



The People Who Make the Test!

Volume 1

Official **GRE®** **VERBAL** **REASONING** Practice Questions

with practice for the Analytical Writing measure

150 *real* test questions with explanations
— straight from the maker of the GRE® revised General Test



Welcome to

Official GRE® Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions, Volume 1

The book you are holding offers 150 real GRE practice questions directly from the maker of the GRE® revised General Test. This book is specially created to give you in-depth practice and accurate test preparation for the Verbal Reasoning measure.

Here's what you will find inside:

- *Authentic GRE Verbal Reasoning test questions* arranged by question type and difficulty level—to help you build your test-taking skills. Plus, mixed practice sets.
- *Answers and explanations* for every question!
- *ETS's own test-taking strategies.* Learn valuable hints and tips that can help you get your best score.
- *Official information on the GRE Verbal Reasoning measure.* Get the facts about the test content, structure, and scoring—straight from ETS.
- *Plus: an overview of the GRE Analytical Writing measure* with writing strategies, sample writing tasks, and sample scored essays.

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IMPORTANT

ETS makes available free test preparation materials for individuals planning to take a GRE test. *POWERPREP® II* software is available for individuals planning to take the computer-delivered GRE revised General Test, and the *Practice Book for the Paper-based GRE revised General Test, Second Edition*, is available for individuals planning to take the paper-delivered test. The information about how to prepare for the Verbal Reasoning measure of the GRE revised General Test, test-taking strategies, question strategies, etc., that is included in the free test preparation is also included in this publication. This publication also provides you with 150 brand new practice questions with answers and explanations.

For more information about the GRE revised General Test, free and low-cost GRE test preparation materials, and other GRE products and services, please visit the GRE website at:

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Inquiries concerning the practice test questions in this book should be sent to the GRE testing program at:

GRETestQuestionInquiries@ets.org

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Volume 1

Official GRE® VERBAL REASONING Practice Questions

with practice for the Analytical Writing measure



New York | Chicago | San Francisco | Athens | London | Madrid
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1

How to Use This Book xi

Overview of the GRE® Verbal Reasoning Measure 1

Introduction to the GRE® revised General Test	1
The Verbal Reasoning Measure of the Computer-delivered GRE revised General Test	2
The Verbal Reasoning Measure of the Paper-delivered GRE revised General Test	4
Score Reporting	5

2

Test Content

7

Overview of the Verbal Reasoning Measure	7
Verbal Reasoning Question Types	7

3

Question Type 1: Reading Comprehension 17

Practice Set 1: Easy	18
Practice Set 2: Medium	22
Practice Set 3: Hard	28
Answer Key	33
Answers and Explanations	35

4

Question Type 2: Text Completion

57

Practice Set 1: Easy	58
Practice Set 2: Medium	61
Practice Set 3: Hard	63
Answer Key	65
Answers and Explanations	66

5

Question Type 3: Sentence Equivalence

79

Practice Set 1: Easy	80
Practice Set 2: Medium	82
Practice Set 3: Hard	85
Answer Key	87
Answers and Explanations	88

6

Mixed Practice Sets

101

Practice Set 1	102
Answer Key	111
Answers and Explanations	112
Practice Set 2	126
Answer Key	135
Answers and Explanations	136
Practice Set 3	152
Answer Key	161
Answers and Explanations	162

7

Overview of the GRE® Analytical Writing Measure

179

The Analytical Writing Measure of the Computer-delivered GRE revised General Test	180
The Analytical Writing Measure of the Paper-delivered GRE revised General Test	181
Score Reporting	183
Preparing for the Analytical Writing Measure	184
Analyze an Issue Task	185
Analyze an Argument Task	196
GRE Scoring Guide: Analyze an Issue Task	209
GRE Scoring Guide: Analyze an Argument Task	211
Score Level Descriptions	213
Scored Sample Essays and Reader Commentary for the Practice Analyze an Issue Tasks on Page 195	214
Scored Sample Essays and Reader Commentary for the Practice Analyze an Argument Tasks on Pages 207–208	228

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The GRE®

How to Use This Book

This book provides important information about the Verbal Reasoning and Analytical Writing measures of the GRE revised General Test, including the types of questions they include, and the knowledge and skills that they measure. The book will help you:

- Familiarize yourself with the test format and test question types
- Learn valuable test taking-strategies for each question type
- Check your progress with Verbal Reasoning practice questions

The following five-step program has been designed to help you make the best use of this book.

STEP 1 Learn About the GRE Verbal Reasoning Measure

Chapter 1 of this book provides an overview of the GRE Verbal Reasoning measure. Read this chapter to learn about the number of questions, time limits, and the test design features. You will also find valuable test-taking strategies from ETS and important information about how the measure is scored.

STEP 2 Study the Different GRE Verbal Reasoning Question Types

Chapter 2 of this book describes the types of questions you will encounter in the Verbal Reasoning measure. You will learn what the questions are designed to measure, and you will get tips for answering each question type. You will also see samples of each question type, with helpful explanations.

STEP 3 Practice Answering GRE Verbal Reasoning Questions

Chapters 3, 4, and 5 contain sets of Verbal Reasoning practice questions. The question sets are arranged in order of increasing difficulty, from easy to medium to hard. Answer the questions in each set, then read through the explanations to see which question types you found most challenging. Look for patterns. Did specific question types give you trouble? When did you need to guess at the answer? Use the results to identify your weaknesses and to sharpen your test-taking skills.

STEP 4 Test Yourself with the Mixed Practice Tests

Once you have completed the practice sets for each question type, prepare yourself further by practicing with authentic GRE Mixed Practice Sets in Chapter 6 of this book. The Mixed Practice Sets will include all Verbal Reasoning question types in an order similar to the way they will appear on the GRE revised General Test.

STEP 5 Learn About the GRE Analytical Writing Measure

Chapter 7 of this book describes the two types of tasks you will encounter in the Analytical Writing measure. You will learn what the tasks are designed to measure, and you will get tips for answering each task. You will also see samples of each task, with helpful explanations. After you have reviewed the sample questions, you will have the opportunity to write essay responses to two practice questions and you will be able to review scored sample essays with reader commentary.

Overview of the GRE® Verbal Reasoning Measure

Your goal for this chapter

- Review basic information on the structure of the GRE® Verbal Reasoning measure, test-taking strategies, and scoring

Introduction to the GRE® revised General Test

The GRE® revised General Test—the most widely accepted graduate admissions test worldwide—measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills that are necessary for success in graduate and business school.

Prospective graduate and business school applicants from all around the world take the GRE revised General Test. Applicants come from varying educational and cultural backgrounds, and the GRE revised General Test provides a common measure for comparing candidates' qualifications. GRE scores are used by admissions committees and fellowship panels to supplement undergraduate records, recommendation letters, and other qualifications for graduate-level study.

The GRE revised General Test is available at test centers in more than 160 countries. In most regions of the world, the computer-delivered test is available on a continuous basis throughout the year. In areas of the world where computer-delivered testing is not available, the test is administered in a paper-delivered format up to three times a year.

Before taking the GRE revised General Test, it is important to become familiar with the content and structure of the test, and with each of the three measures—Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing. This book provides a close look at the GRE Verbal Reasoning measure and Analytical Writing measure. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the structure and scoring of the GRE Verbal Reasoning measure. In Chapters 2 through 6, you will find information specific to the content of the Verbal Reasoning measure. In Chapter 7, an overview of the Analytical Writing measure is presented. You can use the information in this publication to help you understand the type of material on which you will be tested. For the most up-to-date information about the GRE revised General Test, visit the GRE website at www.ets.org/gre.

The Verbal Reasoning Measure of the Computer-delivered GRE revised General Test

Structure of the Verbal Reasoning Measure

Measure	Number of Questions	Allotted Time
Verbal Reasoning (Two sections)	20 questions per section	30 minutes per section

The Verbal Reasoning sections may appear anytime in the test after section 1. The directions at the beginning of each Verbal Reasoning section specify the total number of questions in the section and the time allowed for the section.

Test Design Features

The Verbal Reasoning measure of the computer-delivered GRE revised General Test is section-level adaptive. This means the computer selects the second section of a measure based on your performance on the first section.

The advanced adaptive design also means you can freely move forward and back-ward throughout an entire section. Specific features include:

- Preview and review capabilities within a section
- “Mark” and “Review” features to tag questions, so you can skip them and return later if you have time remaining in the section
- The ability to change/edit answers within a section

Test-taking Strategies

The questions in the Verbal Reasoning measure are presented in a variety of formats. Some require you to select a single answer choice; others require you to select one or more answer choices. Make sure when answering a question that you understand what response is required.

When taking the Verbal Reasoning measure of the computer-delivered GRE revised General Test, you are free to skip questions that you might have difficulty answering within a section. The testing software has a “Mark” feature that enables you to mark questions you would like to revisit during the time provided to work on that section. The testing software also has a “Review” feature that lets you view a complete list of all the questions in the section on which you are working, indicates whether you have answered each question, and identifies the questions you have marked for review. Additionally, you can review questions you have already answered and change your answers, provided you still have time remaining to work on that section.

A sample review screen appears below. The review screen is intended to help you keep track of your progress on the test. Do not spend too much time on the review screen, as this will take away from the time allotted to read and answer the questions on the test.

The screenshot shows a review screen for GRE General Test Section 4 of 6. At the top left is the ETS logo. To its right are buttons for 'INFO', 'EXIT', and 'NEXT'. In the center, it says 'Question 16 of 20'. On the right side, there are 'Return' and 'Go To Question' buttons, along with a 'Hide Time' button showing '00 : 27 : 55'. Below this, a note explains the status labels: 'Answered', 'Incomplete', or 'Not Answered'. It also notes that 'Incomplete' means selecting more or fewer than required, and 'Marked' is indicated by a checkmark.

Below is the list of questions in the current section. The question you were on is highlighted. Questions you have seen are labeled **Answered**, **Incomplete**, or **Not Answered**. A question is labeled **Incomplete** if the question requires you to select a certain number of answer choices and you have selected more or fewer than that number. Questions you have marked are indicated with a .

To return to the question you were on, click **Return**.

To go to a different question, click on that question to highlight it, then click **Go To Question**.

Question Number	Status	Marked
1	Answered	
2	Answered	
3	Answered	
4	Answered	
5	Answered	
6	Incomplete	
7	Answered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Answered	
9	Answered	
10	Answered	

Question Number	Status	Marked
11	Answered	
12	Incomplete	
13	Incomplete	
14	Incomplete	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15	Incomplete	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Answered	
17	Answered	
18	Answered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19	Not seen	
20	Not seen	

Your Verbal Reasoning score will be determined by the number of questions you answer correctly. Nothing is subtracted from a score if you answer a question incorrectly. Therefore, to maximize your scores on the Verbal Reasoning measure, it is best to answer every question.

Work as rapidly as you can without being careless. Since no question carries greater weight than any other, do not waste time pondering individual questions you find extremely difficult or unfamiliar.

You may want to go through each of the Verbal Reasoning sections rapidly first, stopping only to answer questions you can answer with certainty. Then go back and answer the questions that require greater thought, concluding with the difficult questions if you have time.

During the actual administration of the revised General Test, you may work only on one section at a time and only for the time allowed. Once you have completed a section, you may not go back to it.

Scratch Paper

You will receive a supply of scratch paper before you begin the test. You can replenish your supply of scratch paper as necessary throughout the test by asking the test administrator.

How the Verbal Reasoning Measure Is Scored

The Verbal Reasoning measure is section-level adaptive. This means the computer selects the second section of a measure based on your performance on the first section. Within each section, all questions contribute equally to the final score. First a raw score is computed. The raw score is the number of questions you answered correctly. The raw score is then converted to a scaled score through a process known as equating. The equating process accounts for minor variations in difficulty from test to test as well as the differences introduced by the section-level adaptation. Thus a given scaled score reflects the same level of performance regardless of which second section was selected and when the test was taken.

The Verbal Reasoning Measure of the Paper-delivered GRE revised General Test

Structure of the Verbal Reasoning Measure

Measure	Number of Questions	Allotted Time
Verbal Reasoning <small>(Two sections)</small>	25 questions per section	35 minutes per section

The Verbal Reasoning sections may appear in any order after section 2. The directions at the beginning of each section specify the total number of questions in the section and the time allowed for the section.

Test Design Features

- You are free, within any section, to skip questions and come back to them later or change the answer to a question.
- Answers are entered in the test book, rather than a separate answer sheet.

Test-taking Strategies

The questions in the Verbal Reasoning measure have a variety of formats. Some require you to select a single answer choice; others require you to select one or more answer choices. Make sure when answering a question that you understand what response is required.

When taking a Verbal Reasoning section, you are free, within that section, to skip questions that you might have difficulty answering and come back to them later during the time provided to work on that section. Also during that time you may change the answer to any question in that section by erasing it completely and filling in an alternative answer. Be careful not to leave any stray marks in the answer area, as they may be interpreted as incorrect responses. You can, however, safely make notes or perform calculations on other parts of the page. No additional scratch paper will be provided.

Your Verbal Reasoning score will be determined by the number of questions you answer correctly. Nothing is subtracted from a score if you answer a question incorrectly. Therefore, to maximize your score on the Verbal Reasoning measure, it is best to answer every question.

Work as rapidly as you can without being careless. Since no question carries greater weight than any other, do not waste time pondering individual questions you find extremely difficult or unfamiliar.

You may want to go through each of the Verbal Reasoning sections rapidly first, stopping only to answer questions you can answer with certainty. Then go back and answer the questions that require greater thought, concluding with the difficult questions if you have time.

During the actual administration of the revised General Test, you may work only on the section the test center supervisor designates and only for the time allowed. You may *not* go back to an earlier section of the test after the supervisor announces, "Please stop work" for that section. The supervisor is authorized to dismiss you from the center for doing so.

All answers must be recorded in the test book.

How the Verbal Reasoning Measure Is Scored

Scoring of the Verbal Reasoning measure is essentially a two-step process. First a raw score is computed. The raw score is the number of questions answered correctly in the two sections for the measure. The raw score is then converted to a scaled score through a process known as equating. The equating process accounts for minor variations in difficulty among the different test editions. Thus a given scaled score reflects the same level of performance regardless of which edition of the test was taken.

Score Reporting

A Verbal Reasoning score is reported on a 130-170 score scale, in 1-point increments. If you do not answer any questions at all for the measure, you will receive a No Score (NS) for that measure.

The ScoreSelect[®] Option

The ScoreSelect[®] option is available for both the GRE revised General Test and GRE Subject Tests and can be used by anyone with reportable scores from the last five years. This option lets you send institutions your best scores. For your free score reports you can send scores from your Most Recent test administration or scores from All test administrations in your reportable history. After test day, you can send scores from your *Most Recent, All, or Any* specific test administration (s) for a fee when ordering Additional Score Reports. Just remember, scores for a test administration must be reported in their entirety. For more information, visit www.ets.org/gre/scoreselect.

Score Reporting Time Frames

Scores from computer-delivered GRE revised General Test administrations are reported approximately 10 to 15 days after the test date. Scores from paper-delivered administrations are reported within six weeks after the test date. If you are applying to a graduate or business school program, be sure to review the appropriate admissions deadlines and plan to take the test in time for your scores to reach the institution.

For more information on score reporting, visit the GRE website at www.ets.org/gre/scores/get.

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2 Test Content

Your goals for this chapter

- ⇒ Learn the three types of GRE® Verbal Reasoning questions
- ⇒ Get tips for answering each question type
- ⇒ Study examples of GRE Verbal Reasoning questions

Overview of the Verbal Reasoning Measure

The Verbal Reasoning measure assesses your ability to analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it, to analyze relationships among component parts of sentences, and to recognize relationships among words and concepts.

Verbal Reasoning questions appear in several formats, each of which is discussed in detail below. About half of the measure requires you to read passages and answer questions on those passages. The other half requires you to read, interpret, and complete existing sentences, groups of sentences, or paragraphs. Many, but not all, of the questions are standard multiple-choice questions, in which you are required to select a single correct answer; others ask you to select multiple correct answers; and still others ask you to select a sentence from the passage. The number of choices varies depending on the type of question.

Verbal Reasoning Question Types

The Verbal Reasoning measure contains three types of questions:

- Reading Comprehension
- Text Completion
- Sentence Equivalence

In this section you will study each of these question types in turn, and you'll learn valuable strategies for answering each type. Turn the page to begin.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Reading Comprehension questions are designed to test a wide range of abilities required to read and understand the kinds of prose commonly encountered in graduate school. Those abilities include

- understanding the meaning of individual words
- understanding the meaning of individual sentences
- understanding the meaning of paragraphs and larger bodies of text
- distinguishing between minor and major points
- summarizing a passage
- drawing conclusions from the information provided
- reasoning from incomplete data, inferring missing information
- understanding the structure of a text, how the parts relate to one another
- identifying the author's perspective
- identifying the author's assumptions
- analyzing a text and reaching conclusions about it
- identifying strengths and weaknesses
- developing and considering alternative explanations

As this list implies, reading and understanding a piece of text requires far more than a passive understanding of the words and sentences it contains — it requires active engagement with the text, asking questions, formulating and evaluating hypotheses, and reflecting on the relationship of the particular text to other texts and information.

Each Reading Comprehension question is based on a passage, which may range in length from one paragraph to several paragraphs. The test contains approximately ten passages; the majority of the passages in the test are one paragraph in length, and only one or two are several paragraphs long. Passages are drawn from the physical sciences, the biological sciences, the social sciences, the arts and humanities, and everyday topics, and are based on material found in books and periodicals, both academic and nonacademic.

Typically, about half of the questions on the test will be based on passages, and the number of questions based on a given passage can range from one to six. Questions can cover any of the topics listed above, from the meaning of a particular word to assessing evidence that might support or weaken points made in the passage. Many, but not all, of the questions are standard multiple-choice questions, in which you are required to select a single correct answer; others ask you to select multiple correct answers; and still others ask you to select a sentence from the passage. These question types are presented in more detail below, and you should make sure that you are familiar with the differences among them.

General Advice

Reading passages are drawn from many different disciplines and sources, so you may encounter material with which you are not familiar. Do not be discouraged when this happens; all the questions can be answered on the basis of the information provided in the passage, and you are not expected to rely on any outside knowledge. If, however, you encounter a passage that seems particularly hard or unfamiliar, you may want to save it for last.

- Read and analyze the passage carefully before trying to answer any of the questions and pay attention to clues that help you understand less explicit aspects of the passage.
 - Try to distinguish main ideas from supporting ideas or evidence.
 - Try to distinguish ideas that the author is advancing from those he or she is merely reporting.
 - Similarly, try to distinguish ideas that the author is strongly committed to from those he or she advances as hypothetical or speculative.
 - Try to identify the main transitions from one idea to the next.
 - Try to identify the relationship between different ideas. For example:
 - Are they contrasting? Are they consistent?
 - Does one support the other?
 - Does one spell another out in greater detail?
 - Is one an application of another to a particular circumstance?
- Read each question carefully and be certain that you understand exactly what is being asked.
- Answer each question on the basis of the information provided in the passage and do not rely on outside knowledge. Sometimes your own views or opinions may conflict with those presented in a passage; if this happens, take special care to work within the context provided by the passage. You should not expect to agree with everything you encounter in the reading passages.

Reading Comprehension Multiple-choice Questions: Select One Answer Choice

Description

These are the traditional multiple-choice questions with five answer choices of which you must select one.

Tips for Answering

- **Read all the answer choices before making your selection**, even if you think you know what the answer is in advance.
- **Don't be misled by answer choices that are only partially true or only partially answer the question.** The correct answer is the one that most accurately and most completely answers the question posed. Be careful also not to pick an answer choice simply because it is a true statement.
- **Pay attention to context.** When the question asks about the meaning of a word in the passage, be sure that the answer choice you select correctly represents the way the word is being used in the passage. Many words have quite different meanings in different contexts.

Test Content

Reading Comprehension Multiple-choice Questions: Select One or More Answer Choices

Description

These provide three answer choices and ask you to select all that are correct; one, two, or all three of the answer choices may be correct. To gain credit for these questions, you must select all the correct answers, and only those; there is no credit for partially correct answers. These questions are marked with square boxes beside the answer choices, not circles or ovals.

Tips for Answering

- **Evaluate each answer choice separately on its own merits.** When evaluating one answer choice, do not take the others into account.
- **Make sure the answer choice you pick accurately and completely answers the question posed.** Be careful not to be misled by answer choices that are only partially true or only partially answer the question. Be careful also not to pick an answer choice simply because it is a true statement.
- **Do not be disturbed if you think all three answer choices are correct.** Questions of this type can have three correct answer choices.

Reading Comprehension Questions: Select-in-Passage

Description

The question asks you to click on the sentence in the passage that meets a certain description. To answer the question, choose one of the sentences and click on it; clicking anywhere on a sentence will highlight it. In longer passages, the question will usually apply to only one or two specified paragraphs, marked by an arrow (►); clicking on a sentence elsewhere in the passage will not highlight it.

Note. Because this type of question requires the use of the computer, it does not appear in the paper-delivered General Test. Similar multiple-choice questions are used in its place.

Tips for Answering

- **Be careful to evaluate each of the relevant sentences in the passage separately before selecting your answer.** Do not evaluate any sentences that are outside the paragraphs under consideration.
- **Do not select a sentence if the description given in the question only partially applies.** A correct answer choice must accurately match the description in the question. Note, however, that the description need not be complete, that is, there may be aspects of the sentence that are not fully described in the question.

Sample Question Set

Reviving the practice of using elements of popular music in classical composition, an approach that had been in hibernation in the United States during the 1960s, composer Philip Glass (born 1937) embraced the ethos of popular music in his compositions. Glass based two symphonies on music by rock musicians David Bowie and Brian Eno, but the 5 symphonies' sound is distinctively his. Popular elements do not appear out of place in Glass's classical music, which from its early days has shared certain harmonies and rhythms with rock music. Yet this use of popular elements has not made Glass a composer of popular music. His music is not a version of popular music packaged to attract classical listeners; it is high art for listeners steeped in rock rather than the classics.

Select only one answer choice.

1. The passage addresses which of the following issues related to Glass's use of popular elements in his classical compositions?
 - (A) How it is regarded by listeners who prefer rock to the classics
 - (B) How it has affected the commercial success of Glass's music
 - (C) Whether it has contributed to a revival of interest among other composers in using popular elements in their compositions
 - (D) Whether it has had a detrimental effect on Glass's reputation as a composer of classical music
 - (E) Whether it has caused certain of Glass's works to be derivative in quality

Consider each of the three choices separately and select all that apply.

