

# Question ID afec1a70

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: afec1a70

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- As engineered structures, many bird nests are uniquely flexible yet cohesive.
- A research team led by Yashraj Bhosale wanted to better understand the mechanics behind these structural properties.
- Bhosale’s team used laboratory models that simulated the arrangement of flexible sticks into nest-like structures.
- The researchers analyzed the points where sticks touched one another.
- When pressure was applied to the model nests, the number of contact points between the sticks increased, making the structures stiffer.

The student wants to present the primary aim of the research study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Bhosale’s team wanted to better understand the mechanics behind bird nests’ uniquely flexible yet cohesive structural properties.
- B. The researchers used laboratory models that simulated the arrangement of flexible sticks and analyzed the points where sticks touched one another.
- C. After analyzing the points where sticks touched, the researchers found that the structures became stiffer when pressure was applied.
- D. As analyzed by Bhosale’s team, bird nests are uniquely flexible yet cohesive engineered structures.

ID: afec1a70 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It describes the reason Bhosale’s team wanted to study the structures of bird nests—that is to say, the study’s primary aim.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t present the primary aim of the research study. It describes how the study worked, but not why it was done. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn’t present the primary aim of the research study. It describes a result of the experiment, but not why it was carried out. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn’t present the primary aim of the research study.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 660d50dc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 660d50dc

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was a prominent classical music composer from England who toured the US three times in the early 1900s. The child of a West African father and an English mother, Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry. For example, he referred to himself as Anglo-African. \_\_\_\_\_ he incorporated the sounds of traditional African music into his classical music compositions.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In addition,
- B. Actually,
- C. However,
- D. Regardless,

ID: 660d50dc Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “In addition” logically signals that the detail in this sentence—that Coleridge-Taylor included traditional African music in his classical compositions—adds to the information in the previous sentence. Specifically, the previous sentence indicates one way in which Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry, and the claim that follows indicates a second, additional way.

Choice B is incorrect because “actually” illogically signals that the detail in this sentence is surprising in light of the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the detail adds to the information, indicating a second, additional way in which Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry. Choice C is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the detail in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the detail adds to the information, indicating a second, additional way in which Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry. Choice D is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the detail in this sentence is true despite the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the detail adds to the information, indicating a second, additional way in which Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 4d2736f0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4d2736f0

In her poetry collection *Thomas and Beulah*, Rita Dove interweaves the titular characters’ personal stories with broader historical narratives. She places Thomas’s journey from the American South to the Midwest in the early 1900s within the larger context of the Great Migration. \_\_\_\_\_ Dove sets events from Beulah’s personal life against the backdrop of the US Civil Rights Movement.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. Thus,
- C. Regardless,
- D. Similarly,

ID: 4d2736f0 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Similarly” logically signals that the information in the sentence—that Dove situates Beulah’s life in the context of the US Civil Rights Movement—is similar to the previous information about Thomas and the Great Migration. Both sentences support the first sentence’s claim that Dove portrays her characters in the context of broader historical narratives.

Choice A is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information about Beulah in this sentence provides specific details elaborating on the previous information about Thomas. Instead, it’s similar to the previous information about Thomas. Choice B is incorrect because “thus” illogically signals that the information about Beulah in this sentence is a result or consequence of the previous information about Thomas. Instead, it’s similar to the previous information about Thomas. Choice C is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the information about Beulah in this sentence is true despite the previous information about Thomas. Instead, it’s similar to the previous information about Thomas.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 39ccb463

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: 39ccb463

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The *Atlantic Monthly* magazine was first published in 1857.
- The magazine focused on politics, art, and literature.
- In 2019, historian Cathryn Halverson published the book *Faraway Women and the “Atlantic Monthly.”*
- Its subject is female authors whose autobiographies appeared in the magazine in the early 1900s.
- One of the authors discussed is Juanita Harrison.

The student wants to introduce Cathryn Halverson’s book to an audience already familiar with the *Atlantic Monthly*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Cathryn Halverson’s *Faraway Women and the “Atlantic Monthly”* discusses female authors whose autobiographies appeared in the magazine in the early 1900s.
- B. A magazine called the *Atlantic Monthly*, referred to in Cathryn Halverson’s book title, was first published in 1857.
- C. *Faraway Women and the “Atlantic Monthly”* features contributors to the *Atlantic Monthly*, first published in 1857 as a magazine focusing on politics, art, and literature.
- D. An author discussed by Cathryn Halverson is Juanita Harrison, whose autobiography appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly* in the early 1900s.

ID: 39ccb463 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence effectively introduces Cathryn Halverson’s book to an audience already familiar with the *Atlantic Monthly*, noting the title of Halverson’s book and describing its content without providing background information about the *Atlantic Monthly*.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence introduces the *Atlantic Monthly* and mentions that it’s referred to in Cathryn Halverson’s book title; it doesn’t effectively introduce Halverson’s book. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence assumes that the audience is unfamiliar with the *Atlantic Monthly*, providing background information about the magazine; it doesn’t effectively introduce Halverson’s book to an audience already familiar with the *Atlantic Monthly*. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence assumes that the audience is familiar with the *Atlantic Monthly*, it doesn’t effectively introduce Cathryn Halverson’s book.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID b46e0c8a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b46e0c8a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Organisms release cellular material into their environment by shedding substances such as hair or skin.
- The DNA in these substances is known as environmental DNA, or eDNA.
- Researchers collect and analyze eDNA to detect the presence of species that are difficult to observe.
- Geneticist Sara Oyler-McCance’s research team analyzed eDNA in water samples from the Florida Everglades to detect invasive constrictor snake species in the area.
- The study determined a 91% probability of detecting Burmese python eDNA in a given location.

The student wants to present the study to an audience already familiar with environmental DNA. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Sara Oyler-McCance’s researchers analyzed eDNA in water samples from the Florida Everglades for evidence of invasive constrictor snakes, which are difficult to observe.
- B. An analysis of eDNA can detect the presence of invasive species that are difficult to observe, such as constrictor snakes.
- C. Researchers found Burmese python eDNA, or environmental DNA, in water samples; eDNA is the DNA in released cellular materials, such as shed skin cells.
- D. Sara Oyler-McCance’s researchers analyzed environmental DNA (eDNA)—that is, DNA from cellular materials released by organisms—in water samples from the Florida Everglades.

ID: b46e0c8a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice presents the study in a way that assumes the audience is already familiar with eDNA.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t present the study. It only states a general fact about eDNA analysis. Choice C is incorrect. This choice isn’t suited for an audience already familiar with eDNA. A familiar audience wouldn’t need to have the term defined or explained. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn’t suited for an audience already familiar with eDNA. A familiar audience wouldn’t need to have the term defined or explained. It also doesn’t present the study.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 48d0bb34

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

**ID: 48d0bb34**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Sam Maloof (1916–2009) was an American woodworker and furniture designer.
- He was the son of Lebanese immigrants.
- He received a “genius grant” from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in 1985.
- The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts, owns a rocking chair that Maloof made from walnut wood.
- The armrests and the seat of the chair are sleek and contoured, and the back consists of seven spindle-like slats.

The student wants to describe the rocking chair to an audience unfamiliar with Sam Maloof. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. With its sleek, contoured armrests and seat, the walnut rocking chair in Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts is just one piece of furniture created by American woodworker Sam Maloof.
- B. Sam Maloof was born in 1916 and died in 2009, and during his life, he made a chair that you can see if you visit the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.
- C. Furniture designer Sam Maloof was a recipient of one of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s “genius grants.”
- D. The rocking chair is made from walnut, and it has been shaped such that its armrests and seat are sleek and contoured.

**ID: 48d0bb34 Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence effectively describes the rocking chair to an audience unfamiliar with Sam Maloof, noting its sleek, contoured armrests and seat and explaining that Sam Maloof (the walnut chair’s creator) was an American woodworker.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence explains who Sam Maloof was and mentions a chair, it doesn’t describe the chair. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence explains who Sam Maloof was, it doesn’t describe the rocking chair. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence describes the rocking chair, it doesn’t explain who Sam Maloof was.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID aa7e10d0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: aa7e10d0

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Species belonging to the Orchidaceae (orchid) family can be found in both tropical and temperate environments.
- Orchidaceae species diversity has not been well studied in temperate forests, such as those in Oaxaca, Mexico.
- Arelee Estefanía Muñoz-Hernández led a study to determine how many different Orchidaceae species are present in the forests of Oaxaca.
- Muñoz-Hernández and her team collected orchids each month for a year at a site in Oaxaca.
- Seventy-four Orchidaceae species were present at the site.

The student wants to present the study and its findings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. A study led by Arelee Estefanía Muñoz-Hernández identified a total of 74 Orchidaceae species in the temperate forests of Oaxaca, Mexico.
- B. There are orchids in many environments, but there are 74 Orchidaceae species in Oaxaca, Mexico.
- C. Oaxaca, Mexico, is home to temperate forests containing 74 Orchidaceae species.
- D. Arelee Estefanía Muñoz-Hernández and her team wanted to know how many different Orchidaceae species are present in the forests of Oaxaca, Mexico, so they conducted a study to collect orchids.

ID: aa7e10d0 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice most effectively presents the study and its findings. It opens with the study and names its lead researcher, then tells us its finding: that they identified 74 Orchidaceae species in the temperate forests of Oaxaca, Mexico.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't include the study's findings, so it fails to achieve the goal. It doesn't mention that there was a study at all. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't present the study, so it fails to achieve the goal. It doesn't mention that there was a study at all. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't include the study's findings, so it fails to achieve the goal.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 264e7415

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 264e7415

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike was a road built between 1792 and 1794.
- It was the first private turnpike in the United States.
- It connected the cities of Philadelphia and Lancaster in the state of Pennsylvania.
- It was sixty-two miles long.

The student wants to emphasize the distance covered by the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The sixty-two-mile-long Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike connected the Pennsylvania cities of Philadelphia and Lancaster.
- B. The Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike was the first private turnpike in the United States.
- C. The Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, which connected two Pennsylvania cities, was built between 1792 and 1794.
- D. A historic Pennsylvania road, the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike was completed in 1794.

ID: 264e7415 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the distance covered by the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, noting that the turnpike, which connected the two Pennsylvania cities in its name, was sixty-two miles long.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the significance of the turnpike; it doesn't emphasize the distance that the turnpike covered. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that the turnpike connected two Pennsylvania cities, it doesn't emphasize the specific distance covered by the turnpike. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes when the turnpike was built; it doesn't emphasize the distance that the turnpike covered.

Question Difficulty: Easy



# Question ID e3edc138

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e3edc138

In a heated debate in biogeography, the field is divided between dispersalists and vicariancists. \_\_\_\_\_ there are those who argue that dispersal is the most crucial determining factor in a species’ distribution, and those who insist that vicariance (separation due to geographic barriers) is. Biogeographer Isabel Sanmartín counts herself among neither.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Furthermore,
- B. By contrast,
- C. Similarly,
- D. That is,

ID: e3edc138 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “That is” logically signals that this sentence clarifies the terms of the scientific debate introduced in the previous sentence by explaining the difference between dispersalists and vicariancists.

Choice A is incorrect because “furthermore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely additional to (and separate from) the information in the previous sentence about the scientific debate. Instead, the information about dispersalists and vicariancists clarifies the terms of that debate. Choice B is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence about the scientific debate. Instead, the information about dispersalists and vicariancists clarifies the terms of that debate. Choice C is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely similar to the information in the previous sentence about the scientific debate. Instead, the information about dispersalists and vicariancists clarifies the terms of that debate.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID a40c7aa3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a40c7aa3

Most of the planets that have been discovered outside our solar system orbit G-type stars, like our Sun. In 2014, \_\_\_\_\_ researchers identified a planet orbiting KELT-9, a B-type star more than twice as massive and nearly twice as hot as the Sun. Called KELT-9b, it is one of the hottest planets ever discovered.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. likewise,
- B. however,
- C. therefore,
- D. for example,

ID: a40c7aa3 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The word “however” logically signals that the information in this sentence about the planet KELT-9b—that it orbits a B-type star—contrasts with the previous information about planets discovered outside our solar system. Most of these planets orbit G-type stars, not B-type stars.

Choice A is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the information about the planet KELT-9b is similar to the previous information about most planets outside our solar system. Instead, it contrasts with that information. Choice C is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the information about the planet KELT-9b is a result of the previous information about most planets outside our solar system. Instead, it contrasts with that information. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information about the planet KELT-9b is an example of the previous information about most planets outside our solar system. Instead, it contrasts with that information.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 00221c00

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 00221c00

In 1815, while in exile in Jamaica, Venezuelan revolutionary Simón Bolívar penned a letter praising England’s republican government and expressing hope that Latin American nations seeking independence from Spain might achieve something similar. The letter was addressed to a local merchant, Henry Cullen; \_\_\_\_\_ though, Bolívar’s goal was to persuade political leaders from England and Europe to support his cause.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. additionally,
- B. ultimately,
- C. accordingly,
- D. consequently,

ID: 00221c00 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Ultimately” means “in the long run” or “at the highest level.” Although Bolívar wrote to a local merchant, his ultimate goal was to send a message to political leaders in Europe. Therefore, “ultimately” fits perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of an agreeing idea. However, the second part of the sentence actually disagrees with the first part. Bolívar addressed the letter to Cullen, but he was really sending a message to someone else. Notice how the contrast word “though” also acts as a transition between these ideas. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition. Bolívar’s writing of the letter to Cullen would not cause him to have a goal of persuading European powers to support him. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition. Bolívar’s writing of the letter to Cullen would not cause him to have a goal of persuading European powers to support him.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID af89fa02

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: af89fa02

The Babylonian king Hammurabi achieved much during his forty-year reign. He conquered all of Mesopotamia and built Babylon into one of the most powerful cities of the ancient world. Today, \_\_\_\_\_ he is mainly remembered for a code of laws inscribed on a seven-foot-tall block of stone: the Code of Hammurabi.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. therefore,
- B. likewise,
- C. however,
- D. for instance,

ID: af89fa02 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “However” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Hammurabi is mainly remembered for just a single achievement, the Code of Hammurabi—is contrary to what might be assumed from the previous information about Hammurabi’s many achievements.

Choice A is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the previous information about Hammurabi’s many achievements. Instead, this sentence makes a point that is contrary to what might be assumed from the previous information. Choice B is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about Hammurabi’s many achievements. Instead, this sentence makes a point that is contrary to what might be assumed from the previous information. Choice D is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that this sentence exemplifies the previous information about Hammurabi’s many achievements. Instead, this sentence makes a point that is contrary to what might be assumed from the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 16631d34

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

**ID: 16631d34**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Million Song Dataset (MSD) includes main audio features and descriptive tags for popular songs.
- Audio features include acoustic traits such as loudness and pitch intervals.
- Many algorithms use these audio features to predict a new song’s popularity.
- These algorithms may fail to accurately identify main audio features of a song with varying acoustic traits.
- Algorithms based on descriptive tags that describe fixed traits such as genre are more reliable predictors of song popularity.

The student wants to explain a disadvantage of relying on audio features to predict a song’s popularity. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Many popularity-predicting algorithms are based on a song’s audio features, such as loudness and pitch intervals.
- B. Algorithms based on audio features may misidentify the main features of a song with varying acoustic traits, making such algorithms less reliable predictors of popularity than those based on fixed traits.
- C. Audio features describe acoustic traits such as pitch intervals, which may vary within a song, whereas descriptive tags describe fixed traits such as genre, which are reliable predictors of popularity.
- D. The MSD’s descriptive tags are reliable predictors of a song’s popularity, as the traits they describe are fixed.

**ID: 16631d34 Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice uses relevant information from the notes to explain a disadvantage of relying on audio features to predict a song’s popularity—namely, that it may misidentify features of certain songs. It also contrasts audio features with descriptive tags, which are more reliable predictors.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice only states a fact about the algorithms without evaluating their reliability or accuracy. Choice C is incorrect. This choice only describes the difference between audio features and descriptive tags without indicating why this difference matters for predicting popularity. Choice D is incorrect. This choice only mentions descriptive tags, which are not the focus of the student’s rhetorical goal.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID e2693197

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e2693197

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- *Oracles of the Pink Universe* was a 2021 exhibition at the Denver Museum of Art in Colorado.
- It featured eight artworks by South African artist Simphiwe Ndzube.
- One of these works is a painting titled *Assertion of Will*.
- *Assertion of Will* depicts three standing figures.
- The figures wear clothing made of fabric pieces stitched to the painting’s canvas.

The student wants to describe how fabric is used in *Assertion of Will*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In *Assertion of Will*, the figures’ clothing is made of fabric pieces stitched to the painting’s canvas.
- B. The exhibition *Oracles of the Pink Universe* featured artworks by artist Simphiwe Ndzube.
- C. Depicting three standing, clothed figures, *Assertion of Will* is a painting by Simphiwe Ndzube.
- D. Simphiwe Ndzube’s *Assertion of Will* was one of eight artworks exhibited in *Oracles of the Pink Universe* at the Denver Museum of Art.

ID: e2693197 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice directly describes how fabric is used in *Assertion of Will*, by explaining that the fabric pieces are part of the painting itself.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice provides contextual information about the exhibition, but it doesn’t mention anything about the painting or the fabric. Choice C is incorrect. This choice mentions that the figures are clothed, but it doesn’t explain how the fabric is integrated into the painting. Choice D is incorrect. This choice provides contextual information about the painting, but it doesn’t mention anything about the fabric or how it is used.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 601b9d18

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

**ID: 601b9d18**

Some members of the US Supreme Court have resisted calls to televise the court’s oral arguments, concerned that the participants would be tempted to perform for the cameras (and thus lower the quality of the discourse). \_\_\_\_ the justices worry that most viewers would not even watch the full deliberations, only short clips that could be misinterpreted and mischaracterized.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. Additionally,
- C. In comparison,
- D. For example,

**ID: 601b9d18 Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Additionally” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that some Supreme Court justices worry that viewers (of televised court arguments) would watch only short, misleading clips—adds to the information in the previous sentence. Specifically, the previous sentence indicates one concern raised by those opposed to televising the court’s oral arguments, and the claim that follows indicates a second, additional concern.

Choice A is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the claim adds to the information, indicating a second, additional concern that some Supreme Court justices have about televising the court’s arguments. Choice C is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is being compared to the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the claim adds to the information, indicating a second, additional concern that some Supreme Court justices have about televising the court’s arguments. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence exemplifies the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the claim adds to the information, indicating a second, additional concern that some Supreme Court justices have about televising the court’s arguments.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID ec3d7605

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ec3d7605

Award-winning travel writer Linda Watanabe McFerrin considers the background research she conducts on destinations featured in her travel books to be its own reward. \_\_\_\_\_ McFerrin admits to finding the research phase of her work just as fascinating and engaging as exploring a location in person.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. By contrast,
- B. Likewise,
- C. Besides,
- D. In fact,

ID: ec3d7605 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “In fact” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that McFerrin finds the research phase of her work to be just as fascinating as travel—emphasizes and elaborates on the previous sentence’s point that McFerrin regards background research as a rewarding activity.

Choice A is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous sentence’s point about McFerrin’s attitude toward background research. Instead, it emphasizes and elaborates on that point. Choice B is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that this sentence merely adds a second, similar point to the previous sentence’s point about McFerrin’s attitude toward background research. Instead, it emphasizes and elaborates on that point. Choice C is incorrect because “besides” illogically signals that this sentence provides a separate point in addition to, or apart from, the previous sentence’s point about McFerrin’s attitude toward background research. Instead, it emphasizes and elaborates on that point.

Question Difficulty: Medium



# Question ID a819d8b6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a819d8b6

In 1873, Spanish scientist Santiago Ramón y Cajal observed that brain fibers have distinct boundaries with clear end points, a finding that went against earlier assumptions about the brain. \_\_\_\_\_ scientists had assumed that the brain was a continuous web of fused fibers, not a vast network of distinct, individual cells.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. Previously,
- C. As a result,
- D. Likewise,

ID: a819d8b6 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Previously” logically signals that the fused fiber theory came before Ramón y Cajal’s discovery.

Choice A is incorrect. “However” illogically signals that the fused fiber theory in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence. While this theory does contrast with Ramón y Cajal’s discovery, the previous sentence concludes by stating that his discovery went against prior assumptions about the brain. The fact that the fused fiber theory was one of those earlier assumptions makes “however” an illogical choice. Choice C is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the fused fiber theory in this sentence was a result of the discovery in the previous sentence. Instead, the fused fiber theory came before Ramón y Cajal’s discovery. Choice D is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the fused fiber theory in this sentence was similar to the discovery in the previous sentence. Instead, the fused fiber theory, which came before Ramón y Cajal’s discovery, was very different from it.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 84e108cf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 84e108cf

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Platinum is a rare and expensive metal.
- It is used as a catalyst for chemical reactions.
- Platinum catalysts typically require a large amount of platinum to be effective.
- Researcher Jianbo Tang and his colleagues created a platinum catalyst that combines platinum with liquid gallium.
- Their catalyst was highly effective and required only trace amounts of platinum (0.0001% of the atoms in the mixture).

The student wants to explain an advantage of the new platinum catalyst developed by Jianbo Tang and his colleagues. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Researcher Jianbo Tang and his colleagues created a platinum catalyst that combines platinum, a rare and expensive metal, with liquid gallium.
- B. Like other platinum catalysts, the new platinum catalyst requires a particular amount of the metal to be effective.
- C. Platinum is a rare and expensive metal that is used as a catalyst for chemical reactions; however, platinum catalysts typically require a large amount of platinum to be effective.
- D. While still highly effective, the new platinum catalyst requires far less of the rare and expensive metal than do other platinum catalysts.

ID: 84e108cf Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence explains an advantage of Tang and his colleagues’ platinum catalyst, noting that it requires far less platinum (which is rare and expensive) than other platinum catalysts do.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes the platinum catalyst that Tang and his colleagues created; it doesn’t explain an advantage of their platinum catalyst. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the new platinum catalyst and other platinum catalysts; it doesn’t explain an advantage of the new platinum catalyst. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence connects the metal platinum to the functioning of platinum catalysts, noting that large amounts of platinum are typically required for platinum catalysts to be effective; it doesn’t explain an advantage of Tang and his colleagues’ platinum catalyst.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 326017ce

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 326017ce

For years, biologists have experimented with using grime-eating bacteria rather than harsh chemicals to clean artworks, and results have been impressive overall. \_\_\_\_\_ these bacterial strains—which can metabolize centuries’ worth of oil, glue, dirt, and other surface impurities without creating harmful byproducts—have proven more effective than traditional chemical cleaning methods.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. In many cases,
- C. As a result,
- D. Additionally,

ID: 326017ce Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The first sentence makes the claim that using grime-eating bacteria has led to “impressive results.” This sentence supports that claim by describing the specific findings of the biologists’ experimentation. The transition “in many cases” fits the context perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence actually agrees with the previous sentence. Both claim that grime-eating bacteria are better at cleaning artworks than chemicals. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense in context. The fact that the results of the experimentation have been impressive overall doesn’t cause the bacteria to have proven more effective. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of a new idea. But this sentence doesn’t introduce a new idea. Instead, it elaborates on the same idea laid out in the previous sentence by describing the “impressive results” in more detail.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID c78620ba

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c78620ba

In 1968, US Congressman John Conyers introduced a bill to establish a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The bill didn’t make it to a vote, but Conyers was determined. He teamed up with Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to be elected to Congress, and they resubmitted the bill every session for the next fifteen years. \_\_\_\_ in 1983, the bill passed.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Instead,
- B. Likewise,
- C. Finally,
- D. Additionally,

ID: c78620ba Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Finally” logically signals that the bill passing—following many attempts between 1968 and 1983—is the final, concluding event in the sequence described in the previous sentences.

Choice A is incorrect because “instead” illogically signals that the bill passing is an alternative to one of the events described in the previous sentences. Instead, it is the final event in the sequence. Choice B is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the bill passing is similar to one of the events described in the previous sentences. Instead, it is the final event in the sequence. Choice D is incorrect because “additionally” illogically signals that the bill passing is merely another event described along with the events of the previous sentences. Instead, it is the final, concluding event in the sequence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 20733eac

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 20733eac

It has long been thought that humans first crossed a land bridge into the Americas approximately 13,000 years ago. \_\_\_\_\_ based on radiocarbon dating of samples uncovered in Mexico, a research team recently suggested that humans may have arrived more than 30,000 years ago—much earlier than previously thought.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. Similarly,
- C. However,
- D. In conclusion,

ID: 20733eac Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “However” logically signals that the theory discussed in this sentence—that humans may have arrived in the Americas over 30,000 years ago—contrasts with the previously discussed theory that humans arrived around 13,000 years ago.

Choice A is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the theory in this sentence is the result of the theory discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, this theory contrasts with the previous one. Choice B is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the theory in this sentence is similar to the theory discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, this theory contrasts with the previous one. Choice D is incorrect because “in conclusion” illogically signals that the theory in this sentence concludes or summarizes the discussion of the previous theory. Instead, this theory contrasts with the previous one.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID ca4ff52d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ca4ff52d

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Muslins are woven cotton fabrics with a variety of uses.
- Dhaka muslin is a handmade fabric produced in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- It has an extremely fine weave and is primarily used to make luxury clothing.
- Sheeting muslin is a machine-made fabric produced in factories.
- It has a coarse weave and is primarily used to upholster furniture and create backdrops for theater sets.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the two muslins. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Dhaka muslin is a handmade fabric with an extremely fine weave, while sheeting muslin is machine made with a coarse weave.
- B. Dhaka muslin and sheeting muslin are two different types of woven cotton fabrics.
- C. Muslins can be used in a variety of ways, from making luxury clothing to upholstering furniture and creating backdrops for theater sets.
- D. Sheeting muslin is machine made, has a coarse weave, and is used for furniture and theater sets.

ID: ca4ff52d Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The difference between the two different kinds of muslin is emphasized.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice lists two kinds of muslins, but does not say how they are different from one another. Choice C is incorrect. This choice does not emphasize a difference between the two muslins. Choice D is incorrect. This choice does not emphasize a difference between the two muslins. It only describes sheeting muslin.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 6c9df5d1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6c9df5d1

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Some powerful works of literature have so influenced readers that new legislation has been passed as a result.
- *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (1789) is the autobiography of a man who endured slavery on both sides of the Atlantic.
- Equiano’s book contributed to the passage of the Slave Trade Act of 1807.
- *The Jungle* (1906) is a fictional work by Upton Sinclair that describes unsanitary conditions in US meatpacking plants.
- Sinclair’s book contributed to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the two books. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Although both are powerful works of literature that contributed to new legislation, Equiano’s book is an autobiography, while Sinclair’s is fictional.
- B. They may have written about different topics, but Equiano and Sinclair both influenced readers.
- C. The 1807 Slave Trade Act resulted in part from a book by Equiano, while the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act resulted in part from a book by Sinclair.
- D. *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* and *The Jungle* are two works of literature that contributed to new legislation (concerning the slave trade and food safety, respectively).

ID: 6c9df5d1 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice emphasizes a difference between the two books by using relevant information from the notes to contrast their genres.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice mentions a difference between the books (their different topics), but it emphasizes a similarity between the books (their influence on readers). Choice C is incorrect. This choice provides information about the books that reflects both a similarity (both resulted in new laws) and a difference (the specific laws that resulted), without emphasizing either. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize a difference between the two books. Instead, it *emphasizes a similarity*.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID f07570bb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f07570bb

Researchers believe that pieces of hull found off Oregon’s coast are from a Spanish cargo ship that was lost in 1697. Stories passed down among the area’s Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians support this belief. \_\_\_\_ Siletz stories describe how blocks of beeswax, an item the ship had been carrying, began washing ashore after the ship was lost.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For this reason,
- B. For example,
- C. However,
- D. Likewise,

ID: f07570bb Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “For example” logically signals that the Siletz beeswax stories mentioned in this sentence are examples consistent with the previous claim that Siletz stories support the shipwreck theory.

Choice A is incorrect because “for this reason” illogically signals that the Siletz stories about the beeswax were caused by the previous claim that Siletz stories support the shipwreck theory. Instead, the beeswax stories are examples consistent with the claim. Choice C is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the Siletz stories about the beeswax contrast with the previous claim that Siletz stories support the shipwreck theory. Instead, the beeswax stories are examples consistent with the claim. Choice D is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the Siletz stories about the beeswax are similar to the previous claim that Siletz stories support the shipwreck theory. Instead, the beeswax stories are examples consistent with the claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy



# Question ID 221ecf0f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 221ecf0f

Alexander Lawrence Posey (1873–1908) varied his focus and tone depending on the genre in which he was writing. In his poetry, he used heartfelt language to evoke the beauty and peacefulness of his natural surroundings; in his journalism, \_\_\_\_\_ he employed humor and satire to comment on political issues affecting his Muskogee Creek community.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. that is,
- B. granted,
- C. similarly,
- D. by contrast,

ID: 221ecf0f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This sentence compares two examples of Posey’s tone: the “heartfelt language” he used in his poetry versus the “humor and satire” he used in his journalism. We know from these descriptions and from the claim in the previous sentence that the two tones are very different from each other. So the transition “by contrast” fits the context perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a restatement of the same idea in other words. But the text isn’t restating the first example here. Instead, it’s offering a second, totally different example. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that means “admittedly.” But the text isn’t admitting or conceding anything here. Instead, these two examples work together to support the claim made in the first sentence. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of an agreeing idea. But these two examples are intentionally very different from each other, so “similarly” doesn’t make sense here.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 296801d2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

**ID: 296801d2**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Azores is a group of islands about 870 miles off the coast of Portugal.
- Historians have long believed that in the fifteenth century Portuguese mariners were the first humans to populate the Azores.
- A 2015 study coauthored by Sofia Gabriel and Maria da Luz Mathias found that Vikings from Scandinavia may have populated the Azores as early as the ninth century.
- The researchers found a genetic connection between house mice in the Azores and house mice in Scandinavia.
- House mice may have traveled from Scandinavia to the Azores on Viking ships.

