly expressed with *whether*, but the second is not; also, *depend* lacks a following preposition *on*.
- E** Both sets of options are expressed without *whether*, and the first set does not even explicitly signal the existence of options, so the existence of two dependent sets of options is unclear until the end of the sentence.

The correct answer is A.

SC00975

261. Until 1868 and Disraeli, Great Britain had no prime ministers not coming from a landed family.

- (A)** Until 1868 and Disraeli, Great Britain had no prime ministers not coming
- (B)** Until 1868 and Disraeli, Great Britain had had no prime ministers who have not come
- (C)** Until Disraeli in 1868, there were no prime ministers in Great Britain who have not come
- (D)** It was not until 1868 that Great Britain had a prime minister—Disraeli—who did not come
- (E)** It was only in 1868 and Disraeli that Great Britain had one of its prime ministers not coming

Verb form; Idiom

This sentence explains how Disraeli marked a turning point in British history: he was the first prime minister who did not come from the landed gentry. The placement of the double negative is crucial. While *no prime ministers not coming from . . .* is hard to untangle, *[n]ot*

until . . . that Great Britain had a prime minister who did not come . . . separates the negatives into separate clauses, making them easier to decode. An appropriate way to express the temporal relationship is to use the idiomatic phrase *not until . . . that*.

- A The phrase *no prime ministers not coming* is unnecessarily confusing. It is also confusing to follow the preposition *until* with two very different types of objects—a date and a person.
- B As in (A), the double negative and unlike objects of the prepositional phrase starting with *until* are confusing. Additionally, the verb form *have not come*, which is the present-perfect tense, is inappropriate following the past perfect *had had* in this context.
- C The present-perfect tense (*have not come*) is inappropriate after the past tense *were* in this context. *Until Disraeli* is imprecise and incomplete. *Before Disraeli's term in 1868 . . .* or *Until Disraeli became prime minister in 1868* would work.
- D **Correct.** This version correctly uses the idiomatic construction *not until . . . that*, and it correctly uses past tense throughout.
- E While it makes sense to say that a historical change occurred *in 1868*, it does not make sense to say that it occurred *in Disraeli*. It is unidiomatic to say *had one of its prime ministers not coming*.

The correct answer is D.

SC02011

262. Around 1900, fishermen in the Chesapeake Bay area landed more than seventeen million pounds of shad in a single year, but by 1920, overfishing and the proliferation of milldams and culverts that have blocked shad migrations up their spawning streams had reduced landings to less than four million pounds.
- (A) that have blocked shad migrations up their spawning streams had reduced landings to less
 - (B) that blocked shad from migrating up their spawning streams had reduced landings to less
 - (C) that blocked shad from migrating up their spawning streams reduced landings to a lower amount

- (D) having blocked shad from migrating up their spawning streams reduced landings to less
- (E) having blocked shad migrations up their spawning streams had reduced landings to an amount lower

Diction; Verb form

The point of this sentence is to explain how overfishing and interference with shad spawning streams affected the size of shad landings. The sentence makes this point by comparing the sizes of annual landings before and after 1920. The sentence most efficiently compares the poundage of pre- and post-1920 landings with the comparative form [*from*] *more than . . . to less than . . .*

- A The present-perfect tense of *have blocked* inappropriately describes an event that caused something to happen before 1920. In addition, *migrations up their spawning streams* is incorrect.
- B **Correct.** The comparison of poundage is efficiently explained, and the sequence of tenses makes sense. Despite a possible superficial appearance of a comparison between countable things (pounds), *less* is more appropriate than *fewer* for the comparison. The fishermen landed different amounts of fish; they did not land the number of pounds in terms of which those amounts are measured.
- C The comparative expression *to a lower amount* is unnecessarily wordy. The past-perfect form *had reduced* would make the temporal relationships somewhat clearer than does the past tense *reduced*.
- D The present-perfect participial phrase, *having blocked . . . streams*, should be set off in commas; as it stands, it does not make sense. The past-perfect form *had reduced* would make the temporal relationships somewhat clearer than does the past tense *reduced*.
- E The present-perfect participial phrase must be set off with commas; the pronoun *their*, which is also in (A), nonsensically refers to *migrations*, and the comparative expression *to an amount lower* is unnecessarily wordy.

The correct answer is B.

SC04492

263. By offering lower prices and a menu of personal communications options, such as caller identification and voice mail, the new telecommunications company has not only captured customers from other phone companies but also forced them to offer competitive prices.

- (A) has not only captured customers from other phone companies but also forced them
- (B) has not only captured customers from other phone companies, but it also forced them
- (C) has not only captured customers from other phone companies but also forced these companies
- (D) not only has captured customers from other phone companies but also these companies have been forced
- (E) not only captured customers from other phone companies, but it also has forced them

Parallelism, Verb form

The sentence intends to show the effect of the new telecommunications company on the other phone companies. In the original sentence, however, the antecedent of the pronoun *them* is unclear; it may refer to *companies* or to *customers*. If it refers to *customers*, the sentence structure illogically has the new company forcing customers to offer competitive prices.

- A The referent of *them* is unclear.
- B The referent of *them* is unclear, and the use of *it* is redundant.
- C **Correct.** The verbs are parallel in this sentence, and *these companies* is clearly the object of the verb *forced*.
- D The sentence does not maintain parallelism, unnecessarily changing from active voice (*has captured*) to passive voice (*have been forced*).
- E The referent of *them* is unclear. *Captured* and *has forced* are not parallel in verb tense, and the use of *it* is redundant.

The correct answer is C.

SC06132

264. After suffering \$2 billion in losses and 25,000 layoffs, the nation's semiconductor industry, which makes chips that run everything from computers and spy satellites to dishwashers, appears to have made a long-awaited recovery.

- (A) computers and spy satellites to dishwashers, appears to have
- (B) computers, spy satellites, and dishwashers, appears having
- (C) computers, spy satellites, and dishwashers, appears that it has
- (D) computers and spy satellites to dishwashers, appears that it has
- (E) computers and spy satellites as well as dishwashers, appears to have

Idiom; Grammatical construction; Verb form

This sentence correctly makes use of the idiomatic expression *from . . . to . . .* to describe the range of products made by the semiconductor industry. The main verb *appears* is intransitive and is most efficiently followed by the infinitive form *to have made*, which introduces a description of the subject, *the semiconductor industry*.

- A **Correct.** The sentence is grammatically correct and uses the idiomatic expression correctly.
- B The phrase *everything from* anticipates idiomatic completion with the second preposition *to*; without the *to* it could refer to components coming from the listed items, but this reading is unlikely; *appears having* is an incorrect verb form and makes the clause ungrammatical.
- C This version is unidiomatic because *from* is not completed by *to*; *appears that it has* is an awkward and incorrect verb form.
- D *Appears that it has* is an incorrect verb form.
- E *As well as* is awkward and imprecise here; it is the wrong completion for the idiomatic expression *from . . . to . . .*.

The correct answer is A.

SC04588

265. Over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, monkeys and marmosets have a hearing sensitivity remarkably similar to humans, above which the sensitivity begins to differ.
- (A) Over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, monkeys and marmosets have a hearing sensitivity remarkably similar to humans
 (B) Compared to humans, the hearing sensitivity of monkeys and marmosets are remarkably similar over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz
 (C) Compared to humans over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, the hearing sensitivity of monkeys and marmosets is remarkably similar
 (D) The hearing sensitivity of monkeys and marmosets, when compared to humans over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz, is remarkably similar
 (E) The hearing sensitivity of monkeys, marmosets, and humans is remarkably similar over a range of frequencies from 100 to 5,000 hertz

Logical predication; Agreement

This sentence expresses two ideas: the similarity in monkey, marmoset, and human hearing in the stated frequency range, and the divergence in hearing sensitivity above that range. The second idea is introduced by *above which*. *Above which* should be immediately preceded by the antecedent of *which*, that is, the 100–5,000 Hz range. Also, the subject and verb must agree in number.

- A In this construction, *above which* . . . illogically modifies either *humans* or *a hearing sensitivity remarkably similar to humans*, rather than the frequency range.
 B The singular subject in this version, *the hearing sensitivity* . . . , is not accompanied by the correct singular verb form (*is*).
 C *Above which* is incorrectly preceded by *similar*, rather than by the expression of the frequency range. The sentence appears, illogically, to compare *humans over a range of frequencies* with monkeys' and marmosets' hearing sensitivity.
 D *Above which* is incorrectly preceded by *similar*, rather than by the expression of

the frequency range. The sentence appears, illogically, to compare *humans over a range of frequencies* with monkeys' and marmosets' hearing sensitivity.

- E **Correct.** *Above which* is correctly preceded by *a range of frequencies* . . . , and the verb *is* is in its proper singular form.