2. The passage suggests that Glass's work displays which of the following qualities?
 - [A] A return to the use of popular music in classical compositions
 - [B] An attempt to elevate rock music to an artistic status more closely approximating that of classical music
 - [C] A long-standing tendency to incorporate elements from two apparently disparate musical styles
3. Select the sentence that distinguishes two ways of integrating rock and classical music.

Explanations

The passage describes in general terms how Philip Glass uses popular music in his classical compositions and explores how Glass can do this without being imitative. Note that there are no opposing views discussed; the author is simply presenting his or her views. **Question 1:**

One of the important points that the passage makes is that when Glass uses popular elements in his music, the result is very much his own creation (it is "distinctively his"). In other words, the music is far from being derivative. Thus one issue that the passage addresses is the one referred to in answer **Choice E**—it answers it in the negative. The passage does not discuss the impact of Glass's use of popular elements on listeners, on the commercial success of his music, on other composers, nor on Glass's reputation, so none of Choices A through D is correct.

The correct answer is **Choice E**.

Test Content

Question 2: To answer this question, it is important to assess each answer choice independently. Since the passage says that Glass revived the use of popular music in classical compositions, answer **Choice A** is clearly correct. On the other hand, the passage also denies that Glass composes popular music or packages it in a way to elevate its status, so answer Choice B is incorrect. Finally, since Glass's style has always mixed elements of rock with classical elements, **Choice C** is correct.

Thus the correct answer is **Choice A and Choice C**.

Question 3: Almost every sentence in the passage refers to incorporating rock music in classical compositions, but only the last sentence distinguishes two ways of doing so. It distinguishes between writing rock music in a way that will make it attractive to classical listeners and writing classical music that will be attractive to listeners familiar with rock.

Thus the correct answer is **the last sentence of the passage**.

Text Completion Questions

Description

As mentioned above, skilled readers do not simply absorb the information presented on the page; instead, they maintain a constant attitude of interpretation and evaluation, reasoning from what they have read so far to create a picture of the whole and revising that picture as they go. Text Completion questions test this ability by omitting crucial words from short passages and asking the test taker to use the remaining information in the passage as a basis for selecting words or short phrases to fill the blanks and create a coherent, meaningful whole.

Question Structure

- Passage composed of one to five sentences
- One to three blanks
- Three answer choices per blank (five answer choices in the case of a single blank)
- The answer choices for different blanks function independently; that is, selecting one answer choice for one blank does not affect what answer choices you can select for another blank
- Single correct answer, consisting of one choice for each blank; no credit for partially correct answers

Tips for Answering

Do not merely try to consider each possible combination of answers; doing so will take too long and is open to error. Instead, try to analyze the passage in the following way:

- **Read through the passage to get an overall sense of it.**
- **Identify words or phrases that seem particularly significant,** either because they emphasize the structure of the passage (words like *although* or *moreover*) or because they are central to understanding what the passage is about.
- **Think up your own words for the blanks.** Try to fill in the blanks with words or phrases that seem to you to fit and then see if similar words are offered among the answer choices.
- **Do not assume that the first blank is the one that should be filled first.** Perhaps one of the other blanks is easier to fill first. Select your choice for that blank, and then see whether you can complete another blank. If none of the choices for the other blank seem to make sense, go back and reconsider your first selection.
- **Double-check your answers.** When you have made your selection for each blank, check to make sure that the passage is logically, grammatically, and stylistically coherent.

Sample Questions

For each blank select one entry from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. It is refreshing to read a book about our planet by an author who does not allow facts to be (i)_____ by politics: well aware of the political disputes about the effects of human activities on climate and biodiversity, this author does not permit them to (ii)_____ his comprehensive description of what we know about our biosphere. He emphasizes the enormous gaps in our knowledge, the sparseness of our observations, and the (iii)_____, calling attention to the many aspects of planetary evolution that must be better understood before we can accurately diagnose the condition of our planet.

Blank (i)
(A) overshadowed
(B) invalidated
(C) illuminated

Blank (ii)
(D) enhance
(E) obscure
(F) underscore

Blank (iii)
(G) plausibility of our hypotheses
(H) certainty of our entitlement
(I) superficiality of our theories

Explanation

The overall tone of the passage is clearly complimentary. To understand what the author of the book is being complimented on, it is useful to focus on the second blank. Here, we must determine what word would indicate something that the author is praised for not permitting. The only answer choice that fits the case is “obscure,” since enhancing and underscoring are generally good things to do, not things one should refrain from doing. Choosing “obscure” clarifies the choice for the first blank; the only choice that fits well with “obscure” is “overshadowed.” Notice that trying to fill blank (i) without filling blank (ii) first is very hard—each choice has at least some initial plausibility. Since the third blank requires a phrase that matches “enormous gaps” and “sparseness of our observations,” the best choice is “superficiality of our theories.”

Thus the correct answer is **overshadowed** (Choice A), **obscure** (Choice E), and **superficiality of our theories** (Choice I).

2. Vain and prone to violence, Caravaggio could not handle success: the more his (i)_____ as an artist increased, the more (ii)_____ his life became.

Blank (i)

- | |
|----------------|
| (A) temperance |
| (B) notoriety |
| (C) eminence |

Blank (ii)

- | |
|-------------------|
| (D) tumultuous |
| (E) providential |
| (F) dispassionate |

Explanation

In this sentence, what follows the colon must explain or spell out what precedes it. So roughly what the second part must say is that as Caravaggio became more successful, his life got more out of control. When one looks for words to fill the blanks, it becomes clear that “tumultuous” is the best fit for blank (ii), since neither of the other choices suggests being out of control. And for blank (i), the best choice is “eminence,” since to increase in eminence is a consequence of becoming more successful. It is true that Caravaggio might also increase in notoriety, but an increase in notoriety as an artist is not as clear a sign of success as an increase in eminence.

Thus the correct answer is **eminence** (Choice C) and **tumultuous** (Choice D).

3. In parts of the Arctic, the land grades into the landfast ice so _____ that you can walk off the coast and not know you are over the hidden sea.

- | |
|-------------------|
| (A) permanently |
| (B) imperceptibly |
| (C) irregularly |
| (D) precariously |
| (E) relentlessly |

Explanation

The word that fills the blank has to characterize how the land grades into the ice in a way that explains how you can walk off the coast and over the sea without knowing it. The word that does that is “imperceptibly”; if the land grades imperceptibly into the ice, you might well not know that you had left the land. Describing the shift from land to ice as permanent, irregular, precarious, or relentless would not help to explain how you would fail to know.

Thus the correct answer is **imperceptibly** (Choice B).

Sentence Equivalence Questions

Description

Like Text Completion questions, Sentence Equivalence questions test the ability to reach a conclusion about how a passage should be completed on the basis of partial information, but to a greater extent they focus on the meaning of the completed whole. Sentence Equivalence questions consist of a single sentence with just one blank, and they ask you to find two choices that both lead to a complete, coherent sentence and that produce sentences that mean the same thing.

Question Structure

- Consists of:
 - a single sentence
 - one blank
 - six answer choices
- Requires you to select two of the answer choices; no credit for partially correct answers.

These questions are marked with square boxes beside the answer choices, not circles or ovals.

Tips for Answering

Do not simply look among the answer choices for two words that mean the same thing. This can be misleading for two reasons. First, the answer choices may contain pairs of words that mean the same thing but do not fit coherently into the sentence, and thus do not constitute a correct answer. Second, the pair of words that do constitute the correct answer may not mean exactly the same thing, since all that matters is that the resultant sentences mean the same thing.

- **Read the sentence to get an overall sense of it.**
- **Identify words or phrases that seem particularly significant,** either because they emphasize the structure of the sentence (words like *although* or *moreover*) or because they are central to understanding what the sentence is about.
- **Think up your own words for the blanks.** Try to fill in the blank with a word that seems to you to fit and then see if two similar words are offered among the answer choices. If you find some word that is similar to what you are expecting but cannot find a second one, do not become fixated on your interpretation; instead, see whether there are other words among the answer choices that can be used to fill the blank coherently.
- **Double-check your answers.** When you have selected your pair of answer choices for the blank, check to make sure that each one produces a sentence that is logically, grammatically, and stylistically coherent, and that the two sentences mean the same thing.

Sample Questions

Select the **two** answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

1. Although it does contain some pioneering ideas, one would hardly characterize the work as _____.

- A orthodox
- B eccentric
- C original
- D trifling
- E conventional
- F innovative

Explanation

The word “Although” is a crucial signpost here. The work contains some pioneering ideas, but apparently it is not overall a pioneering work. Thus the two words that could fill the blank appropriately are “original” and “innovative.” Note that “orthodox” and “conventional” are two words that are very similar in meaning, but neither one completes the sentence sensibly.

Thus the correct answer is **original** (Choice C) and **innovative** (Choice F).

2. It was her view that the country’s problems had been _____ by foreign technocrats, so that to ask for such assistance again would be counterproductive.

- A ameliorated
- B ascertained
- C diagnosed
- D exacerbated
- E overlooked
- F worsened

Explanation

The sentence relates a piece of reasoning, as indicated by the presence of “so that”: asking for the assistance of foreign technocrats would be counterproductive because of the effects such technocrats have had already. This means that the technocrats must have bad effects; that is, they must have “exacerbated” or “worsened” the country’s problems.

Thus the correct answer is **exacerbated** (Choice D) and **worsened** (Choice F).

3 Questi Readir

Type 1: Comprehension

Your goals for this chapter

- ⇒ Practice answering GRE Reading Comprehension questions
- ⇒ Review answers and explanations, particularly for questions you answered incorrectly

This chapter contains three sets of practice Reading Comprehension questions.

The sets are arranged in order of increasing difficulty; one easy set, one medium, and one hard.

Following the third set are answer keys for quick reference. Then, at the end of the chapter, you will find complete explanations for every question. Passages with more than one associated question are followed by a brief description that outlines the content of the passage. Each question is then presented in turn, together with its explanation, so that you can easily see what was asked and what the various answer choices were.

Sharpen your GRE Verbal Reasoning skills by working your way through these question sets, remembering to use the Tips for Answering given in Chapter 2. Begin with the easy set and then move on to the medium-difficulty and hard sets. Review the answer explanations carefully, paying particular attention to the explanations for questions that you answered incorrectly.

- Were you able to understand the overall meaning of the passage?
- Were you able to understand how the different parts of the passage were related to one another?
- Were you able to identify the parts of the passage relevant to answering each question?

Question Type 1: Reading Comprehension

PRACTICE SET 1: Easy

For each of Questions 1 to 9, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

Ragwort was accidentally introduced to New Zealand in the late nineteenth century and, like so many invading foreign species, quickly became a pest. By the 1920s, the weed was rampant. What made matters worse was that its proliferation coincided with Line sweeping changes in agriculture and a massive shift from sheep farming to dairying.

5 Ragwort contains a battery of toxic and resilient alkaloids: even honey made from its flowers contains the poison in dilute form. Livestock generally avoid grazing where ragwort is growing, but they will do so once it displaces grass and clover in their pasture. Though sheep can eat it for months before showing any signs of illness, if cattle eat it they sicken quickly, and fatality can even result.

1. The passage suggests that the proliferation of ragwort was particularly ill-timed because it
 - (A) coincided with and exacerbated a decline in agriculture
 - (B) took place in conditions that enabled the ragwort to spread faster than it otherwise would have done
 - (C) led to an increase in the amount of toxic compounds contained in the plants
 - (D) prevented people from producing honey that could be eaten safely
 - (E) had consequences for livestock that were more dramatic than they otherwise would have been

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

2. The passage implies which of the following about the problems ragwort poses to dairy farmers?
 - [A] Milk produced by cows that eat ragwort causes illness in humans who drink it.
 - [B] Ragwort can supplant the plants normally eaten by cattle.
 - [C] Cattle, unlike sheep, are unable to differentiate between ragwort and healthy grazing.

Despite the fact that the health-inspection procedures for catering establishments are more stringent than those for ordinary restaurants, more of the cases of food poisoning reported to the city health department were brought on by banquets served by catering services than were brought on by restaurant meals.

3. Which of the following, if true, helps explain the apparent paradox in the statement above?
 - (A) A significantly larger number of people eat in restaurants than attend catered banquets in any given time period.
 - (B) Catering establishments know how many people they expect to serve, and therefore are less likely than restaurants to have, and serve, leftover food, a major source of food poisoning.
 - (C) Many restaurants provide catering services for banquets in addition to serving individual meals.
 - (D) The number of reported food-poisoning cases at catered banquets is unrelated to whether the meal is served on the caterer's or the client's premises.
 - (E) People are unlikely to make a connection between a meal they have eaten and a subsequent illness unless the illness strikes a group who are in communication with one another.

African American newspapers in the 1930s faced many hardships. For instance, knowing that buyers of African American papers also bought general-circulation papers, advertisers of consumer products often ignored African American publications.

- Line* Advertisers' discrimination did free the African American press from advertiser
 5 domination. Editors could print politically charged material more readily than could the large national dailies, which depended on advertisers' ideological approval to secure revenues. Unfortunately, it also made the selling price of Black papers much higher than that of general-circulation dailies. Often as much as two-thirds of publication costs had to come from subscribers or subsidies from community politicians and other
 10 interest groups. And despite their editorial freedom, African American publishers often felt compelled to print a disproportionate amount of sensationalism, sports, and society news to boost circulation.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

4. The passage suggests that if advertisers had more frequently purchased advertising in African American newspapers, then which of the following might have resulted?
 - (A) African American newspapers would have given more attention to sports and society news than they did.
 - (B) African American newspapers would have been available at lower prices than large national dailies were.
 - (C) African American newspapers would have experienced constraints on their content similar to those experienced by large national dailies.

Question Type 1: Reading Comprehension

5. The author of the passage suggests which of the following about the “advertisers” (line 3) mentioned in the passage?
- (A) They assumed that advertising in African American newspapers would not significantly increase the sales of their products.
 - (B) They failed to calculate accurately the circulation of African American newspapers.
 - (C) They did not take African Americans’ newspaper reading into account when making decisions about where to advertise.
 - (D) They avoided African American newspapers partly because of their sensationalism.
 - (E) They tried to persuade African American newspapers to lower the rates charged for advertising.

Years ago, consumers in Frieland began paying an energy tax in the form of two Frieland pennies for each unit of energy consumed that came from nonrenewable sources. Following the introduction of this energy tax, there was a steady reduction in the total yearly consumption of energy from nonrenewable sources.

6. If the statements in the passage are true, then which of the following must on the basis of them be true?
- (A) There was a steady decline in the yearly revenues generated by the energy tax in Frieland.
 - (B) There was a steady decline in the total amount of energy consumed each year in Frieland.
 - (C) There was a steady increase in the use of renewable energy sources in Frieland.
 - (D) The revenues generated by the energy tax were used to promote the use of energy from renewable sources.
 - (E) The use of renewable energy sources in Frieland greatly increased relative to the use of nonrenewable energy sources.

- In a plausible but speculative scenario, oceanographer Douglas Martinson suggests that temperature increases caused by global warming would not significantly affect the stability of the Antarctic environment, where sea ice forms on the periphery of the continent in the autumn and winter and mostly disappears in the summer. True, less sea ice would form in the winter because global warming would cause temperatures to rise. However, Martinson argues, the effect of a warmer atmosphere may be offset as follows. The formation of sea ice causes the concentration of salt in surface waters to increase; less sea ice would mean a smaller increase in the concentration of salt. Less salty surface waters would be less dense and therefore less likely to sink and stir up deep water. The deep water, with all its stored heat, would rise to the surface at a slower rate. Thus, although the winter sea-ice cover might decrease, the surface waters would remain cold enough so that the decrease would not be excessive.
- Line 5 10
7. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is true of the surface waters in the current Antarctic environment?
- (A) They are more affected by annual fluctuations in atmospheric temperatures than they would be if they were less salty.
(B) They are less salty than they would be if global warming were to occur.
(C) They are more likely to sink and stir up deep waters than they would be if atmospheric temperatures were to increase.
(D) They are able to offset some of the effects of global warming beyond the Antarctic region.
(E) They are less affected by the temperature of deep water than they would be if atmospheric temperatures were to increase.
8. The passage suggests that Martinson believes which of the following about deep waters in the Antarctic region?
- (A) They rise to the surface more quickly than they would if global warming were to occur.
(B) They store heat that will exacerbate the effects of increases in atmospheric temperatures.
(C) They would be likely to be significantly warmed by an increase in atmospheric temperatures.
(D) They would be more salty than they currently are if global warming were to occur.
(E) They are less likely to be stirred up when surface waters are intensely salty than when surface waters are relatively unsalty.
9. According to the passage, which of the following is true about the sea ice that surrounds the Antarctic continent?
- (A) The amount of sea ice that forms in the winter has been declining.
(B) Most of the sea ice that forms in the winter remains intact in the summer.
(C) Even small changes in the amount of sea ice dramatically affect the temperature of the surface waters.
(D) Changes in the amount of sea ice due to global warming would significantly affect the stability of the Antarctic environment.
(E) Changes in the amount of sea ice affect the degree of saltiness of the surface waters.

Question Type 1: Reading Comprehension

PRACTICE SET 2: Medium

For each of Questions 1 to 11, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

Line

That sales can be increased by the presence of sunlight within a store has been shown by the experience of the only Savefast department store with a large skylight. The sky-light allows sunlight into half of the store, reducing the need for artificial light. The rest of the store uses only artificial light. Since the store opened two years ago, the departments on the sunlit side have had substantially higher sales than the other departments.

5

1. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?
 - (A) On particularly cloudy days, more artificial light is used to illuminate the part of the store under the skylight.
 - (B) When the store is open at night, the departments in the part of the store under the skylight have sales that are no higher than those of other departments.
 - (C) Many customers purchase items from departments in both parts of the store on a single shopping trip.
 - (D) Besides the skylight, there are several significant architectural differences between the two parts of the store.
 - (E) The departments in the part of the store under the skylight are the departments that generally have the highest sales in other stores in the Savefast chain.

Line

While the best sixteenth-century Renaissance scholars mastered the classics of ancient Roman literature in the original Latin and understood them in their original historical context, most of the scholars' educated contemporaries knew the classics only from school lessons on selected Latin texts. These were chosen by Renaissance teachers after much deliberation, for works written by and for the sophisticated adults of pagan Rome were not always considered suitable for the Renaissance young: the central Roman classics refused (as classics often do) to teach appropriate morality and frequently suggested the opposite. Teachers accordingly made students' needs, not textual and historical accuracy, their supreme interest, chopping dangerous texts into short phrases, and using these to impart lessons extemporaneously on a variety of subjects, from syntax to science. Thus, I believe that a modern reader cannot know the associations that a line of ancient Roman poetry or prose had for any particular educated sixteenth-century reader.

5

10

2. The passage is primarily concerned with discussing the
 - (A) unsuitability of the Roman classics for the teaching of morality
 - (B) approach that sixteenth-century scholars took to learning the Roman classics
 - (C) effect that the Roman classics had on educated people in the Renaissance
 - (D) way in which the Roman classics were taught in the sixteenth century
 - (E) contrast between the teaching of the Roman classics in the Renaissance and the teaching of the Roman classics today

3. The information in the passage suggests that which of the following would most likely result from a student's having studied the Roman classics under a typical sixteenth-century teacher?
- (A) The student recalls a line of Roman poetry in conjunction with a point learned about grammar.
(B) The student argues that a Roman poem about gluttony is not morally offensive when it is understood in its historical context.
(C) The student is easily able to express thoughts in Latin.
(D) The student has mastered large portions of the Roman classics.
(E) The student has a sophisticated knowledge of Roman poetry but little knowledge of Roman prose.
4. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the assertion made in the passage concerning what a modern reader cannot know?
- (9) Some modern readers are thoroughly familiar with the classics of ancient Roman literature because they majored in classics in college or obtained doctoral degrees in classics.
(B) Some modern readers have learned which particular works of Roman literature were taught to students in the sixteenth century.
(C) Modern readers can, with some effort, discover that sixteenth-century teachers selected some seemingly dangerous classical texts while excluding other seemingly innocuous texts.
(D) Copies of many of the classical texts used by sixteenth-century teachers, including marginal notes describing the oral lessons that were based on the texts, can be found in museums today.
(E) Many of the writings of the best sixteenth-century Renaissance scholars have been translated from Latin and are available to modern readers.

Question Type 1: Reading Comprehension

In humans, the pilomotor reflex leads to the response commonly known as goose bumps, and this response is widely considered to be vestigial—that is, something formerly having a greater physiological advantage than at present. It occurs when the tiny muscle at the base of a hair follicle contracts, pulling the hair upright. In animals with feathers, fur, or quills, this creates a layer of insulating warm air or a reason for predators to think twice before attacking. But human hair is too puny to serve these functions. Goose bumps in humans may, however, have acquired a new role. Like flushing—another thermoregulatory (heat-regulating) mechanism—goose bumps have become linked with emotional responses, notably fear, rage, or the pleasure of, say, ¹⁰listening to beautiful music. They may thus serve as a signal to others.

- Line 5 5. In explaining the “new role” (line 7) that goose bumps in humans may have acquired, the author assumes which of the following?
 - (A) Emotional responses in humans can be triggered by thermoregulatory mechanisms.
 - (B) The perceptibility of emotional responses to other humans offers some kind of benefit.
 - (C) If human hair were more substantial, goose bumps would not have acquired a new role.
 - (D) Goose bumps in animals with feathers, fur, or quills may also be linked to emotional responses.
 - (E) In humans, goose bumps represent an older physiological response than flushing.
6. Which of the following best describes the primary function of the next-to-last sentence (“Like . . . music”)?
 - (A) It makes a distinction between two types of mechanisms.
 - (C) It corrects a common misconception about the role of goose bumps in humans.
 - (C) It suggests reasons for the connection between emotional responses and goose bumps in humans.
 - (D) It suggests that flushing and goose bumps signal the same emotional state.
 - (E) It helps explain a possible role played by goose bumps in humans.

This passage is adapted from material published in 2001.