The student wants to specify who may have first populated the Azores, according to the 2015 study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Historians have long believed that the first humans to populate the Azores, a group of islands about 870 miles off the coast of Portugal, arrived in the fifteenth century.
- B. Portuguese mariners may not have been the first humans to populate the Azores.
- C. In their 2015 study, the researchers found a genetic connection between house mice in the Azores and those in Scandinavia.
- D. According to a 2015 study, the first humans to populate the Azores may have been Vikings from Scandinavia, not mariners from Portugal as previously believed.

**ID: 296801d2 Answer**

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This choice effectively specifies who may have first populated the Azores, according to the 2015 study: the Vikings.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't effectively specify who may have first populated the Azores, according to the 2015 study. It only mentions the historical belief that the Portuguese were first. The 2015 study drew a different conclusion. Choice B is incorrect. This choice casts doubt on the Portuguese claim but doesn't name the group of people who may have arrived before the Portuguese. Choice C is incorrect. This choice mentions the evidence that the researchers found but not the conclusion they drew from it. It doesn't name the possible group of people who may have arrived before the Portuguese.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 92fe0ed7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 92fe0ed7

Geoscientists have long considered Hawaii’s Mauna Loa volcano to be Earth’s largest shield volcano by volume, measuring approximately 74,000 cubic kilometers. \_\_\_\_ according to a 2020 study by local geoscientist Michael Garcia, Hawaii’s Pūhāhonu shield volcano is significantly larger, boasting a volume of about 148,000 cubic kilometers.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Secondly,
- B. Consequently,
- C. Moreover,
- D. However,

ID: 92fe0ed7 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “However” logically signals that this sentence, which indicates that the Pūhāhonu volcano may be larger than the Mauna Loa volcano, offers a contrast to or refutation of the previous assumption that Mauna Loa is the largest shield volcano.

Choice A is incorrect because “secondly” illogically signals that this sentence merely offers an additional or secondary point concerning the previous assumption that Mauna Loa is the largest shield volcano. Instead, the sentence offers a contrast to or refutation of that assumption. Choice B is incorrect because “consequently” illogically signals that this sentence offers a result or consequence of the previous assumption that Mauna Loa is the largest shield volcano. Instead, the sentence offers a contrast to or refutation of that assumption. Choice C is incorrect because “moreover” illogically signals that this sentence merely adds to the previous assumption that Mauna Loa is the largest shield volcano. Instead, the sentence offers a contrast to or refutation of that assumption.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 97e2e364

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 97e2e364

Okot p'Bitek's poem *Song of Lawino* (1966) explores postcolonial Ugandan life through the eyes of a woman living in a rural village. With its vibrant imagery, biting satiric tone, and dexterous use of traditional Acholi song and phraseology, the poem inspired a generation of East African writers. \_\_\_\_\_ those who adopted its style are often referred to as Okot School poets.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Nevertheless,
- B. Fittingly,
- C. By comparison,
- D. Instead,

ID: 97e2e364 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Fittingly" is a transition that means "appropriately" or "suitably," and it is appropriate that writers who adopted their style from Okot p'Bitek would be known as the Okot School poets.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence is not disagreeing with anything—rather, it's discussing how it makes sense for those writers who adopted Okot's style to be known as the Okot School poets. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that compares two ideas. But this sentence is not comparing the Okot School poets and their style to Okot's style. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence is not disagreeing with anything—rather, it's discussing how it makes sense for those writers who adopted Okot's style to be known as the Okot School poets.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 01c8c433

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 01c8c433

Before the 1847 introduction of the US postage stamp, the cost of postage was usually paid by the recipient of a letter rather than the sender, and recipients were not always able or willing to pay promptly. \_\_\_\_\_ collecting this fee could be slow and arduous, and heaps of unpaid-for, undeliverable mail piled up in post offices.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. Consequently,
- D. For example,

ID: 01c8c433 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Consequently” logically signals that the postal problems described in this sentence (slow fee collection, heaps of undeliverable mail) were a consequence of the fee system described in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the postal problems described in this sentence occurred despite the fee system described in the previous sentence. Instead, they were a consequence of that system. Choice B is incorrect because “on the contrary” illogically signals that the postal problems described in this sentence contrast with the fee system described in the previous sentence. Instead, they were a consequence of that system. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the postal problems described in this sentence are an example of the fee system described in the previous sentence. Instead, they were a consequence of that system.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 883493d5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 883493d5

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Allan Houser was a Chiricahua Warm Springs Apache sculptor, illustrator, and painter.
- Many of his sculptures featured Native American figures.
- He depicted this subject matter using abstract, modernist forms, developing a distinctive style that influenced many other artists.
- His well-known sculpture *Sacred Rain Arrow* was pictured on the State of Oklahoma license plate.

The student wants to describe the distinctive style of Houser’s sculptures. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. A sculptor, illustrator, and painter, Houser developed a distinctive style for portraying Native American figures.
- B. Houser’s sculptures employ abstract, modernist forms to depict Native American figures.
- C. Many other artists have been influenced by the style of Houser’s sculptures.
- D. The sculpture *Sacred Rain Arrow* is a well-known example of Houser’s style.

ID: 883493d5 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence describes the distinctive style of Houser’s sculptures, explaining that the sculptures use abstract, modernist forms to depict Native American figures.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that Houser developed a distinctive style for portraying Native American figures, it doesn’t describe this style. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence states that other artists have been influenced by the style of Houser’s sculptures, it doesn’t describe this style. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the name of a sculpture that’s a well-known example of Houser’s style, it doesn’t describe the sculpture’s style.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID db8fe023

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: db8fe023

A potter choosing which type of clay to use for a piece considers two key factors: the desired look of the piece and its intended use. \_\_\_\_\_ earthenware clay is often used for decorative pieces because of its rustic look. This type of clay is not often used in industrial settings, though, because it is less durable than other clays.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. Regardless,
- C. In conclusion,
- D. For example,

ID: db8fe023 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The previous sentence tells us that potters think about the look and use of a piece when selecting clay. This sentence provides a specific example of a type of clay selected for its appearance, so the transition "for example" fits perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a restatement of the same idea. But this sentence does more than just restate the previous idea. Instead, it provides a more specific example of the idea presented in the first sentence. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence actually agrees with the previous sentence. Both sentences suggest that desired look plays a role in the selection of clay types for pottery pieces. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a concluding transition. But this sentence doesn't sum up the previous sentence. Instead, it gives a specific example of the idea presented in the previous sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 04ad68ca

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 04ad68ca

In Gothic architecture, flying buttresses are large arches that help support a building’s exterior walls. Before the Gothic era, cathedrals’ heavy ceilings had to be supported by thick, short walls, but the invention of flying buttresses eliminated this need. \_\_\_\_\_ Gothic cathedrals could be built with thinner, higher walls.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. For instance,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. As a result,

ID: 04ad68ca Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “As a result” logically signals that the thinner, higher walls in this sentence were a result of the invention of flying buttresses in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the thinner, higher walls in this sentence are similar to the invention of flying buttresses in the previous sentence. Instead, the walls were a result of that invention. Choice B is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the thinner, higher walls in this sentence are an example supporting the statement about the invention of flying buttresses in the previous sentence. Instead, the walls were a result of that invention. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the thinner, higher walls in this sentence occurred despite the invention of flying buttresses in the previous sentence. Instead, the walls were a result of that invention.

Question Difficulty: Easy



# Question ID fc2bcc79

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: fc2bcc79

Tyrian purple was a highly prized dye among the Phoenicians (an ancient civilization located in present-day Lebanon). The Phoenicians were famous for using this natural dye to color their clothes a distinctive purple. \_\_\_\_\_ the name “Phoenicia” itself, some historians claim, may have originally meant “land of purple.”

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In fact,
- B. Regardless,
- C. Lastly,
- D. On the contrary,

ID: fc2bcc79 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “In fact” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—Phoenicia being named after the color purple—emphasizes and supports the previous claim that Phoenicians were famous for using purple dye.

Choice B is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the claim about Phoenicia’s name contrasts with the previous claim that Phoenicians were famous for using purple dye. Instead, the naming emphasizes and supports this claim. Choice C is incorrect because “lastly” illogically signals that the claim about Phoenicia’s name is the final step in a process or sequence. Instead, the naming emphasizes and supports the previous claim that Phoenicians were famous for using purple dye. Choice D is incorrect because “on the contrary” illogically signals that the claim about Phoenicia’s name directly opposes the previous claim that Phoenicians were famous for using purple dye. Instead, the naming emphasizes and supports this claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 57bcd0d6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 57bcd0d6

Etched into Peru’s Nazca Desert are line drawings so large that they can only be fully seen from high above. Archaeologists have known of the lines since the 1920s, when a researcher spotted some from a nearby foothill, and they have been studying the markings ever since. \_\_\_\_\_ archaeologists’ efforts are aided by drones that capture high-resolution aerial photographs of the lines.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Currently,
- B. In comparison,
- C. Still,
- D. However,

ID: 57bcd0d6 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Currently” logically signals that the archaeologists’ use of drones (a current technology) to photograph the lines is the present-day continuation of the ongoing archaeological research described in the previous sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence offers a comparison to the ongoing archaeological research described in the previous sentence. Instead, the use of drones is the present-day continuation of that research. Choice C is incorrect because “still” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence occurs despite the ongoing archaeological research described in the previous sentence. Instead, the use of drones is the present-day continuation of that research. Choice D is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence occurs either despite or in contrast to the ongoing archaeological research described in the previous sentence. Instead, the use of drones is the present-day continuation of that research.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 11df9b99

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 11df9b99

Because an achiral molecule is symmetrical, flipping it yields a structurally identical molecule. A flipped chiral molecule, \_\_\_\_\_ can be compared to a glove that has been turned inside out: it produces a structurally inverted molecule rather than an identical one.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in other words,
- B. by contrast,
- C. for example,
- D. similarly,

ID: 11df9b99 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This sentence compares a chiral molecule to an achiral one. It discusses how when a chiral molecule is flipped, it results in something very different than when an achiral molecule is flipped. So the transition "by contrast" fits the context perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a restatement of the same idea in different words. But this sentence doesn't restate the same idea as the previous sentence. Instead, it makes a new point about a different type of molecule (chiral instead of achiral). Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that introduces an example, which doesn't make sense here. The second sentence isn't an example of the first sentence's claim about achiral molecules: it actually introduces an entirely different idea that focuses on chiral molecules. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of an agreeing idea. But this sentence shows a contrast with the first sentence—namely, that a chiral molecule acts very differently from an achiral molecule when flipped.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 2bf05ae9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2bf05ae9

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In the midst of the US Civil War, Susie Taylor escaped slavery and fled to Union-army-occupied St. Simons Island off the Georgia coast.
- She began working for an all-Black army regiment as a nurse and teacher.
- In 1902, she published a book about the time she spent with the regiment.
- Her book was the only Civil War memoir to be published by a Black woman.
- It is still available to readers in print and online.

The student wants to emphasize the uniqueness of Taylor’s accomplishment. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Taylor fled to St. Simons Island, which was then occupied by the Union army, for whom she began working.
- B. After escaping slavery, Taylor began working for an all-Black army regiment as a nurse and teacher.
- C. The book Taylor wrote about the time she spent with the regiment is still available to readers in print and online.
- D. Taylor was the only Black woman to publish a Civil War memoir.

ID: 2bf05ae9 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. By indicating that Taylor’s book was the only Civil War memoir published by a Black woman, this sentence emphasizes the uniqueness, or one-of-a-kind nature, of Taylor’s accomplishment.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence describes some of Taylor’s accomplishments, it doesn’t emphasize the uniqueness of them. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence describes some of Taylor’s accomplishments, it doesn’t emphasize that they were unique. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides information about Taylor’s book, it doesn’t emphasize what made the book unique.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 827afb27

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 827afb27

Most conifers (trees belonging to the phylum Coniferophyta) are evergreen. That is, they keep their green leaves or needles year-round. However, not all conifer species are evergreen. Larch trees, \_\_\_\_\_ lose their needles every fall.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. for instance,
- B. nevertheless,
- C. meanwhile,
- D. in addition,

ID: 827afb27 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “For instance” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that larch trees lose their needles every fall—is an example supporting the claim in the previous sentence (that not all conifer species keep their leaves or needles year-round).

Choice B is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true in spite of the claim about conifer species in the previous sentence. Instead, it’s an example supporting that claim. Choice C is incorrect because “meanwhile” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is separate from (while occurring simultaneously with) the claim about conifer species in the previous sentence. Instead, it’s an example supporting that claim. Choice D is incorrect because “in addition” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely an additional fact related to the claim about conifer species in the previous sentence. Instead, it’s an example supporting that claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 8fe4f4ab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: 8fe4f4ab

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- One of history’s greatest libraries was the House of Wisdom in Baghdad, Iraq.
- It was founded in the eighth century with the goal of preserving all the world’s knowledge.
- Scholars at the House of Wisdom collected ancient and contemporary texts from Greece, India, and elsewhere and translated them into Arabic.
- Writings included those of the Greek philosopher Aristotle and the Indian mathematician Aryabhata.
- The House of Wisdom used Chinese papermaking technology to create paper versions to be studied and shared.

The student wants to explain how the House of Wisdom preserved the world’s knowledge. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The House of Wisdom was known for bringing together knowledge from around the world, including from Greece, India, and China.
- B. Founded in Iraq in the eighth century, the House of Wisdom employed many scholars as translators.
- C. Writings from the Greek philosopher Aristotle and the Indian mathematician Aryabhata were preserved at the House of Wisdom.
- D. The House of Wisdom collected writings from different countries and created paper versions in Arabic to be studied and shared.

ID: 8fe4f4ab Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence explains how the House of Wisdom preserved the world’s knowledge, noting that the library collected, translated, and printed writings from different countries.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that the House of Wisdom was known for bringing together knowledge from around the world, it doesn’t explain how the library preserved this knowledge. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence makes a generalization about the scholars who were employed by the House of Wisdom; it doesn’t explain how the library preserved the world’s knowledge. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence identifies two authors whose writings were preserved at the House of Wisdom; it doesn’t explain how the library preserved the world’s knowledge.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID bb275f0d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bb275f0d

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Cities tend to have a wide range of flowering vegetation in parks, yards, and gardens.
- This vegetation provides a varied diet for honeybees, strengthening bees’ immune systems.
- On average, 62.5 percent of bees in an urban area will survive a harsh winter.
- Rural areas are often dominated by monoculture crops such as corn or wheat.
- On average, only 40 percent of honeybees in a rural area will survive a harsh winter.

The student wants to make and support a generalization about honeybees. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Cities tend to have a wider range of flowering vegetation than do rural areas, which are often dominated by monoculture crops.
- B. In urban areas, over 60 percent of honeybees, on average, will survive a harsh winter, whereas in rural areas, only 40 percent will.
- C. The strength of honeybees’ immune systems depends on what the bees eat, and a varied diet is more available to bees in an urban area than to those in a rural area.
- D. Honeybees are more likely to thrive in cities than in rural areas because the varied diet available in urban areas strengthens the bees’ immune systems.

ID: bb275f0d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because the sentence makes and supports a generalization about honeybees. It claims that honeybees living in urban areas are more likely to thrive than rural bees, and it supports the claim with information about the effect of a varied diet on urban bees’ immune systems.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence makes a generalization, it doesn’t mention honeybees. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence provides data about honeybee survival, it doesn’t make a generalization about honeybees based on this information. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence makes a generalization about honeybees’ diets and immune systems, it doesn’t provide adequate support for this generalization.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 30438650

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 30438650

Jhumpa Lahiri’s story collection *Interpreter of Maladies* features multiple stories about romantic relationships. In “This Blessed House,” newlyweds argue over whether to replace items left by the previous owners of their new home. \_\_\_\_\_ in “A Temporary Matter,” a husband and wife attempt to rekindle their relationship during a four-night blackout.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Granted,
- B. For example,
- C. Likewise,
- D. Hence,

ID: 30438650 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Likewise" is a transition that indicates the addition of a new but related idea. In this sentence, the author is providing another similar example to that discussed in the previous sentence. Therefore, "likewise" works best in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that means "admittedly." But the text isn’t admitting or conceding anything here. Instead, these two examples work together to support the claim made in the first sentence. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn’t make sense here. The second story is not an example of the story in the previous sentence—it’s another, similar story. And while both stories exemplify the first sentence in the text, the transition we’re looking for isn’t actually connected to that sentence. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense here. The first story didn’t result in the events of the second story.

Question Difficulty: Medium



# Question ID a773f069

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a773f069

Small, flat structures called spatulae are found at the tips of the hairs on a spider’s leg. These spatulae temporarily bond with the atoms of whatever they touch. \_\_\_\_\_ spiders are able to cling to and climb almost any surface.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For instance,
- B. However,
- C. Similarly,
- D. As a result,

ID: a773f069 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “As a result” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that spiders can cling to and climb almost any surface—is because of the previous information about the bonding properties of spiders’ spatulae.

Choice A is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence exemplifies the information in the previous sentences. Instead, the claim is because of the previous information about the bonding properties of spiders’ spatulae. Choice B is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentences. Instead, the claim is because of the previous information about the bonding properties of spiders’ spatulae. Choice C is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is similar to, but separate from, the information in the previous sentences. Instead, the claim is because of the previous information about the bonding properties of spiders’ spatulae.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 6249b173

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

**ID: 6249b173**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 2018 researchers Adwait Deshpande, Shreejata Gupta, and Anindya Sinha were observing wild macaques in India’s Bandipur National Park.
- They saw macaques calling out to and gesturing at humans who were eating or carrying food.
- They designed a study to find out if the macaques were intentionally communicating to try to persuade the humans to share their food.
- In the study trials, macaques frequently called out to and gestured at humans holding food.
- In the study trials, macaques called out to and gestured at empty-handed humans less frequently.

The student wants to present the study’s results. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Macaques in the study called out to and gestured more frequently at humans holding food than at empty-handed humans.
- B. In 2018, researchers who had observed macaques in India’s Bandipur National Park calling out to and gesturing at humans designed a study.
- C. The researchers hoped to find out if the macaques were intentionally communicating to try to persuade humans to share their food.
- D. The researchers studied how macaques behaved around both humans holding food and empty-handed humans.

**ID: 6249b173 Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice presents the study’s results from the last two bullet points.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice describes the background and motivation of the study but not the outcome or findings. Choice C is incorrect. This choice describes the research question or hypothesis of the study but not the evidence or conclusion. Choice D is incorrect. This choice describes the method or design of the study but not the actual results.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 1b219d14

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1b219d14

As a young historian in the 1950s, Alixa Naff began interviewing fellow Arab American immigrants about their experiences straddling two cultures. Over the next few decades, Naff conducted more than 450 such interviews, also known as oral histories. \_\_\_\_\_ she collected photographs and other artifacts that represented her subjects’ experiences.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. In addition,
- D. Today,

ID: 1b219d14 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "In addition" logically signals that Naff’s artifact collecting was separate from, and in addition to, her interviewing.

Choice A is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information about Naff’s artifact collecting restates the previous information about her interviewing. Instead, Naff collected artifacts in addition to conducting interviews. Choice B is incorrect because "on the contrary" illogically signals that Naff’s artifact collecting was contrary to her interviewing. Instead, Naff collected artifacts in addition to conducting interviews. Choice D is incorrect because "today" illogically signals that Naff’s artifact collecting is occurring in the present day. Instead, this activity occurred in the past, as indicated by the past tense verb "collected."

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID a3204ab0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a3204ab0

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Yellowstone is a national park in the northwest United States.
- In 1995, gray wolves were reintroduced into the park.
- Since then, the number of gray wolves in the park has stabilized at roughly 100.
- This number is believed to be the park’s carrying capacity.
- Carrying capacity describes the maximum number of a species that a specific environment’s resources can sustain over time.

The student wants to specify the number of gray wolves in Yellowstone. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Gray wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone, a national park in the northwest United States, in 1995.
- B. As of 1995, there were gray wolves living in Yellowstone, a national park in the northwest United States.
- C. The carrying capacity of an environment, such as Yellowstone, describes the maximum number of species that the environment can sustain over time.
- D. Yellowstone is a national park that has roughly 100 gray wolves living in it.

ID: a3204ab0 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This choice uses relevant information from the third bullet point to state the approximate number of gray wolves in Yellowstone.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice mentions the year gray wolves in Yellowstone were reintroduced but not how many there are currently. Choice B is incorrect. This choice mentions the year gray wolves in Yellowstone were reintroduced but not how many there are currently. Choice C is incorrect. This choice defines the term carrying capacity but doesn’t connect it to the specific number of gray wolves currently living in Yellowstone.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID fd24f48f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: fd24f48f

Before California’s 1911 election to approve a proposition granting women the right to vote, activists across the state sold tea to promote the cause of suffrage. In San Francisco, the Woman’s Suffrage Party sold Equality Tea at local fairs. \_\_\_\_\_ in Los Angeles, activist Nancy Tuttle Craig, who ran one of California’s largest grocery store firms, distributed Votes for Women Tea.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. To conclude,
- C. Similarly,
- D. In other words,

ID: fd24f48f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Similarly” logically signals that the activity described in this sentence (Nancy Tuttle Craig distributing Votes for Women Tea in her Los Angeles grocery stores) is like the activity described in the previous sentence (the Woman’s Suffrage Party selling Equality Tea at fairs in San Francisco). Together, the two examples support the preceding claim that “activists across the state sold tea to promote the cause of suffrage.”

Choice A is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence exemplifies the activity described in the previous sentence. Instead, the two activities are similar, and both support the preceding claim about selling tea to promote women’s right to vote. Choice B is incorrect because “to conclude” illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence concludes or summarizes the information in the previous sentences. Instead, the activity is similar to the one described in the previous sentence, and both support the preceding claim about selling tea to promote women’s right to vote. Choice D is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence paraphrases the activity described in the previous sentence. Instead, the two activities are similar, and both support the preceding claim about selling tea to promote women’s right to vote.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 1a8126aa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1a8126aa

In 2019, researcher Patricia Jurado Gonzalez and food historian Nawal Nasrallah prepared a stew from a 4,000-year-old recipe found on a Mesopotamian clay tablet. When they tasted the dish, known as *pašrūtum* (“unwinding”), they found that it had a mild taste and inspired a sense of calm. \_\_\_\_\_ the researchers, knowing that dishes were sometimes named after their intended effects, theorized that the dish’s name, “unwinding,” referred to its function: to help ancient diners relax.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Therefore,
- B. Alternately,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Likewise,

ID: 1a8126aa Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Therefore" logically signals that the action described in this sentence—the researchers theorizing that the dish was named for its effect on diners—is a result or consequence of the previous observation that the dish had a calming effect.

Choice B is incorrect because "alternately" illogically signals that the action described in this sentence offers an alternative or contrast to the previous observation that the dish had a calming effect. Instead, the action is a result or consequence of that observation. Choice C is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the action described in this sentence occurs despite the previous observation that the dish had a calming effect. Instead, the action is a result or consequence of that observation. Choice D is incorrect because "likewise" illogically signals that this sentence merely adds a second, similar detail to the previous observation that the dish had a calming effect. Instead, this sentence describes an action that is a result or consequence of that observation.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 63a4fa29

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 63a4fa29

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 2013, archaeologists studied cat bone fragments they had found in the ruins of Quanhucun, a Chinese farming village.
- The fragments were estimated to be 5,300 years old.
- A chemical analysis of the fragments revealed that the cats had consumed large amounts of grain.
- The grain consumption is evidence that the Quanhucun cats may have been domesticated.

The student wants to present the Quanhucun study and its conclusions. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. As part of a 2013 study of cat domestication, a chemical analysis was conducted on cat bone fragments found in Quanhucun, China.
- B. A 2013 analysis of cat bone fragments found in Quanhucun, China, suggests that cats there may have been domesticated 5,300 years ago.
- C. In 2013, archaeologists studied what cats in Quanhucun, China, had eaten more than 5,000 years ago.
- D. Cat bone fragments estimated to be 5,300 years old were found in Quanhucun, China, in 2013.

ID: 63a4fa29 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence presents the study, describing it as a 2013 analysis of Quanhucun cat bone fragments, and its conclusions, indicating what the analysis suggests about cat domestication in Quanhucun.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence focuses on the study’s methodology; it doesn’t present conclusions from the study. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides a general overview of the study, it doesn’t present conclusions from the study. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence describes a finding from the study; it doesn’t present conclusions from the study.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 0d3ebdce

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0d3ebdce

Neuroscientist Karen Konkoly wanted to determine whether individuals can understand and respond to questions during REM sleep. She first taught volunteers eye movements they would use to respond to basic math problems while asleep (a single left-right eye movement indicated the number one). \_\_\_\_\_ she attached electrodes to the volunteers’ faces to record their eye movements during sleep.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. Next,
- C. For instance,
- D. In sum,

ID: 0d3ebdce Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Next” logically signals that the action described in this sentence—Konkoly recording participants’ eye movements—is the next step in Konkoly’s experiment.

Choice A is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that this sentence specifies or elaborates on an aspect of the action described in the previous sentence. Instead, it describes the next step in Konkoly’s experiment. Choice C is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence is an example of the action described in the previous sentence. Instead, it is the next step in Konkoly’s experiment. Choice D is incorrect because “in sum” illogically signals that this sentence summarizes or concludes the action described in the previous sentence. Instead, it describes the next step in Konkoly’s experiment.

Question Difficulty: Easy



# Question ID 00460c13

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 00460c13

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Novelist Willa Cather grew up in Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- Some of Cather’s best-known novels are set in Nebraska.
- Two such novels are *O Pioneers!* (1913) and *My Ántonia* (1918).
- Cather’s novels describe the experiences of immigrants who settled in the Great Plains.

The student wants to identify the setting of Cather’s novel *My Ántonia*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. *My Ántonia* is set in Nebraska, where Cather grew up.
- B. Cather, author of *My Ántonia*, described the experiences of immigrants in her novels.
- C. Among Cather’s best-known novels are *O Pioneers!* (1913) and *My Ántonia* (1918).
- D. Cather attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and set some of her novels in Nebraska.

ID: 00460c13 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice directly identifies the setting of Cather’s novel *My Ántonia* as Nebraska.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice mentions that Cather wrote about immigrants, but it doesn’t indicate where they lived. Choice C is incorrect. This choice mentions that *My Ántonia* is one of Cather’s best-known novels but doesn’t state where it takes place. Choice D is incorrect. This choice mentions that some of Cather’s novels are set in Nebraska, but it doesn’t specify which ones, so we can’t be certain that *My Ántonia* is one of them. It also includes irrelevant information about Cather’s education.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID dd11e5ab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: dd11e5ab

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Muckrakers were journalists who sought to expose corruption in US institutions during the Progressive Era (1897–1920).
- Ida Tarbell was a muckraker who investigated the Standard Oil Company.
- She interviewed Standard Oil Company executives, oil industry workers, and public officials.
- She examined thousands of pages of the company’s internal communications, including letters and financial records.
- Her book *The History of the Standard Oil Company* (1904) exposed the company’s unfair business practices.

The student wants to emphasize the thoroughness of Ida Tarbell’s investigation of the Standard Oil Company. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Ida Tarbell not only interviewed Standard Oil executives, oil industry workers, and public officials but also examined thousands of pages of the company’s internal communications.
- B. Ida Tarbell, who investigated the Standard Oil Company, was a muckraker (a journalist who sought to expose corruption in US institutions during the Progressive Era, 1897–1920).
- C. As part of her investigation of the Standard Oil Company, muckraker Ida Tarbell conducted interviews.
- D. Published in 1904, muckraker Ida Tarbell’s book *The History of the Standard Oil Company* exposed the company’s unfair business practices.

ID: dd11e5ab Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It describes Tarbell’s investigation and the lengths she went to complete it.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t describe how thorough Tarbell was. Instead, it gives a biographical sketch. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn’t describe how thorough Tarbell was. Tarbell didn’t only conduct interviews—she also “examined thousands of pages of the company’s internal communications.” Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn’t describe how thorough Tarbell was. It describes her book but doesn’t include anything about her investigation.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 74149724

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 74149724

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- John Carver was one of the 41 signatories of the Mayflower Compact.
- The Mayflower Compact was a legal agreement among the pilgrims that immigrated to Plymouth Colony.
- It was created in 1620 to establish a common government.
- It states that the pilgrims who signed it wanted to “plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia” under King James.
- Carver became the first governor of Plymouth Colony.

The student wants to specify the reason the Mayflower Compact was created. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Stating that its signatories wanted to “plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia,” the Mayflower Compact was a legal agreement among the pilgrims that immigrated to Plymouth Colony.
- B. Created in 1620, the Mayflower Compact states that the pilgrims wanted to “plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia.”
- C. The Mayflower Compact was created to establish a common government among the pilgrims that immigrated to Plymouth Colony.
- D. The Mayflower Compact had 41 signatories, including John Carver, the first governor of Plymouth Colony.