The correct answer is E.

SC03998

266. The computer company has announced that it will purchase the color-printing division of a rival company for \$950 million, which is part of a deal that will make it the largest manufacturer in the office color-printing market.
- (A) million, which is part of a deal that will make
 (B) million, a part of a deal that makes
 (C) million, a part of a deal making
 (D) million as a part of a deal to make
 (E) million as part of a deal that will make

Rhetorical construction; Verb form

The relative pronoun *which* requires a clear antecedent, but none appears in the original version of the sentence. The company's announcement is entirely geared to the future—it *will* purchase the division as part of a deal that *will* make it the largest manufacturer.

- A There is no antecedent for the relative pronoun *which*.
 B Like a relative pronoun, the appositive phrase (*a part* . . .) must have a noun or noun phrase as a clear antecedent; the verb *makes* should be future tense.
 C The appositive phrase requires a clear antecedent; *making* does not indicate future tense.
 D This sentence is a little awkward (the article *a* in *a part* is unnecessary) and says something rather different; *as a part of a deal to make* suggests that the deal itself includes making the company the *largest manufacturer* rather than its being the outcome of the deal.
 E **Correct.** The future tense is used throughout and the sentence structure is clear.

The correct answer is E.

SC03289

267. Kudzu, an Asian vine that has grown rampantly in the southern United States since introducing it in the 1920s to thwart soil erosion, has overrun many houses and countless acres of roadside.

- (A) that has grown rampantly in the southern United States since introducing it in the 1920s to thwart
- (B) that has grown rampantly in the southern United States, since it was introduced in the 1920s for thwarting
- (C) that has grown rampant in the southern United States since it was introduced in the 1920s to thwart
- (D) growing rampant in the southern United States since introducing it in the 1920s for thwarting
- (E) growing rampantly in the southern United States, since it was introduced in the 1920s to thwart

Idiom; Logical predication

The sentence describes the destructive, out-of-control growth of the invasive vine kudzu in the southern United States. Because the sentence does not indicate who introduced the vine to that region, the passive construction *it was introduced* should be used instead of *introducing it*.

- A There is no clear subject for the verb *introducing*. This construction appears to indicate that kudzu introduced itself or some other, unspecified thing.
- B The adverbial clause *since it was introduced in the 1920s* should not be set off from *has grown rampantly*, which it modifies. Also, *introduced . . . for thwarting* is not idiomatic. *Introduced . . . to thwart* is the correct idiom.
- C **Correct.** The sentence correctly uses the passive construction *it was introduced* and the idiom *was introduced . . . to thwart*.
- D *Since introducing it* illogically indicates that the vine introduced itself. *Introducing . . . for thwarting* is unidiomatic.
- E The adverbial clause *since it was introduced in the 1920s* should not be set off from *has grown rampantly*, which it modifies.

The correct answer is C.

SC01712

268. Unable to build nests or care for their young, a female cowbird lays up to 40 eggs a year in the nests of other birds, including warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and thrushes.

- (A) a female cowbird lays up to 40 eggs a year in the nests of other birds, including
- (B) a female cowbird will use the nests of other birds to lay up to 40 eggs a year, including those of
- (C) female cowbirds use the nests of other birds to lay up to 40 eggs a year, including those of
- (D) female cowbirds lay up to 40 eggs a year in the nests of other birds, including
- (E) up to 40 eggs a year are laid by female cowbirds in the nests of other birds, including

Agreement; Logical predication

This sentence describes the behavior of female cowbirds, but it begins by referring to the birds in plural (*their young*) and then shifts unexpectedly to singular (*a female cowbird*). The best construction refers to the birds consistently in plural and places modifiers near the words they modify.

- A The sentence shifts unexpectedly from the plural *their young* to the singular *a female cowbird*.
- B The sentence shifts unexpectedly from the plural *their young* to the singular *a female cowbird*. The participial phrase *including those of* incorrectly modifies *eggs*, illogically indicating that cowbirds lay the eggs of other birds.
- C The participial phrase *including those of* incorrectly modifies *eggs*, illogically indicating that cowbirds lay the eggs of other birds.
- D **Correct.** The sentence consistently refers to *cowbirds* in the plural and places modifiers in the correct location.
- E The modifier *Unable . . . young* incorrectly modifies *eggs*.

The correct answer is D.

SC01954

269. Bluegrass musician Bill Monroe, whose repertory, views on musical collaboration, and vocal style were influential on generations of bluegrass artists, was also an inspiration to many musicians, that included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music differed significantly from his own.

- (A) were influential on generations of bluegrass artists, was also an inspiration to many musicians, that included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music differed significantly from
- (B) influenced generations of bluegrass artists, also inspired many musicians, including Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music differed significantly from
- (C) was influential to generations of bluegrass artists, was also inspirational to many musicians, that included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music was different significantly in comparison to
- (D) was influential to generations of bluegrass artists, also inspired many musicians, who included Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, the music of whom differed significantly when compared to
- (E) were an influence on generations of bluegrass artists, was also an inspiration to many musicians, including Elvis Presley and Jerry Garcia, whose music was significantly different from that of

Agreement; Rhetorical construction; Grammatical construction

The original sentence logically intends to explain that Monroe's work influenced generations of artists in his own musical field and that he inspired many musicians in other musical fields. Who or what influenced or inspired whom must be more clearly stated. Additionally, the original sentence lacks precision, being overly wordy and using phrases that are not idiomatic. Concise and consistent verb forms, as well as the use of subordinate phrases rather than clauses, improve the precision of the sentence.

- A The phrase *were influential on* is wordy and is not idiomatic; the use of verb forms *were* (the predicate of *repertory, views, and style*) and *was* (the predicate of *Monroe*) is confusing.

- B **Correct.** The use of the concise verb forms of *influenced* and *inspired* simplifies and clarifies the sentence. The concise use of *including* avoids the pronoun error and unnecessary wordiness.
- C The subject and verb do not agree in *repertory, views, and style . . . was* (compound subject with singular verb). *Was influential to* and *different . . . in comparison to* are unnecessarily wordy.
- D There is incorrect subject-verb agreement in *repertory, views, and style . . . was* (compound subject with singular verb). *Was influential to* and *in when compared to* are unnecessarily wordy. *The music of whom* is cumbersome and stilted.
- E The phrase *were an influence on* is wordy and not idiomatic. The phrases *was also an inspiration to* and *was significantly different* are unnecessarily wordy. The phrase *from that of* is unclear and confusing.

The correct answer is B.

SC12645

270. In many of the world's regions, increasing pressure on water resources has resulted both from expanding development, changes in climate, and from pollution, so that the future supply in some of the more arid areas is a concern going forward.

- (A) both from expanding development, changes in climate, and from pollution, so that the future supply in some of the more arid areas is a concern going forward
- (B) both from expanding development or changes in climate, and pollution, so that future supplies in some of the more arid areas are a concern
- (C) from expanding development, changes in climate, and also from pollution, so that the future supply in some of the more arid areas is a matter of concern going forward
- (D) from expanding development, changes in climate, and pollution, so that future supplies in some of the more arid areas are a concern
- (E) from expansion of development, changes in climate, and from pollution, so that supplies in some of the more arid areas are a future concern

Parallelism; Rhetorical construction

The sentence lists three factors that have increased pressure on water resources and expresses concern for future water supplies in arid regions. The preposition *both* creates confusion since it indicates two factors, when the sentence actually lists three. If *expanding development* and *changes in climate* are supposed to be grouped together—implausibly—as a single factor, they should be conjoined by *and*, not separated by commas. The sentence could be constructed most clearly by listing all three factors in parallel form as objects of the preposition *from*: *from expanding development, changes in climate, and pollution*.

- A The preposition *both* creates confusion since it indicates two factors, when the sentence actually lists three.
- B *Both* indicates that there are two factors. If the entire disjunction *expanding development or changes in climate* is intended—somewhat implausibly—to be the first of the two factors, the comma before *and pollution* makes its relationship to the preceding portion of the sentence unclear.
- C Repetition of the preposition *from* disrupts the parallelism of the list and makes the meaning unclear.
- D **Correct.** The three factors are listed in parallel form as objects of the preposition *from*.
- E Repetition of the preposition *from* disrupts the parallelism of the list and makes the meaning unclear. *Future* somewhat implausibly modifies *concern* rather than *supplies*.

The correct answer is D.

SC01747

271. The computer company's present troubles are a result of technological stagnation, marketing missteps, and managerial blunders so that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct it.
- (A) so that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct it
 - (B) so that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct
 - (C) in that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct them

- (D) that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct
- (E) that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct them

Agreement; Rhetorical construction

This sentence lists three causes of the company's troubles and asserts that strategies to correct the causes of the problems have failed. The clearest, most efficient way to explain this is to refer to the causes with the relative pronoun *that*, positioning it as an object of the verb *failed to correct*.