Frederick Douglass was unquestionably the most famous African American of the nineteenth century; indeed, when he died in 1895 he was among the most distinguished public figures in the United States. In his study of Douglass' career as a major figure in the movement to abolish slavery and as a spokesman for Black rights, Waldo Martin has provoked controversy by contending that Douglass also deserves a prominent place in the intellectual history of the United States because he exemplified so many strands of nineteenth-century thought: romanticism, idealism, individualism, liberal humanism, and an unshakable belief in progress. But this very argument provides ammunition for those who claim that most of Douglass' ideas, being so representative of their time, are now obsolete. Douglass' vision of the future as a melting pot in which all racial and ethnic differences would dissolve into "a composite American nationality" appears from the pluralist perspective of many present-day intellectuals to be not only utopian but even wrongheaded. Yet there is a central aspect of Douglass' thought that seems not in the least bit dated or irrelevant to current concerns. He has no rival in the history of the nineteenth-century United States as an insistent and effective critic of the doctrine of innate racial inequality. He not only attacked racist ideas in his speeches and writings, but he offered his entire career and all his achievements as living proof that racists were wrong in their belief that one race could be inherently superior to another.

While Martin stresses Douglass' antiracist egalitarianism, he does not adequately explain how this aspect of Douglass' thought fits in with his espousal of the liberal Victorian attitudes that many present-day intellectuals consider to be naïve and outdated. The fact is that Douglass was attracted to these democratic-capitalist ideals of his time because they could be used to attack slavery and the doctrine of White supremacy. His favorite rhetorical strategy was to expose the hypocrisy of those who, while professing adherence to the ideals of democracy and equality of opportunity, condoned slavery and racial discrimination. It would have been strange indeed if he had not embraced liberal idealism, because it proved its worth for the cause of racial equality during the national crisis that eventually resulted in emancipation and citizenship for African Americans. These points may seem obvious, but had Martin given them more attention, his analysis might have constituted a more convincing rebuttal to those critics who dismiss Douglass' ideology as a relic of the past. If one accepts the proposition that Douglass' deepest commitment was to Black equality and that he used the liberal ideals of his time as weapons in the fight for that cause, then it is hard to fault him for seizing the best weapons at hand.

7. The passage as a whole can best be described as doing which of the following?
- (A) Explaining Douglass' emergence as a major figure in the movement to abolish slavery
 - (B) Tracing the origins of Douglass' thought in nineteenth-century romanticism, idealism, and liberal humanism
 - (C) Analyzing Douglass' speeches and writings from a modern, pluralist perspective
 - (D) Criticizing Martin for failing to stress the contradiction between Douglass' principles and the liberal Victorian attitudes of his day
 - (E) Formulating a response to those who consider Douglass' political philosophy to be archaic and irrelevant
8. It can be inferred that the “present-day intellectuals” (line 12) believe that
- (A) although Douglass used democratic-capitalist ideas to attack slavery and racial inequality, he did not sincerely believe in those ideas
 - (B) the view that Douglass was representative of the intellectual trends of his time is obsolete
 - (C) Douglass' opposition to the doctrine of innate racial inequality is irrelevant to current concerns
 - (D) Douglass' commitment to Black equality does not adequately account for his naïve attachment to quaint liberal Victorian political views
 - (E) Douglass' goal of ultimately doing away with all racial and ethnic differences is neither achievable nor desirable
9. According to the passage, Douglass used which of the following as evidence against the doctrine of innate racial inequality?
- (A) His own life story
 - (B) His vision of a composite American nationality
 - (C) The hypocrisy of self-professed liberal idealists
 - (D) The inevitability of the emancipation of African Americans
 - (E) The fact that most prominent intellectuals advocated the abolition of slavery
10. Each of the following is mentioned in the passage as an element of Douglass' ideology EXCEPT
- (A) idealism
 - (B) egalitarianism
 - (C) capitalism
 - (D) pluralism
 - (E) humanism

The plant called the scarlet gilia can have either red or white flowers. It had long been thought that hummingbirds, which forage by day, pollinate its red flowers and that hawkmoths, which forage at night, pollinate its white flowers. To try to show that this pattern of pollination by colors exists, scientists recently covered some scarlet gilia flowers only at night and others only by day: plants with red flowers covered at night became pollinated; plants with white flowers covered by day became pollinated.

- Line 5 D Which of the following, if true, would be additional evidence to suggest that hummingbirds are attracted to the red flowers and hawkmoths to the white flowers of the scarlet gilia?
- (A) Uncovered scarlet gilia flowers, whether red or white, became pollinated at approximately equal rates.
 - (B) Some red flowers of the scarlet gilia that remained uncovered at all times never became pollinated.
 - (C) White flowers of the scarlet gilia that were covered at night became pollinated with greater frequency than white flowers of the scarlet gilia that were left uncovered.
 - (D) Scarlet gilia plants with red flowers covered by day and scarlet gilia plants with white flowers covered at night remained unpollinated.
 - (E) In late August, when most of the hummingbirds had migrated but hawkmoths were still plentiful, red scarlet gilia plants produced fruit more frequently than they had earlier in the season.

Question Type 1: Reading Comprehension

PRACTICE SET 3: Hard

For each of Questions 1 to 10, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

Supernovas in the Milky Way are the likeliest source for most of the cosmic rays reaching Earth. However, calculations show that supernovas cannot produce ultrahigh-energy cosmic rays (UHECRs), which have energies exceeding 10^{18} electron volts. It would seem sensible to seek the source of these in the universe's most conspicuous energy factories: quasars and gamma-ray bursts billions of light-years away from Earth. But UHECRs tend to collide with photons of the cosmic microwave background—pervasive radiation that is a relic of the early universe. The odds favor a collision every 20 million light-years, each collision costing 20 percent of the cosmic ray's energy. Consequently, no cosmic ray traveling much beyond 100 million light-years can retain the energy observed in UHECRs.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

1. It can be inferred that the author of the passage would agree with which of the following about the origin of UHECRs that reach Earth?
 - [A] The origin is something other than supernovas in the Milky Way.
 - [B] The origin is most likely something other than very distant quasars or gamma-ray bursts.
 - [C] The origin is most likely no more than a little over 100 million light-years away from Earth.

2. In the context of the author's argument, the last sentence performs which of the following functions?
 - [A] It explains a criterion that was employed earlier in the argument.
 - [B] It shows that an apparently plausible position is actually self-contradictory.
 - [C] It is a conclusion drawn in the course of refuting a potential explanation.
 - [D] It overturns an assumption on which an opposing position depends.
 - [E] It states the main conclusion that the author is seeking to establish.

The massive influx of women cyclists—making up at least a third of the total market—was perhaps the most striking and profound social consequence of the mid-1890s cycling boom. Although the new, improved bicycle had appealed immediately to a few privileged women, its impact would have been modest had it not attracted a greater cross section of the female population. It soon became apparent that many of these pioneer women bicyclists had not taken up the sport as an idle pastime. Rather, they saw cycling as a noble cause to be promoted among all women as a means to improve the general female condition. Not only would cycling encourage healthy outdoor exercise, they reasoned, it would also hasten long-overdue dress reform. To feminists, ¹⁰the bicycle affirmed nothing less than the dignity and equality of women.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

3. Which of the following statements about women cyclists is supported by the passage?
- [A] The newly improved bicycle of the mid-1890s appealed mostly to women in a privileged position.
 [B] The great majority of women in the mid-1890s considered cycling an idle pastime.
 [C] Women bicyclists promoted cycling as a healthy form of outdoor exercise.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

4. Which of the following does the passage suggest about pioneer women cyclists?
- [A] They saw cycling as a means to promote the advancement of women.
 [B] They argued that cycling would encourage women to get involved in a variety of noble causes.
 [C] They provided several reasons for a cross section of the female population to use the bicycle.
5. Which of the following best describes the function of the second sentence (“Although . . . population”)?
- [A] It corrects a common misconception regarding the use of the bicycle in the mid-1890s.
 [B] It elaborates on a claim made in the previous sentence regarding a social consequence of the cycling boom.
 [C] It provides a context in which to understand the increased popularity of bicycle riding among privileged women.
 [D] It explains why cycling attracted such a significant cross section of women.
 [E] It describes the demographic characteristics of the consumer market for bicycles in the mid-1890s.

Question Type 1: Reading Comprehension

Line 5 What causes a helix in nature to appear with either a dextral (right-handed, or clockwise) twist or a sinistral (left-handed, or counterclockwise) twist is one of the most intriguing puzzles in the science of form. Most spiral-shaped snail species are predominantly dextral. But at one time, handedness (twist direction of the shell) was equally distributed within some snail species that have become predominantly dextral or, in a few species, predominantly sinistral. What mechanisms control handedness and keep left-handedness rare?

It would seem unlikely that evolution should discriminate against sinistral snails if sinistral and dextral snails are exact mirror images, for any disadvantage that a sinistral 10 twist in itself could confer on its possessor is almost inconceivable. But left- and right-handed snails are not actually true mirror images of one another. Their shapes are noticeably different. Sinistral rarity might, then, be a consequence of possible disadvantages conferred by these other concomitant structural features. In addition, perhaps left- and right-handed snails cannot mate with each other, having 15 incompatible twist directions. Presumably an individual of the rarer form would have relative difficulty in finding a mate of the same hand, thus keeping the rare form rare or creating geographically separated right- and left-handed populations.

But this evolutionary mechanism combining dissymmetry, anatomy, and chance does not provide an adequate explanation of why right-handedness should have 20 become predominant. It does not explain, for example, why the infrequent unions between snails of opposing hands produce fewer offspring of the rarer than the commoner form in species where each parent contributes equally to handedness. Nor does it explain why, in a species where one parent determines handedness, a brood is c. not exclusively right- or left-handed when the offspring would have the same genetic predisposition. In the European pond snail *Lymnaea peregra*, a predominantly dextral species whose handedness is maternally determined, a brood might be expected to be exclusively right- or left-handed—and this often occurs. However, some broods possess a few snails of the opposing hand, and in predominantly sinistral broods, the incidence of dextrality is surprisingly high.

30 Here, the evolutionary theory must defer to a theory based on an explicit developmental mechanism that can favor either right- or left-handedness. In the case of *Lymnaea peregra*, studies indicate that a dextral gene is expressed during egg formation; i.e., before egg fertilization, the gene produces a protein, found in the cytoplasm of the egg, that controls the pattern of cell division and thus handedness. In 35 experiments, an injection of cytoplasm from dextral eggs changes the pattern of sinistral eggs, but an injection from sinistral eggs does not influence dextral eggs. One explanation for the differing effects is that all *Lymnaea peregra* eggs begin left-handed but most switch to being right-handed. Thus the path to a solution to the puzzle of handedness in all snails appears to be as twisted as the helix itself.

6. Which of the following would serve as an example of “concomitant structural features” (line 13) that might disadvantage a snail of the rarer form?
 - (A) A shell and body that are an exact mirror image of a snail of the commoner form
 - (B) A smaller population of the snails of the rarer form
 - (C) A chip or fracture in the shell caused by an object falling on it
 - (D) A pattern on the shell that better camouflages it
 - (E) A smaller shell opening that restricts mobility and ingestion relative to that of a snail of the commoner form

7. The second paragraph of the passage is primarily concerned with offering possible reasons why
- (A) it is unlikely that evolutionary mechanisms could discriminate against sinistral snails
 - (B) sinistrality is relatively uncommon among snail species
 - (C) dextral and sinistral populations of a snail species tend to intermingle
 - (D) a theory based on a developmental mechanism inadequately accounts for the predominance of dextrality across snail species
 - (E) dextral snails breed more readily than sinistral snails, even within predominantly sinistral populations
8. Which of the following accurately describes the relationship between the evolutionary and developmental theories discussed in the passage?
- (A) Although the two theories reach the same conclusion, each is based on different assumptions.
 - (B) They present contradictory explanations of the same phenomenon.
 - (C) The second theory accounts for certain phenomena that the first cannot explain.
 - (D) The second theory demonstrates why the first is valid only for very unusual, special cases.
 - (E) They are identical and interchangeable in that the second theory merely restates the first in less technical terms.
9. It can be inferred from the passage that a predominantly sinistral snail species might stay predominantly sinistral for each of the following reasons EXCEPT for
- (A) a developmental mechanism that affects the cell-division pattern of snails
 - (B) structural features that advantage dextral snails of the species
 - (C) a relatively small number of snails of the same hand for dextral snails of the species to mate with
 - (D) anatomical incompatibility that prevents mating between snails of opposing hands within the species
 - (E) geographic separation of sinistral and dextral populations

Question Type 1: Reading Comprehension

X-ray examination of a recently discovered painting—judged by some authorities to be a self-portrait by Vincent van Gogh—revealed an underimage of a woman’s face. Either van Gogh or another painter covered the first painting with the portrait now seen on the surface of the canvas. Because the face of the woman in the underimage also appears on 5 canvases van Gogh is known to have painted, the surface painting must be an authentic self-portrait by van Gogh.

10. The conclusion is properly drawn if which of the following is assumed?

- (A) If a canvas already bears a painted image produced by an artist, a second artist who uses the canvas to produce a new painting tends to be influenced by the style of the first artist.
- (B) Many painted canvases that can be reliably attributed to van Gogh contain underimages of subjects that appear on at least one other canvas that van Gogh is known to have painted.
- (C) Any painted canvas incorrectly attributed to van Gogh would not contain an underimage of a subject that appears in authentic paintings by that artist.
- (D) A painted canvas cannot be reliably attributed to an artist unless the authenticity of any underimage that painting might contain can be reliably attributed to the artist.
- (E) A painted canvas cannot be reliably attributed to a particular artist unless a reliable x-ray examination of the painting is performed.

ANSWER KEY

PRACTICE SET 1: Easy

1. **Choice E:** had consequences for livestock that were more dramatic than they otherwise would have been
2. **Choice B:** Ragwort can supplant the plants normally eaten by cattle.
3. **Choice E:** People are unlikely to make a connection between a meal they have eaten and a subsequent illness unless the illness strikes a group who are in communication with one another.
4. **Choice C:** African American newspapers would have experienced constraints on their content similar to those experienced by large national dailies.
5. **Choice A:** They assumed that advertising in African American newspapers would not significantly increase the sales of their products.
6. **Choice A:** There was a steady decline in the yearly revenues generated by the energy tax in Frieland.
7. **Choice C:** They are more likely to sink and stir up deep waters than they would be if atmospheric temperatures were to increase.
8. **Choice A:** They rise to the surface more quickly than they would if global warming were to occur.
9. **Choice E:** Changes in the amount of sea ice affect the degree of saltiness of the surface waters.

PRACTICE SET 2: Medium

1. **Choice B:** When the store is open at night, the departments in the part of the store under the skylight have sales that are no higher than those of other departments.
2. **Choice D:** way in which the Roman classics were taught in the sixteenth century
3. **Choice A:** The student recalls a line of Roman poetry in conjunction with a point learned about grammar.
4. **Choice D:** Copies of many of the classical texts used by sixteenth-century teachers, including marginal notes describing the oral lessons that were based on the texts, can be found in museums today.
5. **Choice B:** The perceptibility of emotional responses to other humans offers some kind of benefit.
6. **Choice E:** It helps explain a possible role played by goose bumps in humans.
7. **Choice E:** Formulating a response to those who consider Douglass' political philosophy to be archaic and irrelevant
8. **Choice E:** Douglass' goal of ultimately doing away with all racial and ethnic differences is neither achievable nor desirable
9. **Choice A:** His own life story
10. **Choice D:** pluralism
11. **Choice D:** Scarlet gilia plants with red flowers covered by day and scarlet gilia plants with white flowers covered at night remained unpollinated.

PRACTICE SET 3: Hard

1. **Choice A:** The origin is something other than supernovas in the Milky Way. AND
Choice B: The origin is most likely something other than very distant quasars or gamma-ray bursts.
AND
Choice C: The origin is most likely no more than a little over 100 million light-years away from Earth.
2. **Choice C:** It is a conclusion drawn in the course of refuting a potential explanation.
3. **Choice C:** Women bicyclists promoted cycling as a healthy form of outdoor exercise.
4. **Choice A:** They saw cycling as a means to promote the advancement of women. AND
Choice C: They provided several reasons for a cross section of the female population to use the bicycle.
5. **Choice B:** It elaborates on a claim made in the previous sentence regarding a social consequence of the cycling boom.
6. **Choice E:** A smaller shell opening that restricts mobility and ingestion relative to that of a snail of the commoner form
7. **Choice B:** sinistrality is relatively uncommon among snail species
8. **Choice C:** The second theory accounts for certain phenomena that the first cannot explain.
9. **Choice B:** structural features that advantage dextral snails of the species
10. **Choice C:** Any painted canvas incorrectly attributed to van Gogh would not contain an underimage of a subject that appears in authentic paintings by that artist.

Answers and Explanations

PRACTICE SET 1: Easy

For each of Questions 1 to 9, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

- Ragwort was accidentally introduced to New Zealand in the late nineteenth century and, like so many invading foreign species, quickly became a pest. By the 1920s, the weed was rampant. What made matters worse was that its proliferation coincided with sweeping changes in agriculture and a massive shift from sheep farming to dairying.
- Line 5 Ragwort contains a battery of toxic and resilient alkaloids: even honey made from its flowers contains the poison in dilute form. Livestock generally avoid grazing where ragwort is growing, but they will do so once it displaces grass and clover in their pasture. Though sheep can eat it for months before showing any signs of illness, if cattle eat it they sicken quickly, and fatality can even result.

Description

The passage discusses the introduction of ragwort to New Zealand and explains why the plant had a significant negative impact on New Zealand's agriculture.

1. The passage suggests that the proliferation of ragwort was particularly ill-timed because it
 - (A) coincided with and exacerbated a decline in agriculture
 - (B) took place in conditions that enabled the ragwort to spread faster than it otherwise would have done
 - (C) led to an increase in the amount of toxic compounds contained in the plants
 - (D) prevented people from producing honey that could be eaten safely
 - (E) had consequences for livestock that were more dramatic than they otherwise would have been

Explanation

The passage mentions that ragwort's impact on New Zealand's agriculture was especially severe because the plant's proliferation "coincided with sweeping changes in agriculture that saw a massive shift from sheep farming to dairying." The severity of the impact was increased because cattle, which were displacing sheep, are much more sensitive than sheep to the toxins contained in ragwort. This points to **Choice E** as the correct answer choice. Nothing in the passage suggests that the proliferation of ragwort coincided with a decline in agriculture (Choice A), occurred faster than it might have done (Choice B), or made the plants more toxic (Choice C). There is a suggestion that ragwort honey might not be safe for humans, but there is no indication that this made the timing of the proliferation particularly unfortunate.

Question Type 1: Reading Comprehension

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

2. The passage implies which of the following about the problems ragwort poses to dairy farmers?
- [A] Milk produced by cows that eat ragwort causes illness in humans who drink it.
 [B] Ragwort can supplant the plants normally eaten by cattle.
 [C] Cattle, unlike sheep, are unable to differentiate between ragwort and healthy grazing.

Explanation

Choice B is correct. The question asks about the problems ragwort poses to dairy farmers.

Choice A is incorrect: The passage does not mention the effect of ragwort consumption on the milk produced by cows.

Choice B is correct: The passage mentions that livestock will eat ragwort “once it displaces grass and clover in their pasture.”

Choice C is incorrect: The passage claims that “livestock generally avoid grazing where ragwort is growing,” but does not make a distinction between cattle and sheep.

Despite the fact that the health-inspection procedures for catering establishments are more stringent than those for ordinary restaurants, more of the cases of food poisoning reported to the city health department were brought on by banquets served by catering services than were brought on by restaurant meals.

3. Which of the following, if true, helps explain the apparent paradox in the statement above?
- (A) A significantly larger number of people eat in restaurants than attend catered banquets in any given time period.
 (B) Catering establishments know how many people they expect to serve, and therefore are less likely than restaurants to have, and serve, leftover food, a major source of food poisoning.
 (C) Many restaurants provide catering services for banquets in addition to serving individual meals.
 (D) The number of reported food-poisoning cases at catered banquets is unrelated to whether the meal is served on the caterer’s or the client’s premises.
 (E) People are unlikely to make a connection between a meal they have eaten and a subsequent illness unless the illness strikes a group who are in communication with one another.

Explanation

The question calls for an explanation of why more cases of reported food poisoning might be attributed to catering services than to restaurants. Choices A and B both provide reasons why restaurants should account for more cases, so they are incorrect. Choice C would suggest that there would be negligible differences between the likelihood of food poisoning at restaurants and at catered events, so it also sheds no light on the paradox and is therefore incorrect. Since the argument does not pertain to the location of catered banquets, Choice D is incorrect. That leaves Choice E. People who attend banquets are more likely than restaurant patrons to be part of a group that communicates with one another, so **Choice E** would help explain the higher number of reported food poisonings and is the correct answer.

African American newspapers in the 1930s faced many hardships. For instance, knowing that buyers of African American papers also bought general-circulation papers, advertisers of consumer products often ignored African American publications.

- Line* Advertisers' discrimination did free the African American press from advertiser domination. Editors could print politically charged material more readily than could the large national dailies, which depended on advertisers' ideological approval to secure revenues. Unfortunately, it also made the selling price of Black papers much higher than that of general-circulation dailies. Often as much as two-thirds of publication costs had to come from subscribers or subsidies from community politicians and other interest groups. And despite their editorial freedom, African American publishers often felt compelled to print a disproportionate amount of sensationalism, sports, and society news to boost circulation.

Description

The passage discusses challenges and opportunities faced by African American newspapers in the 1930s.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

4. The passage suggests that if advertisers had more frequently purchased advertising in African American newspapers, then which of the following might have resulted?
- [A] African American newspapers would have given more attention to sports and society news than they did.
 - [B] African American newspapers would have been available at lower prices than large national dailies were.
 - [C] African American newspapers would have experienced constraints on their content similar to those experienced by large national dailies.

Explanation

Choice C is correct. The question asks about the consequences of more advertising in African American newspapers.

Choice A is incorrect: The passage states that publishers of African American newspapers felt compelled to publish sports and society news even without any pressure from advertisers, so advertising revenue was not a factor in their editorial decisions.

Choice B is incorrect: The passage says that lack of advertising revenue made African American newspapers more expensive than the large national dailies, implying that if advertisers had purchased space, the difference in price would have been smaller; but nothing in the passage supports the claim that African American newspapers would have been cheaper than the large national dailies.

Choice C is correct: The passage states that large newspapers could not readily print politically charged material because they “depended on advertisers’ ideological approval to secure revenues,” so it can be expected that African American newspapers would have experienced similar constraints if they also had depended on advertisers for revenues.

5. The author of the passage suggests which of the following about the “advertisers” (line 3) mentioned in the passage?
 - (A) They assumed that advertising in African American newspapers would not significantly increase the sales of their products.
 - (B) They failed to calculate accurately the circulation of African American newspapers.
 - (C) They did not take African Americans’ newspaper reading into account when making decisions about where to advertise.
 - (D) They avoided African American newspapers partly because of their sensationalism.
 - (E) They tried to persuade African American newspapers to lower the rates charged for advertising.