ID: 74149724 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence specifies the reason the Mayflower Compact was created, noting that it was created to establish a common government among the pilgrims that immigrated to Plymouth Colony.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence provides background information about the Mayflower Compact and notes the signatories’ goal for the colony, it doesn’t specify why the compact was created. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence provides background information about the Mayflower Compact and notes the signatories’ goal for the colony, it doesn’t specify why the compact was created. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence specifies the number of pilgrims that signed the Mayflower Compact; it doesn’t specify the reason the compact was created.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID f1d8550e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f1d8550e

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Jordan Bennett is a Mi’Kmaq visual artist.
- The Mi’Kmaq are a First Nations people in North America.
- Bennett’s paintings pay homage to traditional Mi’Kmaq craftsmanship and have been displayed in over 75 exhibitions.
- His 2017 exhibition *Wije’wi* was held at the Grenfell Art Gallery.
- His 2018 exhibition *Ketu’elmita’jik* was held at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

The student wants to emphasize the order in which two of Jordan Bennett’s exhibitions were held. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Jordan Bennett’s 2017 exhibition *Wije’wi* was followed a year later by his exhibition *Ketu’elmita’jik*.
- B. Jordan Bennett’s paintings, some of which appeared in 2017 and 2018 exhibitions, pay homage to traditional Mi’Kmaq craftsmanship.
- C. Mi’Kmaq visual artist Jordan Bennett has displayed his work in over 75 exhibitions, including *Wije’wi* and *Ketu’elmita’jik*.
- D. Jordan Bennett’s 2018 exhibition *Ketu’elmita’jik* was held at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia; another was held at the Grenfell Art Gallery.

ID: f1d8550e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the order in which two of Jordan Bennett’s exhibitions were held, indicating that *Wije’wi* took place in 2017 and *Ketu’elmita’jik* took place a year later (2018).

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that exhibitions of Jordan Bennett’s paintings took place in 2017 and 2018, it doesn’t identify the exhibitions or emphasize the order in which they were held. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions two of Jordan Bennett’s exhibitions, it doesn’t indicate the order in which they were held. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions two of Jordan Bennett’s exhibitions and specifies when one of them was held, it doesn’t state when the exhibition at the Grenfell Art Gallery occurred. Thus, the order in which the two exhibitions were held isn’t clearly established in the sentence.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 47547d07

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 47547d07

In June, female loggerhead sea turtles will swim back to the sandy beaches where they were born to lay eggs of their own. First, the turtle will dig her nest in the sand. \_\_\_\_\_ she will lay up to 100 eggs in the nest. Finally, she will cover it all with sand, before returning to the ocean.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. By contrast,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Next,
- D. For example,

ID: 47547d07 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Next” logically signals that the egg laying in this sentence is the next step in the sequence of events described in the other sentences.

Choice A is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the egg laying in this sentence contrasts with the nest digging in the previous sentence. Instead, the egg laying follows the nest digging as the next step in the sequence of events. Choice B is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the egg laying in this sentence is similar to the nest digging in the previous sentence. Though the two actions are related, they are not similar. Instead, the egg laying follows the nest digging as the next step in the sequence of events. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the egg laying in this sentence is an example of the nest digging in the previous sentence. Instead, the egg laying follows the nest digging as the next step in the sequence of events.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 8e9677e6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8e9677e6

In 2009, the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles hosted a special exhibition, *Sueños/Yume*, showcasing the works of local sculptor Dora de Larios. As suggested by the show’s title (*sueños* and *yume* mean “dreams” in Spanish and Japanese, respectively), de Larios’s art reflects a mix of cultural influences. \_\_\_\_\_ her work is grounded in the artistic traditions of both Mexico and Japan.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In addition,
- B. In contrast,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Therefore,

ID: 8e9677e6 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Specifically” logically signals that this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous sentence’s claim that de Larios’s art reflects a mix of cultures. This sentence specifies which cultures the previous sentence is referring to: the artistic traditions of both Mexico and Japan.

Choice A is incorrect because “in addition” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a separate point that follows the previous claim about de Larios’s art. Instead, it provides specific details elaborating on that claim. Choice B is incorrect because “in contrast” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous claim about de Larios’s art. Instead, it provides specific details elaborating on that claim. Choice D is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the previous claim about de Larios’s art. Instead, it provides specific details elaborating on that claim.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 8432a140

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8432a140

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Marine biologist Camille Jazmin Gaynus studies coral reefs.
- Coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems that provide habitats to 25% of all marine species.
- Reefs can include up to 8,000 species of fish, such as toadfish, seahorses, and clown triggerfish.
- The Amazon Reef is a coral reef in Brazil.
- It is one of the largest known reefs in the world.

The student wants to introduce the scientist and her field of study to a new audience. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Located in Brazil, the Amazon Reef is one of the largest known coral reefs in the world.
- B. Marine biologist Camille Jazmin Gaynus studies coral reefs, vital underwater ecosystems that provide homes to 25% of all marine species.
- C. Providing homes to 25% of all marine species, including up to 8,000 species of fish, coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems and thus of great interest to marine biologists.
- D. As Camille Jazmin Gaynus knows well, coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems, providing homes to thousands of species of fish.

ID: 8432a140 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. We’re asked to select the sentence that "introduce[s] the scientist and her field of study." This choice introduces scientist Camille Jazmin Gaynus as a marine biologist and explains what marine life she studies.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn’t mention Camille Jazmin Gaynus, so it fails to "introduce the scientist."  
Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn’t mention Camille Jazmin Gaynus, so it fails to "introduce the scientist."  
Choice D is incorrect. This choice mentions Camille Jazmin Gaynus, but it doesn’t identify her as a marine biologist. It says she "knows well" about coral reefs, but doesn't identify her expertise as a "field of study."

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 6e0c60da

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6e0c60da

When one looks at the dark craggy vistas in Hitoshi Fugo’s evocative photo series, one’s mind might wander off to the cratered surfaces of faraway planets. \_\_\_\_\_ it’s the series’ title, *Flying Frying Pan*, that brings one back to Earth, reminding the viewer that each photo is actually a close-up view of a familiar household object: a frying pan.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Consequently,
- B. Alternatively,
- C. Ultimately,
- D. Additionally,

ID: 6e0c60da Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The first sentence describes an experience that the viewer has when they’re looking at the photos: they imagine other planets. This sentence describes an experience that the viewer has afterward: the title reminds them that the photos are of frying pans, bringing them back to reality. “Ultimately” is a transition that means “eventually” or “in the end,” so it fits the context perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense here. The viewer imagining other planets when they’re looking at the photos doesn’t cause the title to bring them back to reality. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates another option or possibility, which doesn’t make sense here. Rather, the viewer has both experiences: first the viewer imagines that they’re looking at another planet, and then the title reminds them that it’s just a frying pan. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of an agreeing idea. But the viewer’s experience in the second sentence is actually the opposite of the viewer’s experience in the first sentence. In the first sentence, the viewer is imagining that they’re seeing a landscape from another planet. In the second sentence, the viewer is reminded that they’re looking at a frying pan.

Question Difficulty: Hard



# Question ID 64e88c58

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: 64e88c58

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 1971, experimental musician Pauline Oliveros created *Sonic Meditations*.
- *Sonic Meditations* is not music but rather a series of sound-based exercises called meditations.
- Each meditation consists of instructions for participants to make, imagine, listen to, or remember sounds.
- The instructions for Meditation V state, “walk so silently that the bottoms of your feet become ears.”
- Those for Meditation XVIII state, “listen to a sound until you no longer recognize it.”

The student wants to provide an explanation and an example of Oliveros’s *Sonic Meditations*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. *Sonic Meditations* is not music but rather a series of sound-based meditations that consist of instructions; Meditation XVIII, for instance, instructs participants to “listen to a sound until you no longer recognize it.”
- B. In 1971, Oliveros created *Sonic Meditations*, a series of meditations that consist of instructions for participants to make, imagine, listen to, or remember sounds.
- C. “Walk so silently that the bottoms of your feet become ears” is one example of the instructions found in Oliveros’s *Sonic Meditations*.
- D. While both meditations consist of instructions, Meditation XVIII instructs participants to “listen,” whereas Meditation V instructs participants to “walk.”

ID: 64e88c58 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It describes what a “Sonic Meditation” is, and then gives an example in the form of Meditation XVIII.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice describes what a “Sonic Meditation” is, but doesn’t give an example of one. Choice C is incorrect. This choice gives an example of a “Sonic Meditation,” but doesn’t explain what the meditations are. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn’t describe what a “Sonic Meditation” is.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 2c61e0b9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2c61e0b9

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- British musicians John Lennon and Paul McCartney shared writing credit for numerous Beatles songs.
- Many Lennon-McCartney songs were actually written by either Lennon or McCartney, not by both.
- The exact authorship of specific parts of many Beatles songs, such as the verse for “In My Life,” is disputed.
- Mark Glickman, Jason Brown, and Ryan Song used statistical methods to analyze the musical content of Beatles songs.
- They concluded that there is 18.9% probability that McCartney wrote the verse for “In My Life,” stating that the verse is “consistent with Lennon’s songwriting style.”

The student wants to make a generalization about the kind of study conducted by Glickman, Brown, and Song. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Based on statistical analysis, Glickman, Brown, and Song claim that John Lennon wrote the verse of “In My Life.”
- B. There is only an 18.9% probability that Paul McCartney wrote the verse for “In My Life”; John Lennon is the more likely author.
- C. It is likely that John Lennon, not Paul McCartney, wrote the verse for “In My Life.”
- D. Researchers have used statistical methods to address questions of authorship within the field of music.

ID: 2c61e0b9 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence uses information from the notes to make a generalization about the kind of study Glickman, Brown, and Song conducted. Specifically, the sentence indicates that the study was of a kind that used statistical methods to address questions of authorship within the field of music.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence summarizes the methodology and findings of a particular analysis of a single song; it doesn’t make a generalization about the kind of study conducted. Choice B is incorrect because the sentence mentions the data and conclusion of a particular analysis of a single song; it doesn’t make a generalization about the kind of study conducted. Choice C is incorrect because the sentence focuses on a specific conclusion from a particular analysis of a single song; it doesn’t make a generalization about the kind of study conducted.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 14037904

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 14037904

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present* is a history book by Ojibwe author David Treuer.
- In a review, a critic for *The Economist* noted that “Treuer’s storytelling skills shine” and that the book is an “elegant handling of [a] complex narrative.”
- A critic for *O, The Oprah Magazine* called it “a marvel of research and storytelling.”
- A critic for the *Missoulian* dubbed it “a monumental achievement.”

The student wants to emphasize a similarity in how critics responded to Treuer’s book. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Treuer’s book, which was widely reviewed, focuses on Native American history from 1890 to the present.
- B. Dubbed “a monumental achievement” by the *Missoulian*, Treuer’s book documents over a century of Native American history.
- C. Critics praised Treuer’s book for its compelling narrative, with *O, The Oprah Magazine* calling it “a marvel of research and storytelling” and *The Economist* likewise writing that “Treuer’s storytelling skills shine” and that the book is an “elegant handling of [a] complex narrative.”
- D. While the *Missoulian* focused on the book’s broader achievement, *The Economist* zeroed in on Treuer’s storytelling skills.

ID: 14037904 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity in how critics responded to Treuer’s book, noting that the critics for *O, The Oprah Magazine* and *The Economist* both praised the book’s storytelling.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence provides background information about Treuer’s book; it doesn’t emphasize a similarity in how critics responded to it. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence cites a single critic’s response to Treuer’s book; it doesn’t emphasize a similarity in the responses of multiple critics. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference, not a similarity, in how two critics responded to Treuer’s book.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 6081831f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6081831f

When Chinese director Chloé Zhao accepted the Oscar in 2021 for her film *Nomadland*, she made Academy Award history. \_\_\_\_\_ only one other woman, Kathryn Bigelow of the United States, had been named best director at the Oscars, making Zhao the second woman and the first Asian woman to win the award.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. Previously,
- C. However,
- D. Likewise,

ID: 6081831f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Previously” logically signals that the event described in this sentence—Bigelow being named best director—occurred before Zhao’s win. The fact that only one other woman had won the award before puts Zhao’s win in perspective.

Choice A is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the event described in this sentence occurred as a result or consequence of Zhao’s win. Instead, it occurred before Zhao was named best director and puts Zhao’s win in perspective. Choice C is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the event described in this sentence occurred in spite of or in contrast to Zhao’s win. Instead, it occurred before Zhao was named best director and puts Zhao’s win in perspective. Choice D is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that this sentence merely adds a second, similar piece of information to the information about Zhao’s win. Instead, the fact that only one other woman had won the award before puts Zhao’s win in perspective.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 129089b5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 129089b5

In 1933, the Twentieth Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. The amendment mandates that presidential inaugurations be held on January 20, approximately ten weeks after the November election. \_\_\_\_ this amendment requires newly elected US senators and representatives to be sworn into their respective offices on January 3.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Instead,
- B. For instance,
- C. Specifically,
- D. In addition,

ID: 129089b5 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “In addition” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the Twentieth Amendment requires newly elected US senators and representatives to be sworn in on January 3—is separate from and additional to the amendment’s mandate concerning presidential inaugurations.

Choice A is incorrect because “instead” illogically signals that the information in the sentence presents an alternative to or substitute for the Twentieth Amendment’s mandate concerning presidential inaugurations. Rather, the sentence presents a separate requirement in addition to that one. Choice B is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the information in the sentence exemplifies the Twentieth Amendment’s mandate concerning presidential inaugurations. Instead, the sentence presents a separate requirement in addition to that one. Choice C is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the Twentieth Amendment’s mandate concerning presidential inaugurations. Instead, the sentence presents a separate requirement in addition to that one.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID f4b63a04

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f4b63a04

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 2013, paleontology professor Hesham Sallam and his students from Mansoura University in Egypt made a discovery.
- The team found a partial dinosaur skeleton at a site in Egypt’s Dakhla Oasis.
- The skeleton belonged to a dinosaur species that lived approximately 80 million years ago.
- The new species was named *Mansourasaurus* to recognize the team that discovered it.

The student wants to explain the origin of the species’ name. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. *Mansourasaurus*, a new species discovered in Egypt in 2013, lived approximately 80 million years ago.
- B. A partial dinosaur skeleton found in Egypt’s Dakhla Oasis belonged to a species named *Mansourasaurus*.
- C. *Mansourasaurus*, a species that lived approximately 80 million years ago, was discovered in 2013 by Egyptian paleontologist Hesham Sallam and a team of university students.
- D. The new species was named *Mansourasaurus* to recognize the team that discovered it, a professor and students from Mansoura University.

ID: f4b63a04 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. It explains where the dinosaur’s name came from.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice does not explain the origin of the dinosaur’s name. Choice B is incorrect. This choice does not explain the origin of the dinosaur’s name. Choice C is incorrect. This choice does not explain the origin of the dinosaur’s name.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID af88c47a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: af88c47a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Freddie Wong (born 1985) is a director and special effects artist from the United States.
- He is best known for the action-comedy web series *Video Game High School* (VGHS).
- VGHS premiered in 2012 on RocketJump, a YouTube channel that Wong cocreated.
- The series was celebrated for its inventive video game–centric world and high-quality special effects.
- VGHS was nominated for a Producers Guild Award for Outstanding Digital Series.

The student wants to begin a narrative about Wong’s award-nominated web series. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In 2012, director and visual effects artist Freddie Wong launched a new action-comedy web series: *Video Game High School*.
- B. *Video Game High School* was celebrated for its inventive video game–centric world and high-quality special effects, and it was nominated for a Producer’s Guild Award for Outstanding Digital Series.
- C. Wong, cocreator of the YouTube channel RocketJump, would go on to see his web series be nominated for a Producers Guild Award.
- D. In 2012, *Video Game High School* premiered on RocketJump; it would later be nominated for an award.

ID: af88c47a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice introduces Wong and VGHS in an active and specific way, as if to an audience unfamiliar with the series. It also sets up the time and genre of the web series, which are useful ways to introduce the series of events in a narrative.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice isn’t suited for beginning a narrative. A narrative is a story that follows a sequence of events and creates interest and suspense for the reader. This choice jumps to the end, explaining the success of VGHS without explaining what it is. Choice C is incorrect. This choice isn’t suited for beginning a narrative. It doesn’t actually introduce the web series by name. It just jumps to later in the story without sufficient explanation. Choice D is incorrect. This choice is not very effective for beginning a narrative. It doesn’t explain what VGHS is, and it doesn’t mention Wong.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID d6dec50e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d6dec50e

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 2019, Emily Shepard and colleagues in the UK and Germany studied the effect of wind on auks’ success in landing at cliffside nesting sites.
- They found as wind conditions intensified, the birds needed more attempts in order to make a successful landing.
- When the wind was still, almost 100% of landing attempts were successful.
- In a strong breeze, approximately 40% of attempts were successful.
- In near-gale conditions, only around 20% of attempts were successful.

The student wants to summarize the study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. For a 2019 study, researchers from the UK and Germany collected data on auks’ attempts to land at cliffside nesting sites in different wind conditions.
- B. Emily Shepard and her colleagues wanted to know the extent to which wind affected auks’ success in landing at cliffside nesting sites, so they conducted a study.
- C. Knowing that auks often need multiple attempts to land at their cliffside nesting sites, Emily Shepard studied the birds’ success rate, which was only around 20% in some conditions.
- D. Emily Shepard’s 2019 study of auks’ success in landing at cliffside nesting sites showed that as wind conditions intensified, the birds’ success rate decreased.

ID: d6dec50e Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence effectively summarizes the study, noting who conducted it, when it was conducted, and what its results showed: that auks’ landing success rate decreased as wind conditions intensified.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence presents the methodology of the study—that is, the approach taken by the researchers—it fails to summarize the study as a whole. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence presents the aim, or goal, of the study, it fails to summarize the study as a whole. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence indicates what Shepard studied, it fails to mention a key factor: the effect of wind. It thus fails to summarize the study as a whole.

Question Difficulty: Medium



# Question ID 9551ef8b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

## ID: 9551ef8b

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The magnificent frigatebird (*fregata magnificens*) is a species of seabird that feeds mainly on fish, tuna, squid, and other small sea animals.
- It is unusual among seabirds in that it doesn't dive into the water for prey.
- One way it acquires food is by using its hook-tipped bill to snatch prey from the surface of the water.
- Another way it acquires food is by taking it from weaker birds by force.
- This behavior is known as kleptoparasitism.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the two ways a magnificent frigatebird acquires food. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. A magnificent frigatebird never dives into the water, instead using its hook-tipped bill to snatch prey from the surface.
- B. Neither of a magnificent frigatebird's two ways of acquiring food requires the bird to dive into the water.
- C. Of the magnificent frigatebird's two ways of acquiring food, only one is known as kleptoparasitism.
- D. In addition to snatching prey from the water with its hook-tipped bill, a magnificent frigatebird takes food from other birds by force.

## ID: 9551ef8b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the two ways a magnificent frigatebird acquires food, noting that neither way requires the seabird to dive into the water.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes how a magnificent frigatebird captures prey without diving into water; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two ways the seabird acquires food. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence notes the term used to describe one of the two ways that magnificent frigatebirds acquire food; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two ways. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence describes the two ways that a magnificent frigatebird acquires food; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two ways.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 94cb8720

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 94cb8720

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 2020, theater students at Radford and Virginia Tech chose an interactive, online format to present a play about woman suffrage activists.
- Their “Women and the Vote” website featured an interactive digital drawing of a Victorian-style house.
- Audiences were asked to focus on a room of their choice and select from that room an artifact related to the suffrage movement.
- One click took them to video clips, songs, artwork, and texts associated with the artifact.
- The play was popular with audiences because the format allowed them to control the experience.

The student wants to explain an advantage of the “Women and the Vote” format. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. “Women and the Vote” featured a drawing of a Victorian-style house with several rooms, each containing suffrage artifacts.
- B. To access video clips, songs, artwork, and texts, audiences had to first click on an artifact.
- C. The “Women and the Vote” format appealed to audiences because it allowed them to control the experience.
- D. Using an interactive format, theater students at Radford and Virginia Tech created “Women and the Vote,” a play about woman suffrage activists.

ID: 94cb8720 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence explains an advantage of the “Women and the Vote” format, noting that the format appealed to audiences because it allowed them to control the experience.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes a digital drawing on the “Women and the Vote” website; it doesn’t explain an advantage of the play’s format. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence explains how audiences interacted with the “Women and the Vote” website; it doesn’t explain an advantage of the play’s format. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that “Women and the Vote” had an interactive format, it doesn’t explain what advantage this format might have.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 56b000d0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 56b000d0

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The factors that affect clutch size (the number of eggs laid at one time) have been well studied in birds but not in lizards.
- A team led by Shai Meiri of Tel Aviv University investigated which factors influence lizard clutch size.
- Meiri’s team obtained clutch-size and habitat data for over 3,900 lizard species and analyzed the data with statistical models.
- Larger clutch size was associated with environments in higher latitudes that have more seasonal change.
- Lizards in higher-latitude environments may lay larger clutches to take advantage of shorter windows of favorable conditions.

The student wants to emphasize the aim of the research study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A.

Researchers wanted to know which factors influence lizard egg clutch size because such factors have been well studied in birds but not in lizards.
- B.

After they obtained data for over 3,900 lizard species, researchers determined that larger clutch size was associated with environments in higher latitudes that have more seasonal change.
- C.

We now know that lizards in higher-latitude environments may lay larger clutches to take advantage of shorter windows of favorable conditions.
- D.

Researchers obtained clutch-size and habitat data for over 3,900 lizard species and analyzed the data with statistical models.

ID: 56b000d0 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the aim of the research study by highlighting what the researchers conducting the study wanted to know—specifically, which factors influence clutch size among lizards.

Choice B is incorrect because the sentence emphasizes what researchers determined at the end of the study, not what the study’s aim was. Choice C is incorrect because the sentence emphasizes a finding from the research study, not the aim of the study. Choice D is incorrect because the sentence emphasizes the research study’s methodology, not its aim.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 92dec236

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 92dec236

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Maika'i Tubbs is a Native Hawaiian sculptor and installation artist.
- His work has been shown in the United States, Canada, Japan, and Germany, among other places.
- Many of his sculptures feature discarded objects.
- His work *Erasure* (2008) includes discarded audiocassette tapes and magnets.
- His work *Home Grown* (2009) includes discarded pushpins, plastic plates and forks, and wood.

- The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the two works. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?
- A. *Erasure* (2008) uses discarded objects such as audiocassette tapes and magnets; *Home Grown* (2009), however, includes pushpins, plastic plates and forks, and wood.
- B. Tubbs’s work, which often features discarded objects, has been shown both within the United States and abroad.
- C. Like many of Tubbs’s sculptures, both *Erasure* and *Home Grown* include discarded objects: *Erasure* uses audiocassette tapes, and *Home Grown* uses plastic forks.
- D. Tubbs completed *Erasure* in 2008 and *Home Grown* in 2009.

ID: 92dec236 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

- Choice C is the best answer. This choice most effectively emphasizes "a similarity" by identifying a trait the works share: "both *Erasure* and *Home Grown* include discarded objects."
- Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't "emphasize a similarity." Instead, this choice shows how the materials used in the two works are different. Notice the use of the contrast word "however." Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't "emphasize a similarity between the two works." While it says that Tubbs’s work "often features discarded objects," it doesn't provide details about the two works in question. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't "emphasize a similarity." Instead, this choice shows how the works were produced at different times.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 6916c8e5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6916c8e5

Laetitia Ky’s hair is her art. Inspired by hairstyles from various African tribes, the Ivorian artist uses wire and thread to sculpt her hair into all kinds of shapes. \_\_\_\_\_ she once made her hair into the shape of the continent of Africa—including the island of Madagascar!

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Soon,
- B. Elsewhere,
- C. For example,
- D. However,

ID: 6916c8e5 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “For example” logically signals that the following information about Ky—that she once shaped her hair to look like Africa—is an example supporting the previous statement that she makes different shapes with her hair.

Choice A is incorrect because “soon” illogically signals that the event described in this sentence occurred soon after the statement about Ky making different shapes with her hair. Instead, the sentence provides an example of one of these shapes. Choice B is incorrect because “elsewhere” illogically signals that the event described in this sentence occurred in a different place than the statement about Ky making different shapes with her hair. Instead, the sentence provides an example of one of these shapes. Choice D is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the statement that Ky makes different shapes with her hair. Instead, the sentence provides an example of one of these shapes.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID aec8d3e8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: aec8d3e8

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Chemical leavening agents cause carbon dioxide to be released within a liquid batter, making the batter rise as it bakes.
- Baking soda and baking powder are chemical leavening agents.
- Baking soda is pure sodium bicarbonate.
- To produce carbon dioxide, baking soda needs to be mixed with liquid and an acidic ingredient such as honey.
- Baking powder is a mixture of sodium bicarbonate and an acid.
- To produce carbon dioxide, baking powder needs to be mixed with liquid but not with an acidic ingredient.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between baking soda and baking powder. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. To make batters rise, bakers use chemical leavening agents such as baking soda and baking powder.
- B. Baking soda and baking powder are chemical leavening agents that, when mixed with other ingredients, cause carbon dioxide to be released within a batter.
- C. Baking soda is pure sodium bicarbonate, and honey is a type of acidic ingredient.
- D. To produce carbon dioxide within a liquid batter, baking soda needs to be mixed with an acidic ingredient, whereas baking powder does not.

ID: aec8d3e8 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between baking soda and baking powder, noting that baking soda needs to be mixed with an acidic ingredient to produce carbon dioxide but baking powder doesn't.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence focuses on what bakers use to make batters rise; it doesn't emphasize a difference between baking soda and baking powder. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence provides a general description of baking soda and baking powder; it doesn't emphasize a difference between them. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence explains what baking soda and honey are; it doesn't emphasize a difference between baking soda and baking powder.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 39d1a519

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 39d1a519

To discover which fruit varieties were grown in Italy’s Umbria region before the introduction of industrial farming, botanist Isabella Dalla Ragione often turns to centuries-old lists of cooking ingredients. \_\_\_\_\_ she analyzes Renaissance paintings of Umbria, as they can provide accurate representations of fruits that were grown there long ago.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In sum,
- B. Instead,
- C. Thus,
- D. Additionally,

ID: 39d1a519 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Additionally” logically signals that the painting analysis discussed in this sentence is an additional part of the botany research discussed in the previous sentence. That is, to research which fruits Umbrians grew in the past, the botanist analyzes old paintings in addition to looking at old lists of ingredients.

Choice A is incorrect because “in sum” illogically signals that the painting analysis discussed in this sentence is a concluding summary of the botany research discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, the painting analysis is an additional part of that research. Choice B is incorrect because “instead” illogically signals that the painting analysis discussed in this sentence is an alternative to the botany research discussed in the previous sentence. Rather, the painting analysis is an additional part of that research. Choice C is incorrect because “thus” illogically signals that the painting analysis discussed in this sentence is a result of the botany research discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, the painting analysis is an additional part of that research.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID eae29760

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: eae29760

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The calendar used by most of the world (the Gregorian calendar) has 365 days.
- Because 365 days can’t be divided evenly by 7 (the number of days in a week), calendar dates fall on a different day of the week each year.
- The Hanke-Henry permanent calendar, developed as an alternative to the Gregorian calendar, has 364 days.
- Because 364 can be divided evenly by 7, calendar dates fall on the same day of the week each year, which supports more predictable scheduling.

The student wants to explain an advantage of the Hanke-Henry calendar. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The Gregorian calendar has 365 days, which is one day longer than the Hanke-Henry permanent calendar.
- B. Adopting the Hanke-Henry permanent calendar would help solve a problem with the Gregorian calendar.
- C. Designed so calendar dates would occur on the same day of the week each year, the Hanke-Henry calendar supports more predictable scheduling than does the Gregorian calendar.
- D. The Hanke-Henry permanent calendar was developed as an alternative to the Gregorian calendar, which is currently the most-used calendar in the world.

ID: eae29760 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence explains an advantage of the Hanke-Henry calendar, noting that it supports more predictable scheduling than does the Gregorian calendar and describing how it does so (by having calendar dates occur on the same day each year).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence compares the number of days in the Gregorian and Hanke-Henry calendars; it doesn’t explain an advantage of the Hanke-Henry calendar. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence refers to a possible reason to adopt the Hanke-Henry calendar—that doing so would help solve a problem with the Gregorian calendar—it doesn’t identify the problem or the solution and thus doesn’t explain the advantage of the Hanke-Henry calendar. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence describes the origins of the Hanke-Henry calendar; it doesn’t explain an advantage of it.

Question Difficulty: Easy



# Question ID 835b101b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

**ID: 835b101b**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Minnesota defines a lake as an inland body of water of at least 10 acres.
- Wisconsin’s definition of a lake doesn’t take size into account.
- By its own definition, Wisconsin has over 15,000 lakes, many smaller than 10 acres.
- By Minnesota’s definition, Wisconsin has only about 6,000 lakes.

The student wants to contrast Minnesota’s definition of a lake with Wisconsin’s. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Wisconsin, which doesn’t take size into account in defining a lake, claims that it has over 15,000 lakes.
- B. Because its definition of a lake is different from Minnesota’s, it is unclear how many lakes Wisconsin really has.
- C. According to Minnesota’s definition of a lake—an inland body of water of at least 10 acres—Wisconsin has about 6,000 lakes.
- D. Minnesota’s definition of a lake—an inland body of water of at least 10 acres—is more restrictive than Wisconsin’s, which doesn’t take size into account.

**ID: 835b101b Answer**

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence contrasts Minnesota’s definition of a lake with Wisconsin’s, explaining that Minnesota’s definition (which takes size into account) is more restrictive than Wisconsin’s definition (which doesn’t).