- A The singular pronoun *it* has no clear antecedent; the conjunction *so* typically indicates that a consequence will follow, but this is not the case.
- B The conjunction *so* is inappropriate because no consequences are given; the verb *correct* has no object.
- C *In that* is an inappropriate connector because it is not followed by an indication of how the company's troubles result from the three problems listed in the first part of the sentence.
- D **Correct.** The sentence is clearly and efficiently worded, and the referent of the pronoun *that* is clear.
- E Because *attempts* is the subject of the final clause, and *that* is the object of its verb (*have failed to correct*), the pronoun *them* has no function.

The correct answer is D.

SC11880

272. The root systems of most flowering perennials either become too crowded, which results in loss in vigor, and spread too far outward, producing a bare center.
- (A) which results in loss in vigor, and spread
 - (B) resulting in loss in vigor, or spreading
 - (C) with the result of loss of vigor, or spreading
 - (D) resulting in loss of vigor, or spread
 - (E) with a resulting loss of vigor, and spread

Idiom; Parallelism

This sentence uses the construction *either x or y; x and y must be grammatically parallel*. In this

case, *and spread* must be *or spread*. The antecedent of *which* is unclear; replacing *which results* with *resulting* clarifies the meaning.

- A Either is incorrectly followed by *and*; *which* has no clear referent.
- B *Or spreading* is not parallel to *either become*.
- C *With the result of* is wordy and awkward. *Or spreading* is not parallel to *either become*.
- D **Correct.** The phrase *resulting in loss of vigor* concisely modifies the first clause; the either/or construction is correct and parallel in this sentence.
- E Either is incorrectly followed by *and*; *with a resulting loss* is wordy.

The correct answer is D.

SC11910

273. In theory, international civil servants at the United Nations are prohibited from continuing to draw salaries from their own governments; in practice, however, some governments merely substitute living allowances for their employees' paychecks, assigned by them to the United Nations.

- (A) for their employees' paychecks, assigned by them
- (B) for the paychecks of their employees who have been assigned
- (C) for the paychecks of their employees, having been assigned
- (D) in place of their employees' paychecks, for those of them assigned
- (E) in place of the paychecks of their employees to have been assigned by them

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

It is difficult to tell which parts of this sentence go together because of errors and confusion in the underlined portion. *Living allowances* is the counterpart of *paychecks*, so it is better to say *governments . . . substitute living allowances for the paychecks of their employees* because it makes the substitution clearer. This change also makes it easier to correct the modification error that appears in the phrase *assigned by them*, which incorrectly modifies *paychecks* rather than *employees*. The modifying clause *who have been*

assigned clearly describes *employees* and fits into the remaining part of the sentence, *to the United Nations*.

- A *Assigned by them* incorrectly and illogically modifies *paychecks*.
- B **Correct.** In this sentence, the meaning is clearer, because *paychecks* is separated from *employees*. The relative clause clearly modifies *employees*.
- C *Having been assigned* illogically modifies *governments*.
- D The correct construction is *substitutes x for y*, not *substitutes x in place of y*. The construction following *paychecks* is wordy and awkward.
- E The correct construction is *substitutes x for y*, not *substitutes x in place of y*. The construction following *employees* is wordy and awkward.

The correct answer is B.

SC05216

274. Industry analysts said that the recent rise in fuel prices may be an early signal of the possibility of gasoline and heating oil prices staying higher than usually through the end of the year.

- (A) of the possibility of gasoline and heating oil prices staying higher than usually through
- (B) of the possibility that gasoline and heating oil prices could stay higher than usual throughout
- (C) of prices of gasoline and heating oil possibly staying higher than usually through
- (D) that prices of gasoline and heating oil could stay higher than they usually are throughout
- (E) that prices of gasoline and heating oil will stay higher than usual through

Verb form; Idiom

This sentence describes analysts' prediction about prices for gasoline and heating oil. The speculative nature of the analysts' comments is communicated through the modal verb *may be*, so there is no need to reiterate that idea with the wordy phrase *of the possibility of*. The correct idiom to contrast prices with the norm is *higher than usual—not usually*, as written. The correct idiom to indicate the span of time from the present

to the end of the year is *through the end of the year*. A simple future tense verb would concisely communicate the analysts' prediction: prices *will stay higher than usual through the end of the year*.

- A The unnecessary phrase *of the possibility of* makes the sentence wordy; *higher than usually* is not a proper idiom.
- B The unnecessary phrase *of the possibility that* makes the sentence wordy; *throughout the end of the year* is not a proper idiom.
- C *Possibly* is redundant with *may* and is not needed to indicate the speculative nature of the prediction; *higher than usually* is not a proper idiom.
- D The conditional verb tense *could stay* is incorrect since the modal verb *may* has already introduced the concept of possibility; *throughout the end of the year* is not a proper idiom.
- E **Correct.** The simple future tense verb *will stay* expresses the analysts' prediction, and idioms are used correctly.

The correct answer is E.

SC07141

275. The Anasazi settlements at Chaco Canyon were built on a spectacular scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each, were connected by a complex regional system of roads.

- (A) scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each, were
- (B) scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each,
- (C) scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms, each that had been
- (D) scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms and with each
- (E) scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms, each had been

Logical predication; Grammatical construction

This sentence makes a claim about the scale (size, extent) of the Anasazi settlements and then illustrates that claim with a description of the settlements' structures. The second part

of the sentence, introduced by the preposition *with*, describes the structures first in terms of their rooms and then in terms of the roads that connect them together. To describe the noun *structures*, the participial form *connected* should be used, turning the verb into an adjective.

- A The verb *were connected* has no subject, since *structures* is the object of the preposition *with*.
- B **Correct.** The sentence is logically coherent and grammatically correct.
- C The comma preceding *each* makes *each* a subject, but it has no verb, since *that* is the subject of *had been connected*.
- D This sentence suggests that the scale or size of the settlements is made up of structures, rather than uses the structures as an example of the settlements' grand scale; it also nonsensically indicates that each room is connected by a complex system of roads.
- E This run-on sentence suffers from a comma splice, as the phrase following the comma is a main clause; the referent of the pronoun *each* is ambiguous.

The correct answer is B.

SC07066

276. Even though the overall consumer price index did not change in April, indicating the absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise have fallen over the last several months.

- (A) April, indicating the absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise have fallen
- (B) April, indicating that any general inflation or deflation were absent, prices in several categories of merchandise fell
- (C) April and indicated that absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise fell
- (D) April, having indicated the absence of any general inflation or deflation, prices in several categories of merchandise fell
- (E) April, which indicated that any general inflation or deflation were absent, prices in several categories of merchandise have fallen

Rhetorical construction; Agreement

Coordinated noun phrases in which singular nouns are linked by *or* are considered singular, so when the phrase *any general inflation or deflation* is a subject, it requires a singular verb. One of the answer choices incorrectly uses the word *that*. Another phrasing problem is with *indicating/ indicated*. *Indicating* works well as a verb form in the options where it occurs.

- A **Correct.** *Any general inflation or deflation* is not a subject (it functions as the object of the preposition *of*), so there is no potential agreement problem.
- B *Were* is incorrect as the agreeing form of *be*; it should be *is*.
- C If *that* is taken as a demonstrative adjective modifying *absence*, it is inappropriate (the word *the* is required); if it is meant as a subordinating conjunction, it is incorrect because it is not followed by a clause.
- D *Having indicated* is unclear and unnecessarily long. It appears to say, somewhat illogically, that the indication occurred at some unspecified time prior to the lack of change in April. *Indicating* works well alone and would be a preferable verb form here.
- E *Were* here could only be meant either as a plural past-tense verb or as a singular subjunctive-mood verb (appropriate only in certain conditional contexts); in either case it is incorrect. Also, *indicating* works well, and the *which*-clause is unnecessary.

The correct answer is A.

SC12460

277. Despite Japan's relative isolation from world trade at the time, the prolonged peace during the Tokugawa shogunate produced an almost explosive expansion of commerce.

- (A) Japan's relative isolation from world trade at the time, the prolonged peace during the Tokugawa shogunate
- (B) the relative isolation of Japan from world trade at the time and the Tokugawa shogunate's prolonged peace, it

- (C) being relatively isolated from world trade at the time, the prolonged peace during Japan's Tokugawa shogunate
- (D) Japan's relative isolation from world trade at the time during the Tokugawa shogunate, prolonged peace
- (E) its relative isolation from world trade then, prolonged peace in Japan during the Tokugawa shogunate

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

All predicates must have a clear subject; in this sentence, the logical subject of the verb *produced* is *the prolonged peace*. *During* is a concise way to introduce the relevant time period of this peace (the period of the Tokugawa shogunate); the phrase *at the time* clearly refers to the same time period.