Explanation

The second sentence of the passage states that “knowing that buyers of African American newspapers also bought general-circulation papers, advertisers of consumer products often ignored African American publications.” This suggests that advertisers believed that the majority of the people who read African American newspapers would see the advertisements when they read general-circulation papers, and that the number of people who read *only* African American newspapers was too small to justify buying advertising space there. Therefore **Choice A** is correct.

Years ago, consumers in Frieland began paying an energy tax in the form of two Frieland pennies for each unit of energy consumed that came from nonrenewable sources. Following the introduction of this energy tax, there was a steady reduction in the total yearly consumption of energy from nonrenewable sources.

6. If the statements in the passage are true, then which of the following must on the basis of them be true?
- (A) There was a steady decline in the yearly revenues generated by the energy tax in Frieland.
 - (B) There was a steady decline in the total amount of energy consumed each year in Frieland.
 - (C) There was a steady increase in the use of renewable energy sources in Frieland.
 - (D) The revenues generated by the energy tax were used to promote the use of energy from renewable sources.
 - (E) The use of renewable energy sources in Frieland greatly increased relative to the use of nonrenewable energy sources.

Explanation

Since the energy tax is based upon the number of units of nonrenewable energy consumed, and since the number of units of nonrenewable energy declined, revenues generated by the energy tax must have declined as well. **Choice A** is therefore the correct answer. The passage gives no information on changes in the total amount of energy consumed, changes in the amount of energy from renewable sources that was used, or what revenues raised by the tax were used for, so all the other choices are incorrect.

Question Type 1: Reading Comprehension

In a plausible but speculative scenario, oceanographer Douglas Martinson suggests that temperature increases caused by global warming would not significantly affect the stability of the Antarctic environment, where sea ice forms on the periphery of the continent in the autumn and winter and mostly disappears in the summer. True, less sea ice would form in the winter because global warming would cause temperatures to rise. However, Martinson argues, the effect of a warmer atmosphere may be offset as follows. The formation of sea ice causes the concentration of salt in surface waters to increase; less sea ice would mean a smaller increase in the concentration of salt. Less salty surface waters would be less dense and therefore less likely to sink and stir up deep water. The deep water, with all its stored heat, would rise to the surface at a slower rate. Thus, although the winter sea-ice cover might decrease, the surface waters would remain cold enough so that the decrease would not be excessive.

Description

The passage explains a scenario in which warming would not cause a significant change in Antarctica's environment by detailing the processes triggered by the formation of sea ice, and considering what might occur in the absence of those processes.

7. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is true of the surface waters in the current Antarctic environment?
 - (A) They are more affected by annual fluctuations in atmospheric temperatures than they would be if they were less salty.
 - (B) They are less salty than they would be if global warming were to occur.
 - (C) They are more likely to sink and stir up deep waters than they would be if atmospheric temperatures were to increase.
 - (D) They are able to offset some of the effects of global warming beyond the Antarctic region.
 - (E) They are less affected by the temperature of deep water than they would be if atmospheric temperatures were to increase.

Explanation

Choice C is correct. The passage states that rising temperatures would decrease the amount of sea ice formed in the winter, and that this change would result in surface water that is less salty, and thus less likely to sink. The current situation, then, results in the opposite: surface waters that are more likely to sink. Choices A and D are incorrect because the passage gives no information about how fluctuating temperatures would affect less salty water or about the relationship between the Antarctic region and the rest of the planet. Choices B and E are incorrect because they are both the opposite of what the passage implies about surface waters in the current environment.

8. The passage suggests that Martinson believes which of the following about deep waters in the Antarctic region?
- (A) They rise to the surface more quickly than they would if global warming were to occur.
 - (B) They store heat that will exacerbate the effects of increases in atmospheric temperatures.
 - (C) They would be likely to be significantly warmed by an increase in atmospheric temperatures.
 - (D) They would be more salty than they currently are if global warming were to occur.
 - (E) They are less likely to be stirred up when surface waters are intensely salty than when surface waters are relatively unsalty.

Explanation

Choice A is correct. The passage states that, in Martinson's scenario, the deep water would rise to the surface at a slower rate were warming to occur. He must believe, then, that the water currently rises to the surface more quickly. As for Choice B, while the passage indeed states that deep waters in Antarctica store heat, it also suggests that this heat would be less likely to reach the surface and worsen global warming. Choice B is therefore incorrect. Choice E is incorrect because it contradicts information given in the passage. Choices C and D are incorrect because, while the passage discusses the effects of global warming on the temperature and salinity of *surface* water, it gives no information of warming's effects on the temperature and salinity of *deep* water.

- E According to the passage, which of the following is true about the sea ice that surrounds the Antarctic continent?
- (A) The amount of sea ice that forms in the winter has been declining.
 - (B) Most of the sea ice that forms in the winter remains intact in the summer.
 - (C) Even small changes in the amount of sea ice dramatically affect the temperature of the surface waters.
 - (D) Changes in the amount of sea ice due to global warming would significantly affect the stability of the Antarctic environment.
 - (E) Changes in the amount of sea ice affect the degree of saltiness of the surface waters.

Explanation

Choice E is correct: according to the passage, "less sea ice would mean a smaller increase in the concentration of salt." Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they are all contrary to the information presented in the passage. Choice A is incorrect because the passage does not compare current amounts of sea ice with past quantities; it instead proposes a hypothetical scenario involving a possible future decline of sea ice formation.

Question Type 1: Reading Comprehension

PRACTICE SET 2: Medium

For each of Questions 1 to 11, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

Line

5

That sales can be increased by the presence of sunlight within a store has been shown by the experience of the only Savefast department store with a large skylight. The sky-light allows sunlight into half of the store, reducing the need for artificial light. The rest of the store uses only artificial light. Since the store opened two years ago, the departments on the sunlit side have had substantially higher sales than the other departments.

1. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?
 - (A) On particularly cloudy days, more artificial light is used to illuminate the part of the store under the skylight.
 - (B) When the store is open at night, the departments in the part of the store under the skylight have sales that are no higher than those of other departments.
 - (C) Many customers purchase items from departments in both parts of the store on a single shopping trip.
 - (D) Besides the skylight, there are several significant architectural differences between the two parts of the store.
 - (E) The departments in the part of the store under the skylight are the departments that generally have the highest sales in other stores in the Savefast chain.

Explanation

The passage compares sales of items in the sunlit part of the store with sales of items in the artificially lit part of the store and concludes that since the former are greater than the latter, the presence of sunlight increases sales. The assumption underlying this argument is that the only significant difference between the two parts of the store is the presence of sunlight—otherwise, the inherent popularity of goods sold in different locations, or some other factor, might account for the increased sales. **Choice B** helps rule out the possibility that other factors might be involved, by showing that sales are no greater when the sunlight is taken out of the equation. Therefore it is the correct answer. Choices D and E both suggest that factors besides sunlight might explain the discrepancy between sales; therefore they weaken rather than strengthen the argument, and so are incorrect. Neither Choice A nor Choice C point to differences between the two areas of the store; therefore they are both incorrect as well.

While the best sixteenth-century Renaissance scholars mastered the classics of ancient Roman literature in the original Latin and understood them in their original historical context, most of the scholars' educated contemporaries knew the classics only from school lessons on selected Latin texts. These were chosen by Renaissance teachers after much deliberation, for works written by and for the sophisticated adults of pagan Rome were not always considered suitable for the Renaissance young: the central Roman classics refused (as classics often do) to teach appropriate morality and frequently suggested the opposite. Teachers accordingly made students' needs, not textual and historical accuracy, their supreme interest, chopping dangerous texts into short phrases, and using these to impart lessons extemporaneously on a variety of subjects, from syntax to science.

Thus, I believe that a modern reader cannot know the associations that a line of ancient Roman poetry or prose had for any particular educated sixteenth-century reader.

Description

The passage contrasts the way in which Renaissance scholars studied and contextualized classic Roman texts with the ways in which students of the era were taught snippets of Latin excerpted from them. The methods and motives of Renaissance teachers are explained, and the passage concludes by asserting that this pedagogical practice prevents modern readers from understanding the meanings that such snippets held for most Renaissance readers.

2. The passage is primarily concerned with discussing the
 - (A) unsuitability of the Roman classics for the teaching of morality
 - (B) approach that sixteenth-century scholars took to learning the Roman classics
 - (C) effect that the Roman classics had on educated people in the Renaissance
 - (D) way in which the Roman classics were taught in the sixteenth century
 - (E) contrast between the teaching of the Roman classics in the Renaissance and the teaching of the Roman classics today

Explanation

The passage focuses primarily on the way Roman classics were taught during the Renaissance, so **Choice D** is the correct answer. The approach that sixteenth-century scholars took is mentioned, but it serves only to introduce and contrast with the pedagogical methods used in schools; therefore Choice B is incorrect. The passage mentions a supposed incompatibility between Roman classics and the teaching of morality as motivating Renaissance teaching methods, but that incompatibility is not the passage's main topic; thus Choice A is incorrect. Choices C and E are also incorrect, since the passage does not discuss the effect of Roman classics on educated Renaissance people or the teaching of Roman classics today.

3. The information in the passage suggests that which of the following would most likely result from a student's having studied the Roman classics under a typical sixteenth-century teacher?
- (A) The student recalls a line of Roman poetry in conjunction with a point learned about grammar.
 - (B) The student argues that a Roman poem about gluttony is not morally offensive when it is understood in its historical context.
 - (C) The student is easily able to express thoughts in Latin.
 - (D) The student has mastered large portions of the Roman classics.
 - (E) The student has a sophisticated knowledge of Roman poetry but little knowledge of Roman prose.

Explanation

Choice A is correct. The passage specifically mentions syntax as one of the subjects that the pieces of text served to illustrate; therefore it is logical that students would associate the text with the grammar point it was used to teach. Choices B and D are incorrect because the passage implies that students were not given the context or tools to place Roman classics in context, or to read and master large portions of works. Choices C and E are also incorrect, since the passage makes no mention of Latin composition being taught, or of any differences in the ways in which Roman poetry and prose were treated in schools.

4. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the assertion made in the passage concerning what a modern reader cannot know?
- (A) Some modern readers are thoroughly familiar with the classics of ancient Roman literature because they majored in classics in college or obtained doctoral degrees in classics.
 - (B) Some modern readers have learned which particular works of Roman literature were taught to students in the sixteenth century.
 - (C) Modern readers can, with some effort, discover that sixteenth-century teachers selected some seemingly dangerous classical texts while excluding other seemingly innocuous texts.
 - (D) Copies of many of the classical texts used by sixteenth-century teachers, including marginal notes describing the oral lessons that were based on the texts, can be found in museums today.
 - (E) Many of the writings of the best sixteenth-century Renaissance scholars have been translated from Latin and are available to modern readers.

Explanation

The passage asserts that modern readers cannot know the associations Roman poetry had for Renaissance readers, because those associations arose from the specific ways Roman texts were presented in schools. This assertion assumes that there is no way for modern readers to know how such texts were taught during the Renaissance. **Choice D** shows a way that scholars can recover this pedagogical context and is therefore the correct choice. Since the passage's assertion does not depend on modern readers' familiarity with the classics, with their knowledge of which works were taught in schools, with the inclusion or exclusion by sixteenth-century teachers of specific texts, or with the accessibility of the works of Renaissance scholars, all the other choices are incorrect.

In humans, the pilomotor reflex leads to the response commonly known as goose bumps, and this response is widely considered to be vestigial—that is, something formerly having a greater physiological advantage than at present. It occurs when the tiny muscle at the base of a hair follicle contracts, pulling the hair upright. In animals with feathers, fur, or quills, this creates a layer of insulating warm air or a reason for predators to think twice before attacking. But human hair is too puny to serve these functions. Goose bumps in humans may, however, have acquired a new role. Like flushing—another thermoregulatory (heat-regulating) mechanism—goose bumps have become linked with emotional responses, notably fear, rage, or the pleasure of, say, ¹⁰ listening to beautiful music. They may thus serve as a signal to others.

Line

- 5
- with feathers, fur, or quills, this creates a layer of insulating warm air or a reason for predators to think twice before attacking. But human hair is too puny to serve these functions. Goose bumps in humans may, however, have acquired a new role. Like flushing—another thermoregulatory (heat-regulating) mechanism—goose bumps have become linked with emotional responses, notably fear, rage, or the pleasure of, say, ¹⁰ listening to beautiful music. They may thus serve as a signal to others.

Description

The passage describes the physiological phenomenon of pilomotor reflex (or “goose bumps”) and discusses its usefulness in animals and in human beings.

5. In explaining the “new role” (line 7) that goose bumps in humans may have acquired, the author assumes which of the following?
- (A) Emotional responses in humans can be triggered by thermoregulatory mechanisms.
 - (B) The perceptibility of emotional responses to other humans offers some kind of benefit.
 - (C) If human hair were more substantial, goose bumps would not have acquired a new role.
 - (D) Goose bumps in animals with feathers, fur, or quills may also be linked to emotional responses.
 - (E) In humans, goose bumps represent an older physiological response than flushing.

Explanation

The passage addresses the question of why the pilomotor reflex has survived in human beings despite the fact that its original functions—to insulate and to appear larger to predators—are no longer useful. The suggested reason is that the reflex “has acquired a new role,” namely, as a means to signal to others that one is experiencing a strong emotion. This assumes that the ability to send such a signal is useful to human beings; therefore **Choice B** is correct.

6. Which of the following best describes the primary function of the next-to-last sentence (“Like . . . music”)?
- (A) It makes a distinction between two types of mechanisms.
 - (B) It corrects a common misconception about the role of goose bumps in humans.
 - (C) It suggests reasons for the connection between emotional responses and goose bumps in humans.
 - (D) It suggests that flushing and goose bumps signal the same emotional state.
 - (E) It helps explain a possible role played by goose bumps in humans.

Explanation

The next-to-last sentence says that goose bumps in humans now serve as an outward sign of strong emotion. If so, this would explain how they could have taken on another role, so **Choice E** is correct. The sentence does not make a distinction (Choice A), correct a misconception (Choice B), suggest any reason for the connection between emotion and goose bumps (Choice C), or suggest that flushing and goose bumps signal the same state (Choice D).

This passage is adapted from material published in 2001.

Frederick Douglass was unquestionably the most famous African American of the nineteenth century; indeed when he died in 1895 he was among the most distinguished public figures in the United States. In his study of Douglass' career as a major figure in the movement to abolish slavery and as a spokesman for Black rights, Waldo Martin has

Line 5 provoked controversy by contending that Douglass also deserves a prominent place in the intellectual history of the United States because he exemplified so many strands of nineteenth-century thought: romanticism, idealism, individualism, liberal humanism, and an unshakable belief in progress. But this very argument provides ammunition for those who claim that most of Douglass' ideas, being so representative of their time, are
 10 now obsolete. Douglass' vision of the future as a melting pot in which all racial and ethnic differences would dissolve into "a composite American nationality" appears from the pluralist perspective of many present-day intellectuals to be not only utopian but even wrongheaded. Yet there is a central aspect of Douglass' thought that seems not in the least bit dated or irrelevant to current concerns. He has no rival in the history of the
 15 nineteenth-century United States as an insistent and effective critic of the doctrine of innate racial inequality. He not only attacked racist ideas in his speeches and writings, but he offered his entire career and all his achievements as living proof that racists were wrong in their belief that one race could be inherently superior to another.

20 While Martin stresses Douglass' antiracist egalitarianism, he does not adequately explain how this aspect of Douglass' thought fits in with his espousal of the liberal Victorian attitudes that many present-day intellectuals consider to be naïve and outdated. The fact is that Douglass was attracted to these democratic-capitalist ideals of his time because they could be used to attack slavery and the doctrine of White supremacy. His favorite rhetorical strategy was to expose the hypocrisy of those who, while professing
 25 adherence to the ideals of democracy and equality of opportunity, condoned slavery and racial discrimination. It would have been strange indeed if he had not embraced liberal idealism, because it proved its worth for the cause of racial equality during the national crisis that eventually resulted in emancipation and citizenship for African Americans. These points may seem obvious, but had Martin given them more attention,
 30 his analysis might have constituted a more convincing rebuttal to those critics who dismiss Douglass' ideology as a relic of the past. If one accepts the proposition that Douglass' deepest commitment was to Black equality and that he used the liberal ideals of his time as weapons in the fight for that cause, then it is hard to fault him for seizing the best weapons at hand.

Description

The passage discusses the views of the nineteenth-century African American intellectual Frederick Douglass and asserts their continuing relevance to the issues of the modern era. The second paragraph critiques a book about Douglass written by Waldo Martin and faults the author for failing to adequately explain some apparent inconsistencies in Douglass' political views.

7. The passage as a whole can best be described as doing which of the following?

- (A) Explaining Douglass' emergence as a major figure in the movement to abolish slavery
- (B) Tracing the origins of Douglass' thought in nineteenth-century romanticism, idealism, and liberal humanism
- (C) Analyzing Douglass' speeches and writings from a modern, pluralist perspective
- (D) Criticizing Martin for failing to stress the contradiction between Douglass' principles and the liberal Victorian attitudes of his day
- (E) Formulating a response to those who consider Douglass' political philosophy to be archaic and irrelevant

Explanation

The passage discusses the views and intellectual legacy of Frederick Douglass. The key claim in the first paragraph is that while some of Douglass' views are no longer widely accepted, "there is a central aspect of Douglass' thought that seems not the least bit dated or irrelevant to our current concerns" (lines 13–14). The second paragraph critiques a study of Douglass' career by Waldo Martin and claims that Martin has failed to offer a "convincing rebuttal to those critics who dismiss Douglass' ideology as a relic of the past" (lines 30–31). This indicates that **Choice E** is correct.

8. It can be inferred that the "present-day intellectuals" (line 12) believe that

- (A) although Douglass used democratic-capitalist ideas to attack slavery and racial inequality, he did not sincerely believe in those ideas
- (B) the view that Douglass was representative of the intellectual trends of his time is obsolete
- (C) Douglass' opposition to the doctrine of innate racial inequality is irrelevant to current concerns
- (D) Douglass' commitment to Black equality does not adequately account for his naïve attachment to quaint liberal Victorian political views
- (E) Douglass' goal of ultimately doing away with all racial and ethnic differences is neither achievable nor desirable

Explanation

"Present-day intellectuals" are mentioned on line 12; the claim there is that these intellectuals consider Douglass' vision of America as "a melting pot in which all racial and ethnic differences would dissolve" (lines 10–11) as "utopian" and "wrongheaded" (lines 12–13). This points to **Choice E** as correct.

9. According to the passage, Douglass used which of the following as evidence against the doctrine of innate racial inequality?
- (A) His own life story
 - (B) His vision of a composite American nationality
 - (C) The hypocrisy of self-professed liberal idealists
 - (D) The inevitability of the emancipation of African Americans
 - (E) The fact that most prominent intellectuals advocated the abolition of slavery

Explanation

One of the claims in the passage is that Frederick Douglass “offered his entire career and all his achievements as living proof that racists were wrong in their belief that one race could be inherently superior to another” (lines 17–18). Thus **Choice A** is correct.

10. Each of the following is mentioned in the passage as an element of Douglass’ ideology EXCEPT
- (A) idealism
 - (B) egalitarianism
 - (C) capitalism
 - (D) pluralism
 - (E) humanism

Explanation

The passage claims that Douglass “exemplified . . . idealism, . . . liberal humanism” (lines 6–7); it implies that Douglass espoused “antiracist egalitarianism” (line 19) and states that “Douglass was attracted to . . . democratic-capitalist ideals of his time” (line 22). This rules out Choices A, B, C, and E and leaves **Choice D** as correct. Indeed, the mention of “Douglass’ vision of the future as a melting pot in which all racial and ethnic differences would dissolve” (lines 10–11) shows that Douglass was not a plural-ist, i.e. was not someone who aimed at preserving and celebrating ethnic and cultural differences.

The plant called the scarlet gilia can have either red or white flowers. It had long been thought that hummingbirds, which forage by day, pollinate its red flowers and that hawkmoths, which forage at night, pollinate its white flowers. To try to show that this pattern of pollination by colors exists, scientists recently covered some scarlet gilia flowers only at night and others only by day: plants with red flowers covered at night became pollinated; plants with white flowers covered by day became pollinated.

Line

5

11. Which of the following, if true, would be additional evidence to suggest that hummingbirds are attracted to the red flowers and hawkmoths to the white flowers of the scarlet gilia?

- (A) Uncovered scarlet gilia flowers, whether red or white, became pollinated at approximately equal rates.
- (B) Some red flowers of the scarlet gilia that remained uncovered at all times never became pollinated.
- (C) White flowers of the scarlet gilia that were covered at night became pollinated with greater frequency than white flowers of the scarlet gilia that were left uncovered.
- (D) Scarlet gilia plants with red flowers covered by day and scarlet gilia plants with white flowers covered at night remained unpollinated.
- (E) In late August, when most of the hummingbirds had migrated but hawkmoths were still plentiful, red scarlet gilia plants produced fruit more frequently than they had earlier in the season.

Explanation

The results reported in the last sentence of the passage suggest that hummingbirds do pollinate red-flowered plants and that hawkmoths do pollinate white-flowered plants. But to prove that they are attracted preferentially to those colors requires knowing whether they also pollinate flowers of the other color that are uncovered during their respective foraging hours—white flowers uncovered during hummingbirds’ daytime hours, and red flowers uncovered during hawkmoths’ nocturnal hours. **Choice D** states that such plants remain unpollinated, so it is the correct answer. Of the other options, both Choices C and E could suggest the opposite of what is required, so they are incorrect. Choice A is incorrect because the comparative frequency at which uncovered gilia flowers are pollinated has no bearing on the argument. Likewise, the presence of some quantity of unpollinated flowers of either color does not affect the argument, so Choice B is also incorrect.

Question Type 1: Reading Comprehension

PRACTICE SET 3: Hard

For each of Questions 1 to 10, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

Supernovas in the Milky Way are the likeliest source for most of the cosmic rays reaching Earth. However, calculations show that supernovas cannot produce ultrahigh-energy cosmic rays (UHECRs), which have energies exceeding 10^{18} electron volts. It would seem sensible to seek the source of these in the universe's most conspicuous energy factories: quasars and gamma-ray bursts billions of light-years away from Earth. But UHECRs tend to collide with photons of the cosmic microwave background—pervasive radiation that is a relic of the early universe. The odds favor a collision every 20 million light-years, each collision costing 20 percent of the cosmic ray's energy. Consequently, no cosmic ray traveling much beyond 100 million ¹⁰ light-years can retain the energy observed in UHECRs.