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence notes that Wisconsin’s definition of a lake doesn’t take size into account, it doesn’t contrast Minnesota’s definition with Wisconsin’s. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence states that Wisconsin’s definition of a lake is different from Minnesota’s, but it doesn’t clarify how they differ. In other words, it doesn’t contrast Minnesota’s definition with Wisconsin’s. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence indicates how many lakes Wisconsin has according to Minnesota’s definition of a lake, but it doesn’t clarify how the states’ definitions differ. In other words, it doesn’t contrast Minnesota’s definition with Wisconsin’s.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID efc19153

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: efc19153

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Just like states have state flags, some cities have city flags.
- Over one hundred US cities have redesigned their flags since 2015.
- The city of Pocatello, Idaho, redesigned its flag after it was named the most poorly designed flag in North America.
- Pocatello’s new flag better represents the city’s mountainous geography and civic priorities.
- Residents consider the new flag to be a meaningful symbol of civic pride.

The student wants to make and support a generalization about the effect of redesigning a city flag. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Over one hundred US cities have redesigned their flags, including Pocatello, whose flag had been named the most poorly designed flag in North America.
- B. Pocatello is just one of over one hundred US cities that have redesigned their flags.
- C. After it was named the most poorly designed flag in North America, the flag of Pocatello was redesigned to better represent the city’s geography and civic priorities.
- D. Redesigning a poorly designed city flag can create a meaningful symbol of civic pride, as was the case when Pocatello redesigned its original flag to better represent its geography and civic priorities.

ID: efc19153 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence makes and supports a generalization about the effect of redesigning a city flag, noting that redesigning a city flag can create a meaningful symbol of civic pride, as was the case when the city of Pocatello redesigned its flag.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence explains that many US cities have redesigned their flags and provides an example; it doesn’t make and support a generalization about the effect of redesigning a city flag. Choice B is incorrect because the sentence provides an example of a city that redesigned its flag; it doesn’t make and support a generalization about the effect of redesigning a city flag. Choice C is incorrect because the sentence emphasizes why the flag of Pocatello was redesigned; it doesn’t make and support a generalization about the effect of redesigning a city flag.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 0205e563

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0205e563

At two weeks old, the time their critical socialization period begins, wolves can smell but cannot yet see or hear. Domesticated dogs, \_\_\_\_\_ can see, hear, and smell by the end of two weeks. This relative lack of sensory input may help explain why wolves behave so differently around humans than dogs do: from a very young age, wolves are more wary and less exploratory.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in other words,
- B. for instance,
- C. by contrast,
- D. accordingly,

ID: 0205e563 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “By contrast” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that dogs can see, hear, and smell by the end of two weeks—contrasts with the preceding information (that wolves can smell but not see or hear at the same age).

Choice A is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the information about domesticated dogs in this sentence paraphrases the information about wolves in the previous sentence. Instead, the information about dogs contrasts with what came before. Choice B is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the information about domesticated dogs in this sentence exemplifies the information about wolves in the previous sentence. Instead, the information about dogs contrasts with what came before. Choice D is incorrect because “accordingly” illogically signals that the information about domesticated dogs in this sentence is in accordance with, or results from, the information about wolves in the previous sentence. Instead, the information about dogs contrasts with what came before.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID eea351c4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: eea351c4

“Wishcycling”—putting nonrecyclable items into recycling bins under the mistaken belief that those items can be recycled—ultimately does more harm than good. Nonrecyclable items, such as greasy pizza boxes, can contaminate recyclable materials, rendering entire batches unusable. \_\_\_\_\_ nonrecyclable products can damage recycling plants’ machinery.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Fittingly,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. Moreover,
- D. Nevertheless,

ID: eea351c4 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The first sentence tells us that “wishcycling” is harmful, the previous sentence gives us an example, and this sentence gives us another example. So “moreover”—a transition that indicates the addition of another supporting point—fits perfectly here.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that means “appropriately” or “suitably,” which doesn’t make sense in context. This sentence adds another example of how “wishcycling” is harmful, so we’re looking for an addition transition. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence actually agrees with the previous sentence. Both provide examples of how “wishcycling” is harmful. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence actually agrees with the previous sentence. Both provide examples of how “wishcycling” is harmful.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID ecb31049

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ecb31049

The Sun and other stars are powered by nuclear fusion reactions, in which two atoms collide to form a single heavier atom, releasing energy. Scientists have long believed that fusion has the potential to meet humanity’s clean energy needs. \_\_\_\_ prior to December 2022, no fusion reaction in a laboratory setting had ever generated a net energy gain.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For this reason,
- B. Moreover,
- C. Specifically,
- D. That said,

ID: ecb31049 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Scientists believe in fusion’s potential as an energy source, but have struggled to actually make it work—in other words, there is a contradiction between scientists’ beliefs and their reality. “That said” is a disagreement transition that works perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense here. Scientists not being able to generate extra energy from lab fusion reactions isn’t an effect of them believing in fusion’s potential. Choice B is incorrect. This transition indicates the addition of another supporting point. But this sentence is not adding a supporting point to the previous sentence—scientists not being able to successfully generate energy from fusion isn’t another point in favor of fusion meeting humanity’s clean energy needs. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that introduces or elaborates on a particular example. But this sentence doesn’t give an example of scientists’ belief in fusion’s potential to meet humanity’s clean energy needs—in fact, it contrasts that optimistic belief with the reality of past failures to successfully employ fusion for energy production.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID d3898d32

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d3898d32

Riley Black—the author of critically acclaimed books such as *My Beloved Brontosaurus* (2013)—is best known for writing about dinosaurs, but she has also conducted hands-on fieldwork. \_\_\_\_\_ her fieldwork has included paleontological digs in Utah, Montana, and Wyoming, and her dinosaur fossil discoveries can be seen at places such as the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. Subsequently,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Conversely,

ID: d3898d32 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The second sentence provides more specific information about the fieldwork mentioned in the first sentence—that the paleontological digs took place in Utah, Montana, and Wyoming. Therefore, “specifically” fits perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. Rather, this sentence agrees with and elaborates on the last sentence by providing more specifics about the fieldwork Black does. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates that an event took place after another event. But the two sentences are not describing different events—instead, this sentence gives more details about the fieldwork discussed in the first sentence. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. Rather, this sentence agrees with and elaborates on the last sentence by providing more specifics about the fieldwork Black does.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 9c78f702

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9c78f702

Phytoplankton play a crucial role in the ocean’s uptake of carbon from the atmosphere. When alive, these tiny marine organisms absorb atmospheric carbon via photosynthesis. \_\_\_\_\_ after they die, the phytoplankton sink to the seafloor, where the carbon in their cells gets stored in sediment, preventing it from cycling back into the atmosphere.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. By contrast,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Then,

ID: 9c78f702 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Then” logically signals that the event described in this sentence—carbon in phytoplankton cells being trapped in sediment after the organisms have died—occurs later in a chronological sequence than the event described in the previous sentence (phytoplankton absorbing carbon while alive).

Choice A is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information that follows provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous information about what phytoplankton do when alive. Instead, this sentence explains what happens after phytoplankton die—a later step in the chronological sequence of events. Choice B is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the information that follows contrasts with the previous information about what phytoplankton do when alive. Instead, this sentence explains what happens after phytoplankton die—a later step in the chronological sequence of events. There is no contrast: in both life and death, phytoplankton contribute to the ocean’s carbon uptake. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information that follows is in spite of the previous information about what phytoplankton do when alive. Instead, this sentence explains what happens after phytoplankton die—a later step in the chronological sequence of events. There is no contrast: in both life and death, phytoplankton contribute to the ocean’s carbon uptake.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 4154a7a3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4154a7a3

In 1891, dancer and choreographer Loie Fuller first performed her celebrated Serpentine Dance, artfully twirling her long, flowing skirt to create striking visual effects. \_\_\_\_\_ in 1896, cinema pioneers Auguste and Louis Lumière made a groundbreaking short film of Fuller’s dance.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. In conclusion,
- C. Later,
- D. In other words,

ID: 4154a7a3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Later” logically signals that the event discussed in this sentence—the creation of the short film featuring Fuller’s dance—is a related event that occurred after the event discussed in the previous sentence (the 1891 debut of the dance).

Choice A is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the creation of the short film is a related event that followed the event discussed in the previous sentence. Choice B is incorrect because “in conclusion” illogically signals that the information in this sentence concludes or summarizes the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the creation of the short film is a related event that followed the event discussed in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the creation of the short film is a related event that followed the event discussed in the previous sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy



# Question ID 99183985

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 99183985

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Some sandstone arches in Utah’s Arches National Park have been defaced by tourists’ carvings.
- Park rangers can smooth away some carvings using power grinders.
- For deep carvings, power grinding is not always feasible because it can greatly alter or damage the rock.
- Park rangers can use an infilling technique, which involves filling in carvings with ground sandstone and a bonding agent.
- This technique is minimally invasive.

The student wants to explain an advantage of the infilling technique. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. To remove carvings from sandstone arches in Utah’s Arches National Park, power grinding is not always feasible.
- B. Filling in carvings with ground sandstone and a bonding agent is less invasive than smoothing them away with a power grinder, which can greatly alter or damage the sandstone arches.
- C. Park rangers can use a power grinding technique to smooth away carvings or fill them in with ground sandstone and a bonding agent.
- D. As methods for removing carvings from sandstone, power grinding and infilling differ in their level of invasiveness.

ID: 99183985 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence effectively explains an advantage of infilling: it’s less invasive than using a power grinder.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence identifies a disadvantage of power grinding; it doesn’t explain an advantage of infilling. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence identifies the two techniques park rangers use; it doesn’t explain an advantage of infilling. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence indicates that power grinding and infilling are different in one aspect; it fails to explain an advantage of infilling.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 94f4eeeb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 94f4eeeb

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- *Las sergas de Esplandián* was a novel popular in sixteenth-century Spain.
- The novel featured a fictional island inhabited solely by Black women and known as California.
- That same century, Spanish explorers learned of an “island” off the west coast of Mexico.
- They called it California after the island in the novel.
- The “island” was actually the peninsula now known as Baja California (“Lower California”), which lies to the south of the US state of California.

The student wants to emphasize the role a misconception played in the naming of a place. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The novel *Las sergas de Esplandián* featured a fictional island known as California.
- B. To the south of the US state of California lies Baja California (“Lower California”), originally called California after a fictional place.
- C. In the sixteenth century, Spanish explorers learned of a peninsula off the west coast of Mexico and called it California.
- D. Thinking it was an island, Spanish explorers called a peninsula California after an island in a popular novel.

ID: 94f4eeeb Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the role a misconception played in the naming of a place, explaining that Spanish explorers mistook a peninsula for an island and, as a result, named the peninsula after a fictional island, California.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence mentions a novel that featured a fictional island, California; it doesn't emphasize the role a misconception played in the naming of a place. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence notes that Baja California was originally named after a fictional place; it doesn't emphasize the role a misconception—specifically, the Spanish explorers' mistaken belief that the peninsula was an island—played in the naming of a place. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence indicates when Spanish explorers learned of the peninsula they called California; it doesn't emphasize the role a misconception played in the naming of a place.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 87d8a2ff

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

**ID: 87d8a2ff**

During a 2021 launch, Rocket Labs’ Electron rocket experienced an unexpected failure: its second-stage booster shut down suddenly after ignition. \_\_\_\_\_ instead of downplaying the incident, Rocket Labs’ CEO publicly acknowledged what happened and apologized for the loss of the rocket’s payload, which had consisted of two satellites.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Afterward,
- B. Additionally,
- C. Indeed,
- D. Similarly,

**ID: 87d8a2ff Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Afterward” logically signals that the events described in this sentence—the CEO’s public acknowledgment and apology—occurred after the rocket booster’s failure and are part of a chronological sequence of events.

Choice B is incorrect because “additionally” illogically signals that the events described in this sentence merely occurred in addition to the rocket booster’s failure. Instead, they occurred after the rocket booster’s failure and are part of a chronological sequence of events. Choice C is incorrect because “indeed” illogically signals that the events described in this sentence emphasize or strengthen a statement made in the previous sentence. Instead, they occurred after the rocket booster’s failure and are part of a chronological sequence of events. Choice D is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the events described in this sentence are similar to the rocket booster’s failure. Instead, they occurred after the rocket booster’s failure and are part of a chronological sequence of events.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 9e2d4ef7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9e2d4ef7

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Abdulrazak Gurnah was awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature.
- Gurnah was born in Zanzibar in East Africa and currently lives in the United Kingdom.
- Many readers have singled out Gurnah’s 1994 book *Paradise* for praise.
- *Paradise* is a historical novel about events that occurred in colonial East Africa.

The student wants to introduce *Paradise* to an audience unfamiliar with the novel and its author. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Abdulrazak Gurnah, who wrote *Paradise* and later was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, was born in Zanzibar in East Africa and currently lives in the United Kingdom.
- B. Many readers have singled out Abdulrazak Gurnah’s 1994 book *Paradise*, a historical novel about colonial East Africa, for praise.
- C. A much-praised historical novel about colonial East Africa, *Paradise* (1994) was written by Abdulrazak Gurnah, winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature.
- D. *Paradise* is a historical novel about events that occurred in colonial East Africa, Abdulrazak Gurnah’s homeland.

ID: 9e2d4ef7 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively introduces *Paradise* to an audience unfamiliar with the novel and its author, describing *Paradise* as a historical novel about colonial East Africa and its author as the winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence introduces Abdulrazak Gurnah to an audience unfamiliar with the author, it doesn’t effectively introduce *Paradise*. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence provides background information about *Paradise*, it doesn’t effectively introduce the novel to an audience unfamiliar with its author. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence provides background information about *Paradise*, it doesn’t effectively introduce the novel to an audience unfamiliar with its author.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 5bb7dc03

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

**ID: 5bb7dc03**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Started in 1925, the Scripps National Spelling Bee is a US-based spelling competition.
- The words used in the competition have diverse linguistic origins.
- In 2008, Sameer Mishra won by correctly spelling the word “guerdon.”
- “Guerdon” derives from the Anglo-French word “guerdun.”
- In 2009, Kavya Shivashankar won by correctly spelling the word “Laodicean.”
- “Laodicean” derives from the ancient Greek word “Laodíkeia.”

The student wants to emphasize a difference in the origins of the two words. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. “Guerdon,” the final word of the 2008 Scripps National Spelling Bee, is of Anglo-French origin, while the following year’s final word, “Laodicean,” derives from ancient Greek.
- B. In 2008, Sameer Mishra won the Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling the word “guerdon”; however, the following year, Kavya Shivashankar won based on spelling the word “Laodicean.”
- C. Kavya Shivashankar won the 2009 Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling “Laodicean,” which derives from the ancient Greek word “Laodíkeia.”
- D. The Scripps National Spelling Bee uses words from diverse linguistic origins, such as “guerdon” and “Laodicean.”

**ID: 5bb7dc03 Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Noting that “guerdon” is of Anglo-French origin and “Laodicean” is of ancient Greek origin, the sentence uses “while” to emphasize a difference in the origins of the two words.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence emphasizes two words used in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, it doesn’t emphasize (or mention) the words’ linguistic origins. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence specifies the linguistic origin of one word used in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, it doesn’t mention the other word or emphasize a difference in the two words’ origins. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence makes a generalization about words used in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, it doesn’t emphasize a difference in the words’ origins.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID d7f31e68

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d7f31e68

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Annie Wu is a prominent American flutist who graduated from the New England Conservatory.
- She has won multiple national flute competitions.
- She is best known for a 2011 YouTube video that has been viewed over two million times.
- The video shows her performing *Three Beats for Beatbox Flute*, an original work by composer Greg Pattillo.
- Wu combines flute playing and beatboxing in the video.

The student wants to emphasize Wu’s most well-known achievement. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Annie Wu, who has won multiple national flute competitions, has also combined flute playing and beatboxing.
- B. Among her many achievements, prominent American flutist Annie Wu graduated from the New England Conservatory and has won multiple national flute competitions.
- C. Annie Wu is best known for a 2011 YouTube video performance of *Three Beats for Beatbox Flute* that has been viewed over two million times.
- D. Composer Greg Pattillo’s original work *Three Beats for Beatbox Flute* combines flute playing and beatboxing.

ID: d7f31e68 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This describes the achievement for which Wu is best known.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize Wu’s most well-known achievement. It mentions some of her general achievements, but not the one for which she is “best known.” Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize Wu’s most well-known achievement—it describes several of her achievements equally. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize Wu’s most well-known achievement. It describes a piece of music featured in her most well-known achievement.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 4f9ee1dc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4f9ee1dc

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Seven species of sea turtle exist today.
- Five sea turtle species can be found in the Atlantic Ocean.
- One of those species is the Kemp’s ridley sea turtle.
- Its scientific name is *Lepidochelys kempii*.
- Another of those species is the olive ridley sea turtle.
- Its scientific name is *Lepidochelys olivacea*.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the two sea turtle species. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Among the seven species of sea turtle is the olive ridley sea turtle, which can be found in the Atlantic Ocean.
- B. The Kemp’s ridley sea turtle is referred to as *Lepidochelys kempii*, while the olive ridley sea turtle is referred to as *Lepidochelys olivacea*.
- C. Both the Kemp’s ridley sea turtle and the olive ridley sea turtle can be found in the Atlantic Ocean.
- D. The Kemp’s ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) and the olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) are different species.

ID: 4f9ee1dc Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the two sea turtle species: both can be found in the Atlantic Ocean.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence indicates that the olive ridley sea turtle is one of seven species of sea turtle; it fails to mention the Kemp’s ridley sea turtle. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the two sea turtle species rather than a similarity. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the two sea turtle species rather than a similarity.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 2bda9edb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2bda9edb

In 1885, Chinese-born California resident Mary Tape became a hero of the Asian American civil rights movement. In January of that year, she won an antidiscrimination case in the California Supreme Court. \_\_\_\_\_ in April, she wrote an open letter criticizing her local board of education for discrimination. Both actions are remembered today as historic stands against racism.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Later,
- B. For instance,
- C. In other words,
- D. Rather,

ID: 2bda9edb Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Later” logically signals that the letter-writing discussed in this sentence occurred later in a chronological sequence of events than did the antidiscrimination case discussed in the previous sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the letter-writing discussed in this sentence is an example of the antidiscrimination case discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, the letter-writing is an event that occurred after the court case. Choice C is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the letter-writing discussed in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the antidiscrimination case discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, the letter-writing is an event that occurred after the court case. Choice D is incorrect because “rather” illogically signals that the letter-writing discussed in this sentence is an alternative to the antidiscrimination case discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, the letter-writing is an event that occurred after the court case.

Question Difficulty: Easy



# Question ID e3484c07

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e3484c07

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Bioluminescence is the emission of light by living organisms.
- This light is produced by chemical reactions in organisms’ cells.
- Jellyfish emit flashes of blue light.
- This behavior serves to startle predators.
- Black dragonfish emit a steady red light.
- This behavior helps them locate prey in deep waters.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the behavior of jellyfish and that of black dragonfish. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Both jellyfish and black dragonfish are organisms that emit light, which is produced by chemical reactions in these organisms’ cells.
- B. Black dragonfish emit a steady red light, which helps them locate prey in deep waters.
- C. Bioluminescence, the emission of light by living organisms, results from chemical reactions in organisms’ cells.
- D. Jellyfish emit light to startle predators, whereas black dragonfish do so to locate prey.

ID: e3484c07 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the behavior of jellyfish and that of black dragonfish, noting that jellyfish and black dragonfish emit light as part of different behaviors (protection and predation, respectively).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between jellyfish and black dragonfish; it doesn’t emphasize a difference between the behavior of the two animals. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the type of bioluminescence exhibited by black dragonfish, noting that it’s used in predation; it doesn’t emphasize a difference between the behavior of the two animals. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence defines bioluminescence and explains how it works; the sentence doesn’t mention either animal or emphasize a difference between them.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID fc95a352

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: fc95a352

When designing costumes for film, American artist Suttirat Larlarb typically custom fits the garments to each actor. \_\_\_\_\_ for the film *Sunshine*, in which astronauts must reignite a dying Sun, she designed a golden spacesuit and had a factory reproduce it in a few standard sizes; lacking a tailor-made quality, the final creations reflected the ungainliness of actual spacesuits.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Nevertheless,
- B. Thus,
- C. Likewise,
- D. Moreover,

ID: fc95a352 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Nevertheless” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the spacesuits Suttirat Larlarb designed for the film *Sunshine* were made in standard sizes in a factory—presents a notable exception to Larlarb’s typical approach of custom-fitting garments to actors, which is described in the previous sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because “thus” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result or consequence of the previous information about Larlarb’s typical approach of custom-fitting garments to actors. Instead, it presents a notable exception to Larlarb’s typical approach. Choice C is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about Larlarb’s typical approach of custom-fitting garments to actors. Instead, it presents a notable exception to Larlarb’s typical approach. Choice D is incorrect because “moreover” illogically signals that the information in this sentence merely adds to the previous information about Larlarb’s typical approach of custom-fitting garments to actors. Instead, it presents a notable exception to Larlarb’s typical approach.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 5a5e22b5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 5a5e22b5

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Gravitational waves are powerful ripples that originate in deep space and eventually pass through Earth.
- The Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) is a physics study that began in 2002.
- LIGO’s goal is to detect and analyze gravitational waves.
- LIGO uses a pair of massive gravitational wave detectors called interferometers that are thousands of miles apart.
- In 2015, for the first time in history, LIGO researchers detected a gravitational wave passing through Earth.

The student wants to present LIGO’s aim and methodology. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In 2015, LIGO’s massive interferometers detected a powerful ripple that originated in deep space and eventually passed through Earth.
- B. Though the physics study LIGO began in 2002, its massive interferometers didn’t detect a gravitational wave until 2015.
- C. To achieve its aims, LIGO uses a pair of massive interferometers that are thousands of miles apart.
- D. A physics study designed to detect and analyze gravitational waves, LIGO uses a pair of massive interferometers that are thousands of miles apart.

ID: 5a5e22b5 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence effectively presents the LIGO study’s aim, noting that it is designed to detect and analyze gravitational waves, and its methodology (it uses two interferometers to detect the waves).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes a finding from the LIGO study; it doesn’t effectively present the study’s aim or its methodology. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence provides background information about the LIGO study’s timeline; it doesn’t effectively present the study’s aim or its methodology. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence touches on LIGO’s methodology, noting that it uses two interferometers, but doesn’t indicate what the study’s aims are.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID bc56170b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bc56170b

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Most, but not all, of the Moon’s oxygen comes from the Sun, via solar wind.
- Cosmochemist Kentaro Terada from Osaka University wondered if some of the unaccounted-for oxygen could be coming from Earth.
- In 2008, he analyzed data from the Japanese satellite Kaguya.
- Kaguya gathered data about gases and particles it encountered while orbiting the Moon.
- Based on the Kaguya data, Terada confirmed his suspicion that Earth is sending oxygen to the Moon.

The student wants to emphasize the aim of the research study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. As it orbited the Moon, the Kaguya satellite collected data that was later analyzed by cosmochemist Kentaro Terada.
- B. Before 2008, Kentaro Terada wondered if the Moon was receiving some of its oxygen from Earth.
- C. Cosmochemist Kentaro Terada set out to determine whether some of the Moon’s oxygen was coming from Earth.
- D. Kentaro Terada’s study determined that Earth is sending a small amount of oxygen to the Moon.

ID: bc56170b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the aim, or goal, of the research study, noting what Terada set out to do: determine whether some of the Moon’s oxygen was coming from Earth.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence focuses on how the Kaguya satellite collected data; it doesn’t emphasize the aim of the research study. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence mentions what Terada was curious about before conducting the research study, it doesn’t emphasize his study’s aim. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence presents the research study’s conclusion; it doesn’t emphasize the study’s aim.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 6351062d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6351062d

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In the late 1890s, over 14,000 unique varieties of apples were grown in the US.
- The rise of industrial agriculture in the mid-1900s narrowed the range of commercially grown crops.
- Thousands of apple varieties considered less suitable for commercial growth were lost.
- Today, only 15 apple varieties dominate the market, making up 90% of apples purchased in the US.
- The Lost Apple Project, based in Washington State, attempts to find and grow lost apple varieties.

The student wants to emphasize the decline in unique apple varieties in the US and specify why this decline occurred. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish these goals?

- A. The Lost Apple Project is dedicated to finding some of the apple varieties lost following a shift in agricultural practices in the mid-1900s.
- B. While over 14,000 apple varieties were grown in the US in the late 1890s, only 15 unique varieties make up most of the apples sold today.
- C. Since the rise of industrial agriculture, US farmers have mainly grown the same few unique apple varieties, resulting in the loss of thousands of varieties less suitable for commercial growth.
- D. As industrial agriculture rose to prominence in the mid-1900s, the number of crops selected for cultivation decreased dramatically.

ID: 6351062d Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the decline in unique apple varieties in the US and specifies why this decline occurred, noting that thousands of apple varieties were lost because US farmers started mainly growing the same few unique varieties.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence introduces the Lost Apple Project; it doesn't emphasize the decline in unique apple varieties in the US and specify why this decline occurred. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence emphasizes the decline in unique apple varieties in the US, it doesn't explain why this decline occurred. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the general decline of crop varieties in the mid-1900s; it doesn't emphasize the specific decline in unique apple varieties in the US.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 86b78078

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 86b78078

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Samuel Selvon was a Trinidadian author.
- *The Lonely Londoners* is one of his most celebrated novels.
- Selvon published the novel in 1956.
- It is about a group of men who emigrate from the Caribbean to Great Britain after World War II.
- Some of *The Lonely Londoners'* characters also appear in Selvon's later novel *Moses Ascending*.

The student wants to introduce Samuel Selvon and his novel *The Lonely Londoners* to a new audience. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In 1956, Trinidadian author Samuel Selvon published one of his most celebrated novels, *The Lonely Londoners*, which is about a group of men who emigrate from the Caribbean to Great Britain after World War II.
- B. Samuel Selvon wrote the novel *Moses Ascending* after he wrote *The Lonely Londoners*.
- C. *The Lonely Londoners*, a celebrated novel that was published in 1956, depicts post–World War II Caribbean migration from the perspective of a Trinidadian author.
- D. Some of the characters who appear in Samuel Selvon's *Moses Ascending* also appear in *The Lonely Londoners*.

ID: 86b78078 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. By noting that Selvon is a Trinidadian author and indicating that *The Lonely Londoners*, published in 1956, is about a group of men who emigrate from the Caribbean to Great Britain after World War II, the sentence effectively introduces Samuel Selvon and his novel to a new audience.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence indicates the order in which two of Selvon's novels were written; it doesn't introduce Samuel Selvon and *The Lonely Londoners* to a new audience. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence describes the novel *The Lonely Londoners*, it doesn't mention its author, Samuel Selvon, by name and thus doesn't effectively introduce him to a new audience. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence indicates that two of Selvon's novels include the same characters; it doesn't introduce Samuel Selvon and *The Lonely Londoners* to a new audience.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID eaded344

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: eaded344

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The painter Frida Kahlo is one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century.
- She was born in Coyoacán, Mexico, in 1907.
- She is best known for her vivid and richly symbolic self-portraits.
- *The Two Fridas* (1939) features two versions of Kahlo sitting together.
- One version wears a European-style dress and the other a traditional Tehuana dress.

The student wants to introduce Kahlo to an audience unfamiliar with the artist. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Known for being vivid and richly symbolic, Frida Kahlo’s self-portraits include *The Two Fridas* (1939).
- B. The 1939 painting *The Two Fridas* is one example of a self-portrait by Frida Kahlo.
- C. One painting by Frida Kahlo features two versions of herself, with one version wearing a European-style dress and the other a traditional Tehuana dress.
- D. One of the most influential artists of the twentieth century, Mexican painter Frida Kahlo is best known for her self-portraits, which are vivid and richly symbolic.

ID: eaded344 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. By identifying Kahlo as an influential artist from Mexico, and by describing the work she’s best known for, this choice provides the background information necessary to introduce Kahlo to an unfamiliar audience.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn’t effectively introduce Kahlo. It doesn’t include any background information about who Kahlo is or where she’s from. It simply identifies one of her paintings. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t effectively introduce Kahlo. It doesn’t include any background information about who Kahlo is or where she’s from. It simply identifies one of her paintings. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn’t effectively introduce Kahlo. It doesn’t include any background information about who Kahlo is or where she’s from. Instead, it describes one of her paintings in detail.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID a86c0b1b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a86c0b1b

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Ancient Native American and Australian Aboriginal cultures described the Pleiades star cluster as having seven stars.
- It was referred to as the Seven Sisters in the mythology of ancient Greece.
- Today, the cluster appears to have only six stars.
- Two of the stars have moved so close together that they now appear as one.

The student wants to specify the reason the Pleiades’ appearance changed. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Ancient Native American and Australian Aboriginal cultures described the Pleiades, which was referred to in Greek mythology as the Seven Sisters, as having seven stars.
- B. Although once referred to as the Seven Sisters, the Pleiades appears to have only six stars today.
- C. In the time since ancient cultures described the Pleiades as having seven stars, two of the cluster’s stars have moved so close together that they now appear as one.
- D. The Pleiades has seven stars, but two are so close together that they appear to be a single star.

ID: a86c0b1b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence specifies the reason the Pleiades’ appearance changed, noting that two of the cluster’s stars have moved so close together that they now appear as one star.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence specifies how ancient Native American and Australian Aboriginal cultures described the Pleiades; it doesn’t specify the reason the Pleiades’ appearance changed. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence describes the appearance of the Pleiades today; it doesn’t specify the reason the Pleiades’ appearance changed. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence explains why two of the Pleiades’ stars appear to be a single star; it doesn’t specify the reason the Pleiades’ appearance changed.