- A **Correct.** The subject of *produced* is clearly and logically identified; *during* succinctly provides the time frame.
- B The phrase *at the time* leaves it uncertain what time is being referred to. The subject *it* of *produced* does not clearly identify this verb's logical subject, since it is singular yet seems to be intended to refer to two situations previously mentioned, *isolation* and *prolonged peace*.
- C *Being relatively isolated* is most likely meant to refer to Japan's isolation, but since grammatically it must modify *the prolonged peace* (the subject of the main clause), the sentence would have an illogical and unintended meaning.
- D If *at the time* is to be used instead of *during*, it should be followed by *of*; the better choice is to simply use *during* by itself.
- E The use of *then* after *world trade* is awkward and redundant, because *during* later in the sentence supplies the time frame for both Japan's isolation and the period of peace. The structure of the sentence leaves *it(s)* without a clear referent.

The correct answer is A.

SC02333

278. Government officials announced that restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciative increase in the level of the river resulted from the intermittent showers that had fallen throughout the area the day before.
- (A) restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciative increase in the level of the river
 - (B) restricting the use of water would continue because there had not been any appreciative increase in the river's level that
 - (C) the use of water would continue to be restricted because not any appreciable increase in the river's level had
 - (D) restrictions on the use of water would continue because no appreciable increase in the level of the river had
 - (E) using water would continue being restricted because not any appreciable increase in the level of the river

Rhetorical construction; Logical predication; Verb form

This sentence explains the rationale behind a governmental announcement made at some point in the past. The most efficient way to express the meaning of the announcement is to use *restrictions* as the subject of the clause introduced by *that* and to use a negative subject (*no appreciable increase*) and a positive verb in the subordinate clause that follows.

- A It makes no sense to say that a hypothetical increase in river level is *appreciative*. The past tense of the verb *resulted* in this context does not as clearly express the temporal relationships between the announcement and the other events as would the past perfect *had resulted*.
- B The use of *there* and the negative verb make the dependent clause unnecessarily wordy and indirect; the relative pronoun *that* appears to refer nonsensically to *level*. It makes no sense to say that a hypothetical increase in river level is *appreciative*.
- C By making *use of water* instead of *restrictions* the subject of the *that* clause, this version of

the sentence necessitates the use of a wordy and indirect passive infinitive phrase *to be restricted*. The sentence becomes even more wordy and convoluted with the introduction of an awkward, unidiomatic negative subject (*not any appreciable increase*) of the dependent clause.

- D Correct.** The sentence is direct and efficient, and the past-perfect verb *had resulted* appropriately expresses the sequence of events.
- E The phrase *using water . . . being restricted* is wordy and imprecise, and the unidiomatic negative subject (*not any appreciable increase*) of the dependent clause introduces further indirection and wordiness. The past tense of the verb *resulted* in this context does not as clearly express the temporal relationships between the announcement and the other events as would the past perfect *had resulted*.

The correct answer is D.

SC04732

279. According to United States census data, while there was about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home.

- (A) while there was about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home
- (B) there were about one-third of mothers with young children who worked outside the home in 1975; in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home
- (C) in 1975 about one-third of mothers with young children worked outside the home; in 2000, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home
- (D) even though in 1975 there were about one-third of mothers with young children who worked outside the home, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home in 2000
- (E) with about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home in 2000

Idiom; Logical predication

The sentence presents two pieces of data, one from the 1975 census and one from the 2000 census. It does not attempt to explain a logical relationship beyond the numerical difference. The incorrect versions of the sentence attempt but fail to make a logical connection between the two data (*while . . . , even though . . . , and with . . .*) and/or introduce unnecessary wordiness with the phrase *there was* or *there were*. The most efficient way to present the two data for reader comparison is in two parallel independent clauses joined by a semicolon. To avoid the confusion of misplaced or *squinting* modifiers, these clauses are best structured with subjects designating percentage of mothers with children, followed by participial phrases that indicate that these mothers *worked* or *were employed* outside the home.

- A The phrase *there was* introduces unnecessary wordiness, and the singular verb *was* does not agree with the plural predicate nominative *one-third of mothers with children*. The placement of the modifier *working outside the home* immediately after children suggests that the children rather than the mothers were externally employed.
- B *There were* introduces unnecessary wordiness; because of its placement, the relative clause *who worked outside the home* appears to describe children rather than mothers.
- C **Correct.** The two pieces of data are presented in parallel independent clauses, joined by a semicolon, allowing the reader to note the numerical difference.
- D The introductory phrase *even though* suggests a relationship between the two pieces of data that the sentence does not support; *there were* introduces unnecessary wordiness; *who worked outside the home* appears to describe *young children*.
- E The introductory word *with* nonsensically suggests the simultaneity of the two pieces of data; the placement of the modifier *working outside the home* attaches it to *young children* rather than *mothers*.

The correct answer is C.

SC04672

280. Clouds are formed from the evaporation of the oceans' water that is warmed by the sun and rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.

- (A) Clouds are formed from the evaporation of the oceans' water that is warmed by the sun and rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.
- (B) Clouds form by the sun's warmth evaporating the water in the oceans, which rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.
- (C) Warmed by the sun, ocean water evaporates, rises high into the atmosphere, and condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust to form clouds.
- (D) The water in the oceans evaporates, warmed by the sun, rises high into the atmosphere, and condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust, which forms clouds.
- (E) Ocean water, warmed by the sun, evaporates and rises high into the atmosphere, which then condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust to form as clouds.

Rhetorical construction; Logical predication

This sentence describes a multistep process by which ocean water is transformed into clouds. These steps are most clearly presented in chronological order, with *ocean water* as the main subject of the sentence.

- A This sentence provides no sense of steps and illogically suggests that the oceans' water evaporates after it rises high into the atmosphere.
- B The antecedent for the relative pronoun *which* is ambiguous, again suggesting that oceans rise high.
- C **Correct.** The sequence of steps in a cloud's formation is clear.
- D The nonchronological order of the steps by which clouds are produced is confusing, suggesting that dust forms clouds.

- E The relative pronoun *which* grammatically refers to *atmosphere*, creating a nonsensical claim that the atmosphere, rather than the water, condenses.

The correct answer is C.

SC02664

281. Schistosomiasis, a disease caused by a parasitic worm, is prevalent in hot, humid climates, and it has become more widespread as irrigation projects have enlarged the habitat of the freshwater snails that are the parasite's hosts for part of its life cycle.
- (A) the freshwater snails that are the parasite's hosts for part of its life cycle
 (B) the freshwater snails that are the parasite's hosts in part of their life cycle
 (C) freshwater snails which become the parasite's hosts for part of its life cycles
 (D) freshwater snails which become the hosts of the parasite during the parasite's life cycles
 (E) parasite's hosts, freshwater snails which become their hosts during their life cycles

Rhetorical construction; Agreement

This sentence explains the increased incidence of schistosomiasis as a consequence of the enlarged habitat of the kind of freshwater snails that host the parasitic worm responsible for the disease. The definite article is necessary before *freshwater snails* because the sentence identifies a particular type of snail, namely, those that host the parasite. The correct preposition to express duration in combination with *host* is *for*, not *in*. As the parasite is referred to as singular, the possessive pronoun in the final phrase must also be singular.

- A **Correct.** The sentence is clear with all pronouns and verbs in agreement.
 B The preposition *in* is inappropriate for expressing duration; the plural possessive pronoun *their* does not agree with the singular antecedent *parasite*.
 C A definite article should precede *freshwater snails* to identify a particular type of snail; the plural *cycles* is inappropriate because *its* refers to a singular parasite, which only has one life cycle.

- D A definite article is needed before *freshwater snails*; repetition of the word *parasite* makes the final phrase unnecessarily wordy; *cycles* should be singular.
 E The repetition of *hosts* makes the final phrase unnecessarily wordy; *cycles* should be singular; *their hosts* should be *its hosts*; the referent for the second appearance of *their* is unclear—does it refer to *snails* or the *parasite*?

The correct answer is A.

SC07754

282. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz was making the case for women's equality long before the cause had a name: Born in the mid-seventeenth century in San Miguel Nepantla, Mexico, the convent was the perfect environment for Sor Juana to pursue intellectual pursuits, achieving renown as a mathematician, poet, philosopher, and playwright.
- (A) the convent was the perfect environment for Sor Juana to pursue intellectual pursuits, achieving
 (B) Sor Juana found the convent provided the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits, and she went on to achieve
 (C) the convent provided the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits for Sor Juana; going on to achieve
 (D) Sor Juana found the convent provided the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits; achieving
 (E) the convent was, Sor Juana found, the perfect environment for intellectual pursuits, and she went on to achieve

Logical predication; Grammatical construction

This sentence focuses on Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, but the subject of its second clause is *the convent*. This causes a problem because the predicates *born* and *achieving*, which have only understood subjects, are grammatically paired with *the convent*, an illogical subject. Also, normally where a semicolon is used to mark the end of an independent clause (as in some of the options), it should be followed by another independent clause.