Description

The passage discusses two hypotheses about the origins of ultrahigh-energy cosmic rays (UHECRs) and presents evidence suggesting that both hypotheses are probably false.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

- It can be inferred that the author of the passage would agree with which of the following about the origin of UHECRs that reach Earth?
 - [A] The origin is something other than supernovas in the Milky Way.
 - [B] The origin is most likely something other than very distant quasars or gamma-ray bursts.
 - [C] The origin is most likely no more than a little over 100 million light-years away from Earth.

Explanation

All three choices are correct. The question asks about claims the author would agree with.

Choice A is correct: The passage states that supernovas in the Milky Way “cannot produce ultrahigh-energy cosmic rays.”

Choice B is correct: Since very distant quasars and gamma-ray bursts are “billions of light-years away from Earth,” they are too far away for a UHECR to reach Earth. **Choice C** is correct: The last sentence of the passage states that “no cosmic ray traveling much beyond 100 million light-years can retain the energy observed in UHECRs.”

- In the context of the author’s argument, the last sentence performs which of the following functions?
 - (A) It explains a criterion that was employed earlier in the argument.
 - (B) It shows that an apparently plausible position is actually self-contradictory.
 - (C) It is a conclusion drawn in the course of refuting a potential explanation.
 - (D) It overturns an assumption on which an opposing position depends.
 - (E) It states the main conclusion that the author is seeking to establish.

Explanation

The last sentence is the conclusion of an argument in the last half of the passage; it puts a constraint on the possible origin of UHECRs relative to Earth and thereby rules out the possibility, mentioned earlier in the passage, that distant quasars and gamma-ray bursts could be the origin of UHECRs. Therefore **Choice C** is correct. It is important to note that the last sentence does not show any plausible position to be self-contradictory (Choice B), and that it does not state the author's main conclusion (Choice E), since it is relevant to only one of the two hypotheses considered in the passage.

The massive influx of women cyclists—making up at least a third of the total market—was perhaps the most striking and profound social consequence of the mid-1890s cycling boom. Although the new, improved bicycle had appealed immediately to a few

Line

privileged women, its impact would have been modest had it not attracted a greater
 5 cross section of the female population. It soon became apparent that many of these pioneer women bicyclists had not taken up the sport as an idle pastime. Rather, they saw cycling as a noble cause to be promoted among all women as a means to improve the general female condition. Not only would cycling encourage healthy outdoor exercise, they reasoned, it would also hasten long-overdue dress reform. To feminists,
 10 the bicycle affirmed nothing less than the dignity and equality of women.

Description

The passage discusses the widespread popularity of bicycling among women in the 1890s and mentions several reasons why this activity was seen as beneficial for women.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

3. Which of the following statements about women cyclists is supported by the passage?
 - [A] The newly improved bicycle of the mid-1890s appealed mostly to women in a privileged position.
 - [B] The great majority of women in the mid-1890s considered cycling an idle pastime.
 - [C] Women bicyclists promoted cycling as a healthy form of outdoor exercise.

Explanation

Choice C is correct. The question asks which of three statements about women cyclists are supported by the passage.

Choice A is incorrect: The second sentence of the passage states that the new bicycle appealed to a few privileged women right away, but then implies that it quickly “attracted a greater cross section of the female population.”

Choice B is incorrect: The third sentence of the passage explicitly states that many women “had not taken up [bicycling] as an idle pastime.”

Choice C is correct: The penultimate sentence of the passage implies that women bicyclists thought that cycling would “encourage healthy outdoor exercise.”

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

4. Which of the following does the passage suggest about pioneer women cyclists?

- [A] They saw cycling as a means to promote the advancement of women.
- [B] They argued that cycling would encourage women to get involved in a variety of noble causes.
- [C] They provided several reasons for a cross section of the female population to use the bicycle.

Explanation

Choices A and C are correct. The question asks what the passage suggests about pioneer women cyclists.

Choice A is correct: The passage states that pioneer women cyclists saw cycling “as a means to improve the general female condition” and believed that it “affirmed noth-ing less than the dignity and equality of women.”

Choice B is incorrect: The passage states that bicycle pioneers saw cycling itself as a noble cause but does not mention any other noble causes to which cycling would lead.

Choice C is correct. The passage mentions that pioneer women cyclists saw at least two independent reasons for all women to use bicycles: they believed that cycling would “encourage healthy outdoor exercise” as well as “hasten long-overdue dress reform.”

5. Which of the following best describes the function of the second sentence (“Although . . . population”)?

- [A] It corrects a common misconception regarding the use of the bicycle in the mid-1890s.
- [B] It elaborates on a claim made in the previous sentence regarding a social consequence of the cycling boom.
- [C] It provides a context in which to understand the increased popularity of bicycle riding among privileged women.
- [D] It explains why cycling attracted such a significant cross section of women.
- [E] It describes the demographic characteristics of the consumer market for bicycles in the mid-1890s.

Explanation

The second sentence implies that the bicycle appealed at first only to “a few privileged women” but then “attracted a greater cross section of the female population,” thus informing the reader that “the massive influx of women cyclists” mentioned in the previous sentence did not happen all at once. Since the influx of women cyclists is the social consequence of the cycling boom mentioned in the previous sentence, the highlighted sentence describes this consequence in more detail. Therefore, **Choice B** is correct. The second sentence does not correct any misconceptions (Choice A), provide help in understanding the appeal of the bicycle to privileged women (Choice C), explain the attraction cycling held for a significant cross section of women (Choice D), or describe demographic characteristics of the consumer market for bicycles (Choice E).

What causes a helix in nature to appear with either a dextral (“right-handed,” or clockwise) twist or a sinistral (“left-handed,” or counterclockwise) twist is one of the most intriguing puzzles in the science of form. Most spiral-shaped snail species are predominantly dextral. But at one time, handedness (twist direction of the shell) was Line 5 equally distributed within some snail species that have become predominantly dextral or, in a few species, predominantly sinistral. What mechanisms control handedness and keep left-handedness rare?

It would seem unlikely that evolution should discriminate against sinistral snails if sinistral and dextral snails are exact mirror images, for any disadvantage that a sinistral 10 twist in itself could confer on its possessor is almost inconceivable. But left- and right-handed snails are not actually true mirror images of one another. Their shapes are noticeably different. Sinistral rarity might, then, be a consequence of possible 15 disadvantages conferred by these other concomitant structural features. In addition, perhaps left- and right-handed snails cannot mate with each other, having incompatible twist directions. Presumably an individual of the rarer form would have relative difficulty in finding a mate of the same hand, thus keeping the rare form rare or creating geographically separated right- and left-handed populations.

But this evolutionary mechanism combining dissymmetry, anatomy, and chance does not provide an adequate explanation of why right-handedness should have 20 become predominant. It does not explain, for example, why the infrequent unions between snails of opposing hands produce fewer offspring of the rarer than the commoner form in species where each parent contributes equally to handedness. Nor does it explain why, in a species where one parent determines handedness, a brood is not exclusively right- or left-handed when the offspring would have the same genetic 25 predisposition. In the European pond snail *Lymnaea peregra*, a predominantly dextral species whose handedness is maternally determined, a brood might be expected to be exclusively right- or left-handed—and this often occurs. However, some broods possess a few snails of the opposing hand, and in predominantly sinistral broods, the incidence of dextrality is surprisingly high.

30 Here, the evolutionary theory must defer to a theory based on an explicit developmental mechanism that can favor either right- or left-handedness. In the case of *Lymnaea peregra*, studies indicate that a dextral gene is expressed during egg formation; i.e., before egg fertilization, the gene produces a protein, found in the cytoplasm of the egg, that controls the pattern of cell division and thus handedness. In 35 experiments, an injection of cytoplasm from dextral eggs changes the pattern of sinistral eggs, but an injection from sinistral eggs does not influence dextral eggs. One explanation for the differing effects is that all *Lymnaea peregra* eggs begin left-handed but most switch to being right-handed. Thus the path to a solution to the puzzle of handedness in all snails appears to be as twisted as the helix itself.

Description

The passage addresses the question of what determines the dextral (clockwise) or sinistral (counterclockwise) shape of snail shells and discusses two possible explanations of the distributional patterns of shell shapes in snail populations: the evolutionary theory and the developmental theory. Evidence against the evolutionary theory is presented, and the developmental theory is offered as a more plausible explanation.

6. Which of the following would serve as an example of “concomitant structural features” (line 13) that might disadvantage a snail of the rarer form?
- (A) A shell and body that are an exact mirror image of a snail of the commoner form
 - (B) A smaller population of the snails of the rarer form
 - (C) A chip or fracture in the shell caused by an object falling on it
 - (D) A pattern on the shell that better camouflages it
 - (E) A smaller shell opening that restricts mobility and ingestion relative to that of a snail of the commoner form

Explanation

Choice A is incorrect: the passage states that “any disadvantage that a sinistral twist in itself could confer on its possessor is almost inconceivable.” Choice B is incorrect, as a smaller population would be the consequence of the disadvantage, not the cause of it. Choice C is incorrect, as damage caused by an external object is not a “structural feature” of a snail shell. Choice D is incorrect, as better camouflage is an advantage, not a disadvantage. The correct answer is **Choice E**: an impaired ability to move around and ingest food would be a disadvantage.

7. The second paragraph of the passage is primarily concerned with offering possible reasons why
- (A) it is unlikely that evolutionary mechanisms could discriminate against sinistral snails
 - (B) sinistrality is relatively uncommon among snail species
 - (C) dextral and sinistral populations of a snail species tend to intermingle
 - (D) a theory based on a developmental mechanism inadequately accounts for the predominance of dexterity across snail species
 - (E) dextral snails breed more readily than sinistral snails, even within predominantly sinistral populations

Explanation

The first paragraph ends with the question “What mechanisms control handedness and keep left-handedness rare?” The second paragraph attempts to answer this question: perhaps, the paragraph suggests, sinistral rarity is a consequence either of natural selection working on “concomitant structural features,” or of difficulties in mating for left-handed snails. Thus **Choice B** is correct. The paragraph starts by dismissing the idea that evolution could be working against left-handedness itself, but Choice A is incorrect because the paragraph is not concerned with offering reasons for that dismissal. The paragraph does not even suggest that opposite-handed populations tend to intermingle (Choice C) or that dextral snails breed more rapidly (Choice E), and it does not discuss developmental mechanisms (Choice D).

8. Which of the following accurately describes the relationship between the evolutionary and developmental theories discussed in the passage?
- (A) Although the two theories reach the same conclusion, each is based on different assumptions.
 - (B) They present contradictory explanations of the same phenomenon.
 - (C) The second theory accounts for certain phenomena that the first cannot explain.
 - (D) The second theory demonstrates why the first is valid only for very unusual, special cases.
 - (E) They are identical and interchangeable in that the second theory merely restates the first in less technical terms.

Explanation

The correct answer is **Choice C**. The third paragraph of the passage argues that the evolutionary theory cannot explain “why right-handedness should have become predominant” and lists some specific reproductive outcomes that cannot be accounted for by this theory. The next paragraph offers an alternative theory (developmental) that seems to do a better job of explaining these outcomes.

9. It can be inferred from the passage that a predominantly sinistral snail species might stay predominantly sinistral for each of the following reasons EXCEPT for
- (A) a developmental mechanism that affects the cell-division pattern of snails
 - (B) structural features that advantage dextral snails of the species
 - (C) a relatively small number of snails of the same hand for dextral snails of the species to mate with
 - (D) anatomical incompatibility that prevents mating between snails of opposing hands within the species
 - (E) geographic separation of sinistral and dextral populations

Explanation

The question asks about possible reasons why a “sinistral snail species might stay predominantly sinistral”; this would happen if the offspring of a sinistral species is largely sinistral. Choices A, C, D, and E give plausible reasons for why this might happen: either genetic predisposition for sinistrality (Choice A) or lack of reproductive competition from dextral individuals (Choices C, D, and E). Therefore, the correct answer is **Choice B**: having structural features that advantage dextral snails would tend to reduce the number of sinistral individuals in a species and thus to eventually transform a sinistral species into a dextral one.

Question Type 1: Reading Comprehension

X-ray examination of a recently discovered painting—judged by some authorities to be a self-portrait by Vincent van Gogh—revealed an underimage of a woman’s face. Either van Gogh or another painter covered the first painting with the portrait now seen on the surface of the canvas. Because the face of the woman in the underimage also appears on canvases van Gogh is known to have painted, the surface painting must be an authentic self-portrait by van Gogh.

10. The conclusion is properly drawn if which of the following is assumed?

- (A) If a canvas already bears a painted image produced by an artist, a second artist who uses the canvas to produce a new painting tends to be influenced by the style of the first artist.
- (B) Many painted canvases that can be reliably attributed to van Gogh contain underimages of subjects that appear on at least one other canvas that van Gogh is known to have painted.
- (C) Any painted canvas incorrectly attributed to van Gogh would not contain an underimage of a subject that appears in authentic paintings by that artist.
- (D) A painted canvas cannot be reliably attributed to an artist unless the authenticity of any underimage that painting might contain can be reliably attributed to the artist.
- (E) A painted canvas cannot be reliably attributed to a particular artist unless a reliable x-ray examination of the painting is performed.

Explanation

The passage’s argument makes a case for the painting’s being an authentic van Gogh self-portrait; it cites as evidence the fact that the canvas’s painted-over image is that of a woman who appears in other van Gogh paintings. This argument assumes that another artist would not have painted over the original image of the woman, so the correct answer is **Choice C**. Since the argument does not depend upon the painting’s stylistic elements or upon the commonalities between this and other van Gogh paintings, Choices A and B are incorrect. Choices D and E establish criteria for attribution beyond the passage’s argument, so they are incorrect as well.

4 Question Type 2: Text Completion

Your goals for this chapter

- ⇒ Practice answering GRE Text Completion questions
- ⇒ Review answers and explanations, particularly for questions you answered incorrectly

This chapter contains three sets of practice Text Completion questions. The sets are arranged in order of increasing difficulty, one easy, one medium, and one hard.

Following the third set are answer keys for quick reference. Then, at the end of the chapter, you will find complete explanations for every question. Each explanation is presented with the corresponding question, so that you can easily see what was asked and what the various answer choices were.

Sharpen your GRE Verbal Reasoning skills by working your way through these question sets, remembering to use the Tips for Answering given in Chapter 2. Begin with the easy set and then move on to the medium-difficulty and hard sets. Review the answer explanations carefully, paying particular attention to the explanations for questions that you answered incorrectly. Were you able to

- understand the overall meaning of the passage?
- identify significant words in the passage?
- think up your own words for the blanks?

Turn the page to begin.

PRACTICE SET 1: Easy

For each of Questions 1 to 9, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. This composer has never courted popularity: her rugged modernism seems to defy rather than to _____ the audience.

(A) ignore
(B) discount
(C) woo
(D) teach
(E) cow

2. The sight of a single actor portraying several characters in the same scene is no longer a shock to the average moviegoer, such special-effects trickery having become so _____.

(A) expensive
(B) specialized
(C) sinister
(D) commonplace
(E) unreliable

3. Early studies often concluded that the public was _____ the propagandistic influence of mass communications, but one recent study indicates that, on the contrary, mass communications seldom produce marked changes in social attitudes or actions.

(A) unaware of
(B) scornful of
(C) susceptible to
(D) unimpressed by
(E) coping with

4. The figure-skating pair's convincing victory last week was particularly (i) _____ to their rivals, who were in peak form and complained privately about the judging. That the pair won when their rivals were (ii) _____ too is also impressive.

Blank (i)

(A) unsurprising
(B) irksome
(C) gratifying

Blank (ii)

(D) terrific
(E) nervous
(F) inconsistent

5. In his initial works, the playwright made physical disease (i) _____ factor in the action; from this, his early critics inferred that he had a predilection for focusing on (ii) _____ subject matter.

Blank (i)

(A) a pivotal
(B) a nonexistent
(C) an obscure

Blank (ii)

(D) recondite
(E) uncomplicated
(F) morbid

6. We have yet to (i) _____ the assessment of Canada's biodiversity. Most of the vertebrates have been assessed, but our challenge will be the assessment of invertebrates and plants. This task is (ii) _____ not only because of the high number of species, but also because of the diversity, each species requiring a different approach.

Blank (i)

(A) initiate
(B) complete
(C) limit

Blank (ii)

(D) repetitious
(E) trivial
(F) daunting

7. The company's efforts to improve safety were apparently (i) _____, at least according to the company's own data, which showed that the (ii) _____ incidents with the potential to cause a serious accident declined significantly. Nevertheless, independent analysts argue that those statistics are (iii) _____. These analysts maintain that the company has consistently underestimated both the probability and the likely effects of accidents in the sensitive and poorly understood environment in which the company is operating.

Blank (i)

(A) innovative
(B) successful
(C) frustrated

Blank (ii)

(D) frequency of
(E) impediments to
(F) attention to

Blank (iii)

(G) deceptive
(H) testable
(I) consistent

8. Researchers trying to make it possible to trace counterfeit documents to the printer that produced them are (i)_____ the fact that the rotating drums and mirrors inside laser printers are imperfect devices that leave unique patterns of banding in their output. Although these patterns are (ii) _____ to the naked eye, they can be (iii) _____ and analyzed by computer programs that the researchers have spent the past year devising.

Blank (i)

(A) exploiting
(B) facing
(C) manipulating

Blank (ii)

(D) invisible
(E) obvious
(F) unappealing

Blank (iii)

(G) detected
(H) implemented
(I) generated

Question Type 2: Text Completion

9. In her startlingly original writing, she went further than any other twentieth-century author in English (perhaps in any language) in (i) _____ literary language and form, (ii) _____ stylistic conventions, and (iii) _____ a rich and diverse structure of meaning.

Blank (i)

(A) reinventing
(B) canonizing
(C) stabilizing

Blank (ii)

(D) undoing
(E) overpraising
(F) misunderstanding

Blank (iii)

(G) replicating
(H) borrowing
(I) introducing

PRACTICE SET 2: Medium

For each of Questions 1 to 8, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. The media once portrayed the governor as anything but ineffective; they now, however, make her out to be the epitome of _____.

(A) fecklessness
(B) brilliance
(C) dynamism
(D) egoism
(E) punctiliousness

2. For most of the first half of the nineteenth century, science at the university was in _____ state, despite the presence of numerous luminaries.

(A) a scintillating
(B) a pathetic
(C) a controversial
(D) an incendiary
(E) a veracious

3. In a recent history of the Renaissance, by showing how the artistic efflorescence of that era was (i) _____ linked to its commercial vitality, Jardine demonstrated that the spirit of acquisitiveness may be (ii) _____ that of cultural creativity.

Blank (i)

(A) questionably
(B) intimately
(C) skeptically

Blank (ii)

(D) threatened by
(E) inseparable from
(F) comparable to

4. The setting in which the concert took place (i) _____ : the group's performance was elegant and polished, but the sound, which seeped across the cold, unresonant high school auditorium, was oddly (ii) _____, given the energy the players seemed to be putting into it.

Blank (i)

(A) exacted a toll
(B) encouraged nervousness
(C) solved a dilemma

Blank (ii)

(D) clangorous
(E) tepid
(F) inviting

Question Type 2: Text Completion

5. The governor has long been obsessed with excising the media from the politician-public relationship. That's been the unifying aim of all her seemingly disconnected ventures since entering public life: a determination to (i) _____, and eventually (ii) _____, the media's hold on political communication.

Blank (i)

(A) conceal
(B) erode
(C) rejuvenate

Blank (ii)

(D) augment
(E) consolidate
(F) end

6. Female labor was essential to the growth of eighteenth-century European textile industries, yet it remains difficult to (i) _____. Despite significant (ii) _____ in research about women, the role of female labor remains the single most glaring omission in most economic analyses of the history of European industrialization. Women far outnumbered men as workers in the textile industries, yet wage indices and discussions of growth, cost of living, and the like (iii) _____ about the male labor force.

Blank (i)

(A) track
(B) overestimate
(C) ignore

Blank (ii)

(D) advances
(E) gaps
(F) disinterest

Blank (iii)

(G) incorporate data only
(H) suppress most information
(I) too rarely talk

7. It is a sad but just indictment of some high school history textbooks that they frequently report as (i) _____ claims that historians hotly debate or that are even completely (ii) _____ by (iii) _____ primary sources.

Blank (i)

(A) factual
(B) controversial
(C) sensational

Blank (ii)

(D) resolved
(E) corroborated
(F) contradicted

Blank (iii)

(G) dubious
(H) incomplete
(I) reliable

8. The reason minimum temperatures are going up more rapidly than maximums may involve cloud cover and evaporative cooling. Clouds tend to keep the days cooler by reflecting sunlight, and the nights warmer by (i) _____ loss of heat from Earth's surface. Greater amounts of moisture in the soil from additional precipitation and cloudiness (ii) _____ the daytime temperature increases because part of the solar energy is (iii) _____ the evaporation of that moisture.

Blank (i)

(A) inhibiting
(B) exacerbating
(C) replicating

Blank (ii)

(D) augment
(E) mask
(F) restrain

Blank (iii)

(G) intensified by
(H) unrelated to
(I) used up in

PRACTICE SET 3: Hard

For each of Questions 1 to 8, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. In searching for norms in the sense of authoritative standards of what ought to be, rather than in the sense of what is average and thus can be considered normal, normative ethics aims to _____.

(A) predict
(B) mitigate
(C) question
(D) dictate
(E) personalize

2. When she first came to France from Bulgaria, she was hardly the _____ student she later made herself out to be, since she had access to considerable family wealth.

(A) naïve
(B) precocious
(C) impecunious
(D) ambitious
(E) assiduous

3. Researchers have observed chimpanzees feigning injury in order to influence other members of the group, thus showing that the capacity to _____ is not uniquely human.

(A) cooperate
(B) instruct
(C) conspire
(D) dissemble
(E) dominate

4. Instant celebrity is often (i)_____ asset because if there is no (ii)_____ to interest the public—no stage or screen triumphs, no interesting books, no heroic exploits—people quickly become bored.

Blank (i)

(A) a fleeting
(B) an incomparable
(C) an untapped

Blank (ii)

(D) competing attraction
(E) continuity of exposure
(F) real achievement

Question Type 2: Text Completion

5. At their best, (i) _____ book reviews are written in defense of value and in the tacit hope that the author, having had his or her (ii) _____ pointed out, might secretly agree that the book could be improved.