Question Difficulty: Medium



# Question ID 52b31d7b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 52b31d7b

In November 1934, Amrita Sher-Gil was living in what must have seemed like the ideal city for a young artist: Paris. She was studying firsthand the color-saturated style of France’s modernist masters and beginning to make a name for herself as a painter. \_\_\_\_\_ Sher-Gil longed to return to her childhood home of India; only there, she believed, could her art truly flourish.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Still,
- B. Therefore,
- C. Indeed,
- D. Furthermore,

ID: 52b31d7b Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Still” logically signals that the information about Sher-Gil in this sentence—that she longed to leave Paris and return to India—contrasts with what one would expect after reading about Sher-Gil’s experiences in Paris in the previous sentences.

Choice B is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the information about Sher-Gil in this sentence is a result or consequence of the descriptions in the previous sentences. Instead, this information contrasts with what one would expect after reading about Sher-Gil’s experiences in Paris. Choice C is incorrect because “indeed” illogically signals that the information about Sher-Gil in this sentence offers additional emphasis in support of the descriptions in the previous sentences. Instead, this information contrasts with what one would expect after reading about Sher-Gil’s experiences in Paris. Choice D is incorrect because “furthermore” illogically signals that the information about Sher-Gil in this sentence offers additional support for or confirmation of the descriptions in the previous sentences. Instead, this information contrasts with what one would expect after reading about Sher-Gil’s experiences in Paris.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 13f36b03

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 13f36b03

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Jon Ching is a Los Angeles-based painter.
- He uses the term “flauna” to describe the plant-animal hybrids that he depicts in his surreal paintings.
- “Flauna” is a combination of the words “flora” and “fauna.”
- His painting *Nectar* depicts a parrot with leaves for feathers.
- His painting *Primaverall* depicts a snow leopard whose fur sprouts flowers.

The student wants to provide an explanation and example of “flauna.” Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The term “flauna,” used by Los Angeles-based painter Jon Ching, is a combination of the words “flora” and “fauna.”
- B. Jon Ching uses the term “flauna,” a combination of the words “flora” and “fauna,” to describe the subjects of his surreal paintings: plant-animal hybrids such as a parrot with leaves for feathers.
- C. Jon Ching, who created *Nectar*, refers to the subjects of his paintings as “flauna.”
- D. The subjects of *Nectar* and *Primaverall* are types of “flauna,” a term that the paintings’ creator, Jon Ching, uses when describing his surreal artworks.

ID: 13f36b03 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it provides both an explanation and an example of “flauna.” The sentence explains that flauna, a combination of the words “flora” and “fauna,” is a term used by Jon Ching to describe the plant-animal hybrids in his paintings. The sentence also mentions an example of Ching’s flauna: a parrot with leaves for feathers.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence partially explains what “flauna” is, it doesn’t provide a full explanation or specific example of Ching’s flauna. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence partially explains what “flauna” is and includes a title of a Ching painting, it doesn’t provide a full explanation or specific example of Ching’s flauna. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence partially explains what “flauna” is and includes the titles of two Ching paintings, it doesn’t provide a full explanation of Ching’s flauna.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID ed80971c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ed80971c

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Pueblo of Zuni is located about 150 miles west of Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- It is the traditional home of the A:shiwi (Zuni) people.
- The A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center was established by tribal members in 1992.
- Its mission is stated on its website: “As a tribal museum and heritage center for the Zuni people and by the Zuni people we work to provide learning experiences that emphasize A:shiwi ways of knowing, as well as exploring modern concepts of knowledge and the transfer of knowledge.”

The student wants to emphasize how long the museum has existed. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The Pueblo of Zuni is home to the A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center, which was founded by tribal members.
- B. The A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center has served the Pueblo of Zuni since 1992.
- C. According to its website, the A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center (founded in the 1990s) works to “emphasize A:shiwi ways of knowing.”
- D. Knowledge has been one of the central themes of the A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center from its founding.

ID: ed80971c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice effectively uses information from the notes to emphasize how long the museum has existed. It says that the museum has existed since 1992.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize how long the museum has existed. It doesn't say when the museum was founded. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize how long the museum has existed. It doesn't say the exact date of the museum's founding. Rather, it emphasizes the museum's mission. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize how long the museum has existed. It doesn't say when the museum was founded.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 90117366

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

**ID: 90117366**

To explore how blinking affects social interactions, Dutch researchers observed interactions between human speakers and “listeners” (animated human faces on a screen). The researchers found that when the listeners blinked slowly, the speakers tended to talk for less time. \_\_\_\_\_ quicker blinks were associated with longer talking times.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. Specifically,
- C. Firstly,
- D. By contrast,

**ID: 90117366 Answer**

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “By contrast” logically signals that the finding described in this sentence contrasts with the finding described in the previous sentence. That is, quicker blinks were associated with longer talking times, whereas slower blinks were associated with shorter talking times.

Choice A is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the finding described in this sentence is an example of the finding described in the previous sentence. Instead, it contrasts with that finding. Choice B is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that this sentence provides specific, precise details about the finding described in the previous sentence. Instead, it presents information that contrasts with that finding. Choice C is incorrect because “firstly” illogically signals that the finding described in this sentence is a first point or occurs first in a chronological sequence of events. Instead, it contrasts with the finding described in the previous sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 2b5f4bdc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

## ID: 2b5f4bdc

In the early 1900s, Jovita Idár fought injustice on both sides of the Mexico–United States border. As a reporter for the Texas newspaper *La Crónica*, she voiced support for the Mexican people’s revolt against authoritarian rule. \_\_\_\_\_ she founded the League of Mexican Women, a group that advocated for the rights of Mexican Americans.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Additionally,
- B. In conclusion,
- C. For example,
- D. Rather,

## ID: 2b5f4bdc Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because “additionally” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Idár founded the League of Mexican Women—is another instance of Idár fighting injustice, this time advocating for the rights of Mexican Americans.

Choice B is incorrect because “in conclusion” illogically signals that the information in this sentence sums up or concludes the discussion of Idár’s support for the Mexican people’s revolt. Instead, the founding of the League of Mexican Women is a separate instance of Idár fighting injustice. Choice C is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an example of how, as a newspaper reporter, Idár voiced support for the Mexican people’s revolt. Instead, the founding of the League of Mexican Women is a separate instance of Idár fighting injustice, this time in support of Mexican Americans. Choice D is incorrect because “rather” illogically signals that the information in this sentence offers a contrast or exception to the previous information about Idár’s support for the Mexican people’s revolt. Instead, the founding of the League of Mexican Women is a separate instance of Idár fighting injustice.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 37957752

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 37957752

As biologist Terrie Williams has documented, deep dives present a challenge for seals and other marine mammals. A seal must exert enough energy to propel itself hundreds of meters downward, while keeping its heart rate low enough that it doesn’t run out of oxygen while underwater. \_\_\_\_\_ a seal moves its flippers as little as possible on a deep dive, gliding to conserve energy.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In the first place,
- B. On the other hand,
- C. For this reason,
- D. In comparison,

ID: 37957752 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “For this reason” logically signals that the behavior described in this sentence is a consequence of the information about seals in the previous sentence. That is, a seal moves its flippers as little as possible during a deep dive because it needs to keep its heart rate low enough that it does not run out of oxygen.

Choice A is incorrect because “in the first place” illogically signals that this sentence is the first point in a discussion. Instead, the sentence describes a behavior that is a consequence of the previous information about seals. Choice B is incorrect because “on the other hand” illogically signals that the behavior described in this sentence contrasts with the previous information about seals. Instead, it is a consequence of that information. Choice D is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the behavior described in this sentence is being compared to the previous information about seals. Instead, it is a consequence of that information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID ac8eb085

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ac8eb085

“O2 Arena,” an award-winning science fiction story by Nigerian author Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, takes place in an alternate version of Nigeria where breathable air is a rare commodity that is owned and sold by companies. \_\_\_\_ people must purchase it with currency called O2 credits.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. In any case,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Earlier,

ID: ac8eb085 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The second sentence describes a consequence of the system laid out in the first sentence: because air is owned and sold by companies in this world, people have to buy it.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that means “no matter what happens” or “whatever the situation is,” which doesn’t make sense here. There’s only one situation described in the text: a fictional world in which companies own all the breathable air, forcing people to buy it. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. They both describe the same fictional situation. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a shift back in time, which doesn’t make sense here. Both sentences use the present tense, as they’re describing the same fictional time period.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID c34d6bff

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

**ID: c34d6bff**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- African American women played prominent roles in the Civil Rights Movement, including at the famous 1963 March on Washington.
- Civil rights activist Anna Hedgeman, one of the march’s organizers, was a political adviser who had worked for President Truman.
- Civil rights activist Daisy Bates was a well-known journalist and advocate for school desegregation.
- Hedgeman worked behind the scenes to make sure a woman was included in the lineup of speakers at the march.
- Bates was the sole woman to speak, delivering a brief but memorable address to the cheering crowd.

The student wants to compare the two women’s contributions to the March on Washington. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Hedgeman and Bates contributed to the march in different ways; Bates, for example, delivered a brief but memorable address.
- B. Hedgeman worked in politics and helped organize the march, while Bates was a journalist and school desegregation advocate.
- C. Although Hedgeman worked behind the scenes to make sure a woman speaker was included, Bates was the sole woman to speak at the march.
- D. Many African American women, including Bates and Hedgeman, fought for civil rights, but only one spoke at the march.

**ID: c34d6bff Answer**

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence compares the two women’s contributions to the march: Hedgeman worked behind the scenes to make sure a woman speaker was included, whereas Bates actually spoke at the event.

Choice A is incorrect. While it acknowledges that the two women both contributed to the march, it doesn’t indicate what Hedgeman did, so no comparison is made. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence provides information about the two women, it doesn’t mention anything about Bates’s contribution to the march. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that the two women both fought for civil rights, it doesn’t compare their individual contributions to the march.

Question Difficulty: Hard



# Question ID 34a5ba1c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 34a5ba1c

By 1936, Spanish Romani dancer Carmen Amaya was known all over Spain for her powerful style of flamenco dancing. However, in July of that year, the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War made it difficult for her to perform in her home country. \_\_\_\_ Amaya left Spain to perform abroad, dancing for audiences across North and South America.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In comparison,
- B. As a result,
- C. First of all,
- D. For example,

ID: 34a5ba1c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “As a result” logically signals that the information in this sentence about Amaya leaving Spain to perform abroad is a result of the previous information about the Spanish Civil War.

Choice A is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is being compared to the previous information about the Spanish Civil War. Instead, Amaya leaving Spain is a result of that war. Choice C is incorrect because “first of all” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is the beginning of a sequence of events. Instead, Amaya leaving Spain is a result of the event (the outbreak of war) described in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an example supporting the previous statement about the Spanish Civil War. Instead, Amaya leaving Spain is a result of that war.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 480ade7e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 480ade7e

In response to adverse environmental conditions, many plants produce abscisic acid (ABA), a stress hormone. ABA triggers a slowdown in the biological processes of most plants. \_\_\_\_\_ when the mustard plant *Schrenkiella parvula* produces ABA in response to an environmental stressor, the hormone triggers accelerated growth.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Moreover,
- B. In contrast,
- C. For example,
- D. Thus,

ID: 480ade7e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “In contrast” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that ABA triggers accelerated growth in the mustard plant *Schrenkiella parvula*—contrasts with the previous information about ABA triggering a slowdown in most plants’ biological processes.

Choice A is incorrect because “moreover” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the mustard plant merely adds to the previous information about the effects of ABA. Instead, it contrasts with that information. Choice C is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the mustard plant provides an example consistent with the previous information about the effects of ABA. Instead, it contrasts with that information. Choice D is incorrect because “thus” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the mustard plant is a consequence, or result, of the previous information about the effects of ABA. Instead, it contrasts with that information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 4f2710ab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4f2710ab

Organisms have evolved a number of surprising adaptations to ensure their survival in adverse conditions. Tadpole shrimp (*Triops longicaudatus*) embryos, \_\_\_\_\_ can pause development for over ten years during extended periods of drought.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in contrast,
- B. for example,
- C. meanwhile,
- D. consequently,

ID: 4f2710ab Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “For example” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that tadpole shrimp embryos can pause development during extended periods of drought—exemplifies the previous sentence’s claim that organisms have evolved surprising adaptations to survive in adverse conditions.

Choice A is incorrect because “in contrast” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the claim about organisms in the previous sentence. Instead, it exemplifies this claim. Choice C is incorrect because “meanwhile” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is separate from (while occurring simultaneously with) the claim about organisms in the previous sentence. Instead, it exemplifies this claim. Choice D is incorrect because “consequently” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a consequence, or result, of the claim about organisms in the previous sentence. Instead, it exemplifies this claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID ba263620

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ba263620

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 1897, African American inventor Andrew Beard invented an automatic coupler.
- It improved on the existing design of train car couplers.
- It made the job of connecting train cars safer.
- In 1938, African American inventor Frederick Jones invented a mobile refrigeration system.
- It improved on the existing design of food transport trucks.
- It enabled trucks to carry perishable foods farther.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between Beard’s invention and Jones’s invention. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Beard’s automatic coupler and Jones’s mobile refrigeration system both improved on existing designs.
- B. In 1897, Beard invented an automatic coupler, which made the job of connecting train cars safer.
- C. Beard’s invention made the job of connecting train cars safer, whereas Jones’s invention enabled food transport trucks to carry perishables farther.
- D. Jones’s mobile refrigeration system, which he invented in 1938, made it possible for food transport trucks to carry perishable foods farther.

ID: ba263620 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It compares Beard’s and Jones’s inventions to one another, and emphasizes what they have in common.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize a similarity. It only mentions Beard’s invention. It doesn’t compare it to Jones’s invention. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize a similarity between the two inventions. Instead, it emphasizes a difference. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize a similarity. It only mentions Jones’s invention. It doesn’t compare it to Beard’s invention.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 82ec9628

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 82ec9628

Archaeologist Sue Brunning explains why the seventh-century ship burial site at Sutton Hoo in England was likely the tomb of a king. First, the gold artifacts inside the ship suggest that the person buried with them was a wealthy and respected leader. \_\_\_\_\_ the massive effort required to bury the ship would likely only have been undertaken for a king.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Instead,
- B. Still,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Second,

ID: 82ec9628 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Second” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the effort to bury the ship would likely only have been made for a king—joins the information in the previous sentence (“first...”) in supporting Brunning’s claim that the burial site was likely the tomb of a king.

Choice A is incorrect because “instead” illogically signals that the information in this sentence presents an alternative or substitute to the previous information about the gold artifacts inside the ship. Rather, this sentence presents a second piece of information that supports Brunning’s claim. Choice B is incorrect because “still” illogically signals that the information in this sentence exists in contrast to or despite the previous information about the gold artifacts inside the ship. Instead, this sentence presents a second piece of information that supports Brunning’s claim. Choice C is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information in this sentence specifies or elaborates on the previous information about the gold artifacts inside the ship. Instead, this sentence presents a second piece of information that supports Brunning’s claim.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 8d1ddd1b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

**ID: 8d1ddd1b**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Ducklings expend up to 62.8% less energy when swimming in a line behind their mother than when swimming alone.
- The physics behind this energy savings hasn’t always been well understood.
- Naval architect Zhiming Yuan used computer simulations to study the effect of the mother duck’s wake.
- The study revealed that ducklings are pushed in a forward direction by the wake’s waves.
- Yuan determined this push reduces the effect of wave drag on the ducklings by 158%.

The student wants to present the study and its methodology. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. A study revealed that ducklings, which expend up to 62.8% less energy when swimming in a line behind their mother, also experience 158% less drag.
- B. Seeking to understand how ducklings swimming in a line behind their mother save energy, Zhiming Yuan used computer simulations to study the effect of the mother duck’s wake.
- C. Zhiming Yuan studied the physics behind the fact that by being pushed in a forward direction by waves, ducklings save energy.
- D. Naval architect Zhiming Yuan discovered that ducklings are pushed in a forward direction by the waves of their mother’s wake, reducing the effect of drag by 158%.

**ID: 8d1ddd1b Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence presents both the study and its methodology (that is, the researcher’s approach to the problem), explaining that Yuan used computer simulations to study the effect of the mother duck’s wake on the ducklings’ energy expenditure.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes the findings of Yuan’s study; it doesn’t present the study and its methodology. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides general information about Yuan’s study, it doesn’t present the study’s methodology. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence describes the findings of Yuan’s study; it doesn’t present the study and its methodology.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 1c36e3e1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1c36e3e1

The number of dark spots that appear on the Sun, known as sunspots, can vary greatly. For example, there were about 180 sunspots in November 2001. \_\_\_\_\_ there were only about 2 sunspots in December 2008.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Therefore,
- D. By comparison,

ID: 1c36e3e1 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The first sentence claims that the number of sunspots can vary greatly. To support this claim, the next two sentences compare two examples: one time when there were 180 sunspots and one time when there were only 2 sunspots. So the transition “by comparison” fits perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a restatement of the same idea, which doesn’t make sense here. This sentence doesn’t restate the first example—it describes a totally different example. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of a similar idea, which doesn’t make sense here. This sentence describes a second example that is very different from the first example. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense here. The first example didn’t result in the second example.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 3ea7372e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3ea7372e

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In the art world, the term biennial traditionally refers to an art exhibition that takes place every two years in a single location.
- Such biennials are held in New York, Berlin, and Venice.
- In 2006, artists Ed Gomez and Luis Hernandez founded the unconventional MexiCali Biennial.
- The MexiCali Biennial hosts exhibitions in different venues on both sides of the US-Mexico border.
- The MexiCali Biennial has taken place on an uneven schedule, with exhibitions in 2006, 2009–10, 2013, and 2018–20.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the MexiCali Biennial and traditional biennials. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In 2006, artists Ed Gomez and Luis Hernandez founded the MexiCali Biennial, which has taken place in 2006, 2009–10, 2013, and 2018–20.
- B. Unlike traditional biennials, the MexiCali Biennial hosts exhibitions in different venues on an uneven schedule.
- C. The term biennial traditionally refers to an art exhibition that takes place every two years in a single location, not to exhibitions hosted at a variety of times and venues.
- D. Biennial exhibitions have been held in New York, Berlin, and Venice but also on both sides of the US-Mexico border.

ID: 3ea7372e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence effectively emphasizes a difference between the MexiCali Biennial and traditional biennials, stating that the MexiCali Biennial is unlike traditional biennials because it hosts exhibitions in different venues on an uneven schedule.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence indicates who founded the MexiCali Biennial and the years this biennial has taken place; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the MexiCali Biennial and traditional biennials. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence clarifies the traditional meaning of biennial with language that could apply to the MexiCali Biennial, it doesn't mention the MexiCali Biennial by name. Therefore, the sentence doesn't effectively emphasize a difference between the MexiCali Biennial and traditional biennials. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence notes locations where various biennial exhibitions have been held; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the MexiCali Biennial and traditional biennials.

Question Difficulty: Medium



# Question ID 2b5e0731

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2b5e0731

With darkness falling, a mother elephant loses sight of her calf and wants to make sure it is safe. \_\_\_\_\_ she releases an infrasonic call for the calf to hear. Infrasonic sound is below the range of human hearing, but many animals can hear these sounds from several miles away.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. For this reason,
- C. Nowadays,
- D. Similarly,

ID: 2b5e0731 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "For this reason" is a cause-and-effect transition. The cause in this case is that the mother elephant wants to know that her calf is safe, so the effect is that she lets out an infrasonic call for the calf to hear. Therefore, "for this reason" fits perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that introduces an example of a previous idea. But the second sentence doesn't provide an example of the events described in the first sentence. Instead, it describes what happens next: the mother elephant calls for her calf. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a shift from the past to the current time, which doesn't make sense here. Both sentences use the present tense, as they're describing the same time period. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates commonality or agreement between two ideas. But this sentence isn't similar to the events in the first sentence. Instead, it describes the events that happen next.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 1469d23a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1469d23a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Etel Adnan was a Lebanese American poet and artist known for making many leporellos.
- A leporello is an artist’s book that is folded accordion style.
- When the book is expanded, the artist’s work is revealed, and its zigzag shape allows it to stand on its own.
- Her leporello *December from My Window* (1993) features a panoramic landscape.
- It is painted using ink and watercolor.

The student wants to describe Adnan’s *December from My Window* to an audience already familiar with leporellos. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Featuring a panoramic landscape, the 1993 work is one of Adnan’s many leporellos, which are accordion-style folded books that when expanded reveal the artist’s work.
- B. When expanded, Adnan’s 1993 leporello *December from My Window* reveals a panoramic landscape painted in ink and watercolor.
- C. Known for making many other accordion-style folded books called leporellos, Adnan created *December from My Window* in 1993.
- D. A leporello, such as Adnan’s *December from My Window*, is folded accordion style, and due to its zigzag shape it is able to stand on its own when fully expanded.

ID: 1469d23a Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice describes Adnan’s *December from My Window* in a way that assumes the audience is already familiar with leporellos and focuses on the specific features of the work—its content and medium.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice isn’t suited for an audience already familiar with leporellos. A familiar audience wouldn’t need to have the term defined or explained. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn’t describe Adnan’s *December from My Window*. It mentions the year and the type of work but not the content or the medium. In addition, it provides a simple definition of leporellos, making this an inappropriate choice for an audience already familiar with leporellos. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn’t suited for an audience already familiar with leporellos. A familiar audience wouldn’t need to have the term defined.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 3831f2d7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3831f2d7

Arkansas aviator Louise Thaden was already a record breaker when she won the inaugural National Women’s Air Derby, a race from California to Ohio, in August of 1929. \_\_\_\_\_ in December of 1928, Thaden had set an aviation record when she reached an altitude of 20,269 feet in a Travel Air biplane.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Earlier,
- B. However,
- C. Next,
- D. As a result,

ID: 3831f2d7 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice uses a transition that indicates a shift back in time. Since the first sentence talks about Thaden’s race win in 1929 and the second shifts back to talking about her record in 1928, this makes the most sense here.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence actually agrees with and expands on the previous sentence by describing the earlier record that Thaden had "already" held. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a shift forward in time, which doesn’t make sense here. A record in 1928 didn’t come after Thaden’s race win in 1929. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense in this context—an event in 1929 can’t cause something in 1928.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 63c73b50

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 63c73b50

In 2018, Kurt Luther and Vikram Mohanty created the web-based tool Civil War Photo Sleuth (CWPS). A user uploading an unknown Civil War soldier’s photograph to CWPS first tags the photo with all known information. \_\_\_\_\_ CWPS’s facial-recognition software analyzes twenty-seven different physical features and looks for matches to tagged images already in the database.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Then,
- B. In fact,
- C. Likewise,
- D. For example,

ID: 63c73b50 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Then” indicates that the events in this sentence took place after the events in the previous sentence. Only after users upload images of unknown soldiers can those images be analyzed.

Choice B is incorrect. This transition is used to emphasize the truth of a statement that modifies the previous statement. But this sentence doesn’t modify the step described in the previous statement: instead, it introduces an entirely new step in the process. So “in fact” wouldn’t make sense here. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of a new but related idea, which doesn’t make sense here. Analyzing the physical features in the uploaded photographs isn’t a similar idea, but rather the next step in the process. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn’t make sense here. Analyzing physical features is not an example of uploading and tagging an image.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 9e34720b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9e34720b

Although those who migrated to California in 1849 dreamed of finding gold nuggets in streambeds, the state’s richest deposits were buried deeply in rock, beyond the reach of individual prospectors. \_\_\_\_\_ by 1852, many had given up their fortune-hunting dreams and gone to work for one of the large companies capable of managing California’s complex mining operations.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Furthermore,
- B. Still,
- C. Consequently,
- D. Next,

ID: 9e34720b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Consequently” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that many individual gold prospectors gave up their fortune-hunting dreams and became employees of mining companies—is a result or consequence of the previous information about the inaccessibility of the state’s gold deposits.

Choice A is incorrect because “furthermore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence merely adds to the previous information about the inaccessibility of the state’s gold deposits. Instead, it’s a result or consequence of that information. Choice B is incorrect because “still” illogically signals that the information in this sentence offers a contrast or exception to the previous information about the inaccessibility of the state’s gold deposits. Instead, it’s a result or consequence of that information. Choice D is incorrect because “next” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is the next step in a process. Instead, it’s a result or consequence of the previous information about the inaccessibility of the state’s gold deposits.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID b8eec031

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b8eec031

Researchers Helena Mihaljević-Brandt, Lucía Santamaría, and Marco Tullney report that while mathematicians may have traditionally worked alone, evidence points to a shift in the opposite direction. \_\_\_\_\_ mathematicians are choosing to collaborate with their peers—a trend illustrated by a rise in the number of mathematics publications credited to multiple authors.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. For this reason,
- C. Furthermore,
- D. Increasingly,

ID: b8eec031 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Increasingly” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that mathematicians are collaborating with their peers—marks a change relative to what was traditionally done. As the previous sentence explains, while mathematicians may have traditionally worked alone, evidence points to a shift in the opposite direction. The claim describes the shift: a rise in collaboration.

Choice A is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is similar to, but separate from, the previous claim about the shift away from mathematicians working alone. Instead, the claim about the rise in collaboration elaborates on the previous claim, describing the shift. Choice B is incorrect because “for this reason” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is caused by the previous claim about the shift away from mathematicians working alone. Instead, the claim about the rise in collaboration elaborates on the previous claim, describing the shift. Choice C is incorrect because “furthermore” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is in addition to the previous claim about the shift away from mathematicians working alone. Instead, the claim about the rise in collaboration elaborates on the previous claim, describing the shift.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 0ee64efc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0ee64efc

In the 1850s, William Still was instrumental in helping nearly 1,000 people escape from slavery, earning him the moniker “the Father of the Underground Railroad.” \_\_\_\_\_ despite the fame of his contributions during his lifetime, Still is discussed far less today than other prominent Black abolitionists from his era, such as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. However,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Similarly,

ID: 0ee64efc Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "However" is used to indicate a contrast between two ideas. The first sentence describes how Still used to be famous. This sentence describes how Still is not very famous today, so the transition "however" fits perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that introduces an example. But the second sentence doesn't provide a specific example of Still's famous contributions to the Underground Railroad. Instead, it changes the subject to how his fame has faded over time. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that introduces an example or continuation of a previous idea. But the second sentence doesn't provide a specific example of Still's famous contributions to the Underground Railroad. Instead, it changes the subject to how his fame has faded over time. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the agreement between two ideas. But this sentence shows a contrast with the first sentence—namely, that Still used to be very famous but now isn't very famous.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID ce282575

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ce282575

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- J.R.R. Tolkien’s 1937 novel *The Hobbit* features two maps.
- The novel opens with a reproduction of the map that the characters use on their quest.
- This map introduces readers to the fictional world they are about to enter.
- The novel closes with a map depicting every stop on the characters’ journey.
- That map allows readers to reconstruct the story they have just read.

The student wants to contrast the purposes of the two maps in *The Hobbit*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. *The Hobbit*’s opening map introduces readers to the fictional world they are about to enter, while the closing map allows them to reconstruct the story they have just read.
- B. *The Hobbit*, a novel published by J.R.R. Tolkien in 1937, features a reproduction of a map that the characters use on their quest, as well as a map that appears at the end of the novel.
- C. *The Hobbit*’s two maps, one opening and one closing the novel, each serve a purpose for readers.
- D. In 1937, author J.R.R. Tolkien published *The Hobbit*, a novel featuring both an opening and a closing map.

ID: ce282575 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence contrasts the purposes of the two maps in *The Hobbit*, noting that the opening map introduces readers to the book’s fictional world, while the closing map helps readers reconstruct the story. The word “while” helps signal a contrast between the purposes of the maps.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the two maps, it doesn’t contrast the maps’ purposes. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the two maps and notes that each has a purpose, it doesn’t specify what those purposes are or how they contrast. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the two maps, it doesn’t contrast the maps’ purposes.

Question Difficulty: Medium



# Question ID ad729337

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ad729337

With its clichéd imagery of suburban lawns and power lines, John Ashbery’s 2004 poem “Ignorance of the Law Is No Excuse” may seem barren terrain for critical analysis. \_\_\_\_\_ cultural critic Lauren Berlant finds fertile ground in just its first two stanzas, devoting most of a book chapter to deciphering the “weight of the default space” Ashbery creates in this poem.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Likewise,
- B. Nonetheless,
- C. In turn,
- D. That is,

ID: ad729337 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Nonetheless” is a transition that indicates disagreement. The first sentence describes the unlikelihood of finding much for critical analysis in Ashbery’s poem (“barren terrain”), while the second sentence describes how Berlant did in fact find much to analyze in Ashbery’s poem (“fertile ground”), so the transition “nonetheless” fits perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of a new but similar idea, which doesn’t make sense here. The idea in this sentence directly contradicts the idea in the previous sentence. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense in this context—a poem seemingly having little opportunity for critical analysis would not cause someone to write an extensive critical analysis (in fact, we might expect the opposite). Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a restatement of the same idea in other words. But the text isn’t restating the first idea here. Instead, it’s offering a contradiction to the idea expressed in the first sentence.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID b7c404d1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b7c404d1

With her room-sized installation *The Interstitium*, Iranian American artist Laleh Mehran succeeded in creating a space that felt, as intended, both “familiar and distant.” \_\_\_\_\_ with a video screen placed at the far end of the coal slag-encrusted room, her installation was reminiscent of a typical movie theater—albeit one found in a subterranean coal mine.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Next,
- B. Nevertheless,
- C. Indeed,
- D. Instead,

ID: b7c404d1 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Indeed" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Laleh Mehran’s installation resembled both a typical movie theater and a coal mine—supports the previous sentence’s claim that the space Mehran created felt both "familiar and distant."