- A *The convent* is the subject of the second clause, so both *born* and *achieving* are illogically forced to take it as their subject.
- B **Correct.** *Sor Juana* provides the correct logical subject for *born* and *went on to achieve*; the second clause is correctly introduced by *and*, and is constructed as a full clause with a subject and tensed verb.
- C As *the convent* is the subject of the second clause, *born* is illogically forced to take that phrase as its subject. Also, the clause after the semicolon is not an independent full clause with a subject and a tensed verb; *she went on* is required instead of *going on*.
- D The clause after the semicolon is not an independent full clause with a subject and a tensed verb: *she achieved* is required instead of *achieving*.
- E Since *the convent* is the subject of the second clause, *born* must illogically take that phrase as its subject.

The correct answer is B.

SC14406

283. By devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, in 1797–1798 Henry Cavendish's apparatus enabled him to arrive at an astonishingly accurate figure for the weight of the earth.
- (A) By devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, in 1797–1798 Henry Cavendish's apparatus enabled him
- (B) In 1797–1798, by devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, Henry Cavendish's apparatus enabled him
- (C) Henry Cavendish devised an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employed uncommonly precise measurements, and in 1797–1798 was able
- (D) Having devised an instrument from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employment of uncommonly precise measurements, Henry Cavendish in 1797–1798 was able

- (E) By devising an instrument made from a rod, wire, and lead balls, and employing uncommonly precise measurements, Henry Cavendish was able in 1797–1798

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The core of this sentence's idea is either the verb *enable*, which must have its logically correct subject *Henry Cavendish's apparatus*, or *be able*, with the subject *Henry Cavendish*; these subjects must also be able to supply the correct subjects for any other verbs that have understood subjects. The sentence should also clearly express the two things that enabled Cavendish's accomplishment (devising the instrument and employing precise measurement).

- A *Devising* needs a subject supplied from elsewhere in the sentence, but the only available subject is the illogical *Henry Cavendish's apparatus* (an apparatus does not "devise" anything).
- B *Devising* needs a subject supplied from elsewhere in the sentence, but the only option is the illogical *Henry Cavendish's apparatus*.
- C Connecting the three parts of the sentence with two occurrences of *and* is awkward; the first two parts are best connected by *and*, but the final portion expressing what Cavendish achieved would be better expressed, for example, as a new sentence beginning, *In 1797–1798, he employed*.
- D This variant seems to suggest, illogically, that Cavendish devised an instrument from several objects plus employment; using *employed* instead of *employment of* would be one way of correctly pairing his two actions.
- E **Correct.** The verbs *devising*, *employing*, and *was able* have their correct logical subject (*Henry Cavendish*), and the actions of devising and employing are paired clearly, with *by* understood before *employing*.

The correct answer is E.

SC08285

284. The growth projected for these storms in different computerized weather models varies widely.

- (A) projected for these storms in different computerized weather models varies widely
- (B) for these storms is projected in different computerized models of weather to vary widely
- (C) of these storms, projected in different computerized weather models, vary widely
- (D) projected for these storms, which vary widely in different computerized weather models
- (E) that varies widely for these storms are projected in different computerized weather models

Logical predication; Agreement

The point of the sentence is that there is great variation in projections of how the storms that it refers to will grow. The structure of the sentence makes it clear that the variation is in the computer models' projections.

- A** **Correct.** The sentence explains concisely that *growth projected* in different weather models *varies widely*.
- B** *Growth for these storms* is unidiomatic and unclear. The construction *growth . . . is projected . . . to vary* makes it unclear whether the models project widely varying growth or vary in how much growth they project.
- C** The construction *growth . . . vary widely* places the variation in the growth of the storms rather than in the projections. The plural verb *vary* does not agree with the singular subject *growth*.
- D** If *growth projected for these storms* is taken as the subject of the sentence, the subject is not paired with a verb and the sentence is grammatically incomplete.
- E** The phrase *growth that varies widely* indicates that the variation is in the growth of the storms rather than in the projections. The plural verb *are projected* does not agree with the singular subject *growth*.

The correct answer is A.

SC02131

285. By using a process called echolocation to analyze the echoes of the high-pitched sounds they produce, bats can determine not only the distance to an object, but they also can determine its shape and size and the direction in which it is moving.

- (A) can determine not only the distance to an object, but they also can determine
- (B) not only can determine the distance to an object but also
- (C) can determine not only the distance to an object but also
- (D) not only can determine its distance from an object but also
- (E) can determine not only their distance from an object, but they can also determine

Parallelism; Logical predication

This sentence explains that bats' echolocation allows them to determine both the distance to an object and other pieces of information. The correct way to construct this sentence using a correlative conjunction is to follow *not only* and *but also* with the same parts of speech. Using nouns to indicate all the kinds of information bats gain through echolocation provides parallel grammatical structure and concise wording: *not only distance, but also shape, size, and direction*.

- A** Introducing the second main clause *they also can determine* makes the sentence wordy and disrupts the correct formation of the correlative conjunction *not only, but also*.
- B** The correlative conjunction is used incorrectly because *not only* is followed by a verb, while *but also* is followed by a list of nouns.
- C** **Correct.** This sentence concisely uses *not only, but also* to connect a series of nouns.
- D** The correlative conjunction is used incorrectly because *not only* is followed by a verb, while *but also* is followed by a list of nouns. *Its* most plausibly refers to bats, but on that interpretation the singular pronoun does not agree with its plural antecedent, and the sentence indicates, somewhat implausibly, that the bats use echolocation to determine their own shape, size, and

direction of movement. Alternatively, *its* could refer to some other thing that is not named in the sentence, but it is implausible and confusing to say that the bats determine the distance of that unnamed thing from an unspecified object.

- E Introducing the second main clause *they also can determine* makes the sentence wordy and disrupts the correct construction to be used with the correlative conjunction: *not only* is followed by a noun, while *but also* is followed by a verb.

The correct answer is C.

SC06205

286. Carbon dioxide, which traps heat in the atmosphere and helps regulate the planet's surface temperature, is constantly being exchanged between the atmosphere on the one hand and the oceans and terrestrial plants on the other.

- (A) exchanged between the atmosphere on the one hand and the oceans and terrestrial plants on the other
- (B) exchanged, on the one hand, between the atmosphere and the oceans and terrestrial plants, on the other
- (C) exchanged between, on the one hand, the atmosphere, with the oceans and terrestrial plants, on the other
- (D) exchanged, on the one hand, among the oceans and terrestrial plants, and the atmosphere, on the other
- (E) exchanged among the oceans and terrestrial plants on the one hand and the atmosphere on the other

Parallelism; Idiom

This sentence describes an exchange between the atmosphere and the Earth's surface using the paired phrases *on the one hand* and *on the other*. Preceding both phrases with nouns creates a parallel grammatical structure: *the atmosphere on the one hand and the oceans and terrestrial plants on the other*. Although three locations are mentioned, *between* is the correct preposition to describe the exchange since *the oceans and terrestrial plants* are treated as a set, both members of which are located on the Earth's surface.

- A **Correct.** The exchange between the atmosphere and the Earth's surface is expressed using parallel nouns and the paired phrases *on the one hand* and *on the other*.
- B The placement of all three nouns between the paired phrases *on the one hand* and *on the other* obscures the nature of the exchange and makes it unclear whether the exchange is among all three of the locations, between the first one and the last two, or between the first two and the last one. *On the one hand* appears to encompass all three of the locations, leaving *on the other* dangling.
- C The preposition *with* disrupts the expression of an exchange *between* two locations; the construction *on the one hand* and *on the other* is not in parallel form.
- D The preposition *among*, the placement of *and the atmosphere* between commas, and the lack of parallelism make the meaning of this sentence unclear.
- E If the relationship is supposed to be among all three of the locations mentioned, the binary relationship indicator (*on the one hand . . . on the other*) makes no sense. Alternatively, *among* could appear to distribute, implicitly, to both sides of the comparison (*among the oceans and terrestrial plants on the one hand and (among) the atmosphere on the other*). On that interpretation, *among the atmosphere* makes no sense, because *among* signals a relationship involving multiple entities, but *atmosphere* is a singular noun and is not normally construed as either plural or collective.

The correct answer is A.

SC01990

287. Floating in the waters of the equatorial Pacific, an array of buoys collects and transmits data on long-term interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere, interactions that affect global climate.