Blank (i)

(A) abstruse
(B) adverse
(C) hortatory

Blank (ii)

(D) strengths
(E) transgressions
(F) assumptions

6. The gaps in existing accounts of the playwright's life are not (i) _____, since much of the documentary evidence on which historians have relied is (ii) _____.

Blank (i)

(A) trifling
(B) obvious
(C) implicit

Blank (ii)

(D) credible
(E) extant
(F) incomplete

7. That today's students of American culture tend to (i) _____ classical music is understandable. In our own time, America's musical high culture has degenerated into a formulaic entertainment divorced from the contemporary moment. Thus, to miss out on what our orchestras are up to is not to (ii) _____ much. In the late Gilded Age, however, music was widely esteemed as the "queen of the arts." Classical music was in its American heyday, (iii) _____ the culture at large.

Blank (i)

(A) promote
(B) reinterpret
(C) ignore

Blank (ii)

(D) sacrifice
(E) appreciate
(F) malign

Blank (iii)

(G) antagonistic toward
(H) generally rejected by
(I) centrally embedded in

8. The serious study of popular culture by intellectuals is regularly credited with having rendered obsolete a once-dominant view that popular culture is inherently inferior to high art. Yet this alteration of attitudes may be somewhat (i) _____. Although it is now academically respectable to analyze popular culture, the fact that many intellectuals feel compelled to rationalize their own (ii) _____ action movies or mass-market fiction reveals, perhaps unwittingly, their continued (iii) _____ the old hierarchy of high and low culture.

Blank (i)

(A) counterproductive
(B) underappreciated
(C) overstated

Blank (ii)

(D) penchant for
(E) distaste for
(F) indifference to

Blank (iii)

(G) aversion to
(H) investment in
(I) misunderstanding of

ANSWER KEY

PRACTICE SET 1: Easy

1. **Choice C:** woo
2. **Choice D:** commonplace
3. **Choice C:** susceptible to
4. **Choice B:** irksome; **Choice D:** terrific
5. **Choice A:** a pivotal; **Choice F:** morbid
6. **Choice B:** complete; **Choice F:** daunting
7. **Choice B:** successful; **Choice D:** frequency of; **Choice G:** deceptive
8. **Choice A:** exploiting; **Choice D:** invisible; **Choice G:** detected
9. **Choice A:** reinventing; **Choice D:** undoing; **Choice I:** introducing

PRACTICE SET 2: Medium

1. **Choice A:** fecklessness
2. **Choice B:** a pathetic
3. **Choice B:** intimately; AND **Choice E:** inseparable from
4. **Choice A:** exacted a toll; AND **Choice E:** tepid
5. **Choice B:** erode; AND **Choice F:** end
6. **Choice A:** track; **Choice D:** advances; **Choice G:** incorporate data only
7. **Choice A:** factual; **Choice F:** contradicted; **Choice I:** reliable
8. **Choice A:** inhibiting; **Choice F:** restrain; **Choice I:** used up in

PRACTICE SET 3: Hard

1. **Choice D:** dictate
2. **Choice C:** impecunious
3. **Choice D:** dissemble
4. **Choice A:** a fleeting; AND **Choice F:** real achievement
5. **Choice B:** adverse; AND **Choice E:** transgressions
6. **Choice A:** trifling; AND **Choice D:** credible
7. **Choice C:** ignore; **Choice D:** sacrifice; **Choice I:** centrally embedded in
8. **Choice C:** overstated; **Choice D:** penchant for; **Choice H:** investment in

Answers and Explanations

PRACTICE SET 1: Easy

For each of Questions 1 to 9, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. This composer has never courted popularity: her rugged modernism seems to defy rather than to _____ the audience.

(A) ignore
(B) discount
(C) woo
(D) teach
(E) cow

Explanation

The first part of the sentence asserts that the composer has never sought popularity, while the second part of the sentence explains what the composer's style does instead. The blank, then, must be filled with a verb that is roughly synonymous with "court popularity." The choice that best does this is "woo;" its correctness is confirmed by the fact that it also forms the best contrast with "defy." None of the other choices indicates the desire to be liked by or to win over audiences that a synonym of "court popularity" would require.

Thus the correct answer is **woo** (Choice C).

2. The sight of a single actor portraying several characters in the same scene is no longer a shock to the average moviegoer, such special-effects trickery having become so _____.

(A) expensive
(B) specialized
(C) sinister
(D) commonplace
(E) unreliable

Explanation

The blank calls for a term that would explain why the special effects that once astonished moviegoers no longer do so. "Commonplace" does this by suggesting that the technology has become so familiar that it no longer surprises; therefore, it is the correct answer. None of the other options suggests a change that would result in desensitizing moviegoers to the special effects on-screen.

Thus the correct answer is **commonplace** (Choice D).

3. Early studies often concluded that the public was the propagandistic influence of mass communications, but one recent study indicates that, on the contrary, mass communications seldom produce marked changes in social attitudes or actions.

(A) unaware of
(B) scornful of
(C) susceptible to
(D) unimpressed by
(E) coping with

Explanation

The recent study found that mass communications had negligible effects on the public. Since the recent study's findings are contrary to those of earlier ones, the earlier studies must have found that the influence of mass communications was significant; thus, the blank must be filled with a word that indicates that the public is swayed by such communications. Of the choices, only "susceptible to" does this. Two of the other choices, "unaware of" and "unimpressed by," indicate the opposite. "Scornful of" also indicates some resistance to mass communications, as does "coping with," so those are incorrect as well. Thus the correct answer is **susceptible to** (Choice C).

4. The figure-skating pair's convincing victory last week was particularly (i) _____ to their rivals, who were in peak form and complained privately about the judging. That the pair won when their rivals were (ii) _____ too is also impressive.

Blank (i)

(A) unsurprising
(B) irksome
(C) gratifying

Blank (ii)

(D) terrific
(E) nervous
(F) inconsistent

Explanation

The fact that the winning pair's rivals were "in peak physical form" suggests that these rivals had a reasonable expectation of victory; the fact that they "complained about the judging" indicates that they regarded the pair's victory as not completely deserved. These two considerations suggest that the rivals had a negative reaction to the winning pair's victory; the only answer choice for Blank (i) that matches this meaning is "irksome," so it is correct. The second sentence reinforces the implication that the rivals were also strongly deserving of victory, and the word "too" suggests that the performances of the winning pair and of their rivals were comparable in quality. This points to "terrific" as the correct answer choice for Blank (ii). Thus the correct answer is **irksome** (Choice B) and **terrific** (Choice D).

5. In his initial works, the playwright made physical disease (i) _____ factor in the action; from this, his early critics inferred that he had a predilection for focusing on (ii) _____ subject matter.

Blank (i)

(A) a pivotal
(B) a nonexistent
(C) an obscure

Blank (ii)

(D) recondite
(E) uncomplicated
(F) morbid

Explanation

A writer who has “a predilection for focusing” on a thing makes that thing prominent in his or her work, so the answer to Blank (i) must be synonymous with “prominent” or “significant”; the answer choice that matches this meaning is “pivotal,” so it is correct. The answer to Blank (ii) must be a word that describes the subject matter of physical disease, so the correct choice is “morbid.”

Thus the correct answer is **a pivotal** (Choice A) and **morbid** (Choice F).

6. We have yet to (i) _____ the assessment of Canada’s biodiversity. Most of the vertebrates have been assessed, but our challenge will be the assessment of invertebrates and plants. This task is (ii) _____ not only because of the high number of species, but also because of the diversity, each species requiring a different approach.

Blank (i)

(A) initiate
(B) complete
(C) limit

Blank (ii)

(D) repetitious
(E) trivial
(F) daunting

Explanation

The sentence implies that Canada’s invertebrates and plants have not yet been assessed, so the assessment of Canada’s biodiversity is not finished; therefore, the correct answer to Blank (i) is “complete.” The assessment of invertebrates and plants is described as a “challenge,” so the answer to Blank (ii) must be synonymous with “difficult.” The only answer choice that matches this meaning is “daunting,” so it is correct.

Thus the correct answer is **complete** (Choice B) and **daunting** (Choice F).

7. The company’s efforts to improve safety were apparently (i) _____, at least according to the company’s own data, which showed that the (ii) _____ incidents with the potential to cause a serious accident declined significantly. Nevertheless, independent analysts argue that those statistics are (iii) _____. These analysts maintain that the company has consistently underestimated both the probability and the likely effects of accidents in the sensitive and poorly understood environment in which the company is operating.

Blank (i)

(A) innovative
(B) successful
(C) frustrated

Blank (ii)

(D) frequency of
(E) impediments to
(F) attention to

Blank (iii)

(G) deceptive
(H) testable
(I) consistent

Explanation

Since the analysts found that the company’s statistics underestimated the potential for accidents, the answer to Blank (iii) must reflect the inaccuracy or inapplicability of those statistics. “Deceptive” is the only choice that does so. Blank (i) must then be answered with a choice that reflects the more positive view of accident prevention that deceptive statistics might provide. “Frustrated” efforts would imply the opposite, and while “innovative” has positive connotations, the passage is concerned with the effectiveness of safety measures rather than with their novelty. Thus “successful” is the correct choice. Finally, the word for Blank (ii) describes something related to potentially dangerous incidents that would indicate improved safety if it were to decline. If “impediments to” or “attention to” such incidents were to decline, that would likely have the opposite implication. However, fewer such incidents

would presumably be a sign of improved safety; thus “frequency of” is the correct response.

Thus the correct answer is **successful** (Choice B), **frequency of** (Choice D), and **deceptive** (Choice G).

8. Researchers trying to make it possible to trace counterfeit documents to the printer that produced them are (i) _____ the fact that the rotating drums and mirrors inside laser printers are imperfect devices that leave unique patterns of banding in their output. Although these patterns are (ii) _____ to the naked eye, they can be (iii) _____ and analyzed by computer programs that the researchers have spent the past year devising.

Blank (i)

(A) exploiting
(B) facing
(C) manipulating

Blank (ii)

(D) invisible
(E) obvious
(F) unappealing

Blank (iii)

(G) detected
(H) implemented
(I) generated

Explanation

The “although” that begins the second sentence suggests that there is a contrast between the way the naked eye perceives the patterns in question and the way computer programs can view them. The answers to Blank (ii) and Blank (iii) must therefore reflect this contrast. “Invisible” and “detected” are the only pairing that does this.

Blank (i) calls for a characterization of the relationship between the researchers and the inevitability of imperfections in printing technology. Since the passage asserts that researchers are using computers to analyze these imperfections, “exploiting” is the best choice for Blank (i). “Facing” does not imply the level of engagement detailed in the passage, while “manipulating” suggests that the researchers’ focus might be on changing the imperfections themselves, rather than analyzing them.

Thus the correct answer is **exploiting** (Choice A), **invisible** (Choice D), and **detected** (Choice G).

9. In her startlingly original writing, she went further than any other twentieth-century author in English (perhaps in any language) in (i) _____ literary language and form, (ii) _____ stylistic conventions, and (iii) _____ a rich and diverse structure of meaning.

Blank (i)

(A) reinventing
(B) canonizing
(C) stabilizing

Blank (ii)

(D) undoing
(E) overpraising
(F) misunderstanding

Blank (iii)

(G) replicating
(H) borrowing
(I) introducing

Explanation

The writer’s work is described as startlingly original, and the sentence specifies three ways in which the author achieved this originality. Therefore each blank must be filled with a word that reflects innovative rather than conventional ways of writing. For Blank (i), the choice must be “reinventing,” because neither “canonizing” nor “stabilizing” would indicate a break with traditional forms or language. Blank (ii) must contain a word that describes the writer’s relationship with convention; “undoing” is the only one that reflects originality. Blank (iii) likewise requires a word that conveys the novelty of the writer’s work. Both “replicating” and “borrowing” suggest a derivative approach to writing, so they are incorrect. “Introducing” implies that the writer’s structure is new; therefore it is the correct choice.

Thus the correct answer is **reinventing** (Choice A), **undoing** (Choice D), and **introducing** (Choice I).

Question Type 2: Text Completion

PRACTICE SET 2: Medium

For each of Questions 1 to 8, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. The media once portrayed the governor as anything but ineffective; they now, however, make her out to be the epitome of _____.

(A) fecklessness
(B) brilliance
(C) dynamism
(D) egoism
(E) punctiliousness

Explanation

The sentence contrasts the media's former and current depictions of the governor. Since the governor was once presented as "anything but ineffective," the media once saw her as extremely competent. It follows that the phrase completed by the blank will have the opposite meaning. To be the epitome of something is to be representative of that trait, so the blank must be filled with a word that implies incompetence. "Brilliance," "dynamism," and "punctiliousness" are all positive traits, so they do not work in this context. "Egoism," while often thought of as a negative trait, does not imply incompetence. That leaves "fecklessness," whose meaning includes ineffectiveness, making it a very good contrast with the first half of the sentence.

Thus, the correct answer is **fecklessness** (Choice A).

2. For most of the first half of the nineteenth century, science at the university was in _____ state, despite the presence of numerous luminaries.

(A) a scintillating
(B) a pathetic
(C) a controversial
(D) an incendiary
(E) a veracious

Explanation

Since the presence of numerous luminaries, a positive thing, is portrayed as a factor that runs counter to the general state of science at the university, that general state must be negative. Therefore the word that fills the blank must describe a generally negative atmosphere. "Pathetic" certainly does. Of the other answers, "scintillating," meaning brilliant, is just the opposite of what is called for, while "veracious" is similarly too positive. "Controversial" and "incendiary" both describe an argumentative or explosive environment that would not necessarily be mitigated by the presence of numerous luminaries.

Thus the correct answer is **a pathetic** (Choice B).

3. In a recent history of the Renaissance, by showing how the artistic efflorescence of that era was (i) _____ linked to its commercial vitality, Jardine demonstrated that the spirit of acquisitiveness may be (ii) _____ that of cultural creativity.

Blank (i)

(A) questionably
(B) intimately
(C) skeptically

Blank (ii)

(D) threatened by
(E) inseparable from
(F) comparable to

Explanation

The sentence talks about Jardine's demonstrating a certain general relation between two social phenomena ("spirit of acquisitiveness" and "cultural creativity") by showing that this relation was held between two particular historical instances of these phenomena ("commercial vitality" and "artistic efflorescence" of the Renaissance). Therefore, the phrase "(i) linked to" and the answer to Blank (ii) must be identical or very similar in meaning. The only answer choices that are related in this way are "intimately" and "inseparable from": if two things are "intimately linked," then they are very plausibly "inseparable from" each other.

Thus the correct answer is **intimately** (Choice B) and **inseparable from** (Choice E).

4. The setting in which the concert took place (i) _____: the group's performance was elegant and polished, but the sound, which seeped across the cold, unresonant high school auditorium, was oddly (ii) _____, given the energy the players seemed to be putting into it.

Blank (i)

(A) exacted a toll
(B) encouraged nervousness
(C) solved a dilemma

Blank (ii)

(D) clangorous
(E) tepid
(F) inviting

Explanation

The "but" in the sentence suggests that there is a contrast between the group's overall performance and the quality of the sound; since the former is given a positive description ("elegant and polished"), the description of the latter in Blank (ii) must be negative. Furthermore, the quality of the sound must be in contrast with the apparent energy of the performers. The only answer choice for Blank (ii) that meets these conditions is "tepid," so it is correct. The sentence as a whole suggests that the setting of the concert had a negative effect on the performance; the answer choice for Blank (i) that best fits this meaning is "exact a toll," so it is correct.

Answer Choice B for Blank (i), "encouraged nervousness," is also negative in meaning, but it is incorrect, because the sentence does not talk about the psychological state of the musicians or the audience.

Thus the correct answer is **exact a toll** (Choice A) and **tepid** (Choice E).

Question Type 2: Text Completion

5. The governor has long been obsessed with excising the media from the politician-public relationship. That's been the unifying aim of all her seemingly disconnected ventures since entering public life: a determination to (i) , and eventually (ii) _____, the media's hold on political communication.

Blank (i)

(A) conceal
(B) erode
(C) rejuvenate

Blank (ii)

(D) augment
(E) consolidate
(F) end

Explanation

Blanks (i) and (ii) must describe what the governor wants to do to “the media’s hold on political communication.” From the first sentence, it is clear that the governor’s goal is to “excise” or eliminate the media as an intermediary between politicians and the public; this must be the meaning of the answer to Blank (ii), which describes the governor’s eventual, or long-term, goal. The only answer choice for Blank (ii) that has this meaning is “end,” so it is correct. The answer to Blank (i) must be a word that denotes the initial phase of a gradual process that ends with the complete elimination of the media’s influence; the answer choice that fits this meaning is “erode,” so it is correct.

Thus the correct answer is **erode** (Choice B) and **end** (Choice F).

6. Female labor was essential to the growth of eighteenth-century European textile industries, yet it remains difficult to (i) _____. Despite significant (ii) _____ in research about women, the role of female labor remains the single most glaring omission in most economic analyses of the history of European industrialization. Women far outnumbered men as workers in the textile industries, yet wage indices and discussions of growth, cost of living, and the like (iii) _____ about the male labor force.

Blank (i)

(A) track
(B) overestimate
(C) ignore

Blank (ii)

(D) advances
(E) gaps
(F) disinterest

Blank (iii)

(G) incorporate data only
(H) suppress most information
(I) too rarely talk

Explanation

The second sentence asserts that the role of women is generally left out from most analyses of industrialization. Given this omission, it follows that data about female labor would be hard to come by, making it difficult to measure its growth; therefore “track” is the correct answer for Blank (i). As for the other choices, since the author asserts that the role of female labor has routinely been overlooked, “ignore” cannot be correct. The conjunction “yet” in the first sentence indicates that the phrase containing Blank (i) contrasts with the importance of female labor; since “overestimate” emphasizes this importance, it also cannot be correct. The second sentence places research about female labor during industrialization into the larger context of research about women; the word “despite” that begins the sentence indicates that the latter runs counter to trends in the larger field. Neither “gaps” nor “disinterest” would provide the necessary contrast between the two, since “gaps” in the larger field of research about women would mirror the omission of the role of female labor and “disinterest” would explain such omissions.

"Advances" does provide a contrast, and is thus the correct answer. In the sentence containing Blank (iii), "yet" indicates a contrast between the makeup of the workforce and the availability of data about the workforce. Because the author says that women outnumbered men in the workforce, the contrast would likely require data that mostly concerned men. Of the three choices for Blank (iii), "incorporate data only" conveys this sense. The other two options can be ruled out because of the previous sentence's assertion that female labor is ignored by economic analyses. With women being excluded from the data, it follows that it is mostly about men; therefore it does not make sense to assert that information about male labor is suppressed or too infrequently discussed.

Thus the correct answer is **track** (Choice A), **advances** (Choice D), and **incorporate data only** (Choice G).

7. It is a sad but just indictment of some high school history textbooks that they frequently report as (i) _____ claims that historians hotly debate or that are even completely (ii) _____ by (iii) _____ primary sources.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) factual	(D) resolved	(G) dubious
(B) controversial	(E) corroborated	(H) incomplete
(C) sensational	(F) contradicted	(I) reliable

Explanation

The use of the word "indictment," meaning a charge of wrongdoing, indicates that the sentence is sharply criticizing the textbooks in question and that the blanks must be completed with words that support this critique. Blank (i) describes how such textbooks characterize historical claims that are hotly debated. Since such claims are in fact controversial, it would not be surprising or inaccurate for textbooks to report them as such, so "controversial" is not correct. Of the other two responses, "sensational" has some merit, suggesting that the textbooks resort to a melodramatic presentation of historical debate; however, "factual" is the better choice, implying as it does gross inaccuracies. That the critique of the textbooks centers upon accuracy rather than tone is confirmed by the rest of the sentence, which deals with the relationship between the textbooks' claims and the primary sources upon which historical scholarship is based. The "even" that precedes Blank (ii) calls for a word that is yet further away from factual than "hotly debated." Of the choices, only "contradicted" fits this criterion; the other two options are the opposite of what is needed. Finally, Blank (iii) calls for a word that describes the primary sources. Since the critique of the textbooks' accuracy rests upon their divergence from these sources, the sources themselves must be characterized as authoritative. "Reliable" does exactly that, while "dubious" and "incomplete" suggest the opposite.

Thus the correct answer is **factual** (Choice A), **contradicted** (Choice F), and **reliable** (Choice I).

Question Type 2: Text Completion

8. The reason minimum temperatures are going up more rapidly than maximums may involve cloud cover and evaporative cooling. Clouds tend to keep the days cooler by reflecting sunlight, and the nights warmer by (i) loss of heat from Earth's surface. Greater amounts of moisture in the soil from additional precipitation and cloudiness (ii) _____ the daytime temperature increases because part of the solar energy is (iii) _____ the evaporation of that moisture.

Blank (i)

(A) inhibiting
(B) exacerbating
(C) replicating

Blank (ii)

(D) augment
(E) mask
(F) restrain

Blank (iii)

(G) intensified by
(H) unrelated to
(I) used up in

Explanation

The second sentence asserts that clouds make for warmer nights by doing something to the loss of heat from Earth. Since less heat lost means more warmth, a word that means preventing or slowing heat loss is required for Blank (i). “Inhibiting” is therefore the answer. “Exacerbating” has the opposite meaning, while “replicating” makes no sense in this context. Since the first sentence asserts that daytime highs are increasing less rapidly than nighttime lows, Blank (ii) calls for a verb that indicates a moderation in rises in temperature during the day, and “restrain” has this sense. “Augment,” meaning to increase, has the opposite meaning, while “mask” would indicate that measurements are not reflecting actual increases in temperature, an idea not supported by the rest of the passage. The “because” in the last sentence indicates that the second clause explains how daytime temperature increases are restrained; it does so by making reference to solar energy and the evaporation of moisture. Because solar energy is responsible for increases in daytime temperature, the answer to Blank (iii) requires a word that explains how evaporation can lessen or divert that energy for other purposes. “Used up in” does this because it indicates that less solar energy is available to warm the Earth’s surface when a portion of it is instead devoted to evaporation. Neither “intensified by” nor “unrelated to” indicate a connection between solar energy and evaporation that would lessen warming.

Thus the correct answer is **inhibiting** (Choice A), **restrain** (Choice F), and **used up in** (Choice I).

PRACTICE SET 3: Hard

For each of Questions 1 to 8, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. In searching for norms in the sense of authoritative standards of what ought to be, rather than in the sense of what is average and thus can be considered normal, normative ethics aims to_____.