Choice A is incorrect because "next" illogically signals that the description of Laleh Mehran’s installation in this sentence is the next step in a process. Rather, it supports the previous sentence’s claim about Mehran’s installation. Choice B is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the claim about Laleh Mehran’s installation in the previous sentence. Rather, it supports that claim. Choice D is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that this sentence presents an alternative to the previous sentence’s claim about Laleh Mehran’s installation. Rather, it supports that claim.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID d9d314d9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d9d314d9

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Pinnipeds, which include seals, sea lions, and walruses, live in and around water.
- Pinnipeds are descended not from sea animals but from four-legged, land-dwelling carnivores.
- Canadian paleobiologist Natalia Rybczynski recently found a fossil with four legs, webbed toes, and the skull and teeth of a seal.
- Rybczynski refers to her rare find as a “transitional fossil.”
- The fossil illustrates an early stage in the evolution of pinnipeds from their land-dwelling ancestors.

The student wants to emphasize the fossil’s significance. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Canadian paleobiologist Natalia Rybczynski’s fossil has the skull and teeth of a seal, which, like sea lions and walruses, is a pinniped.
- B. Pinnipeds are descended from four-legged, land-dwelling carnivores; a fossil that resembles both was recently found.
- C. Having four legs but the skull and teeth of a seal, the rare fossil illustrates an early stage in the evolution of pinnipeds from their land-dwelling ancestors.
- D. A “transitional fossil” was recently found by paleobiologist Natalia Rybczynski.

ID: d9d314d9 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively emphasizes the fossil’s significance, explaining that the fossil is rare and illustrates an early stage in the evolution of pinnipeds from their land-dwelling ancestors.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes the fossil Rybczynski found; it doesn’t emphasize the fossil’s significance. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence mentions that a fossil resembling both pinnipeds and their ancestors was found; it doesn’t emphasize the fossil’s significance. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence notes a term used to describe the fossil Rybczynski found; it doesn’t emphasize the fossil’s significance.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID f114cbf0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f114cbf0

A firefly uses specialized muscles to draw oxygen into its lower abdomen through narrow tubes, triggering a chemical reaction whereby the oxygen combines with chemicals in the firefly’s abdomen to produce a glow. \_\_\_\_\_ when the firefly stops drawing in oxygen, the reaction—and the glow—cease.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For instance,
- B. By contrast,
- C. Specifically,
- D. In conclusion,

ID: f114cbf0 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “By contrast” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that a firefly’s glow ceases when it stops drawing in oxygen—contrasts with the previous sentence’s discussion of the processes that cause a firefly to begin to glow.

Choice A is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the information in the sentence exemplifies the previous sentence’s discussion of how a firefly begins to glow. Instead, it contrasts with the previous sentence’s discussion. Choice C is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information in the sentence provides specific details elaborating on the previous sentence’s discussion of how a firefly begins to glow. Instead, it contrasts with the previous sentence’s discussion. Choice D is incorrect because “in conclusion” illogically signals that the information in the sentence sums up the previous sentence’s discussion of how a firefly begins to glow. Instead, it contrasts with the previous sentence’s discussion.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 973632d2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

**ID: 973632d2**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In North America, woodlands have expanded into areas that were once grasslands.
- Thomas Rogers and F. Leland Russell of Wichita State University investigated whether woodland expansion is related to changes in climate.
- Rogers and Russell analyzed core samples from oak trees on a site that was not wooded in the past and indexed the age of the trees with historical climate data to see if tree populations and climate were correlated.
- Tree population growth was associated with dry intervals.
- Droughts may have played a role in woodland expansion.

The student wants to emphasize the aim of the research study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Thomas Rogers and F. Leland Russell, researchers at Wichita State University, wanted to know if woodland expansion is related to changes in climate.
- B. Thanks to the work done by Thomas Rogers and F. Leland Russell, we now know that droughts may have played a role in woodland expansion.
- C. Wichita State University researchers have determined that tree population growth was associated with dry intervals.
- D. Thomas Rogers and F. Leland Russell analyzed core samples from oak trees on a site that was not wooded in the past, indexing the age of the trees with historical climate data.

**ID: 973632d2 Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence effectively emphasizes the aim, or goal, of the research study (in other words, what the researchers hoped to learn from the study): Rogers and Russell wanted to know if woodland expansion is related to changes in climate.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the researchers’ findings; it doesn’t emphasize the aim of the study. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the results of the study; it doesn’t emphasize the aim. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the methodology of the study; it doesn’t emphasize the aim.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID db3ad406

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

**ID: db3ad406**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Stars form in a galaxy when gravity causes a massive cloud of dust and gas to collapse.
- A galaxy in a phase of rapid star formation is called a starburst galaxy.
- Quenching is a process in which a galaxy loses star-forming gas.
- A galaxy that no longer forms stars is called a quenched galaxy.
- A quenched galaxy has entered the poststarburst phase.

The student wants to explain what a quenched galaxy is. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Before quenching, a starburst galaxy will form stars at a rapid rate.
- B. When it becomes quenched, a starburst galaxy enters the poststarburst phase.
- C. Having entered the poststarburst phase, a quenched galaxy is one that no longer forms stars.
- D. A starburst galaxy will lose star-forming gas and eventually become quenched.

**ID: db3ad406 Answer**

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This choice defines a quenched galaxy as “one that no longer forms stars.”

Choice A is incorrect. This choice only describes what happens before quenching. Choice B is incorrect. This choice only describes what happens after quenching. Choice D is incorrect. This choice only describes what causes quenching.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 96a86bce

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 96a86bce

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Cambodia’s Angkor Wat was built in the 1100s to honor the Hindu god Vishnu.
- It has been a Buddhist temple since the sixteenth century.
- Decorrelation stretch analysis is a novel digital imaging technique that enhances the contrast between colors in a photograph.
- Archaeologist Noel Hidalgo Tan applied decorrelation stretch analysis to photographs he had taken of Angkor Wat’s plaster walls.
- Tan’s analysis revealed hundreds of images unknown to researchers.

The student wants to present Tan’s research to an audience unfamiliar with Angkor Wat. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Tan photographed Angkor Wat’s plaster walls and then applied decorrelation stretch analysis to the photographs.
- B. Decorrelation stretch analysis is a novel digital imaging technique that Tan used to enhance the contrast between colors in a photograph.
- C. Using a novel digital imaging technique, Tan revealed hundreds of images hidden on the walls of Angkor Wat, a Cambodian temple.
- D. Built to honor a Hindu god before becoming a Buddhist temple, Cambodia’s Angkor Wat concealed hundreds of images on its plaster walls.

ID: 96a86bce Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively presents Tan’s research to an audience unfamiliar with Angkor Wat, explaining the results of the research and identifying Angkor Wat as a temple in Cambodia.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence presents Tan’s research, it fails to explain what Angkor Wat is for an audience unfamiliar with the temple. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the role that decorrelation stretch analysis played in Tan’s research; it doesn’t present the research, which would require specifying where it was conducted. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence explains what Angkor Wat is, it fails to present Tan’s research.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 7fd39a42

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7fd39a42

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Circular particle accelerators known as synchrotrons radiate energy in the form of light.
- Synchrotron light is among the brightest light ever produced.
- Synchrotron light is an ideal tool for researchers investigating the structure of matter.
- The first synchrotron created for the purpose of providing synchrotron light was built in 1968.
- It was called Tantalus and was housed near the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

The student wants to emphasize the location of the first synchrotron built to provide synchrotron light. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Tantalus, the first synchrotron created for the purpose of providing synchrotron light, was built in 1968.
- B. Circular particle accelerators known as synchrotrons radiate energy in the form of light, and this light is an ideal tool for researchers investigating the structure of matter.
- C. The first synchrotron created for the purpose of providing synchrotron light, Tantalus, was housed near the University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- D. Synchrotron light is among the brightest light ever produced, making it an ideal tool for researchers investigating the structure of matter.

ID: 7fd39a42 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. After identifying Tantalus as the first synchrotron built to provide light, the sentence emphasizes its location.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence identifies Tantalus as the first synchrotron built to provide light, it doesn't emphasize (or mention) its location. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence describes synchrotrons and how researchers use them; it doesn't emphasize (or mention) the location of Tantalus. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence describes synchrotron light and how researchers use it; the sentence doesn't emphasize (or mention) the location of Tantalus.

Question Difficulty: Medium



# Question ID 34e1124f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 34e1124f

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In geology, an Aeolian landform is one that has been created by the wind.
- In Greek mythology, Aeolus is the keeper of the winds.
- Aeolian landforms are created when the wind erodes, transports, or deposits material.
- A mushroom rock is a rock formation in which the top is wider than the base.
- A mushroom rock can be formed when the wind erodes the base and the top at different rates.

The student wants to provide an explanation and an example of Aeolian landforms. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Aeolian landforms are created by different wind-based processes; for example, some are created by wind erosion.
- B. Aeolian landforms—landforms created by the wind—include the mushroom rock, a rock formation in which the wind erodes the base of the rock faster than the top.
- C. Erosion, transportation, and deposition are three examples of how the wind can create Aeolian landforms and mushroom rocks.
- D. A mushroom rock is a rock formation that owes its shape to the wind, a natural force associated with Aeolus in Greek mythology.

ID: 34e1124f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence provides an explanation and an example of Aeolian landforms, explaining that they are landforms created by wind and offering the mushroom rock as an example.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence explains that Aeolian landforms are created by wind but does not provide an example of any specific Aeolian landforms. Rather, the example it provides is of a wind-based process. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides a partial explanation of Aeolian landforms, noting that they are created by the wind, it does not effectively provide an example. The sentence seems to indicate that mushroom rocks, rather than being an example of Aeolian landforms, are distinct from them. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence provides an explanation of a mushroom rock, which is a specific example of an Aeolian landform, it doesn't provide an explanation of Aeolian landforms in general.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 4fde4454

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4fde4454

One poll taken after the first 1960 presidential debate suggested that John Kennedy lost badly: only 21 percent of those who listened on the radio rated him the winner. \_\_\_\_\_ the debate was ultimately considered a victory for the telegenic young senator, who rated higher than his opponent, Vice President Richard Nixon, among those watching on the new medium of television.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. Therefore,
- C. Likewise,
- D. Nevertheless,

ID: 4fde4454 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Nevertheless” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that the telegenic Kennedy was ultimately considered the winner of the debate—is true despite the previous information about the poll of radio listeners.

Choice A is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is a paraphrase of the previous information about the poll of radio listeners. Instead, Kennedy was ultimately considered the winner despite what that poll suggested about his performance. Choice B is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is a result of the previous information about the poll of radio listeners. Instead, Kennedy was ultimately considered the winner despite what that poll suggested about his performance. Choice C is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is similar to the previous information about the poll of radio listeners. Instead, Kennedy was ultimately considered the winner despite what that poll suggested about his performance.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 0c13dea9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0c13dea9

The chemical trimethylamine N-oxide not only gives fish their fishy smell but also protects them from crushing hydrostatic pressure in deep waters. Trimethylamine N-oxide strengthens the bonds between water molecules in a fish’s body. \_\_\_\_\_ these water molecules maintain their linked structure at extreme depths, thus preventing pressure-related damage.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Nevertheless,
- B. As a result,
- C. However,
- D. For instance,

ID: 0c13dea9 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “As a result” indicates that water molecules maintaining their linked structure at high pressures is caused by the strengthening of these water molecules by trimethylamine N-oxide. So the transition “as a result” fits the context perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous one—rather, it’s describing an effect of the phenomenon described in the previous sentence. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous one; it actually expands on the previous sentence by describing an effect of the strengthened molecules. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn’t make sense here. The second sentence doesn’t provide an example or instance of the idea in the previous sentence. Instead, it explores the effects of the previous idea in more depth.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 622a351d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 622a351d

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 1978, Sámi activists staged protests to block the construction of a dam on the Alta River in Norway.
- The dam would disrupt Sámi fishing and reindeer herding.
- The dam was ultimately built, but the Alta conflict had a lasting impact.
- It brought international attention to the issue of Sámi rights.
- It led to a set of 2005 legal protections establishing Sámi rights to lands, waters, and resources.

The student wants to make and support a generalization about the Alta conflict. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. During the Alta conflict, Sámi activists staged protests to block the construction of a dam on the Alta River in Norway that would disrupt local fishing and reindeer herding.
- B. Although the dam that the Sámi activists had protested was ultimately built, the Alta conflict had a lasting impact.
- C. Sámi rights to lands, waters, and resources received international attention and legal protections as a result of the Alta conflict.
- D. The Alta conflict had a lasting impact, resulting in international attention and legal protections for Sámi rights to lands, waters, and resources.

ID: 622a351d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. It makes a generalization—the conflict had a lasting impact—and then supports it with evidence—the attention and protections were results of the conflict.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't make a generalization about the conflict. It describes a specific event from the conflict. Choice B is incorrect. This choice makes a generalization about the Alta conflict, but doesn't support it. Choice C is incorrect. This choice makes a statement about the aftermath of the conflict, but doesn't support it. The statement is also a little too specific to be a generalization.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID d7c5388f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d7c5388f

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Planetary scientists classify asteroids based on their composition.
- C-type asteroids are composed primarily of carbon.
- They account for roughly 75 percent of known asteroids.
- S-type asteroids are primarily made up of silicate minerals.
- They account for roughly 17 percent of known asteroids.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between C-type and S-type asteroids. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Planetary scientists classify asteroids into types, two of which are the C-type and the S-type.
- B. Planetary scientists consider an asteroid’s composition (such as whether the asteroid is composed mainly of silicate minerals or carbon) when classifying it.
- C. Roughly 17 percent of known asteroids are classified as S-type asteroids; another percentage is classified as C-type asteroids.
- D. C-type asteroids are mainly composed of carbon, whereas S-type asteroids are primarily made up of silicate minerals.

ID: d7c5388f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between C-type and S-type asteroids, noting that C-type asteroids are mainly composed of carbon, while S-type asteroids are mainly composed of silicate minerals.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence states that C-type and S-type are two types of asteroids, but it doesn't emphasize a difference between them. Choice B is incorrect because it doesn't directly mention C-type or S-type asteroids. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that 17 percent of known asteroids are S-type asteroids, it doesn't identify the percentage of asteroids that are C-type. Therefore, the sentence doesn't emphasize a difference between the two types.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID dd087f31

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: dd087f31

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s 2013 novel *Americanah* chronicles the divergent experiences of Ifemelu and Obinze, a young Nigerian couple, after high school. Ifemelu moves to the United States to attend a prestigious university. \_\_\_\_\_ Obinze travels to London, hoping to start a career there. However, frustrated with the lack of opportunities, he soon returns to Nigeria.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Meanwhile,
- B. Nevertheless,
- C. Secondly,
- D. In fact,

ID: dd087f31 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Meanwhile” logically signals that the action described in this sentence (Obinze’s move to London to pursue a career) is simultaneous with the action described in the previous sentence (Ifemelu’s move to the United States). The first sentence establishes that the actions take place around the same time, referring to the characters’ “divergent experiences” following high school.

Choice B is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Obinze’s move to London is true despite the previous information about Ifemelu’s move to the United States. Instead, as the first sentence establishes, Obinze’s move and Ifemelu’s move are related, parallel experiences that occur around the same time. Choice C is incorrect because “secondly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a second point or reason separate from the previous information about Ifemelu’s move to the United States. Instead, as the first sentence establishes, Obinze’s move and Ifemelu’s move are related, parallel experiences that occur around the same time. Choice D is incorrect because “in fact” illogically signals that the information in this sentence emphasizes, modifies, or contradicts the previous information about Ifemelu’s move to the United States. Instead, as the first sentence establishes, Obinze’s move and Ifemelu’s move are related, parallel experiences that occur around the same time.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 47e238be

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

**ID: 47e238be**

Seismologists Kaiqing Yuan and Barbara Romanowicz have proposed that the magma fueling Iceland’s more than 30 active volcano systems emerges from deep within Earth. The great depths involved—nearly 3,000 km—mark Iceland’s volcanoes as extreme outliers; \_\_\_\_\_ many of Earth’s volcanoes are fed by shallow pockets of magma found less than 15 km below the surface.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. indeed,
- B. nevertheless,
- C. in addition,
- D. consequently,

**ID: 47e238be Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The second part of the sentence says that many volcanoes use shallow pockets of magma. This is an elaboration of the same underlying idea from the first part of the sentence, which says that the super deep magma of Icelandic volcanoes’ makes them outliers. “Indeed” is a transition used for elaborating on the same idea, so it fits the context perfectly.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But these two parts of the sentence agree with each other, so “nevertheless” doesn’t make sense. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of a new idea. But the second part of the sentence isn’t adding a new idea: it’s elaborating on the same idea expressed in the first part of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense here. The fact that Iceland’s deep-magma volcanoes are outliers doesn’t cause many other volcanoes to get fed by shallow pockets of magma.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID a1ca7ec4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a1ca7ec4

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Cecilia Vicuña is a multidisciplinary artist.
- In 1971, her first solo art exhibition, *Pinturas, poemas y explicaciones*, was shown at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Santiago, Chile.
- Her poetry collection *Precario/Precarious* was published in 1983 by Tanam Press.
- Her poetry collection *Instan* was published in 2002 by Kelsey St. Press.
- She lives part time in Chile, where she was born, and part time in New York.

The student wants to introduce the artist’s 1983 poetry collection. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Before she published the books *Precario/Precarious* (1983) and *Instan* (2002), Cecilia Vicuña exhibited visual art at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Santiago, Chile.
- B. Cecilia Vicuña is a true multidisciplinary artist whose works include numerous poetry collections and visual art exhibitions.
- C. Published in 1983 by Tanam Press, *Precario/Precarious* is a collection of poetry by the multidisciplinary artist Cecilia Vicuña.
- D. In 1971, Cecilia Vicuña exhibited her first solo art exhibition, *Pinturas, poemas y explicaciones*, in Chile, her country of birth.

ID: a1ca7ec4 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively introduces the poetry collection *Precario/Precarious*, noting that it is a collection by Vicuña that was published in 1983 by Tanam Press.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the 1983 poetry collection *Precario/Precarious*, it focuses mainly on Vicuña’s visual art. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence doesn’t introduce the 1983 poetry collection *Precario/Precarious*; instead, it introduces Vicuña. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the location of Vicuña’s 1971 exhibition *Pinturas, poemas y explicaciones*; it doesn’t introduce the 1983 poetry collection *Precario/Precarious*.

Question Difficulty: Medium



# Question ID d54e16ee

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d54e16ee

Originally coined by economist Joan Robinson to refer to markets with multiple sellers of a product but only one buyer, the term “monopsony” can also refer to markets where demand for labor is limited. In a product monopsony, the single buyer can force sellers to lower their prices. \_\_\_\_\_ in a labor monopsony, employers can force workers to accept lower wages.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Earlier,
- B. Instead,
- C. Similarly,
- D. In particular,

ID: d54e16ee Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Similarly” logically signals that the information in this sentence about a labor monopsony is similar to the information in the previous sentence about a product monopsony. In both types of markets, one party (an employer or a buyer) has the power to force another party (a worker or seller) to accept less money (for labor or products).

Choice A is incorrect because “earlier” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about a labor monopsony occurs earlier (in a chronological sequence) than the information about a product monopsony. Instead, it is similar to the information about a product monopsony. Choice B is incorrect because “instead” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about a labor monopsony is an alternative to the previous information about a product monopsony. Instead, it is similar to the information about a product monopsony. Choice D is incorrect because “in particular” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about a labor monopsony provides specific details elaborating on the previous information about a product monopsony. Instead, it is similar to the information about a product monopsony.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID b7571c0a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b7571c0a

Practical movie effects, such as the use of actual locations in a film, provide a more realistic visual experience than computer-generated imagery (CGI) does, but giving audiences the “real thing” can be prohibitively expensive. \_\_\_\_\_ many filmmakers use a blended approach, employing practical effects whenever possible and CGI elements as necessary to control costs.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. For this reason,
- C. Furthermore,
- D. In other words,

ID: b7571c0a Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The first sentence tells us that practical effects are more realistic but also more expensive than CGI. The second sentence tells us that many filmmakers use both kinds of effects, balancing realism with cost. To connect these ideas, we need a cause-and-effect transition, like “therefore.” “For this reason” has the same meaning as “therefore.” .

Choice A is incorrect. This isn’t a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that practical effects are more realistic but also more expensive than CGI. The second sentence tells us that many filmmakers use both kinds of effects, balancing realism with cost. To connect these ideas, we need a cause-and-effect transition, like “therefore.” “Similarly” doesn’t show cause and effect: it shows the addition of another agreeing idea. Choice C is incorrect. This isn’t a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that practical effects are more realistic but also more expensive than CGI. The second sentence tells us that many filmmakers use both kinds of effects, balancing realism with cost. To connect these ideas, we need a cause-and-effect transition, like “therefore.” “Furthermore” doesn’t show cause and effect: it shows the addition of another agreeing idea. Choice D is incorrect. This isn’t a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that practical effects are more realistic but also more expensive than CGI. The second sentence tells us that many filmmakers use both kinds of effects, balancing realism with cost. To connect these ideas, we need a cause-and-effect transition, like “therefore.” “In other words” doesn’t show cause and effect: it shows a restatement of the same idea in different words.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 3dcc7140

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

**ID: 3dcc7140**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Nissologists are scientists who study islands.
- Some nissologists define an island as any piece of land surrounded by water.
- Using that definition, they determined that Sweden has 221,000 islands.
- Other nissologists define an island as being 1 kilometer square, a certain distance from the mainland, and having at least 50 permanent residents.
- Using that definition, they determined that Sweden has 24 islands.

The student wants to make and support a generalization about nissologists’ definition of an island. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish these goals?

- A. The definition of an island as any piece of land surrounded by water is supported by some nissologists, scientists who study islands.
- B. Multiple counts of Sweden’s islands have been based on different definitions of an island.
- C. Based on a recent count, Sweden has a relatively small number of islands with at least 50 permanent residents.
- D. Nissologists’ different definitions can result in huge disparities in counts of islands, as the example of Sweden shows.

**ID: 3dcc7140 Answer**

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence makes a generalization about nissologists’ definition of an island—specifically, that the use of one definition rather than another can result in huge disparities in the number of islands counted—and supports that generalization by citing Sweden as an example.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence introduces one definition of an island to an audience unfamiliar with nissologists; it doesn’t make a generalization about nissologists’ definition of an island. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence synthesizes information from the notes about counts of Sweden’s islands, it doesn’t make and support a generalization about nissologists’ definition of an island. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence makes an inference about islands in Sweden; it doesn’t mention nissologists’ definition of an island or make a generalization about it.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 7aac173e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7aac173e

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Architect Julian Abele studied Gregorian and neo-Gothic architecture in Europe.
- Abele worked for an architecture firm that was hired in 1924 to design buildings for Duke University’s new campus.
- Most of the buildings on Duke’s campus were designed in the Gregorian or neo-Gothic architectural styles.
- At the time, Abele was not formally credited with designing the buildings.
- Based on the buildings’ architectural styles, historians believe Abele designed most of the campus buildings.

The student wants to specify why historians believe Abele designed most of Duke’s campus buildings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Given that most of the buildings on Duke’s campus feature architectural styles that Abele had studied in Europe, historians believe Abele is the one who designed them.
- B. Though Abele wasn’t formally credited at the time, historians believe he designed most of the buildings on Duke’s campus.
- C. Most of Duke’s campus buildings, which were designed by a firm Abele worked for, were designed in the Gregorian and neo-Gothic architectural styles.
- D. Abele, an architect who studied Gregorian and neo-Gothic architecture in Europe, is believed to have designed most of the buildings on Duke’s campus.

ID: 7aac173e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence specifies why historians believe Abele designed most of Duke’s campus buildings, noting that most of the buildings feature architectural styles that Abele had studied.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence explains that historians believe Abele designed most of Duke’s campus buildings, it doesn’t specify why historians hold that belief. Choice C is incorrect because the sentence emphasizes the architectural styles of Duke’s campus buildings; it doesn’t specify why historians believe Abele designed the buildings. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence explains that Abele is believed to have designed most of the buildings on Duke’s campus, it doesn’t specify why historians believe that he designed the buildings.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 5222ffab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 5222ffab

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Neuroscientists Krishnan Padmanabhan and Zhen Chen sought to better understand the workings of the brain’s olfactory system.
- They devised a study using mathematical models.
- They found that certain fibers allow the brain to toggle from one method of processing smells to another.
- In one method, cells in the piriform cortex (where the perception of odor forms) capture olfactory information at a given moment.
- In the other, the cells track changes in olfactory information over time.

The student wants to summarize the study’s findings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. To arrive at these findings, which describe dual methods of processing smells in the piriform cortex, Padmanabhan and Chen devised a study using mathematical models.
- B. Padmanabhan and Chen showed that olfactory information is captured by cells in the piriform cortex, where the perception of odor forms.
- C. Using mathematical models, Padmanabhan and Chen devised a study to better understand the workings of the brain’s olfactory system.
- D. According to Padmanabhan and Chen, the brain can toggle between capturing olfactory information at a given moment and tracking changes in that information over time.

ID: 5222ffab Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence effectively summarizes the study’s findings, explaining what Padmanabhan and Chen found: that the brain can toggle between one method of processing smells (capturing information at a given moment) and another (tracking changes in information over time).

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence mentions findings, it mainly focuses on Padmanabhan and Chen’s methodology. It doesn’t effectively summarize the study’s findings. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence notes a fact about the olfactory system—that the perception of odor forms in the piriform cortex—but doesn’t summarize the findings of Padmanabhan and Chen’s study. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence presents the goal of Padmanabhan and Chen’s study; it doesn’t summarize the study’s findings.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 17e49403

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 17e49403

When, in the 1800s, geologists first realized that much of Earth had once been covered by great sheets of ice, some theorized that the phenomenon was cyclical, occurring at regular intervals. Each Ice Age is so destructive, though, that it largely erases the geological evidence of its predecessor. \_\_\_\_ geologists were unable to confirm the theory of cyclical Ice Ages until the 1960s.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Hence,
- B. Moreover,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Next,

ID: 17e49403 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Hence” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that geologists couldn’t confirm the theory of cyclical Ice Ages until the 1960s—is a consequence of the previous information about the destructiveness of each Ice Age and the erasure of necessary geological evidence.

Choice B is incorrect because “moreover” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely additional to the previous information about the destructiveness of each Ice Age. Instead, the sentence identifies a specific consequence of that information. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous information about the destructiveness of each Ice Age. Instead, the sentence identifies a specific consequence of that information. Choice D is incorrect because “next” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is the next step in a process. Instead, the sentence identifies a specific consequence of the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 9f1a0d91

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9f1a0d91

“Tulip mania”—the rapid rise and sudden fall of the price of tulip bulbs in seventeenth-century Amsterdam—is often cited as an example of the perils of rampant market speculation. However, recent research has demonstrated that the episode was neither as frenzied nor as disastrous as has been thought. The popular myth surrounding it, \_\_\_\_\_ should be regarded with some skepticism.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. for example,
- B. by contrast,
- C. nevertheless,
- D. therefore,

ID: 9f1a0d91 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This sentence is arguing that new evidence contradicting popular beliefs about “tulip mania” should cast doubt on those beliefs. “Therefore” is a cause-and-effect transition, which fits perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn’t make sense here. Skepticism about the popular beliefs is not an example of recent evidence contradicting those beliefs—rather, skepticism is an effect of that recent evidence. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. Instead, it connects a cause from the previous sentence (new evidence that tulip mania was not as disastrous as thought) to an effect (that we should look with skepticism upon the myth about its disastrousness). Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. Instead, it connects a cause from the previous sentence (new evidence that tulip mania was not as disastrous as thought) to an effect (that we should look with skepticism upon the myth about its disastrousness).

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID fbffb352

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: fbffb352

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Archaeologist Dr. Sada Mire founded the Horn Heritage Foundation to preserve the cultural history of regions in the Horn of Africa.
- Horn Heritage has overseen a preservation project to create 3D digital scans of ancient rock art in Somaliland.
- Paintings found at the Laas Geel caves are included in the scans.
- The Laas Geel paintings feature human figures and animals.
- Paintings found at the Dhagah Nabi Galay caves are included in the scans.
- The Dhagah Nabi Galay caves feature what are thought to be the earliest examples of writing in East Africa.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the Laas Geel paintings and the Dhagah Nabi Galay paintings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The earliest examples of writing in East Africa are thought to be featured in the paintings at the Dhagah Nabi Galay caves in Somaliland.
- B. The paintings at the Dhagah Nabi Galay caves feature examples of writing, while those at the Laas Geel caves feature humans and animals.
- C. In Somaliland, the paintings in the Laas Geel caves feature human figures and animals.
- D. The Laas Geel paintings and the Dhagah Nabi Galay paintings are both examples of ancient rock art found in Somaliland.

ID: fbffb352 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This choice compares the Laas Geel paintings and the Dhagah Nabi Galay paintings to one another and emphasizes what they have in common: they are both ancient rock art found in the same region.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice only mentions the Dhagah Nabi Galay paintings. It doesn't compare them to the Laas Geel paintings. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two paintings. Instead, it emphasizes a difference: the type of content they depict. Choice C is incorrect. This choice only mentions the Laas Geel paintings. It doesn't compare them to the Dhagah Nabi Galay paintings.