- (A) atmosphere, interactions that affect
- (B) atmosphere, with interactions affecting
- (C) atmosphere that affects
- (D) atmosphere that is affecting
- (E) atmosphere as affects

Grammatical construction; Agreement

The underlined portion of the sentence is an appositive, a terminal noun phrase restating the kind of data being collected and providing additional information about it. This is a clear and economical way to provide the extra information.

- A Correct.** The sentence is grammatically correct and logically coherent.
- B The prepositional phrase *with . . .* has no clear noun or noun phrase to attach to and is therefore ungrammatical.
- C Using the restrictive *that* after *atmosphere* illogically suggests that there are many atmospheres to differentiate from and the one in question in this sentence is the one affecting global climate.
- D The restrictive *that* also follows *atmosphere* as in answer C.
- E The phrase *as affects global climate* functions as an adverb, but there is no verb for it to modify.

The correct answer is A.

SC04344

288. Sixty-five million years ago, according to some scientists, an asteroid bigger than Mount Everest slammed into North America, which, causing plant and animal extinctions, marks the end of the geologic era known as the Cretaceous Period.

- (A) which, causing plant and animal extinctions, marks
- (B) which caused the plant and animal extinctions and marks
- (C) and causing plant and animal extinctions that mark

- (D) an event that caused plant and animal extinctions, which marks
- (E) an event that caused the plant and animal extinctions that mark

Logical predication; Agreement

This sentence describes a two-part sequence of events, the second of which has led to a particular categorization of geological time.

In order to clarify that it is not the first event (asteroid strike) that produced the time division (end of the Cretaceous Period), but the first event's consequences (biological extinctions), the sentence needs an appositive form to restate the content of the main clause (*an event*), followed by a two-part chain of relative clauses (*that caused . . . that mark . . .*).

- A The antecedent for the relative pronoun *which* is ambiguous; it is therefore unclear what *marks* the end of the Cretaceous Period.
- B The antecedent of *which* is unclear; the compound verbs *caused* and *marks* fail to indicate that the extinctions, not the asteroid strike, are significant markers of geological time.
- C Following the conjunction *and* with a participle rather than a main verb is grammatically incorrect because it violates parallelism and produces a fragment at the end of the sentence.
- D *Which*, referring to *extinctions*, should be followed by a plural verb.
- E Correct.** The sentence is unambiguous, and the verbs agree with their subjects.

The correct answer is E.

SC02338

289. Although the first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted was in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell, it had not been announced until February 1968.

- (A)** Although the first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted was in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell, it had not been announced until February 1968.

- (B) Although not announced until February 1968, in the summer of 1967 graduate student Jocelyn Bell observed the first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted.
- (C) Although observed by graduate student Jocelyn Bell in the summer of 1967, the discovery of the first sighted pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, had not been announced before February 1968.
- (D) The first pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, to be sighted was observed in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell, but the discovery was not announced until February 1968.
- (E) The first sighted pulsar, or rapidly spinning collapsed star, was not announced until February 1968, while it was observed in the summer of 1967 by graduate student Jocelyn Bell.

Verb form; Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

This sentence presents conditions that are followed by an unexpected outcome: a delayed announcement of the discovery of a pulsar. A compound sentence using a coordinating conjunction *but* is an effective way to present the conditions of the first pulsar sighting and then information about the subsequent announcement of the discovery. The sentence must clarify that it is not about *the first pulsar*, but *the first pulsar... to be sighted*. The verbs in the sentence must all be in past tense; using a past-perfect verb to present information about the announcement of the discovery indicates that this announcement illogically took place before the pulsar was first sighted.

- A The subject of the opening dependent clause is *pulsar*, and the verb is *was*. The clause needs to indicate not just that the pulsar existed but that it was observed by Bell; the past-perfect verb tense is inappropriate in the concluding clause.
- B The opening participial phrase functions as an adjective, but it has no logical noun or noun phrase to attach to; Bell herself was not announced in 1968.
- C Grammatically, the opening participial phrase describes the first noun that follows, but it makes no sense to say that *the*

discovery of the pulsar was observed, discovery of the first sighted pulsar is also imprecise; one does not discover a first sighting.

- D **Correct.** The sentence presents the sequence of events clearly and in the past tense.
- E This sentence presents events in a way that is confusing; as a conjunction, *while* indicates simultaneous events, but this sentence is about events that occurred in a sequence.

The correct answer is D.

SC02766

290. Sound can travel through water for enormous distances, prevented from dissipating its acoustic energy as a result of boundaries in the ocean created by water layers of different temperatures and densities.

- (A) prevented from dissipating its acoustic energy as a result of
- (B) prevented from having its acoustic energy dissipated by
- (C) its acoustic energy prevented from dissipating by
- (D) its acoustic energy prevented from being dissipated as a result of
- (E) preventing its acoustic energy from dissipating by

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

This sentence opens with a statement that sound can travel long distances through water and then explains why that is so: water layers in the ocean prevent acoustic energy from dissipating. Because *dissipating* is an intransitive verb, *acoustic energy* cannot be its object.

- A *Dissipating* is not a transitive verb, so *acoustic energy* cannot function as its object.
- B This version of the sentence is wordy, awkward, and indirect; *from having... by* erroneously suggests that the boundaries in the ocean are attempting to dissipate sound energy.
- C **Correct.** Here, *acoustic energy* is effectively modified by the participial *prevented from dissipating*.

- D This version of the sentence is wordy, awkward, and indirect; *being dissipated as a result of* makes it unclear whether the boundaries contribute to energy loss or prevent it.
- E This version of the sentence nonsensically explains that sound prevents the dissipation of its own energy.

The correct answer is C.

SC10996

291. Last year, land values in most parts of the pinelands rose almost so fast, and in some parts even faster than what they did outside the pinelands.
- (A) so fast, and in some parts even faster than what they did
- (B) so fast, and in some parts even faster than, those
- (C) as fast, and in some parts even faster than, those
- (D) as fast as, and in some parts even faster than, those
- (E) as fast as, and in some parts even faster than what they did

Idiom; Parallelism

This sentence says *x* rose *almost so fast y*, which is not a correct idiomatic construction; *x* rose *almost as fast as y* is the correct idiom for this comparison. The two elements being compared, *x* and *y*, must be parallel, but the noun *land values* (*x*) is not parallel to *what they did* (*y*). *Land values* in the pinelands (*x*) must be compared with *those* (the pronoun correctly replacing *land values*) outside the pinelands (*y*).

- A *So fast* is used instead of *as fast*. *What they did* is not parallel to *land values*.
- B *So fast* is not the correct idiom for comparison.
- C *As fast* must be followed by *as* in this comparison.
- D **Correct.** *As fast as* is the correct comparative conjunction used in this sentence; *those* is parallel to *land values*.
- E *What they did* is not parallel to *land values*.

The correct answer is D.

- SC03010
292. The North American moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing it must leap or go around them.

- (A) moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing it must leap or go around them
- (B) moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees while predators pursuing them must leap or go around
- (C) moose's long legs enable it to move quickly through the woods and to step easily over downed trees, but predators pursuing them must leap over or go around them
- (D) moose has long legs, enabling it to move quickly through the woods and to step easily over downed trees while predators pursuing them must leap or go around
- (E) moose has long legs that enable it to move quickly through the woods, stepping easily over downed trees while predators pursuing it must leap over or go around them

Logical predication; Agreement

This sentence explains the advantages of long legs to the North American moose. Since the sentence contains multiple relationships among pronouns, nouns, and modifiers, it is important that the various elements be clearly connected. The structure of the sentence makes it unclear whether *stepping easily over downed trees* is intended to modify the main subject, *the North American moose's long legs*, or the pronoun *it*. Although *it* presumably refers to *the North American moose*, it does so only obliquely, because *moose* does not appear in noun form in the sentence. The best way to construct this sentence is to make *moose* the subject of the main clause so that both occurrences of *it* have a clear antecedent. Because *stepping easily over them* is set off by commas from the preceding and ensuing clauses and because the apparently intransitive verb *leap* intervenes between *downed trees* and *them*, it is unclear whether *them* refers to the moose's legs or the downed trees. The phrase *leap or go around them* should say *leap over*, because the

point is that the predators must either leap over the downed trees (or go around them), not merely that the predators leap in the air or else go around the trees.