(A) predict
(B) mitigate
(C) question
(D) dictate
(E) personalize

Explanation

The sentence defines normative ethics by specifying the sense of the “norms” for which it searches. Since these are authoritative ethical standards, the word that fills the blank must describe the act of establishing those standards. The choice that does this is “dictate.” Of the other choices, “predict” suggests that normative ethics merely attempts to describe future behavior rather than establish what guidelines should shape it, while “personalize” suggests a concern with individual circumstances that is not otherwise addressed in the sentence. “Mitigate” (to moderate or alleviate) is likewise incongruent with the rest of the sentence, while “question” does not address normative ethics’ concern with establishing rather than questioning norms.

Thus the correct answer is **dictate** (Choice D).

2. When she first came to France from Bulgaria, she was hardly the student she later made herself out to be, since she had access to considerable family wealth.

(A) naïve
(B) precocious
(C) impecunious
(D) ambitious
(E) assiduous

Explanation

The student’s considerable family wealth is cited as proof that her later depiction of herself was false; the word that fills the blank describes this later depiction, so it must be an adjective that is incompatible with wealth. “Impecunious,” meaning penniless, is therefore the correct choice. None of the other responses is dependent on wealth—her family’s finances would have no bearing on whether the student was actually naïve, precocious (advanced for her age), ambitious, or assiduous (diligent)—so they are incorrect. Thus the correct answer is **impecunious** (Choice C).

Question Type 2: Text Completion

3. Researchers have observed chimpanzees feigning injury in order to influence other members of the group, thus showing that the capacity to _____ is not uniquely human.

(A) cooperate
(B) instruct
(C) conspire
(D) dissemble
(E) dominate

Explanation

The words “thus showing” suggest that the capacity that is not unique to humans was demonstrated by the activity the researchers observed. Since that activity—feigning injury to influence others—requires the capacity to transmit false information, “dissemble” is the correct answer. Because there is no indication that the chimpanzees worked together to feign injury, “conspire” is incorrect. None of the other options—“dominate,” “instruct,” or “cooperate”—suggests the pretense involved in feigning an injury, so they are all incorrect.

Thus the correct answer is **dissemble** (Choice D).

4. Instant celebrity is often (i) _____ asset because if there is no (ii) _____ to interest the public—no stage or screen triumphs, no interesting books, no heroic exploits—people quickly become bored.

Blank (i)

(A) a fleeting
(B) an incomparable
(C) an untapped

Blank (ii)

(D) competing attraction
(E) continuity of exposure
(F) real achievement

Explanation

The sentence says that people quickly become bored with those who achieve sudden fame in the absence of the condition named by Blank (ii), implying that instant celebrity often does not last long; among the answer choices for Blank (i) only “a fleet-ing” matches this meaning, so it is correct. The answer to Blank (ii) must be an umbrella term for things listed in the second part of the sentence as defeaters of boredom: “screen triumphs,” “interesting books,” “heroic exploits.” The answer choice that best matches this meaning is “real achievement,” so it is correct. “Competing attraction” also seems a plausible choice for Blank (ii), but it is incorrect because the sentence does not mention competition between attractions.

Thus the correct answer is **a fleeting** (Choice A) and **real achievement** (Choice F).

5. At their best, (i) _____ book reviews are written in defense of value and in the tacit hope that the author, having had his or her (ii) _____ pointed out, might secretly agree that the book could be improved.

Blank (i)

(A) abstruse
(B) adverse
(C) hortatory

Blank (ii)

(D) strengths
(E) transgressions
(F) assumptions

Explanation

The second part of the sentence talks about the author agreeing that the book can be improved after the things named by Blank (ii) are pointed out; therefore, the answer to Blank (ii) must denote something negative whose presence calls for improvement. The only answer choice for Blank (ii) that is negative in meaning is “transgressions,” so it is correct. Book reviews that point out the author’s transgressions are negative in nature, so the answer to Blank (i) must be negative in meaning; the only answer choice that meets this condition is “adverse,” so it is correct.

Thus the correct answer is **adverse** (Choice B) and **transgressions** (Choice E).

6. The gaps in existing accounts of the playwright’s life are not (i) _____, since much of the documentary evidence on which historians have relied is (ii) _____.

Blank (i)

(A) trifling
(B) obvious
(C) implicit

Blank (ii)

(D) credible
(E) extant
(F) incomplete

Explanation

The sentence focuses on the relationship between the gaps in existing accounts of a life and the evidence used to produce those accounts. Since “gaps” implies a concern with completeness, the characterization of that evidence that makes the most sense for Blank (ii) is “incomplete.” The other choices, “credible” or “extant,” could explain the accuracy or verifiability of the accounts in question but nothing about the gaps themselves. Once it is determined that “incomplete” is the best choice for characterizing the evidence, it follows that the gaps in the accounts based on that evidence would likely be considerable, so the opposite of considerable, “trifling,” is the correct answer for Blank (i).

Thus the correct answer is **trifling** (Choice A) and **incomplete** (Choice F).

7. That today’s students of American culture tend to (i) _____ classical music is understandable. In our own time, America’s musical high culture has degenerated into a formulaic entertainment divorced from the contemporary moment. Thus, to miss out on what our orchestras are up to is not to (ii) _____ much. In the late Gilded Age, however, music was widely esteemed as the “queen of the arts.” Classical music was in its American heyday, (iii) _____ the culture at large.

Blank (i)

(A) promote
(B) reinterpret
(C) ignore

Blank (ii)

(D) sacrifice
(E) appreciate
(F) malign

Blank (iii)

(G) antagonistic toward
(H) generally rejected by
(I) centrally embedded in

Explanation

The “however” of the next-to-last sentence indicates that the author’s characterization of the relationship between classical music and popular culture during the Gilded Age contrasts with the current state of affairs. Since music was widely esteemed during the Gilded Age, it follows that it is viewed more negatively, or disregarded, during the current era. Of the choices for Blank (i), “ignore” is the only choice that conveys this sentiment; “promote” connotes the opposite, while “reinterpret” suggests a different sort of positive engagement with classical music that is otherwise unmentioned in the passage. The author characterizes

Question Type 2: Text Completion

the current disconnection between music and culture as understandable, and uses pejorative language (“degenerated,” “formulaic”) to describe current classical music. Of the three choices for Blank (ii), “sacrifice” best conveys this dismissive attitude; “appreciate” would convey that those who forego orchestral concerts are indeed missing something worthwhile, while “malign” overstates the presumed level of feeling and activity of one who simply does not attend concerts. Since the lack of a connection between culture and classical music must contrast with the relationship during the Gilded Age, the answer to Blank (iii) is “centrally embedded in.” Of the other two choices, “generally rejected by” would provide no contrast, while “antagonistic toward” suggests a relationship that would not explain why music was so widely esteemed.

Thus the correct answer is **ignore** (Choice C), **sacrifice** (Choice D), and **centrally embedded in** (Choice I).

8. The serious study of popular culture by intellectuals is regularly credited with having rendered obsolete a once-dominant view that popular culture is inherently inferior to high art. Yet this alteration of attitudes may be somewhat (i) . _____ Although it is now academically respectable to analyze popular culture, the fact that many intellectuals feel compelled to rationalize their own (ii) action movies or mass-market fiction reveals, perhaps unwittingly, their continued (iii) _____ the old hierarchy of high and low culture.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) counterproductive	(D) penchant for	(G) aversion to
(B) underappreciated	(E) distaste for	(H) investment in
(C) overstated	(F) indifference to	(I) misunderstanding of

Explanation

The sentence discusses a purported change in how popular culture and high art are relatively valued; the author is scrutinizing the notion that the academic study of the former has significantly raised its once lowly status. In the last sentence, Blank (iii) is preceded by the word “continued,” indicating that something about intellectuals’ view of the hierarchy of culture has remained unchanged. Since the author states in the first sentence that this hierarchy was once dominant, “investment in” the hierarchy would indicate that sense of continuity. Neither of the other two options is supported by the passage because there is no indication the author believes that intellectuals have a long-held aversion to or misunderstanding of that hierarchy. The “although” that begins the last sentence indicates that the phrase completed by Blank (ii) will contrast the respectability of analyses of popular culture with something that nonetheless reveals a continued allegiance to the hierarchy. A need to explain away a “distaste for” or an “indifference to” action movies or pulp fiction would not indicate any such allegiance, so those choices must be incorrect. However, a need to justify one’s penchant or liking for popular culture would indicate an adherence to the high-low culture hierarchy. Thus “penchant for” is the correct choice for Blank (ii). Finally, since the author is suggesting that the hierarchy given to high and low culture is not obsolete as some claim, it follows that the shift in attitudes is exaggerated; thus, the correct answer to Blank (i) is “overstated.” “Underappreciated” implies the opposite, and “counterproductive” implies a judgment about the value of the hierarchy, whereas the passage is primarily concerned with its existence.

Thus the correct answer is **overstated** (Choice C), **penchant for** (Choice D), and **investment in** (Choice H).

Questions 5

Type 3: Equivalence

Your goals for this chapter

- ⇒ Practice answering GRE Sentence Equivalence questions
- ⇒ Review answers and explanations, particularly for questions you answered incorrectly

This chapter contains three sets of practice Sentence Equivalence questions. The sets are arranged in order of increasing difficulty, one easy, one medium, and one hard.

Following the third set are answer keys for quick reference. Then, at the end of the chapter, you will find complete explanations for every question. Each explanation is presented with the corresponding question, so that you can easily see what was asked and what the various answer choices were.

Sharpen your GRE Verbal Reasoning skills by working your way through these question sets, remembering to use the Tips for Answering given in Chapter 2. Begin with the easy set and then move on to the medium-difficulty and hard sets. Review the answer explanations carefully, paying particular attention to the explanations for questions that you answered incorrectly. Were you able to

- understand the overall meaning of the passage?
- identify significant words in the passage?
- think up your own words for the blanks?
- identify suitable matching words to fill the blanks?

Turn the page to begin.

PRACTICE SET 1: Easy

For each of Questions 1 to 5, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

1. Retrofitted with stabilizing devices, some of which its aesthetics, the bridge has been reopened, no longer prone to excessive swaying but not quite the breathtaking structure it originally was.

- A impair
- B resist
- C improve
- D enhance
- E restore
- F compromise

2. Although cosmic objects have struck Earth since the planet's very formation, humanity has only recently become aware of these events: two centuries ago the idea that objects orbiting the Sun could collide with Earth was widely _____.

- A ridiculed
- B doubted
- C disseminated
- D promulgated
- E marginalized
- F disbelieved

3. That people _____ the musical features of birdsongs suggests that despite the vast evolutionary gulf between birds and mammals, songbirds and humans share some common auditory perceptual abilities.

- A mimic
- B recognize
- C relish
- D are confounded by
- E can make out
- F are puzzled by

4. Torpey's study has turned a seemingly topic, the passport, into a fascinating one by making an original contribution to the sociology of the state.

A ironic
 B banal
 C provocative
 D witty
 E insipid
 F stimulating

5. Britain is attractive to worldwide advertisers because it is ___ market, so there is no need to tailor advertisements for different parts of the country.

A a global
 B an uncomplicated
 C a vast
 D a homogeneous
 E a uniform
 F an immense

PRACTICE SET 2: Medium

For each of Questions 1 to 8, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

1. The band's long-standing strategy of laying leisurely explorations atop a steady funk beat has proven to be surprisingly _____: a concert in Cologne from 1972 sounds as if it could have taken place today.
 A fortuitous
 B foresighted
 C prescient
 D popular
 E serendipitous
 F lucrative
2. Factory production made an absence of imperfections so blandly commonplace that the_____ of hand-produced goods were now cherished where they once might have been shunned.
 A advantages
 B revivals
 C benefits
 D pretensions
 E blemishes
 F defects
3. Through its state associations, the American Medical Association controlled who could become a physician and dominated _____ professions like nursing and occupational therapy.
 A commensurate
 B proportionate
 C kindred
 D affiliated
 E imperative
 F voluntary

4. In a strong indication of the way the entire party is the candidate with moderate credentials, the outspokenly conservative former mayor of a major city has promised to raise a substantial amount of money for the candidate's campaign.
- A rallying behind
 B incensed over
 C undecided about
 D mortified over
 E embarrassed about
 F coalescing around
5. Mr. Hirsch says he will aim to preserve the foundation's support of thinkers, individuals who are going against the trends in a field or an acknowledged set of opinions.
- A iconoclastic
 B integrative
 C doctrinaire
 D heterodox
 E dogmatic
 F synthesizing
6. In France cultural subsidies are _____: producers of just about any film can get an advance from the government against box-office receipts, even though most such loans are never fully repaid.
- A ubiquitous
 B invaluable
 C sporadic
 D scanty
 E questionable
 F omnipresent
7. The problem of avoiding duplicate names—such as for Internet domain names or for e-mail accounts—is particularly _____ when the name has to fit into a format that allows only a finite number of possibilities.
- A meager
 B acute
 C agreeable
 D severe
 E beneficial
 F productive

Question Type 3: Sentence Equivalence

8. At nearly 450 pages, the novel is : the author does not often resist the temptation to finish off a chapter, section, or even paragraph with some unnecessary flourish.

- A instructive
- B complex
- C prolix
- D educational
- E long-winded
- F explicit

PRACTICE SET 3: Hard

For each of Questions 1 to 7, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

1. If researchers can determine exactly what is wrong with people who suffer from this condition, they may be able to suggest drug therapies or other treatments that could _____ the effects of the damage.

- A mitigate
- B exacerbate
- C specify
- D identify
- E ameliorate
- F stabilize

2. Some analysts worry about consumers' perception that the electronics industry is always on the verge of major breakthroughs; that perception could hurt the industry by making consumers reluctant to buy products they believe will soon be .

- A incompatible
- B devalued
- C obsolete
- D ubiquitous
- E everywhere
- F outmoded

3. After people began to make the transition from gathering food to producing food, human societies followed markedly courses; some adopted herding, others took to tillage, and still others stuck to foraging.

- A divergent
- B rural
- C novel
- D unfamiliar
- E disparate
- F quotidian

Question Type 3: Sentence Equivalence

4. In *The Simple Soybean*, the author is much less restrained in his enthusiasm for the bean's medical efficacy than he is in his technical writings, but he still cautions against treating soy as a _____.
[A] staple
[B] supplement
[C] herald
[D] panacea
[E] cure-all
[F] harbinger
5. Parkin's characterization of the movement as neoscholastic is too _____ to be accepted without further investigation.
[A] cursory
[B] detailed
[C] perfunctory
[D] biased
[E] self-evident
[F] complete
6. A recent study suggests that vitamin E supplements, despite widespread belief in their _____, are no better than sugar pills for delaying the onset of the degenerative disease.
[A] potential
[B] misuse
[C] popularity
[D] efficacy
[E] prevalence
[F] usefulness
7. Despite her relaxed and flexible style, Ms. de la Fressange is _____ businesswoman who knows how to market her brand: herself.
[A] a ruthless
[B] a creative
[C] a canny
[D] an industrious
[E] a shrewd
[F] an effective

ANSWER KEY

PRACTICE SET 1: Easy

1. **Choice A:** impair; AND **Choice F:** compromise
2. **Choice B:** doubted; AND **Choice F:** disbelieved
3. **Choice B:** recognize; AND **Choice E:** can make out
4. **Choice B:** banal; AND **Choice E:** insipid
5. **Choice D:** a homogeneous; AND **Choice E:** a uniform

PRACTICE SET 2: Medium

1. **Choice B:** foresighted; AND **Choice C:** prescient
2. **Choice E:** blemishes; AND **Choice F:** defects
3. **Choice C:** kindred; AND **Choice D:** affiliated
4. **Choice A:** rallying behind; AND **Choice F:** coalescing around
5. **Choice A:** iconoclastic; AND **Choice D:** heterodox
6. **Choice A:** ubiquitous; AND **Choice F:** omnipresent
7. **Choice B:** acute; AND **Choice D:** severe
8. **Choice C:** prolix; AND **Choice E:** long-winded

PRACTICE SET 3: Hard

1. **Choice A:** mitigate; AND **Choice E:** ameliorate
2. **Choice C:** obsolete; AND **Choice F:** outmoded
3. **Choice A:** divergent; AND **Choice E:** disparate
4. **Choice D:** panacea; AND **Choice E:** cure-all
5. **Choice A:** cursory; AND **Choice C:** perfunctory
6. **Choice D:** efficacy; AND **Choice F:** usefulness
7. **Choice C:** a canny; AND **Choice E:** a shrewd

Answers and Explanations

PRACTICE SET 1: Easy

For each of Questions 1 to 5, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

1. Retrofitted with stabilizing devices, some of which _____ its aesthetics, the bridge has been reopened, no longer prone to excessive swaying but not quite the breathtaking structure it originally was.

- [A] impair
- [B] resist
- [C] improve
- [D] enhance
- [E] restore
- [F] compromise

Explanation

The sentence suggests that the addition of devices to make the bridge more stable has consequently lessened its previous aesthetic impact as a “breathtaking structure.” The words “restore,” “improve,” and “enhance” do not describe the appropriate qualitative direction of the change caused by the retrofitting as “impair” and “compromise” do.

Though “resist” makes some sense when inserted into the blank, it does not produce a sentence with the same meaning as either of these.

Thus the correct answer is **impair** (Choice A) and **compromise** (Choice F).

2. Although cosmic objects have struck Earth since the planet’s very formation, humanity has only recently become aware of these events: two centuries ago the idea that objects orbiting the Sun could collide with Earth was widely_____

- [A] ridiculed
- [B] doubted
- [C] disseminated
- [D] promulgated
- [E] marginalized
- [F] disbelieved

Explanation

The colon introduces an example that explains or demonstrates the former lack of awareness about cosmic collisions with Earth. Because people were not aware of the existence of events of this type, the idea of their possibility would not have been “disseminated” or “promulgated.” Although “ridiculed” and “marginalized” make sense when inserted into the blank, they do not produce sentences with the same meaning, which “doubted” and “disbelieved” do.

Thus the correct answer is **doubted** (Choice B) and **disbelieved** (Choice F).

3. That people _____ the musical features of birdsongs suggests that despite the vast evolutionary gulf between birds and mammals, songbirds and humans share some common auditory perceptual abilities.

- A mimic
- B recognize
- C relish
- D are confounded by
- E can make out
- F are puzzled by

Explanation

According to the sentence, some human ability or other suggests that humans share a perceptual ability with songbirds. The words that fill the blank must allow for the existence of this ability in humans, which “are confounded by” and “are puzzled by” do not. Although both “mimic” and “relish” make sense when inserted into the blank, they each designate more than just perception, and they both lack another word that would create a sentence similar in meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **recognize** (Choice B) and **can make out** (Choice E).

4. Torpey’s study has turned a seemingly _____ topic, the passport, into a fascinating one by making an original contribution to the sociology of the state.

- A ironic
- B banal
- C provocative
- D witty
- E insipid
- F stimulating

Explanation

The adjective “seemingly” indicates that the words that fill the blank will contrast with “fascinating.” Of the responses, “banal” and “insipid” are both opposites of “fascinating,” and they yield sentences alike in meaning, so they are the correct response. While “provocative” and “stimulating” are near in meaning, they do not provide any contrast to “fascinating,” so they are incorrect. Neither of the other responses has a near synonym among the choices, nor do they provide any opposition to the characterization of the passport as a fascinating topic.

Thus the correct answer is **banal** (Choice B) and **insipid** (Choice E).

5. Britain is attractive to worldwide advertisers because it is market, so there is no need to tailor advertisements for different parts of the country.

- A a global
- B an uncomplicated
- C a vast
- D a homogeneous
- E a uniform
- F an immense

Explanation

The sentence describes a country whose different parts share a similarity that does not require differential action (tailoring for different parts) by advertisers. The blank must designate this sameness. While the words “vast” and “immense” produce sentences with the same meaning—and “global” less so—they all describe size, not similarity. Being “uncomplicated” might also attract advertisers, but it suggests a different virtue than similarity, and there is no other word that produces a sentence with the same meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **a homogenous** (Choice D) and **a uniform** (Choice E).

PRACTICE SET 2: Medium

For each of Questions 1 to 8, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

1. The band's long-standing strategy of laying leisurely explorations atop a steady funk beat has proven to be surprisingly _____: a concert in Cologne from 1972 sounds as if it could have taken place today.

- A fortuitous
- B foresighted
- C prescient
- D popular
- E serendipitous
- F lucrative

Explanation

The colon indicates that the second part of the sentence supports the assertion made in the first part. Since this second part emphasizes the modern sound of the 1972 concert, the blank calls for choices that refer to the similarities between the band's 1972 sound and music characteristic of more recent times. Both “foresighted” and “prescient” suggest that the band's musical strategy anticipated the trends of the coming decades, so they are the correct choice. Of the other responses, “fortuitous” and “serendipitous” are similar in meaning, but they do not fit well with the word “surprisingly,” nor with the emphasis on the band's having a long-term strategy. Neither “popular” nor “lucrative” have a synonym among the other choices; moreover, they too go beyond the sentence's emphasis on the band's seemingly timeless style.

Thus the correct answer is **foresighted** (Choice B) and **prescient** (Choice C).

2. Factory production made an absence of imperfections so blandly commonplace that the of hand-produced goods were now cherished where they once might have been shunned.

- A advantages
- B revivals
- C benefits
- D pretensions
- E blemishes
- F defects

Explanation

The sentence suggests a contrast between the quality of factory-produced goods, marked by an absence of imperfections, with that of hand-produced goods, which must possess such imperfections. The words “blemishes” and “defects” are the only ones that connote imperfection. While “advantages” and “benefits” produce sentences with the same meaning, they neither connote imperfection nor make sense as one would not necessarily shun a product with such positive attributes. The word “revivals” also does not connote imperfection, and there is no other word that would produce a sentence with the same meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **blemishes** (Choice E) and **defects** (Choice F).

3. Through its state associations, the American Medical Association controlled who could become a physician and dominated _____ professions like nursing and occupational therapy.

- A commensurate
- B proportionate
- C kindred
- D affiliated
- E imperative
- F voluntary

Explanation

The blank calls for words that will describe professions such as nursing and occupational therapy as they relate to physicians. These professions are also in the health-care field; the answer choices “kindred” and “affiliated” both suggest this close relationship and produce completed sentences that are similar in meaning. Of the other choices, both “commensurate” and “proportionate” suggest some sort of comparative measurement between the professions mentioned, something unsupported by the rest of the sentence. Neither “imperative” nor “voluntary” would typically be used to describe “profession” nor does either have a word close in meaning among the other choices with which it could be paired.

Thus the correct answer is **kindred** (Choice C) and **affiliated** (Choice D).

4. In a strong indication of the way the entire party is the candidate with moderate credentials, the outspokenly conservative former mayor of a major city has promised to raise a substantial amount of money for the candidate's campaign.