Question Difficulty: Easy



# Question ID 164a32e7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 164a32e7

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Claude McKay (1889–1948) was a Jamaican American writer.
- *Songs of Jamaica* (1912) and *Constab Ballads* (1912) are two acclaimed poetry collections that McKay published while living in Jamaica.
- McKay moved to Harlem in New York City in 1914.
- He is best known as a poet and novelist of the Harlem Renaissance, a literary and cultural movement of the 1920s and 1930s.
- His most famous works include the poetry collection *Harlem Shadows* (1922) and the novel *Home to Harlem* (1928).

The student wants to emphasize Claude McKay’s accomplishments before moving to Harlem. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Jamaican American writer Claude McKay is the author of works such as *Songs of Jamaica* (1912), *Constab Ballads* (1912), *Harlem Shadows* (1922), and *Home to Harlem* (1928).
- B. Although he is best known as a Harlem Renaissance writer, Claude McKay had published two acclaimed poetry collections in 1912 while living in Jamaica: *Songs of Jamaica* and *Constab Ballads*.
- C. In 1914, Claude McKay moved to Harlem, where he would become known as a poet and novelist of the Harlem Renaissance (a literary and cultural movement of the 1920s and 1930s).
- D. Before moving to Harlem, Claude McKay—author of the poetry collection *Harlem Shadows* (1922) and the novel *Home to Harlem* (1928)—lived in Jamaica.

ID: 164a32e7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice contrasts McKay’s fame as a Harlem Renaissance writer with his earlier achievements as a Jamaican poet, and it names the two collections he published before moving to Harlem.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize McKay’s accomplishments before moving to Harlem. It lists some of his works but doesn’t distinguish between those he wrote in Jamaica and those he wrote in Harlem. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize McKay’s accomplishments before moving to Harlem. It only mentions the year he moved and what he would become known for afterwards. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize McKay’s accomplishments before moving to Harlem. It mentions that he lived in Jamaica, but it doesn’t name any of the works he published there.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 04397a63

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 04397a63

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Haudenosaunee Confederacy is a nearly 1,000-year-old alliance of six Native nations in the northeastern US.
- The members are bound by a centuries-old agreement known as the Great Law of Peace.
- Historian Bruce Johansen is one of several scholars who believe that the principles of the Great Law of Peace influenced the US Constitution.
- This theory is called the influence theory.
- Johansen cites the fact that Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson both studied the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

The student wants to present the influence theory to an audience unfamiliar with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Historian Bruce Johansen believes that the Great Law of Peace was very influential.
- B. The influence theory is supported by the fact that Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson both studied the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.
- C. The influence theory holds that the principles of the Great Law of Peace, a centuries-old agreement binding six Native nations in the northeastern US, influenced the US Constitution.
- D. Native people, including the members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, influenced the founding of the US in many different ways.

ID: 04397a63 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively presents the influence theory to an audience unfamiliar with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, explaining the theory’s position that the Great Law of Peace influenced the US Constitution while avoiding mention of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy itself.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence broadly emphasizes Johansen’s ideas about the Great Law of Peace; it doesn’t identify the influence theory or effectively present it. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes one fact that supports the influence theory; it doesn’t effectively present the theory to an audience unfamiliar with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence makes a broad generalization about Native people’s influence on the founding of the US; it doesn’t effectively present the influence theory.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 8622320e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8622320e

Earth’s auroras—colorful displays of light seen above the northern and southern poles—result, broadly speaking, from the Sun’s activity. \_\_\_\_\_ the Sun releases charged particles that are captured by Earth’s magnetic field and channeled toward the poles. These particles then collide with atoms in the atmosphere, causing the atoms to emit auroral light.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Hence,

ID: 8622320e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Specifically” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the Sun releases charged particles that later collide with atoms, resulting in auroral light—provides specific, precise details about how auroras result from the Sun’s activity.

Choice B is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the general information about auroras in the previous sentence. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details about how auroras form. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is despite the general information about auroras in the previous sentence. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details about how auroras form. Choice D is incorrect because “hence” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the general information about auroras in the previous sentence. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details about how auroras form.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 1c6e1d55

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1c6e1d55

Historically, most conductors of major orchestras and opera companies have been European men, but a new, more diverse generation of artists is stepping up to the podium. Mexico’s Alondra de la Parra took over as conductor for the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in 2017, \_\_\_\_\_ and Colombia’s Lina Gonzalez-Granados did the same for the Los Angeles Opera in 2022.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in addition,
- B. lastly,
- C. granted,
- D. for instance,

ID: 1c6e1d55 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “For instance” logically signals that the details in this sentence—that Mexican conductor Alondra de la Parra and Colombian conductor Lina Gonzalez-Granados took new conducting positions—are examples supporting the previous claim about the new generation of artists.

Choice A is incorrect because “in addition” illogically signals that the details in this sentence about de la Parra and Gonzalez-Granados are merely additional facts related to the previous claim about the new generation of artists. Instead, they are examples supporting that claim. Choice B is incorrect because “lastly” illogically signals that the details in this sentence about de la Parra and Gonzalez-Granados are the last step or a concluding summary of the previous claim about the new generation of artists. Instead, they are examples supporting that claim. Choice C is incorrect because “granted” illogically signals that the details in this sentence about de la Parra and Gonzalez-Granados are exceptions to the previous claim about the new generation of artists. Instead, they are examples supporting that claim.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 0acc26b2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0acc26b2

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Astronomers estimate that the number of comets orbiting the Sun is in the billions.
- 81P/Wild is one of many comets whose orbit has changed over time.
- 81P/Wild’s orbit once lay between the orbits of Uranus and Jupiter.
- The comet’s orbit is now positioned between the orbits of Jupiter and Mars.

The student wants to make and support a generalization about the orbits of comets. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish these goals?

- A. Astronomers estimate that the number of comets orbiting the Sun is in the billions; the comets’ orbits may change over time.
- B. Like Uranus, Jupiter, and Mars, billions of comets orbit the Sun.
- C. One example of a comet is 81P/Wild, whose orbit around the Sun once lay between Uranus’s and Jupiter’s orbits but is now positioned between those of Jupiter and Mars.
- D. A comet’s orbit around the Sun may change over time: the orbit of comet 81P/Wild once lay between the orbits of Uranus and Jupiter but is now positioned between those of Jupiter and Mars.

ID: 0acc26b2 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence makes a generalization—that a comet’s orbit around the Sun may change over time—and supports the generalization with the example of the orbit of comet 81P/Wild, which once lay between the orbits of Uranus and Jupiter but is now positioned between the orbits of Jupiter and Mars.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the number of comets orbiting the Sun and makes a generalization about their orbits, but it doesn’t support the generalization with an example. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence makes a generalization about comets and compares them to the planets Uranus, Jupiter, and Mars; it doesn’t make and support a generalization about comets’ orbits. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides an example of a comet whose orbit has changed, it doesn’t make a generalization about the orbits of comets.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 5888712f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 5888712f

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Physicist Muluneh Abebe was working on a garment suited for both warm and cold conditions.
- He analyzed the emissivity, or ability to emit heat, of the materials he planned to use.
- Abebe found that reflective metal fibers emitted almost no heat and had an emissivity of 0.02.
- He found that silicon carbide fibers absorbed large amounts of heat and had an emissivity of 0.74.
- The amount of heat a material absorbs is equal to the amount of heat it emits.

The student wants to contrast the emissivity of reflective metal fibers with that of silicon carbide fibers. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The ability of reflective metal fibers and silicon carbide fibers to emit heat was determined by an analysis of each material’s emissivity.
- B. The amount of heat a material absorbs is equal to the amount it emits, as evidenced in Abebe’s analyses.
- C. Though the reflective metal fibers and silicon carbide fibers had different rates of emissivity, Abebe planned to use both in a garment.
- D. Whereas the reflective metal fibers had an emissivity of just 0.02, the silicon carbide fibers absorbed large amounts of heat, resulting in an emissivity of 0.74.

ID: 5888712f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence uses “whereas” to contrast the emissivities of the two fibers, noting that the emissivity of the reflective metal fibers was just 0.02, far lower than that of the silicon carbide fibers (0.74).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the ability of reflective metal fibers and silicon carbide fibers to emit heat; it doesn’t contrast the emissivities of the two fibers. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence states a law of thermodynamics: the amount of heat a material absorbs is equal to the amount it emits. The sentence doesn’t contrast the emissivity of reflective metal fibers with that of silicon carbide fibers. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence includes a generalization about the emissivities of reflective metal fibers and silicon carbide fibers, it emphasizes Abebe’s plans for their use in a garment; it doesn’t contrast the emissivities of the two fibers.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 49fe306b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 49fe306b

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- From Earth, all the meteors in a meteor shower appear to originate from a single spot in the sky.
- This spot is called the meteor shower’s radiant.
- The Perseid meteor shower is visible in the northern hemisphere in July and August.
- Like many meteor showers, it is named for the location of its radiant.
- Its radiant is located within the constellation Perseus.

The student wants to explain the origin of the Perseid meteor shower’s name. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The Perseid meteor shower is named for the constellation Perseus, the location of the meteor shower’s radiant.
- B. A meteor shower’s name may be linked to a single spot in the sky.
- C. The Perseid meteor shower, which has a radiant, is visible in the northern hemisphere in July and August.
- D. From Earth, all the meteors in a meteor shower appear to originate from a radiant, such as the one within Perseus.

ID: 49fe306b Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence explains the origin of the Perseid meteor shower’s name: the constellation Perseus, where the meteor shower’s radiant is located.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence makes a claim about meteor shower names in general; it doesn’t explain the origin of the Perseid meteor shower’s name specifically. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence indicates when and where the Perseid meteor shower is visible; it doesn’t explain the origin of the meteor shower’s name. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence discusses meteor showers in general; it doesn’t explain the origin of the Perseid meteor shower’s name.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 5b8b69a2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: 5b8b69a2

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Archaeologist Jon Erlandson and colleagues argue that humans first arrived in the Americas by sea.
- They propose that humans traveled between Pacific Ocean islands and coastlines from northeast Asia to the Americas.
- Many of these islands and coastal zones were later submerged as glaciers melted and sea levels rose.
- The researchers think that “a coastal route, including kelp forests and estuaries, would have provided a rich mix of marine, estuarine, riverine, and terrestrial resources” such as seaweeds, fish, and birds.
- This proposed scenario is known as the kelp highway hypothesis.

The student wants to summarize the kelp highway hypothesis. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Pacific Ocean islands and coastlines likely contained “a rich mix of marine, estuarine, riverine, and terrestrial resources” such as seaweeds, fish, and birds, according to researchers.
- B. One argument about how humans first arrived in the Americas is the kelp highway hypothesis proposed by Jon Erlandson and colleagues.
- C. Humans may have first arrived in the Americas by sea, traveling between Pacific Ocean islands and coastlines and subsisting on a variety of resources.
- D. As glaciers melted and sea levels rose, many Pacific Ocean islands and coastal zones were submerged.

ID: 5b8b69a2 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This choice summarizes the main idea of the kelp highway hypothesis, providing a high-level overview of how the hypothesis explains human migration to the Americas.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice describes one aspect of the proposed scenario but doesn’t discuss human migration, which is the main focus of the kelp highway hypothesis. Choice B is incorrect. This choice introduces the kelp highway hypothesis but doesn’t explain what it entails. Choice D is incorrect. This choice describes one element of the proposed scenario but doesn’t discuss human migration, which is the main focus of the kelp highway hypothesis.

Question Difficulty: Hard



# Question ID 6b5bc97d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6b5bc97d

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Sasanian Empire lasted about 400 years (AD 224 to AD 651).
- The Sasanians controlled an area spanning 1.4 million square miles.
- This area included present-day Iran and Iraq.
- The empire’s capital was the ancient city of Ctesiphon.
- Ctesiphon was located near present-day Baghdad, Iraq.

The student wants to specify the location of Ctesiphon. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The Sasanian Empire began in AD 224 and ended in AD 651.
- B. The capital of the Sasanian Empire, which spanned 1.4 million square miles, was Ctesiphon.
- C. The Sasanians controlled an area of 1.4 million square miles, including present-day Iran and Iraq.
- D. Ctesiphon, the capital of the Sasanian Empire, was located near present-day Baghdad, Iraq.

ID: 6b5bc97d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence specifies the location of Ctesiphon, noting that it was located near present-day Baghdad, Iraq.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence explains when the Sasanian Empire began and ended; it doesn’t specify the location of Ctesiphon. Choice B is incorrect because the sentence emphasizes that Ctesiphon was the capital of the Sasanian Empire; it doesn’t specify Ctesiphon’s location. Choice C is incorrect because it emphasizes the size of the Sasanian Empire; it doesn’t specify the location of Ctesiphon.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 1773fa73

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

**ID: 1773fa73**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A commodity chain is the series of links connecting the production and purchase of a commodity on the world market.
- Chinese American anthropologist Anna Tsing studies the contemporary commodity chain of matsutake mushrooms.
- At one end of the matsutake chain are mushroom pickers in Oregon.
- At the other end are wealthy consumers who buy the costly matsutake in Japan.
- According to Tsing, “Japanese traders began importing matsutake in the 1980s, when the scarcity of matsutake in Japan first became clear.”

The student wants to provide an overview of the matsutake commodity chain. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The contemporary matsutake commodity chain has its origins in the 1980s when, according to Tsing, “the scarcity of matsutake in Japan first became clear.”
- B. Commodity chains include the linked production and purchase of commodities, such as the matsutake mushroom, on the world market.
- C. Decades after the Japanese import of matsutake began, a commodity chain now links matsutake pickers in Oregon with wealthy consumers of the costly mushrooms in Japan.
- D. Wealthy consumers who buy the costly mushrooms in Japan are at one end of the matsutake commodity chain.

**ID: 1773fa73 Answer**

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence provides an overview of the matsutake commodity chain, connecting the Oregon mushroom pickers at one end to the Japanese consumers at the other.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the matsutake commodity chain, it focuses only on its origins; it does not provide an overview. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence provides a general definition of commodity chains, not an overview of the matsutake chain. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the matsutake commodity chain, it focuses only on one end of the chain (the consumers); it does not provide an overview.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 81315093

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 81315093

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A marathon is a long-distance running race that is 26.2 miles long.
- An ultramarathon is a long-distance running race of more than 26.2 miles.
- The Kepler Challenge is a one-day, 37.3-mile ultramarathon in New Zealand.
- The Spreelauf is a six-day, 261-mile ultramarathon in Germany.

The student wants to make a generalization about ultramarathons. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Examples of ultramarathons include the 37.3-mile Kepler Challenge in New Zealand and the 261-mile Spreelauf in Germany.
- B. A marathon is 26.2 miles long, but the Spreelauf ultramarathon, at 261 miles, is far longer.
- C. Ultramarathons range widely in length, from a few dozen miles to a few hundred.
- D. While the Kepler Challenge is a one-day ultramarathon, the Spreelauf is a six-day ultramarathon.

ID: 81315093 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This is the only choice that makes a generalization about ultramarathons.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice gives specific examples of ultramarathons but doesn't say anything about them as a category. Choice B is incorrect. This choice compares marathons in general to one specific ultramarathon but doesn't say anything about ultramarathons as a category. Choice D is incorrect. This choice contrasts two specific ultramarathons but doesn't say anything about them as a category.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID dede8260

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

**ID: dede8260**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- When medical students mention their patients on social media, they may violate patient confidentiality.
- Terry Kind led a study to determine how many medical schools have student policies that mention social media use.
- Kind and her team reviewed 132 medical school websites, examining publicly available student policies.
- Only thirteen medical schools had guidelines that explicitly mention social media, and only five defined what constitutes acceptable social media use.

The student wants to emphasize the study’s methodology. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The student policies of 132 medical schools can be found online, according to research by Terry Kind.
- B. To find out how many medical schools have guidelines about student social media use, Terry Kind and her team examined the student policies of 132 medical schools.
- C. Out of 132 medical schools, only thirteen had student policies that mentioned social media, and only five specified what use was acceptable.
- D. Terry Kind and her team wanted to know how many medical schools have student social media policies in place about protecting patient confidentiality.

**ID: dede8260 Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence effectively emphasizes Kind’s methodology: examining the student policies of 132 medical schools for guidelines about student social media use.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence specifies how many medical schools’ student policies are available online; it doesn’t emphasize the study’s methodology. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the study’s results, not the study’s methodology. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the aim of the study, not the study’s methodology.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 4b376902

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4b376902

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- NASA uses rovers, large remote vehicles with wheels, to explore the surface of Mars.
- NASA’s rovers can’t explore regions inaccessible to wheeled vehicles.
- Rovers are also heavy, making them difficult to land on the planet’s surface.
- Microprobes, robotic probes that weigh as little as 50 milligrams, could be deployed virtually anywhere on the surface of Mars.
- Microprobes have been proposed as an alternative to rovers.

The student wants to explain an advantage of microprobes. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Despite being heavy, NASA’s rovers can land successfully on the surface of Mars.
- B. Microprobes, which weigh as little as 50 milligrams, could explore areas of Mars that are inaccessible to NASA’s heavy, wheeled rovers.
- C. NASA currently uses its rovers on Mars, but microprobes have been proposed as an alternative.
- D. Though they are different sizes, both microprobes and rovers can be used to explore the surface of Mars.

ID: 4b376902 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence explains an advantage of microprobes, noting that because microprobes weigh as little as 50 milligrams, they can explore areas inaccessible to rovers.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence indicates that rovers can land successfully on Mars despite their weight; it doesn’t explain an advantage of microprobes. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that microprobes have been proposed as an alternative to rovers, it doesn’t explain an advantage of microprobes. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between microprobes and rovers; it doesn’t explain an advantage of microprobes.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 388b45aa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 388b45aa

Establishing Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) is no easy task. Each month, readings of a single second from atomic clocks around the world are taken and sent to the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) in France. \_\_\_\_\_ BIPM metrologists perform the meticulous work of assembling these minutely disparate readings into a globally shared time standard.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. There,
- B. In particular,
- C. For example,
- D. Conversely,

ID: 388b45aa Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "There" indicates that the work of calculating Coordinated Universal Time takes place at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in France. Because "there" indicates a location, it fits the context perfectly.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn't make sense here. This sentence is describing where the work of coordinating Coordinated Universal Time takes place, not giving an example of the work described in the previous sentence. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn't make sense here. This sentence is describing where the work of coordinating Coordinated Universal Time takes place, not giving an example of the work described in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn't disagree with the previous sentence. They both describe the work involved in calculating Coordinated Universal Time.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 10cd0327

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 10cd0327

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A thermal inversion is a phenomenon where a layer of atmosphere is warmer than the layer beneath it.
- In 2022, a team of researchers studied the presence of thermal inversions in twenty-five gas giants.
- Gas giants are planets largely composed of helium and hydrogen.
- The team found that gas giants featuring a thermal inversion were also likely to contain heat-absorbing metals.
- One explanation for this relationship is that these metals may reside in a planet’s upper atmosphere, where their absorbed heat causes an increase in temperature.

The student wants to present the study’s findings to an audience already familiar with thermal inversions. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Heat-absorbing metals may reside in a planet’s upper atmosphere.
- B. The team studied thermal inversions in twenty-five gas giants, which are largely composed of helium and hydrogen.
- C. Researchers found that gas giants featuring a thermal inversion were likely to contain heat-absorbing metals, which may reside in the planets’ upper atmospheres.
- D. Gas giants were likely to contain heat-absorbing metals when they featured a layer of atmosphere warmer than the layer beneath it, researchers found; this phenomenon is known as a thermal inversion.

ID: 10cd0327 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. It describes the study’s findings in a way that assumes the audience is already familiar with thermal inversions.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn’t fully describe the findings of the study, because it doesn’t include anything about thermal inversions. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t describe the study’s findings. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn’t suited for an audience already familiar with thermal inversion. A familiar audience wouldn’t need to have the term defined.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 176edca6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 176edca6

A 2017 study of sign language learners tested the role of iconicity—the similarity of a sign to the thing it represents—in language acquisition. The study found that the greater the iconicity of a sign, the more likely it was to have been learned. \_\_\_\_\_ the correlation between acquisition and iconicity was lower than that between acquisition and another factor studied: sign frequency.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In fact,
- B. In other words,
- C. Granted,
- D. As a result,

ID: 176edca6 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Granted” logically signals that the following information—that iconicity is not as highly correlated with acquisition as sign frequency—is true in spite of the information about the correlation between iconicity and acquisition in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “in fact” illogically signals that the sentence that follows either emphasizes or refutes the information in the previous sentence regarding the correlation between iconicity and acquisition. Instead, the sentence that follows provides additional information that is true in spite of the preceding information; it neither emphasizes nor refutes that information. Choice B is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the sentence that follows is a restatement of the information in the previous sentence; instead, the sentence that follows provides additional information that is true in spite of the preceding information. Choice D is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the sentence that follows is a result of the information in the previous sentence regarding the correlation between iconicity and acquisition; instead, the sentence that follows is true in spite of the preceding information.

Question Difficulty: Hard



# Question ID c071eca2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c071eca2

Iraqi artist Nazik Al-Malaika, celebrated as the first Arabic poet to write in free verse, didn’t reject traditional forms entirely; her poem “Elegy for a Woman of No Importance” consists of two ten-line stanzas and a standard number of syllables. Even in this superficially traditional work, \_\_\_\_\_ Al-Malaika was breaking new ground by memorializing an anonymous woman rather than a famous man.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. therefore,
- B. in fact,
- C. moreover,
- D. though,

ID: c071eca2 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The first sentence tells us that Al-Malaika sometimes used "traditional forms". The second tells us that even when she used traditional forms, Al-Malaika was "breaking new ground". To connect these ideas, we need a contrast word like "but." "Though" is a contrast word similar to "but."

Choice A is incorrect. This isn’t a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that Al-Malaika sometimes used "traditional forms". The second tells us that even when she used traditional forms, Al-Malaika was "breaking new ground". To connect these ideas, we need a contrast word like "but." "Therefore" doesn’t show contrast; it shows cause and effect. Choice B is incorrect. This isn’t a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that Al-Malaika sometimes used "traditional forms". The second tells us that even when she used traditional forms, Al-Malaika was "breaking new ground". To connect these ideas, we need a contrast word like "but." "In fact" is a phrase that usually emphasizes the truth of the previous statement. Choice C is incorrect. This isn’t a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that Al-Malaika sometimes used "traditional forms". The second tells us that even when she used traditional forms, Al-Malaika was "breaking new ground". To connect these ideas, we need a contrast word like "but." "Moreover" doesn’t show contrast—it introduces additional information that continues or supports the previous idea.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 56cad44a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 56cad44a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Mexican tetras are a fish species with two distinct populations.
- Surface-dwelling tetras live on the surface and are able to see.
- Cave-dwelling tetras live in total darkness and have lost the ability to see.
- Cave-dwelling tetras have asymmetrical skulls with more sensory receptors on one side than the other.
- These receptors help cave-dwelling tetras navigate in darkness.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras may belong to the same species, but they are quite different.
- B. Cave-dwelling tetras can no longer see but use sensory receptors on their skulls to navigate.
- C. Mexican tetras are a fish species with two distinct populations: surface-dwelling tetras and cave-dwelling tetras.
- D. Surface-dwelling tetras can see, whereas cave-dwelling tetras cannot.

ID: 56cad44a Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras, noting that while surface-dwelling tetras can see, cave-dwelling tetras can't.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence notes that surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras are different, it doesn't emphasize any difference between the two populations of tetras. Choice B is incorrect because the sentence explains that cave-dwelling tetras use sensory receptors on their skulls to navigate; it doesn't emphasize a difference between surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence notes that there are two different populations of Mexican tetras, it doesn't emphasize any difference between the two populations.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 00e0170f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 00e0170f

Magnetic levitation (maglev) trains are suspended above a track by powerful electromagnets, reducing friction and thus allowing for much faster speeds. Though maglev advocates in the US have long imagined these trains crisscrossing the country, their dream remains unrealized. \_\_\_\_\_ of the handful of maglev trains currently in operation, all are in Asia.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In fact,
- B. To that end,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. That said,

ID: 00e0170f Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This sentence emphasizes just how far maglev advocates’ dreams are from coming true. “In fact” is a transition used to emphasize the truth of a statement that modifies the previous statement and therefore fits perfectly in this context.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense here. Maglev advocates’ dream remaining unrealized would not cause there to be only a few maglev trains, all located in Asia. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition, which doesn’t make sense here. In fact, this sentence agrees with the previous sentence—both talk about how maglev trains are far from becoming common in the US. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition, which doesn’t make sense here. In fact, this sentence agrees with the previous sentence—both talk about how maglev trains are far from becoming common in the US.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 0fab0c90

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0fab0c90

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Gullah are a group of African Americans who have lived in parts of the southeastern United States since the 18th century.
- Gullah culture is influenced by West African and Central African traditions.
- Louise Miller Cohen is a Gullah historian, storyteller, and preservationist.
- She founded the Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, in 2003.
- Vermelle Rodrigues is a Gullah historian, artist, and preservationist.
- She founded the Gullah Museum of Georgetown, South Carolina, in 2003.

The student wants to emphasize the duration and purpose of Cohen’s and Rodrigues’s work. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. At the Gullah Museums in Hilton Head Island and Georgetown, South Carolina, visitors can learn more about the Gullah people who have lived in the region for centuries.
- B. Louise Miller Cohen and Vermelle Rodrigues have worked to preserve the culture of the Gullah people, who have lived in the United States since the 18th century.
- C. Since 2003, Louise Miller Cohen and Vermelle Rodrigues have worked to preserve Gullah culture through their museums.
- D. Influenced by the traditions of West and Central Africa, Gullah culture developed in parts of the southeastern United States in the 18th century.

ID: 0fab0c90 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes both the duration (the length of time) and the purpose of Cohen’s and Rodrigues’s work by noting that the women have been working since 2003 to preserve Gullah culture.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence emphasizes what visitors to Cohen’s and Rodrigues’s museums can learn, it doesn’t mention the duration or purpose of the women’s work. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence emphasizes the purpose of Cohen’s and Rodrigues’s work, it doesn’t mention the duration of that work (the length of time the women have been working to preserve Gullah culture). Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence emphasizes where and when Gullah culture developed, it doesn’t mention the duration or purpose of Cohen’s and Rodrigues’s work.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 88308a39

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 88308a39

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Shaun Tan is an Australian author.
- In 2008, he published *Tales from Outer Suburbia*, a book of fifteen short stories.
- The stories describe surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary suburban neighborhoods.
- In 2018, he published *Tales from the Inner City*, a book of twenty-five short stories.
- The stories describe surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary urban settings.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the two books by Shaun Tan. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Shaun Tan’s book *Tales from Outer Suburbia*, which describes surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary places, contains fewer short stories than *Tales from the Inner City* does.
- B. *Tales from Outer Suburbia* was published in 2008, and *Tales from the Inner City* was published in 2018.
- C. Unlike *Tales from the Inner City*, Shaun Tan’s book *Tales from Outer Suburbia* is set in suburban neighborhoods.
- D. Shaun Tan’s books *Tales from Outer Suburbia* and *Tales from the Inner City* both describe surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary places.

ID: 88308a39 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence uses “both” to emphasize a thematic similarity between Tan’s two books, noting that both *Tales from Outer Suburbia* and *Tales from the Inner City* describe surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary places.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference (one contains fewer stories than the other), not a similarity, between the two books. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence indicates that Tan’s books were published ten years apart; it doesn’t emphasize a similarity between the two books. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence uses “unlike” to emphasize a difference between *Tales from Outer Suburbia* and *Tales from the Inner City*, it doesn’t emphasize a similarity between the two books.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 1b94a80a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1b94a80a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Wool is a natural—and economically important—fiber that is obtained from animals like sheep.
- Australia is a leading producer of wool.
- The thickness of wool fibers varies across sheep breeds.
- Merino sheep produce fine wool that is used for apparel.
- Rambouillet sheep produce fine wool that is used for apparel.
- Romney sheep produce thick wool that is used for rugs and blankets.

The student wants to emphasize how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Romney wool is just one of the many kinds of wools, each originating from a different breed of sheep.
- B. Sheep wool varies from breed to breed, so Romney wool will be different than other kinds of wool.
- C. The fine wool produced by Merino and Rambouillet sheep is used for apparel, whereas the thicker wool of Romney sheep is used in rugs and blankets.
- D. Wool is an economically important fiber—especially in Australia—that can be used to make apparel or even rugs and blankets.

ID: 1b94a80a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This choice most effectively emphasizes how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. It describes the difference in thickness and the difference in what they’re used for.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. It doesn’t mention Merino or Rambouillet wool at all. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. It doesn’t mention Merino or Rambouillet wool at all. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. It doesn’t mention Romney, Merino or Rambouillet wool at all.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID fdd9a360

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: fdd9a360

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The popular wood-wide web theory posits that trees can communicate and exchange resources with one another via common mycorrhizal networks (CMNs) of fungi.
- Ecologist Dr. Suzanne Simard first suggested this theory in 1997.
- She described trees as “super-cooperators.”
- In the 2022 study “The Decay of the Wood-Wide Web?,” mycologist Dr. Justine Karst and colleagues evaluated dozens of CMN studies.
- They write that CMNs “have captured the interest of broad audiences. We are concerned, however, that recent claims about CMNs in forests are disconnected from evidence.”

The student wants to use a quotation to emphasize a potential problem with the wood-wide web theory. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Describing trees as “super-cooperators,” Simard first suggested that trees can exchange resources with one another in 1997.
- B. In “The Decay of the Wood-Wide Web?,” Karst and colleagues note that common mycorrhizal networks “have captured the interest of broad audiences.”
- C. After evaluating dozens of CMN studies, Karst and colleagues expressed concern that recent claims about common mycorrhizal networks are “disconnected from evidence.”
- D. Despite the concerns expressed in the 2022 study “The Decay of the Wood-Wide Web?,” the wood-wide web theory remains popular.