- A The function of *stepping easily over downed trees* is unclear in relation to the rest of the sentence. The pronoun *it* refers only obliquely and unclearly to *moose*, because only the possessive form *moose's* appears in the sentence. Furthermore, the final phrase should say *leap over*, not merely *leap*.
- B The function of *stepping easily over downed trees* is unclear in relation to the rest of the sentence. The pronoun *it* refers only obliquely and unclearly to *moose*, because only the possessive form *moose's* appears in the sentence. The plural pronoun *them* has no logical plural antecedent (surely the predators are not pursuing the moose's legs, but the moose itself; nor are the predators pursuing the downed trees). Furthermore, the final phrase should say *leap over*, not merely *leap*.
- C The plural pronoun *them* in *pursuing them* has no logical plural antecedent.
- D The plural pronoun *them* has no logical plural antecedent (*moose* can be used as a plural, but because in this sentence the singular verb *has* is used, *moose* must be construed as being singular here). Furthermore, the final phrase should say *leap over*, not merely *leap*.
- E **Correct.** The pronoun *it* refers to *moose*, and the pronoun *them* refers to *trees*. Also, the final phrase correctly says *leap over* or *go around them*.

The correct answer is E.

SC07885

293. Early administrative decisions in China's Ming Dynasty eventually caused a drastic fall in tax revenues, a reduction in military preparedness, the collapse of the currency system, and failed to make sufficient investment in vital transportation infrastructure.
- (A) the collapse of the currency system, and failed
 - (B) the collapse of the currency system, and failing
 - (C) and the collapse of the currency system, also failed

- (D) the collapse of the currency system, as well as failing
- (E) and the collapse of the currency system, as well as a failure

Parallelism; Grammatical construction; Rhetorical construction

The sentence provides a list of effects stemming from administrative decisions in the Ming Dynasty. To make the meaning clear, all items in the list should be in parallel grammatical form. The first three are noun phrases—*a drastic fall*, *a reduction*, and *the collapse*—but the final item, *failed*, is a verb. To preserve parallel structure, the fourth item should also be a noun phrase: *a failure*. An alternative interpretation might take *failed* as parallel with *caused*, so that *decisions* is the subject of both verbs, but it is illogical to say that the *decisions* failed to make sufficient investments.

- A The list of effects is not parallel since the first three items are noun phrases but the fourth is the verb *failed*. An alternative interpretation might take *failed* as parallel with *caused*, so that *decisions* is the subject of both verbs, but it is illogical to say that the *decisions* failed to make sufficient investments.
- B The list of effects is not parallel since the first three items are noun phrases but the fourth is the participle *failing*.
- C The list of three effects is followed by the verb *failed*, which lacks a subject, thus making the sentence ungrammatical.
- D The list of effects is not parallel since the first three items are noun phrases but the fourth is the participle *failing*.
- E **Correct.** The list of four effects is expressed in parallel grammatical form using noun phrases, including *a failure*.

The correct answer is E.

SC11017

294. Seismologists studying the earthquake that struck northern California in October 1989 are still investigating some of its mysteries: the unexpected power of the seismic waves, the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and the strange electromagnetic signals detected hours before the tremblor.

- (A) the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and the strange electromagnetic signals detected hours before the tremblor
- (B) the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and strange electromagnetic signals were detected hours before the tremblor
- (C) the upward thrust threw one man straight into the air, and hours before the tremblor strange electromagnetic signals were detected
- (D) one man was thrown straight into the air by the upward thrust, and hours before the tremblor strange electromagnetic signals were detected
- (E) one man who was thrown straight into the air by the upward thrust, and strange electromagnetic signals that were detected hours before the tremblor

Parallelism; Grammatical construction

Some of the earthquake's *mysteries* are described in a series of three correctly parallel elements: (1) *the unexpected power* . . . , (2) *the upward thrust* . . . , and (3) *the strange electromagnetic signals* Each of the three elements begins with an article (*the*), a modifier, and a noun. This parallelism is crucial, but each mystery is allowed the further modification most appropriate to it, whether a prepositional phrase (1), a clause (2), or a participial phrase (3).

- A Correct.** This sentence correctly provides a parallel series of three mysteries.
- B *The* is omitted before *strange*. The verb *were detected* makes the last element not parallel to the previous two.
- C Because they use complete independent clauses, the last two elements are not parallel to the first, and the sentence is ungrammatical.

- D The constructions beginning *one man* and *hours before* are not parallel to the construction beginning *the unexpected power*.
- E The grammatical constructions describing the mysteries are not parallel.

The correct answer is

A. SC10878

295. The type of behavior exhibited when an animal recognizes itself in a mirror comes within the domain of "theory of mind," thus is best studied as part of the field of animal cognition.

- (A) of "theory of mind," thus is best
- (B) "theory of mind," and so is best to be
- (C) of a "theory of mind," thus it is best
- (D) of "theory of mind" and thus is best
- (E) of the "theory of mind," and so it is best to be

Grammatical construction; Idiom

This sentence links two independent clauses; in such sentences, the clauses must normally be set off from each other (by a semicolon, for example), or else the second clause must be introduced by *and* or some other conjunction, not merely an adverb like *thus*. Also, a noun like *domain* normally is followed by the preposition *of* immediately preceding the noun phrase describing the domain.

- A The second clause incorrectly lacks an introducing conjunction.
- B The phrasing *is best to be studied* is awkwardly unusual and unidiomatic; *is best studied* is a better choice.
- C The second clause incorrectly lacks an introducing conjunction. The phrase *a "theory of mind"* would refer to one particular theory rather than (as intended) to a theoretical domain.
- D Correct.** *And* introduces the second clause, which uses the concise wording *best studied*.
- E The beginning of the second clause is redundant and wordy: the word *and* is unnecessary because the conjunction *so* is used, and *best to be studied* is unidiomatic.

The correct answer is D.

SC11054

296. Unlike the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka are concentrated in the monsoon months, June to September, and the skies are generally clear for the rest of the year.

- (A) Unlike the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka
- (B) Unlike the United States farmers who can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka
- (C) Unlike those of the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, most parts of Sri Lanka's rains
- (D) In comparison with the United States, whose farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka
- (E) In the United States, farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, but in most parts of Sri Lanka, the rains

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The intent of the sentence is to compare seasonal rainfall patterns in the United States and Sri Lanka. There are many ways to set up such comparisons: *unlike x, y*; *in comparison with x, y*; *compared to x, y*; and so on. The *x* and *y* being compared must be grammatically and logically parallel. An alternative way of stating the comparison is the use of two independent clauses connected by *but*. The original sentence compares *the United States* to *the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka*; this illogical comparison cannot convey the writer's intention.

- A This sentence illogically compares *the United States* to *the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka*.
- B Comparing *United States farmers* to *the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka* is not logical.
- C The sentence awkwardly and illogically seems to be comparing most parts of the United States with *most parts of Sri Lanka's rains*.
- D This sentence compares *the United States* and *the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka*.

- E **Correct.** This sentence uses two independent clauses to make the comparison. The first clause describes conditions in the United States, and the second clause describes conditions in Sri Lanka. The comparison is clear and logical.

The correct answer is E.

SC01564

297. In preparation for the prediction of a major earthquake that will hit the state, a satellite-based computer network is being built by the California Office of Emergency Services for identifying earthquake damage and to pinpoint the most affected areas within two hours of the event.

- (A) In preparation for the prediction of a major earthquake that will hit the state, a satellite-based computer network is being built by the California Office of Emergency Services for identifying
- (B) In preparing for the prediction that a major earthquake will hit the state, the California Office of Emergency Services is building a satellite-based computer network that will identify
- (C) In preparing for a major earthquake that is predicted to hit the state, the California Office of Emergency Services is building a satellite-based computer network to identify
- (D) To prepare for the prediction of a major earthquake hitting the state, a satellite-based computer network is being built by the California Office of Emergency Services to identify
- (E) To prepare for a major earthquake that is predicted to hit the state, the California Office of Emergency Services is building a satellite-based computer network that will identify

Logical predication; Parallelism

This sentence explains what the California Office of Emergency Services is doing to prepare for an earthquake that has been predicted for the state, but the sentence appears to claim that the California Office is doing these things to prepare for the prediction. The two purposes of these preparations should be presented in parallel form, but the sentence as written presents one as a prepositional phrase (*for identifying*) and the other as an infinitive (*to pinpoint*).

- A In this version of the sentence, the opening phrase illogically claims that the California Office is preparing for a prediction, but later in the sentence it becomes clear that the preparations are targeted to the aftermath of a possible earthquake, not its prediction. The two purposes of the preparations are not presented in parallel form.
- B Like (A), this version of the sentence identifies preparations for a prediction rather than an earthquake; the two purposes of the preparations are not presented in parallel form.
- C **Correct.** The preparations are correctly presented as being for an earthquake, and the two purposes of the preparations are presented in parallel form (*to identify* and *to pinpoint*).
- D As in (A) and (B), the beginning of this sentence is inconsistent with the rest of it. The opening phrase claims to describe preparations for a prediction, whereas the latter part of the sentence indicates that the preparations are for a predicted earthquake.
- E Like (A) and (B), this sentence does not present the two purposes of the preparations in parallel form.

The correct answer is C.

SC06727

298. Once numbering in the millions worldwide, it is estimated that the wolf has declined to 200,000 in 57 countries, some 11,000 of them to be found in the lower 48 United States and Alaska.

- (A) it is estimated that the wolf has declined to 200,000 in 57 countries, some
- (B) the wolf is estimated to have declined to 200,000 in 57 countries, with approximately
- (C) the wolf has declined to an estimate of 200,000 in 57 countries, some
- (D) wolves have declined to an estimate of 200,000 in 57 countries, with approximately
- (E) wolves have declined to an estimated 200,000 in 57 countries, some

Logical predication; Idiom

The predicate *numbered* must have its logically correct subject, which is *wolves*. Although *the wolf* can be used to refer collectively to wolves as a category, the noun should be plural in this case since the sentence refers to numbers of them and since agreement is needed between the noun and the plural pronoun *them*. Given the plural subject, the verb in the independent clause should be *have declined*. The object of *decline to* should be a word or phrase naming a number or estimated number (e.g., a phrase such as *an estimated 200,000*), not the phrase *an estimate*.

- A The subject of the main clause (*it*) seems to supply the subject of *numbering*, so the latter does not have its correct logical subject, which should be a word or phrase referring to *wolves*.
- B *The wolf* cannot correctly be taken as the subject of *numbering*, as it is singular and in disagreement with *them* occurring later in the sentence.
- C *The wolf* cannot correctly be taken as the subject of *numbering*, as it is singular and disagrees with the later *them*; also, a decline is strictly speaking to a number, not to *an estimate*.
- D Although *wolves* is a correct subject for *numbering*, a decline should be to a number, not to *an estimate*.
- E **Correct.** *Wolves* is a proper subject for *numbering* and agrees with the later *them*. The decline is correctly said to be to a number, *an estimated 200,000*.

The correct answer is E.

SC11926

299. As business grows more complex, students majoring in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming increasingly successful in the job market.

- (A) majoring in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming increasingly
- (B) who major in such specialized areas as finance and marketing are becoming more and more

- (C) who majored in specialized areas such as those of finance and marketing are being increasingly
- (D) who major in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming more and more
- (E) having majored in such specialized areas as finance and marketing are being increasingly

Verb form; Diction

The subordinate clause *as business grows more complex* uses the present-tense verb *grows* to describe an ongoing situation. The main clause describes an effect of this growing complexity; the verbs in the main clause should also use present-tense verbs. The present perfect progressive *have been becoming* is incorrect. The preferred way to introduce examples is with the phrase *such as*, rather than with the word *like*, which suggests a comparison.

- A *Like* should be replaced by *such as*. *Have been becoming* is an incorrect verb tense.
- B **Correct.** In this sentence, *major* and *are becoming* are present-tense verbs; *such . . . as* is the preferred form for introducing examples.
- C *Majored* is a past-tense verb; *those of* is unnecessary and awkward. *Becoming* is preferable to *being* for describing an unfolding pattern of events.
- D *Like* should be replaced by *such as*. *Those of* is unnecessary and awkward. *Have been becoming* is an incorrect verb tense.
- E *Having majored* is an awkward past participle. *Becoming* is preferable to *being* for describing an unfolding pattern of events.

The correct answer is B.

SC04682

300. Created in 1945 to reduce poverty and stabilize foreign currency markets, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have, according to some critics, continually struggled to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—but neglected their intended beneficiaries in the developing world.
- (A) continually struggled to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—but neglected

- (B) continually struggled as they try to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—while neglecting that of
- (C) continually struggled to meet their major shareholders' expectations—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—but neglected that of
- (D) had to struggle continually in trying to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—while neglecting that of
- (E) struggled continually in trying to meet their major shareholders' expectations—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—and neglecting

Idiom; Verb form

This sentence describes a contradiction some critics have ascribed to the actions and policies of both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund: although they were created to address poverty in the developing world, they struggled to meet their major shareholders' expectations and neglected their intended beneficiaries. The contradiction is best expressed by joining the two past-tense verbs *struggled to meet . . .* and *neglected . . .* with the contrasting conjunction *but*. The appositive phrase set off with dashes must immediately follow the noun it defines (*shareholders*).

- A **Correct.** The conjunction *but* accurately describes the contradiction between what the organizations did for their major shareholders and what they did not do for their intended beneficiaries, and the appositive clearly defines the immediately preceding noun, *shareholders*.
- B The present tense of *as they try to meet* is inconsistent with the rest of the verbs in the sentence. The pronoun *that* seems to have no referent in the phrase *while neglecting that of . . .* since the only likely antecedent *expectations* is plural.
- C The appositive grammatically but nonsensically describes expectations rather than shareholders; as in (B), the pronoun *that* does not agree in number with its likely antecedent *expectations*.

- D Like (B), this version is unnecessarily wordy, and like (C), it introduces the pronoun *that*, which disagrees in number with the antecedent *expectations*.
- E As in (C), the appositive seems to define *expectations* rather than *shareholders*, and the conjunction *and* fails to capture the contradictory relationship between the organizations actions toward their shareholders and their intended beneficiaries.

The correct answer is A.

SC01911

301. Unlike auto insurance, the frequency of claims does not affect the premiums for personal property coverage, but if the insurance company is able to prove excessive loss due to owner negligence, it may decline to renew the policy.
- (A) Unlike auto insurance, the frequency of claims does not affect the premiums for personal property coverage,
- (B) Unlike with auto insurance, the frequency of claims do not affect the premiums for personal property coverage,
- (C) Unlike the frequency of claims for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage are not affected by the frequency of claims,
- (D) Unlike the premiums for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage are not affected by the frequency of claims,

- (E) Unlike with the premiums for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage is not affected by the frequency of claims,

Logical predication; Agreement

The sentence has been written so that *auto insurance* is contrasted with *the frequency of claims*. The correct contrast is between *the premiums for auto insurance* and *the premiums for personal property coverage*.

- A *Auto insurance* is illogically contrasted with *the frequency of claims*.
- B *Unlike with* is an incorrect idiom; *auto insurance* is contrasted with *the frequency of claims*; the singular subject *frequency* does not agree with the plural verb *do*.
- C *The frequency of claims* is contrasted with *the premiums for personal property coverage*.
- D **Correct.** The contrast between *the premiums for auto insurance* and *the premiums for personal property coverage* is clearly and correctly stated in this sentence.
- E *Unlike with* is an incorrect idiom; the plural subject *premiums* does not agree with the singular verb *is not affected*.

The correct answer is D.

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Time Limit
Reading Comprehension	Text-based reading comprehension	12	35 minutes
Logical Reasoning	Text-based logical reasoning	24	35 minutes
Analytical Reasoning	Text-based analytical reasoning	24	35 minutes
Text Completion	Text-based sentence completion	16	25 minutes
Verbal Reasoning	Text-based verbal reasoning	16	25 minutes
Mathematics	Quantitative reasoning	37	35 minutes
Writing	Writing sample	1	30 minutes

6.0 Verbal Question Index

6.0 Verbal Question Index

The Verbal Question Index is organized by difficulty level, GMAT section, and then by verbal concept. All the numbers below are associated with the problem numbers in the guide and not the page numbers.

There are different ways you can classify and categorize each of the different types of problems. Below are the GMAC classification and categorization of the verbal practice problems.

Difficulty: Easy

Critical Reasoning

- Argument Construction: 108, 109, 113, 114, 116, 118, 120, 121, 124, 128, 130, 131, 133
- Argument Evaluation: 110, 112, 117, 119, 127, 129, 132, 134
- Evaluation of a Plan: 106, 107, 111, 115, 123, 125, 126

Reading Comprehension

- Application: 2
- Evaluation: 21, 26
- Inference: 7, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24
- Main idea: 4, 9, 11
- Supporting idea: 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18, 25, 27
- Supporting ideas: 12

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Difficulty: Medium

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Difficulty: Hard

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7.0 GMAT Official Guide Verbal Review Online Index

GMAT Official Guide Verbal Review Online Index

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To locate a question from the online question bank in the book—Every question in the online question bank has a unique ID, called the Practice Question Identifier or PQID, which appears above the question number. Look up the PQID in the table to find its problem number and page number in the book.

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Notes

1. *What is the relationship between the two concepts?*

2. *What is the relationship between the two concepts?*

3. *What is the relationship between the two concepts?*

4. *What is the relationship between the two concepts?*

5. *What is the relationship between the two concepts?*

6. *What is the relationship between the two concepts?*

7. *What is the relationship between the two concepts?*

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10. *What is the relationship between the two concepts?*

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