ID: fdd9a360 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This choice uses a quotation to convey the authors’ criticism and challenge to the wood-wide web theory due to an absence of evidence.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize a potential problem with the wood-wide web theory. It uses a quotation to introduce the theory and its originator. It doesn’t mention any criticism or challenge to the theory. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a quotation, but it doesn’t emphasize a potential problem with the wood-wide web theory. It uses a quotation to describe the appeal and interest of the theory, but it doesn’t indicate why the authors are concerned or what evidence they have. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn’t use a quotation at all. It paraphrases the main idea of the 2022 study, but it doesn’t include any specific words or phrases from the notes. It also doesn’t emphasize a potential problem with the theory, but rather its popularity.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID f1631638

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f1631638

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Gaspar Enriquez is an artist.
- He specializes in portraits of Mexican Americans.
- A portrait is an artistic representation of a person.
- Enriquez completed a painting of the sculptor Luis Jimenez in 2003.
- He completed a drawing of the writer Rudolfo Anaya in 2016.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the two portraits. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The portraits, or artistic representations, of Luis Jimenez and Rudolfo Anaya were both completed by Enriquez in the early 2000s.
- B. Enriquez has completed portraits of numerous Mexican Americans, including sculptor Luis Jimenez and writer Rudolfo Anaya.
- C. While both are by Enriquez, the 2003 portrait of Luis Jimenez is a painting, and the 2016 portrait of Rudolfo Anaya is a drawing.
- D. Luis Jimenez was a Mexican American sculptor, and Rudolfo Anaya was a Mexican American writer.

ID: f1631638 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the portraits, noting that one is a painting and the other is a drawing.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the two portraits rather than a difference. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence makes a generalization about Enriquez’s portraits; it doesn’t emphasize a difference between the portraits of Jimenez and Anaya. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence notes a difference between Jimenez and Anaya, it doesn’t emphasize a difference between, or even mention, their portraits.

Question Difficulty: Medium



# Question ID ff3865b3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ff3865b3

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A wok is a cooking pan that originated in China during the Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE).
- The wok’s round, wide base helps to cook food evenly.
- The wok’s high, angled sides help to contain oil splatters.
- Grace Young is a cook and culinary historian.
- Her book *The Breath of a Wok* (2004) traces the history of the wok.

The student wants to describe the wok’s shape. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Grace Young’s 2004 book, *The Breath of a Wok*, traces the history of the cooking pan.
- B. Able to cook food evenly and contain oil splatters, the wok is the subject of Grace Young’s 2004 book.
- C. A wok is a cooking pan with a round, wide base and high, angled sides.
- D. The design of a wok, a type of cooking pan that originated in China during the Han dynasty, helps the pan cook food evenly and contain oil splatters.

ID: ff3865b3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. It summarizes the information that describes the wok’s shape from the second and third bullet points.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn’t describe the shape of a wok. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t describe the shape of a wok, just some of its features. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn’t describe the shape of a wok, only some of its benefits or functions.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 7c9d0e38

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7c9d0e38

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Roughly 96% of Australia’s estimated 200,000 animal species are invertebrates.
- Invertebrates of the order Hymenoptera, which consists of sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants, are estimated to total 14,800 species in Australia.
- Invertebrates of the order Coleoptera, which consists of beetles and weevils, are estimated to total 28,200 species in Australia.
- Some of these invertebrates’ populations are threatened by invasive bird and fish species.

The student wants to emphasize the different orders in which Australia’s invertebrate animals are classified. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In Australia, 28,200 species are estimated to be beetles and weevils, both classified as invertebrates of the order Coleoptera.
- B. Among Australia’s many invertebrates, sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants belong to the order Hymenoptera, while beetles and weevils belong to the order Coleoptera.
- C. Many sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants of the order Hymenoptera are threatened by some of Australia’s invasive bird and fish species.
- D. The order Hymenoptera is estimated to make up 14,800 of Australia’s 200,000 animal species.

ID: 7c9d0e38 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the different orders that Australia’s invertebrates belong to, specifying that sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants belong to the order Hymenoptera, whereas beetles and weevils belong to the order Coleoptera.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence only mentions one order, Coleoptera; it doesn’t emphasize the different orders that Australia’s invertebrates belong to. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence only mentions one order, Hymenoptera; it doesn’t emphasize the different orders that Australia’s invertebrates belong to. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence only mentions one order, Hymenoptera; it doesn’t emphasize the different orders that Australia’s invertebrates belong to.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 5d3177aa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

**ID: 5d3177aa**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In the early 1960s, the US had a strict national-origins quota system for immigrants.
- The number of new immigrants allowed from a country each year was based on how many people from that country lived in the US in 1890.
- This system favored immigrants from northern Europe.
- Almost 70% of slots were reserved for immigrants from Great Britain, Ireland, and Germany.
- The 1965 Hart-Celler Act abolished the national-origins quota system.

The student wants to present the significance of the Hart-Celler Act to an audience unfamiliar with the history of US immigration. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Almost 70% of slots were reserved for immigrants from Great Britain, Ireland, and Germany at the time the Hart-Celler Act was proposed.
- B. Prior to the Hart-Celler Act, new immigration quotas were based on how many people from each country lived in the US in 1890.
- C. The quota system in place in the early 1960s was abolished by the 1965 Hart-Celler Act.
- D. The 1965 Hart-Celler Act abolished the national-origins quota system, which favored immigrants from northern Europe.

**ID: 5d3177aa Answer**

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence presents the significance of the Hart-Celler Act to an audience unfamiliar with the history of US immigration, noting that the 1965 act abolished the national-origins quota system and explaining why that mattered, historically: because the old quota system had favored immigrants from northern Europe.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes an aspect of immigration policy at the time the Hart-Celler Act was proposed; it doesn't present the significance of the Hart-Celler Act to an audience unfamiliar with the history of US immigration. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence describes an aspect of immigration policy before the Hart-Celler Act; it doesn't describe or present the significance of the act to an audience unfamiliar with the history of US immigration. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that the Hart-Celler Act abolished the old quota system, it doesn't explain the act or the quota system to an audience unfamiliar with the history of US immigration.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 08be6347

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 08be6347

In his 1925 book *The Morphology of Landscape*, US geographer Carl Sauer challenged prevailing views about how natural landscapes influence human cultures. \_\_\_\_ Sauer argued that instead of being shaped entirely by their natural surroundings, cultures play an active role in their own development by virtue of their interactions with the environment.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. Finally,
- C. Therefore,
- D. Specifically,

ID: 08be6347 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Specifically” logically signals that the information in this sentence about Sauer’s argument—that, according to Sauer, cultures play a role in their own development, as opposed to being shaped solely by natural surroundings—provides specific, precise details elaborating on the more general information in the previous sentence about how Sauer challenged prevailing views about how natural landscapes influence human cultures.

Choice A is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Sauer’s argument is similar to, but separate from, the more general information in the previous sentence. Instead, it provides specific, precise details elaborating on that information. Choice B is incorrect because “finally” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Sauer’s argument indicates a last step in a process or a concluding summary. Instead, it provides specific, precise details elaborating on the general information in the previous sentence. Choice C is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Sauer’s argument is a result of the more general information in the previous sentence. Instead, it provides specific, precise details elaborating on that information.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 5fa51c86

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

**ID: 5fa51c86**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Ulaanbaatar is the capital of Mongolia.
- The city’s population is 907,802.
- Ulaanbaatar contains 31.98 percent of Mongolia’s population.
- Hanoi is the capital of Vietnam.
- The city’s population is 7,781,631.
- Hanoi contains 8.14 percent of Vietnam’s population.

The student wants to emphasize the relative sizes of the two capitals’ populations. Which choice most effectively uses information from the given sentences to emphasize the relative sizes of the two capitals’ populations?

- A. Mongolia’s capital is Ulaanbaatar, which has 907,802 people, and Vietnam’s capital is Hanoi, which has 7,781,631 people.
- B. Comparing Vietnam and Mongolia, 7,781,631 is 8.14 percent of Vietnam’s population, and 907,802 is 31.98 percent of Mongolia’s.
- C. Even though Hanoi (population 7,781,631) is larger than Ulaanbaatar (population 907,802), Ulaanbaatar accounts for more of its country’s population.
- D. The populations of the capitals of Mongolia and Vietnam are 907,802 (Ulaanbaatar) and 7,781,631 (Hanoi), respectively.

**ID: 5fa51c86 Answer**

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the relative sizes of the capital cities’ populations, noting that even though Hanoi has more people overall, Ulaanbaatar accounts for a larger percentage of the people in its country.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence indicates the population size of each capital, it fails to emphasize their sizes relative to each other or to their countries’ overall population sizes. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the population sizes of the two countries; it fails to mention the capitals. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence indicates the population size of each capital, it fails to emphasize their sizes relative to each other or to their countries’ overall population sizes.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 54c1b2dd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 54c1b2dd

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 1851, German American artist Emanuel Leutze painted *Washington Crossing the Delaware*.
- His huge painting (149 × 255 inches) depicts the first US president crossing a river with soldiers in the Revolutionary War.
- In 2019, Cree artist Kent Monkman painted *mistikôsiwak (Wooden Boat People): Resurgence of the People*.
- Monkman’s huge painting (132 × 264 inches) was inspired by Leutze’s.
- It portrays Indigenous people in a boat rescuing refugees.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the two paintings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Monkman, a Cree artist, finished his painting in 2019; Leutze, a German American artist, completed his in 1851.
- B. Although Monkman’s painting was inspired by Leutze’s, the people and actions the two paintings portray are very different.
- C. Leutze’s and Monkman’s paintings are both huge, measuring 149 × 255 inches and 132 × 264 inches, respectively.
- D. Leutze’s painting depicts Revolutionary War soldiers, while Monkman’s depicts Indigenous people and refugees.

ID: 54c1b2dd Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the two paintings, noting that Leutze’s painting (which measures 149 × 255 inches) and Monkman’s painting (which measures 132 × 264 inches) are both very large.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence mentions that Monkman’s painting was completed in 2019 and Leutze’s was completed in 1851; it doesn’t emphasize a similarity between the two paintings. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence acknowledges that one painting was inspired by the other, it emphasizes differences between the two paintings; it doesn’t emphasize a similarity between them. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence mentions a difference between the two paintings; it doesn’t emphasize a similarity between them.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 2b89bfe5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2b89bfe5

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 1999, astronomer Todd Henry studied the differences in surface temperature between the Sun and nearby stars.
- His team mapped all stars within 10 parsecs (approximately 200 trillion miles) of the Sun.
- The surface temperature of the Sun is around 9,800°F, which classifies it as a G star.
- 327 of the 357 stars in the study were classified as K or M stars, with surface temperatures under 8,900°F (cooler than the Sun).
- 11 of the 357 stars in the study were classified as A or F stars, with surface temperatures greater than 10,300°F (hotter than the Sun).

The student wants to emphasize how hot the Sun is relative to nearby stars. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. At around 9,800°F, which classifies it as a G star, the Sun is hotter than most but not all of the stars within 10 parsecs of it.
- B. Astronomer Todd Henry determined that the Sun, at around 9,800°F, is a G star, and several other stars within a 10-parsec range are A or F stars.
- C. Of the 357 stars within ten parsecs of the Sun, 327 are classified as K or M stars, with surface temperatures under 8,900°F.
- D. While most of the stars within 10 parsecs of the Sun are classified as K, M, A, or F stars, the Sun is classified as a G star due to its surface temperature of 9,800°F.

ID: 2b89bfe5 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Noting that the Sun (9,800°F) is hotter than most stars within 10 parsecs of it, the sentence emphasizes how hot the Sun is relative to nearby stars.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence explains that astronomer Todd Henry determined the classifications for the Sun and several other stars nearby; it doesn't emphasize how hot the Sun is relative to nearby stars. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence explains that the majority of stars near the Sun are classified as K or M stars; it doesn't indicate the Sun's temperature or emphasize how hot it is relative to nearby stars. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that the Sun is classified differently than most nearby stars due to its surface temperature, it doesn't emphasize how hot the Sun is relative to nearby stars.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID bce57278

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bce57278

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Some US reformers sought to improve society in the 1800s by building utopias.
- A utopia is a community intended to represent a perfect society based on a specific set of principles.
- One such community was Brook Farm near Boston, Massachusetts.
- It was founded in 1841 by writer George Ripley.
- Ripley wrote in a letter that his goal for Brook Farm was “to guarantee the highest mental freedom, by providing all with labor, adapted to their tastes and talents, and securing to them the fruits of their industry.”

The student wants to explain the goal of Brook Farm using a quotation from George Ripley. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In a letter, writer George Ripley explained his goal to “guarantee the highest mental freedom.”
- B. Utopias, such as Brook Farm, founded by George Ripley in 1841, were based on a specific set of principles intended to create a perfect society.
- C. Founded by George Ripley near Boston, Massachusetts, Brook Farm was part of a trend in the 1800s, when reformers in the United States built utopias.
- D. Established in 1841, Brook Farm was a utopian community created to “guarantee the highest mental freedom, by providing all with labor... [and] the fruits of their industry,” according to founder George Ripley.

ID: bce57278 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This choice explains the goal of Brook Farm—to provide mental freedom to all by engaging individuals in labor suited to their interests—using a quotation from George Ripley.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice only mentions part of Ripley’s goal, and it doesn’t mention Brook Farm at all. Choice B is incorrect. This choice defines what a utopia is but doesn’t use Ripley’s words to describe his vision for Brook Farm. Choice C is incorrect. This choice provides some background information about Brook Farm, but it doesn’t explain its goals or include Ripley’s words.

Question Difficulty: Medium



# Question ID e1b00a70

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e1b00a70

The more diverse and wide ranging an animal’s behaviors, the larger and more energy demanding the animal’s brain tends to be. \_\_\_\_ from an evolutionary perspective, animals that perform only basic actions should allocate fewer resources to growing and maintaining brain tissue. The specialized subtypes of ants within colonies provide an opportunity to explore this hypothesis.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Subsequently,
- B. Besides,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Thus,

ID: e1b00a70 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Thus” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that animals performing only basic actions should allocate relatively few resources to their brain tissue—is a consequence of the previous sentence’s claim about the energy demands of animal brains (namely, that the more diverse an animal’s behaviors, the more energy its brain needs).

Choice A is incorrect because “subsequently” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence occurs later in a chronological sequence of events than the previous sentence’s claim about the energy demands of animal brains. Instead, the second claim is a consequence of the first. Choice B is incorrect because “besides” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence provides a separate point in addition to, or apart from, the previous sentence’s claim about the energy demands of animal brains. Instead, the second claim is a consequence of the first. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is true in spite of the previous sentence’s claim about the energy demands of animal brains. Instead, the second claim is a consequence of the first.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID e2d97f10

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e2d97f10

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Pterosaurs were flying reptiles that existed millions of years ago.
- In a 2021 study, Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan analyzed fragments of pterosaur jawbones located in the Sahara Desert.
- She was initially unsure if the bones belonged to juvenile or adult pterosaurs.
- She used advanced microscope techniques to determine that the bones had few growth lines relative to the bones of fully grown pterosaurs.
- She concluded that the bones belonged to juveniles.

The student wants to present the study and its findings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In 2021, Chinsamy-Turan studied pterosaur jawbones and was initially unsure if the bones belonged to juveniles or adults.
- B. Pterosaur jawbones located in the Sahara Desert were the focus of a 2021 study.
- C. In a 2021 study, Chinsamy-Turan used advanced microscope techniques to analyze the jawbones of pterosaurs, flying reptiles that existed millions of years ago.
- D. In a 2021 study, Chinsamy-Turan determined that pterosaur jawbones located in the Sahara Desert had few growth lines relative to the bones of fully grown pterosaurs and thus belonged to juveniles.

ID: e2d97f10 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence presents both the study and its findings, noting the study’s date and the researcher’s name as well as describing what the researcher determined about the jawbones and how she determined it.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence describes the study and the researcher’s initial assessment, it doesn’t present the study’s findings. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence describes the study and its focus, it doesn’t present the study’s findings or the name of the researcher who conducted it. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the study’s methodology and provides information about pterosaurs, it doesn’t present the study’s findings.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 3067723b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

**ID: 3067723b**

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Seikan Tunnel is a rail tunnel in Japan.
- It connects the island of Honshu to the island of Hokkaido.
- It is roughly 33 miles long.
- The Channel Tunnel is a rail tunnel in Europe.
- It connects Folkestone, England, to Coquelles, France.
- It is about 31 miles long.

The student wants to compare the lengths of the two rail tunnels. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Some of the world’s rail tunnels, including one tunnel that extends from Folkestone, England, to Coquelles, France, are longer than 30 miles.

B. The Seikan Tunnel is roughly 33 miles long, while the slightly shorter Channel Tunnel is about 31 miles long.

C. The Seikan Tunnel, which is roughly 33 miles long, connects the Japanese islands of Honshu and Hokkaido.

D. Both the Seikan Tunnel, which is located in Japan, and the Channel Tunnel, which is located in Europe, are examples of rail tunnels.

**ID: 3067723b Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence compares the lengths of the two rail tunnels, noting that the Channel Tunnel (about 31 miles long) is slightly shorter than the Seikan Tunnel (roughly 33 miles long).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence makes a generalization about the length of some rail tunnels; it doesn’t compare the lengths of the two rail tunnels. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence describes a single rail tunnel; it doesn’t compare the lengths of the two rail tunnels. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the two rail tunnels, it doesn’t compare their lengths.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 24014c3f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 24014c3f

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Severo Ochoa discovered the enzyme PNPase in 1955.
- PNPase is involved in both the creation and degradation of mRNA.
- Ochoa incorrectly hypothesized that PNPase provides the genetic blueprints for mRNA.
- The discovery of PNPase proved critical to deciphering the human genetic code.
- Deciphering the genetic code has led to a better understanding of how genetic variations affect human health.

The student wants to emphasize the significance of Ochoa’s discovery. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Ochoa’s 1955 discovery of PNPase proved critical to deciphering the human genetic code, leading to a better understanding of how genetic variations affect human health.
- B. Ochoa first discovered PNPase, an enzyme that he hypothesized contained the genetic blueprints for mRNA, in 1955.
- C. In 1955, Ochoa discovered the PNPase enzyme, which is involved in both the creation and degradation of mRNA.
- D. Though his discovery of PNPase was critical to deciphering the human genetic code, Ochoa incorrectly hypothesized that the enzyme was the source of mRNA’s genetic blueprints.

ID: 24014c3f Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the significance of Ochoa’s discovery, noting that it proved critical to deciphering the human genetic code, which resulted in a better understanding of how genetic variations affect human health.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence explains what Ochoa discovered, it doesn’t emphasize the significance of the discovery. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence explains what Ochoa discovered, it doesn’t emphasize the significance of the discovery. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that Ochoa’s discovery was crucial, it emphasizes Ochoa’s incorrect hypothesis, not the significance of the discovery.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 17ec916d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 17ec916d

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Bharati Mukherjee was an Indian-born author of novels and short stories.
- She published the novel *The Holder of the World* in 1993.
- A central character in the novel is a woman living in twentieth-century United States.
- Another central character is a woman living in seventeenth-century India.

The student wants to introduce the novel *The Holder of the World* to an audience already familiar with Bharati Mukherjee. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Bharati Mukherjee’s settings include both twentieth-century United States and seventeenth-century India.
- B. In addition to her novel *The Holder of the World*, which was published in 1993, Indian-born author Bharati Mukherjee wrote other novels and short stories.
- C. Bharati Mukherjee’s novel *The Holder of the World* centers around two women, one living in twentieth-century United States and the other in seventeenth-century India.
- D. *The Holder of the World* was not the only novel written by Indian-born author Bharati Mukherjee.

ID: 17ec916d Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively introduces *The Holder of the World* to an audience already familiar with Mukherjee, explaining that the novel centers around two women and mentioning the author without providing any other identifying information.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence provides a detail about Mukherjee’s settings; it doesn’t introduce, or even mention, the novel. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence provides introductory information about Mukherjee; it doesn’t effectively introduce her novel to an audience already familiar with the author. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence provides introductory information about Mukherjee; it doesn’t effectively introduce her novel to an audience already familiar with the author.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID a6155e60

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a6155e60

Every chemical compound has a spectroscopic fingerprint, a pattern of reflected light unique to that compound. \_\_\_\_\_ upon analyzing the light reflected by the bright regions on the surface of the dwarf planet Ceres, Maria Cristina De Sanctis of Rome’s National Institute of Astrophysics was able to determine that the regions contain large amounts of the compound sodium carbonate.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. Meanwhile,
- C. Thus,
- D. In comparison,

ID: a6155e60 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Thus” logically signals that the action described in this sentence—the researcher being able to determine the chemical makeup of the planet’s bright regions based on how they reflect light—is a result or consequence of the previous information about spectroscopic fingerprints.

Choice A is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence occurs despite the previous information about spectroscopic fingerprints. Instead, the finding in this sentence is a result or consequence of that information. Choice B is incorrect because “meanwhile” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence either occurs at the same time as or offers an alternative to the previous information about spectroscopic fingerprints. Instead, the finding in this sentence is a result or consequence of that information. Choice D is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence is being compared with the previous information about spectroscopic fingerprints. Instead, the finding in this sentence is a result or consequence of that information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 58281fc4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 58281fc4

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Soo Sunny Park is a Korean American artist who uses light as her primary medium of expression.
- She created her work *Unwoven Light* in 2013.
- *Unwoven Light* featured a chain-link fence fitted with iridescent plexiglass tiles.
- When light passed through the fence, colorful prisms formed.

The student wants to describe *Unwoven Light* to an audience unfamiliar with Soo Sunny Park. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Park’s 2013 installation *Unwoven Light*, which included a chain-link fence and iridescent tiles made from plexiglass, featured light as its primary medium of expression.
- B. Korean American light artist Soo Sunny Park created *Unwoven Light* in 2013.
- C. The chain-link fence in Soo Sunny Park’s *Unwoven Light* was fitted with tiles made from iridescent plexiglass.
- D. In *Unwoven Light*, a 2013 work by Korean American artist Soo Sunny Park, light formed colorful prisms as it passed through a fence Park had fitted with iridescent tiles.

ID: 58281fc4 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence effectively describes *Unwoven Light* to an audience unfamiliar with Park, noting that Soo Sunny Park is a Korean American artist and that the 2013 work consists of colorful prisms formed by light passing through iridescent tiles.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes aspects of *Unwoven Light* but doesn’t mention who Park is; it thus doesn’t effectively describe the work to an audience unfamiliar with Park. Choice B is incorrect. Although the sentence indicates when the work was created and who Park is, it lacks descriptive details and thus doesn’t effectively describe *Unwoven Light*. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence mentions Park and describes an aspect of *Unwoven Light*—the chain-link fence—but doesn’t effectively describe the overall work to an audience unfamiliar with the artist.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 9502ec65

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9502ec65

When soil becomes contaminated by toxic metals, it can be removed from the ground and disposed of in a landfill. \_\_\_\_\_ contaminated soil can be detoxified via phytoremediation: plants that can withstand high concentrations of metals absorb the pollutants and store them in their shoots, which are then cut off and safely disposed of, preserving the health of the plants.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Alternatively,
- B. Specifically,
- C. For example,
- D. As a result,

ID: 9502ec65 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Alternatively” logically signals that the soil decontamination method described in this sentence—removing toxic metals from the soil via phytoremediation—offers an alternative to the previously described method (removing the contaminated soil from the ground).

Choice B is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the soil decontamination method described in this sentence specifies or elaborates on an aspect of the previously described method (removing the contaminated soil from the ground). Instead, phytoremediation is an alternative to that method. Choice C is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the soil decontamination method described in this sentence is an example of the previously described method (removing the contaminated soil from the ground). Instead, phytoremediation is an alternative to that method. Choice D is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the soil decontamination method described in this sentence is a result or consequence of the previously described method (removing the contaminated soil from the ground). Instead, phytoremediation is an alternative to that method.

Question Difficulty: Hard



# Question ID 2df7b582

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2df7b582

Plato believed material objects to be crude representations of unseen ideal forms. In his view, such abstract, nonmaterial forms are the ultimate source of knowledge. Aristotle disagreed, positing that knowledge is best obtained through direct engagement with the material world; \_\_\_\_\_ sensory experience of the material is the ultimate source of knowledge.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. regardless,
- B. admittedly,
- C. in other words,
- D. meanwhile,

ID: 2df7b582 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “In other words” logically signals that the claim about sensory experience that follows—that sensory experience is the source of knowledge—is a restatement of Aristotle’s theory from earlier in the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the claim about sensory experience that follows is true in spite of Aristotle’s theory from earlier in the sentence. Instead, this claim is a restatement of his theory. Choice B is incorrect because “admittedly” illogically signals that the claim about sensory experience that follows is an exception to Aristotle’s theory from earlier in the sentence. Instead, this claim is a restatement of his theory. Choice D is incorrect because “meanwhile” illogically signals that the claim about sensory experience that follows is separate from (while occurring simultaneously with) Aristotle’s theory from earlier in the sentence. Instead, this claim is a restatement of his theory.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID c7e85c0a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c7e85c0a

The envelope-shaped paper bags common in the US 150 years ago were impractical for carrying goods. \_\_\_\_\_ because they were the only paper bags that could be mass-produced, these bags dominated the market. That all changed in the 1870s, when industrial designer Margaret Knight patented a machine to make flat-bottomed, foldable paper bags.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. For instance,
- C. Thus,
- D. In other words,

ID: c7e85c0a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “However” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that envelope-shaped bags dominated the market—contrasts with the previous claim that these bags were impractical for carrying goods.

Choice B is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an example supporting the previous claim that envelope-shaped bags were impractical for carrying goods. Instead, the sentence contrasts with the previous claim about the bags. Choice C is incorrect because “thus” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the previous claim that envelope-shaped bags were impractical for carrying goods. Instead, the sentence contrasts with the previous claim about the bags. Choice D is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase of the previous claim that envelope-shaped bags were impractical for carrying goods. Instead, the sentence contrasts with the previous claim about the bags.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 1792fa73

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1792fa73

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The tundra is a type of environment characterized by especially harsh winter conditions.
- Winter temperatures in the tundra average a frigid −30 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Animals that have adapted to these conditions can survive tundra winters.
- During the tundra’s short growing season, average temperatures can reach a relatively mild 54 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Around 1,700 different kinds of plants are able to grow in the tundra.

The student wants to emphasize how harsh the conditions can be in the tundra. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Winters in the tundra are especially harsh, with temperatures averaging a frigid −30 degrees Fahrenheit.
- B. Animals that have adapted to harsh winter conditions can survive tundra winters.
- C. There are around 1,700 different kinds of plants that can live in the tundra, where average temperatures can reach a mild 54 degrees Fahrenheit.
- D. Along with animals that have adapted to the tundra’s conditions, around 1,700 different kinds of plants can live in the tundra.

ID: 1792fa73 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes how harsh the conditions in the tundra can be, noting that the winters are especially harsh and describing the average temperatures as “frigid.”

Choice B is incorrect because the sentence explains that some animals can survive harsh tundra winters; it doesn’t emphasize how harsh the conditions can be. Choice C is incorrect because the sentence specifies how many different kinds of plants can live in the tundra; it doesn’t emphasize how harsh the conditions in the tundra can be. Choice D is incorrect because the sentence explains that both plants and animals can survive in the tundra; it doesn’t emphasize how harsh the conditions in the tundra can be.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID f33f0892

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f33f0892

Although novels and poems are considered distinct literary forms, many authors have created hybrid works that incorporate elements of both. Bernardine Evaristo’s *The Emperor’s Babe*, \_\_\_\_\_ is a verse novel, a book-length narrative complete with characters and a plot but conveyed in short, crisp lines of poetry rather than prose.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. by contrast,
- B. consequently,
- C. secondly,
- D. for example,

ID: f33f0892 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “For example” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that *The Emperor’s Babe* is a novel conveyed in lines of poetry—exemplifies the claim in the previous sentence about hybrid works that incorporate elements of both novels and poems.

Choice A is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the claim about hybrid works in the previous sentence. Instead, the information demonstrates that Evaristo’s novel is an example of a hybrid work. Choice B is incorrect because “consequently” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a consequence, or result, of the claim about hybrid works in the previous sentence. Instead, the information demonstrates that Evaristo’s novel is an example of a hybrid work. Choice C is incorrect because “secondly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a second, separate claim from the previous sentence’s claim about hybrid works. Instead, the information demonstrates that Evaristo’s novel is an example of a hybrid work.

Question Difficulty: Easy

# Question ID 7d56630a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7d56630a

In studying whether jellyfish sleep, researchers Michael Abrams, Claire Bedbrook, and Ravi Nath attempted to answer three questions. \_\_\_\_\_ is there a period each day when the pulse rates of jellyfish decline? Second, do jellyfish respond more slowly to stimuli during that period? Finally, if prevented from sleeping, are jellyfish adversely affected?

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. First,
- C. Additionally,
- D. However,

ID: 7d56630a Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “First” logically signals that the question in this sentence—whether there is a daily period during which jellyfish pulse rates decline—is the first in a sequence of three questions the researchers attempted to answer about jellyfish sleep behavior.

Choice A is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the question in this sentence is a result of the three questions the researchers attempted to answer. Instead, it is the first of those three questions. Choice C is incorrect because “additionally” illogically signals that the question in this sentence is an additional question related to the three questions the researchers attempted to answer. Instead, it is the first of those three questions. Choice D is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the question in this sentence contrasts with the three questions the researchers attempted to answer. Instead, it is the first of those three questions.

Question Difficulty: Easy