- A rallying behind
- B incensed over
- C undecided about
- D mortified over
- E embarrassed about
- F coalescing around

Explanation

The former mayor's promise to raise funds is used as an example of the party's attitude or actions toward the candidate. Since raising funds is a way of supporting a candidate, the words filling the blank must be positive rather than negative. Only two of the choices given, "rallying behind" and "coalescing around," indicate a positive attitude toward the candidate; moreover, they also produce similar meanings, so they are the correct answer. The other four choices indicate negative or indifferent attitudes toward the candidate that would not be exemplified by promises of fund-raising.

Thus the correct answer is **rallying behind** (Choice A) and **coalescing around** (Choice F).

5. Mr. Hirsch says he will aim to preserve the foundation's _____ support of thinkers, individuals who are going against the trends in a field or an acknowledged set of opinions.

- A iconoclastic
- B integrative
- C doctrinaire
- D heterodox
- E dogmatic
- F synthesizing

Explanation

The portion of the sentence following the comma defines the type of thinkers characterized by the words that will fill the blank. The challenge posed by this item, then, is mainly one of vocabulary: the answers must be words that describe individuals who go against the trends in a field or against a set of opinions. "Iconoclastic" and "heterodox" mean exactly that, with both words describing people whose opinions run counter to established norms. Of the other choices, "doctrinaire" and "dogmatic" both mean the opposite—adhering to established principles—while "integrative" and "synthesizing" both refer to a willingness to bring together disparate points of view.

Thus the correct answer is **iconoclastic** (Choice A) and **heterodox** (Choice D).

6. In France cultural subsidies are : producers of just about any film can get an advance from the government against box-office receipts, even though most such loans are never fully repaid.

- A ubiquitous
- B invaluable
- C sporadic
- D scanty
- E questionable
- F omnipresent

Explanation

The colon signals that the second part of the sentence provides an example of the first part, so the blank must characterize the idea that *just about any* film (as an instance of subsidized culture) gets an advance. This rules out “sporadic” and “scanty” neither of which suggest the pervasiveness of the subsidies. While “invaluable” and “questionable” may make some sense, they do not produce sentences with the same meaning. Thus the correct answer is **ubiquitous** (Choice A) and **omnipresent** (Choice F).

7. The problem of avoiding duplicate names—such as for Internet domain names or for e-mail accounts—is particularly _____ when the name has to fit into a format that allows only a finite number of possibilities.

- A meager
- B acute
- C agreeable
- D severe
- E beneficial
- F productive

Explanation

The blank must be filled with a word that describes the challenge of ensuring unique names under certain limitations. Since these limitations add to the difficulty of avoiding duplication, the blank must be filled with choices that reflect the arduousness of this task. To characterize the problem as particularly “acute” or “severe” would do this nicely; both adjectives indicate the added difficulty of the problem under the circumstances described, and the pairing renders sentences with similar meanings. None of the other responses describe the difficulty of the problem that the rest of the sentence emphasizes.

Thus the correct answer is **acute** (Choice B) and **severe** (Choice D).

8. At nearly 450 pages, the novel is _____ : the author does not often resist the temptation to finish off a chapter, section, or even paragraph with some unnecessary flourish.

- A instructive
- B complex
- C prolix
- D educational
- E long-winded
- F explicit

Explanation

The words that fill the blank in must convey that the novel is not merely long but also contains numerous portions deemed unnecessary. While it may be “instructive” and “educational” these do not properly describe the novel’s length. While “complex” and “explicit” may correlate with (though not characterize) length, they do not produce sentences with the same meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **prolix** (Choice C) and **long-winded** (Choice E).

PRACTICE SET 3: Hard

For each of Questions 1 to 7, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

1. If researchers can determine exactly what is wrong with people who suffer from this condition, they may be able to suggest drug therapies or other treatments that could _____ the effects of the damage.

- A mitigate
- B exacerbate
- C specify
- D identify
- E ameliorate
- F stabilize

Explanation

The sentence suggests that more information about a damaging condition will allow researchers to lessen future negative effects. While “specify” and “identify” create sentences with approximately the same meaning, the sentence also suggests that the researchers are seeking to control effects that are already known rather than needing further specificity or identification. Even in this limited context, it is unreasonable that researchers would wish to “exacerbate” or increase the negative effects of damage, and there is no other word that creates a sentence with the same meaning. “Stabilize” implies that the negative effects would simply be controlled, rather than lessened, and likewise there is no other word that produces a sentence with the same meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **mitigate** (Choice A) and **ameliorate** (Choice E).

2. Some analysts worry about consumers’ perception that the electronics industry is always on the verge of major breakthroughs; that perception could hurt the industry by making consumers reluctant to buy products they believe will soon be

-
- A incompatible
- B devalued
- C obsolete
- D ubiquitous
- E everywhere
- F outmoded

Explanation

The blank characterizes products that consumers fear will be superseded in quality as a result of industry breakthroughs. While “ubiquitous” and “everywhere” produce sentences with the same meaning, they assume an increase in volume or sales that is not necessarily implied by innovative breakthroughs. And while “devalued” makes for a coherent sentence, there is no other word that would produce a sentence with the same meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **obsolete** (Choice C) and **outmoded** (Choice F).

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3. After people began to make the transition from gathering food to producing food, human societies followed markedly _____ courses; some adopted herding, others took to tillage, and still others stuck to foraging.

- A divergent
- B rural
- C novel
- D unfamiliar
- E disparate
- F quotidian

Explanation

The sentence describes the variable courses of three different societies after the beginning of a transition, and the blank characterizes the differences among these courses. While “rural” and “quotidian” may describe a common quality of each course, they do not emphasize their variability. And while the words “novel” and “unfamiliar” are alike in meaning, they do not fit the context, since one of the paths taken (sticking to foraging) is precisely neither novel nor unfamiliar.

Thus the correct answer is **divergent** (Choice A) and **disparate** (Choice E).

4. In *The Simple Soybean*, the author is much less restrained in his enthusiasm for the bean’s medical efficacy than he is in his technical writings, but he still cautions against treating soy as a _____.

- A staple
- B supplement
- C herald
- D panacea
- E cure-all
- F harbinger

Explanation

The blank characterizes the medical efficacy or effectiveness of soy. While the words “herald” and “harbinger” are similar in meaning, they do not characterize medical effectiveness as “panacea” and “cure-all” do. Nor do “staple” and “supplement,” each of which may refer to a medical regime or a dosage but not to efficacy.

Thus the correct answer is **panacea** (Choice D) and **cure-all** (Choice E).

5. Parkin's characterization of the movement as neoscholastic is too _____ to be accepted without further investigation.

- A cursory
- B detailed
- C perfunctory
- D biased
- E self-evident
- F complete

Explanation

The blank describes Parkin's characterization as demanding further investigation. If the characterization is too “complete” or too “self-evident,” there is nothing further to investigate; if it is too “detailed” but not flawed, there is no reason to investigate further. The word “biased” does suggest that further investigation is necessary, but there is no other word that produces a sentence alike in meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **cursory** (Choice A) and **perfunctory** (Choice C).

6. A recent study suggests that vitamin E supplements, despite widespread belief in their _____, are no better than sugar pills for delaying the onset of the degenerative disease.

- A potential
- B misuse
- C popularity
- D efficacy
- E prevalence
- F usefulness

Explanation

The sentence suggests that vitamin E supplements are ineffective in deterring the disease, and the use of the word “despite” indicates that this ineffectiveness contrasts with how they are widely viewed. The words that fill the blank, then, must mean the opposite of “ineffectiveness.” Among the answer choices, the words that do so are “efficacy” and “usefulness.” Of the other choices, “potential” is tempting, but it does not contrast as directly with “ineffectiveness,” nor does it have a near synonym among the other answers with which it could be paired. “Prevalence” and “popularity” might be initially attractive because the passage suggests that these words might describe the use of vitamin E supplements, but the blank calls for a word that characterizes how they are viewed rather than how they are used.

Thus the correct answer is **efficacy** (Choice D) and **usefulness** (Choice F).

7. Despite her relaxed and flexible style, Ms. de la Fressange is _____ businesswoman who knows how to market her brand: herself.
- A a ruthless
 - B a creative
 - C a canny
 - D an industrious
 - E a shrewd
 - F an effective

Explanation

The sentence describes Ms. de la Fressange as a businesswoman but none of the words besides “canny” and “shrewd” provide sentences that are alike in meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **a canny** (Choice C) and **a shrewd** (Choice E).

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6

Practice Sets

**Your goals for
this chapter**

- ⇒ Practice answering all three types of GRE Verbal Reasoning questions
- ⇒ Review answers and explanations, particularly for questions you answered incorrectly

This chapter contains three practice sets of 25 questions. Each set contains a representative mixture of all three question types: Reading Comprehension, Text Completion, and Sentence Equivalence. Following each set of questions is an answer key for quick reference. After the answer key, you will find complete explanations for every question. Each explanation is presented with the corresponding question for easy reference. Review the answers and explanations carefully, paying particular attention to explanations for questions that you answered incorrectly.

To use these practice sets most effectively, take them under actual test conditions. Find a quiet place to work, and set aside enough time to work on one set without being disturbed. You should allow 35 minutes to work through one set. Work only on one set at a time, and use a watch or timer to keep track of your time.

Please note that these sets of questions are structured like individual Verbal Reasoning sections in the paper-delivered test. If you are taking the computer-delivered GRE revised General Test, the sections will contain only 20 questions and you will be given 30 minutes to answer them. If you can successfully complete each practice set in this book in 35 minutes, you will be well prepared for the actual test, but for a more realistic experience of the computer-delivered test, you should also use the practice tests in the free *POWERPREP® II* software.

PRACTICE SET 1

For each question, indicate the best answer, using the directions given.

For each of Questions 1 to 8, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. The name of the Sloane Matthew Library has long been____; even longtime city residents assume it is a run-of-the-mill library, never suspecting what art treasures it contains.

(A) revered
(B) proposed
(C) misleading
(D) elevated
(E) intriguing

2. Although economic growth has conventionally been viewed as the____ for poverty in underdeveloped regions, this prescription's negative environmental side effects are becoming a concern.

(A) culprit
(B) recipe
(C) panacea
(D) explanation
(E) refuge

3. Even as the economy struggled, the secretary stood by his____ long-term outlook, saying that technology was allowing businesses to make deep-rooted improvements in their productivity, the best indicator of an economy's ability to grow.

(A) arcane
(B) sanguine
(C) equivocal
(D) ambivalent
(E) irresolute

4. The villas and compounds that proliferated during the building boom of the 1990s were (i)_____, far too (ii)_____ for people of average means.

Blank (i)

(A) opulent
(B) eclectic
(C) enigmatic

Blank (ii)

(D) bucolic
(E) expensive
(F) mundane

5. The governor has considerable political talents, but as a speaker he is far less
 (i) _____ than his opponent, whose oratorical skills are (ii) _____.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

(A) adroit
(B) unconvincing
(C) prolix

(D) unpretentious
(E) spurious
(F) breathtaking

6. There is no point in combing through the director's work for hints of ideological significance. It is unnecessary: his ideology—Marxist, anti-imperialist, aligned with the perceived interests of the powerless and the marginal—is the (i) _____ of his films. The clarity and force of that ideology are considerable, but its (ii) _____ sometimes bothers critics, who often scold the director for lacking (iii) _____.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

Blank (iii)

(A) hidden focus
(B) chief impetus
(C) murky lesson

(D) bluntness
(E) obscurity
(F) feebleness

(G) lucidity
(H) subtlety
(I) courage

7. As the finances of the energy-trading firm began unraveling, what eventually became (i) _____ was that the company had been concocting “value” out of thin air, thanks not to the trading strategies it promoted as visionary but to financial (ii) ~~that turned~~ a once-solid entity into the most notorious (iii) _____ in an era of corporate scandals.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

Blank (iii)

(A) vindicated
(B) unmistakable
(C) unverifiable

(D) redemption
(E) responsibilities
(F) games

(G) omission
(H) boon
(I) debacle

8. Kept (i) _____ by cloying commercial radio and clueless record executives, the American popular music scene has frequently depended on cities at the edges of the cultural map to provide a much-needed shot of (ii) _____. The momentary (iii) _____ what the next big thing is seems to come out of nowhere—as if someone blows a whistle only those in the know can hear, and suddenly record executives and journalists are crawling all over what had previously been an obscure locale.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

Blank (iii)

(A) hidebound
(B) liberated
(C) obligated

(D) originality
(E) truth
(F) orthodoxy

(G) consensus about
(H) indifference to
(I) guarantee of

For each of Questions 9 to 14, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

Despite hypotheses ranging from armed conflict to climate change, the abandonment of more than 600 Pueblo cliff dwellings in Mesa Verde by A.D. 1300 still puzzles archaeologists. Researchers analyzing refuse from one Pueblo community found

Line remains of maize—a Pueblo crop—in 44 percent of samples from years when the
5 community flourished, but in only 10 percent of samples from years near the time of depopulation, while the remains of wild plants increased significantly.

Bones found in the samples showed that the consumption of domesticated turkeys—which were fed maize—decreased from 55 to 14 percent, while there was a marked increase in wild-animal bones. These data suggest that near the end of the
10 site's occupation, villagers experienced substantial food shortages and adopted hunting-and-gathering strategies to compensate for crop failure.

10. According to the passage, which of the following is likely true regarding the consumption of wild plants in the Pueblo community investigated by researchers?
- (A) It decreased dramatically as the settlement began to decline.
(B) It significantly affected the food supply of wild animals living nearby.
(C) It increased as domesticated sources of food declined.
(D) It represented a continuation of centuries-old traditions.
(E) It fell markedly as the consumption of wild animals increased.
10. The research described in the passage most clearly supports which of the following claims about the abandonment of Mesa Verde?
- (A) It likely resulted from factors affecting crop viability.
(B) It was more extensive than had previously been documented.
(C) It may have been hastened by the abundance of wild animals in the area.
(D) It has been misdated by previous archaeological research.
(E) It happened more rapidly in certain Pueblo communities than in others.

Although it is intuitively clear that an increase in antipredator behavior lowers an animal's risk of predation when predators are present, such benefits are not easily demonstrated. One study that did so found that well-fed guppies are more alert for predators and are consequently less likely to be killed than are their hungry counterparts, which feed with greater intensity. It is also well documented that a decrease in activity lowers an animal's risk of predation by reducing the probability of being detected or encountered by a predator. This effect was convincingly demonstrated by a study in which it was found that partially anesthetized tadpoles were less likely to be captured by dragonfly larvae than were unanesthetized tadpoles.

Line

5

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

11. It can be inferred that the guppy study and the tadpole study, as they are described in the passage, differed in which of the following ways?
 - A The animals less likely to become the victims of predators were the more active ones in the guppy study but were the less active ones in the tadpole study.
 - B The animals less likely to become the victims of predators were those more alert to their surroundings in the guppy study but were the less alert ones in the tadpole study.
 - C The situation created experimentally for the guppy study would be more likely to occur in the wild than would the situation created for the tadpole study.
12. In the context indicated, “demonstrated” (line 3) most nearly means
 - A explained
 - B presented
 - C shown
 - D protested
 - E justified

Since the 1980s, experts have been claiming that the skill demands of today's jobs have outstripped the skills workers possess. Moss and Tilly counter that worker deficiencies lie less in job-specific skills than in such attributes as motivation, interpersonal skills, and appropriate work demeanor. However, Handel suggests that these perceived deficiencies are merely an age effect, arguing that workers pass through a phase of early adulthood characterized by weak attachment to their jobs. As they mature, workers grow out of casual work attitudes and adjust to the workplace norms of jobs that they are more interested in retaining. Significantly, complaints regarding younger workers have persisted for over two decades, but similar complaints regarding older workers ¹⁰ have not grown as the earlier cohorts aged.

- Line 5
13. The passage suggests that Moss and Tilly are most likely to disagree with the "experts" (line 1) about which of the following?
 - (A) Whether the skills demanded by jobs in the labor market have changed since the 1980s
 - (B) Whether employers think that job-specific skills are as important as such attributes as motivation and appropriate work demeanor
 - (C) Whether workers in today's labor market generally live up to the standards and expectations of employers
 - (D) Whether adequate numbers of workers in the labor market possess the particular skills demanded by various different jobs
 - (E) Whether most workers are motivated to acquire new skills that are demanded by the labor market

 14. The last sentence serves primarily to
 - (A) suggest that worker deficiencies are likely to become more pronounced in the future
 - (B) introduce facts that Handel may have failed to take into account
 - (C) cite evidence supporting Handel's argument about workers
 - (D) show that the worker deficiencies cited by Handel are more than an age effect
 - (E) distinguish certain skills more commonly possessed by young workers from skills more commonly found among mature workers

For each of Questions 15 to 19, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

15. Family photos of the author suggest that she was _____ child: she seemed to wear a permanent frown.
 - [A] a sullen
 - [B] an amiable
 - [C] a surly
 - [D] a beautiful
 - [E] a prudent
 - [F] a stunning

16. Biologists agree that snakes descended from lizards, but exactly where this first happened has been a matter of debate since the 1800s, when two _____ theories emerged.
- [A] complex
[B] competing
[C] dubious
[D] conclusive
[E] contending
[F] irrefutable
17. A particular bacterium that has never encountered a particular virus will usually succumb to it, a _____ that may, surprisingly, be beneficial to the colony in which the bacterium lives.
- [A] susceptibility
[B] theory
[C] characteristic
[D] juxtaposition
[E] collision
[F] hypothesis
18. The remarkable thing about the mayoral race, in retrospect, is that so many people wanted the job of managing a municipality so obviously about to _____.
- [A] materialize
[B] disintegrate
[C] crumble
[D] prosper
[E] flourish
[F] scuffle
19. It is a testimony to Roth's _____ that he could not quite bring himself to write a book as dull and flat as his original conception for his novel *Everyman* seemed to demand.
- [A] persistence
[B] deterioration
[C] talent
[D] ambition
[E] decline
[F] genius

For each of Questions 20 to 25, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

In the early twentieth century, the idea that pianists should be musician-scholars whose playing reflected the way composers wanted their music to sound replaced the notion that pianists should be virtuosos whose performances thrilled audiences

Line 5 with emotional daring and showy displays of technique. One important figure to emerge in the period, though a harpsichordist rather than a pianist, was Wanda Landowska (1879–1959). She demonstrated how the keyboard works of Baroque composers such as Bach, Handel, Scarlatti, and Couperin probably sounded in their own times. It would be a mistake to consider Landowska a classicist, however. She had been born in an age of Romantic playing dominated by Liszt, Leschetizky, 10 and their pupils. Thus she grew up with and was influenced by certain Romantic traditions of performance, whatever the stringency of her musical scholarship; Landowska knew how to hold audiences breathless, and when she gave recitals, they responded with deathlike silence and rapt attention.

Her playing was Romantic, but it was at least as close in spirit to the style of playing intended by composers of the Baroque (1600–1750) and Classical (1750–1830) eras, as have been the more exacting but less emotionally resonant interpretations of most harpsichordists since Landowska. She had a miraculous quality of touch, a seemingly autonomous left hand; no artist in her generation could clarify with such deftness the polyphonic writing of the Baroque masters. And none could make their music so 20 spring to life.

Her achievements were the result of a lifetime of scholarship, truly remarkable physical gifts, and resilient rhythm, all combined with excellent judgment about when not to hold the printed note sacrosanct. Of course, developing such judgment demanded considerable experience and imagination. She was a genius at underlining the dramatic and emotional 25 content of a piece, and to do so, she took liberties, all kinds of liberties, while nevertheless preserving the integrity of a composer's score. In short, her entire musical approach was Romantic: intensely personal, full of light and shade, never pedantic.

Thanks to Landowska, Bach's music (originally composed for the harpsichord) now sounded inappropriately thick when played on the piano. One by one, pianists stopped 30 playing Bach's music as adapted for the piano by Liszt or by Tausig. Then they gradually stopped performing any kind of Baroque music on the piano, even Scarlatti's. The piano repertoire, it began to be felt, was extensive enough without reverting to transcriptions of Baroque music originally written for the harpsichord—and piano performances of 35 Bach and Scarlatti were, despite the obvious similarities between the harpsichord and the piano, transcriptions, no matter how faithfully the original notes were played. In accordance with this kind of purism came an emphasis on studying composers' manuscript notations, a relatively new field of musicology that is flourishing even today.

20. The passage suggests that Landowska's playing embodied a rejection of which of the following?
- (A) Emotionally resonant interpretations of musical works.
 - (B) An audience's complete silence during a performance.
 - (C) Performances of previously obscure Baroque works.
 - (D) The idea that a performer can correctly judge when not to hold the printed note sacrosanct.
 - (E) Performances emphasizing showy displays of technique that compromise the integrity of a composer's original score.

21. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about the compositions of Scarlatti?
- (A) They were adapted by Liszt and Tausig.
(B) They have not been transcribed faithfully.
(C) They were not composed during the Baroque period. D
(D) They were composed for instruments other than piano.
(E) They fell out of favor with most musicians in the early twentieth century.
22. The passage suggests that Landowska would probably have objected most strongly to which of the following?
- (A) A performance of a Bach keyboard piece played on the harpsichord.
(B) A performance of a Handel organ piece on a Baroque pipe organ.
(C) A modern composition written for a harpsichord and two pianos.
(D) A piano solo in which the performer occasionally departs from the tempo indicated by the composer.
(E) A performance of a piano and violin sonata in which the piano part is played on the harpsichord.
23. The author's assertion that Landowska should not be considered a classicist serves primarily to emphasize which of the following?
- (A) Landowska specialized in playing the works of composers of the Baroque era.
(B) Landowska's repertoire included orchestral music only.
(C) Landowska's musical performances were not devoid of emotion.
(D) Landowska's repertoire emphasized works of long-lasting interest and value.
(E) Landowska advocated the study of Classical style or form.

Scientists formerly believed that the rocky planets—Earth, Mercury, Venus, and Mars—were created by the rapid gravitational collapse of a dust cloud, a deflation giving rise to a dense orb. That view was challenged in the 1960s, when studies of Moon craters revealed that these craters were caused by the impact of objects that Line 5 were in great abundance about 4.5 billion years ago but whose number appeared to have quickly decreased shortly thereafter. This observation rejuvenated Otto Schmidt's 1944 theory of accretion. According to this theory, cosmic dust gradually lumped into ever-larger conglomerates: particulates, gravel, small and then larger balls, planetesimals (tiny planets), and, ultimately, planets. As the planetesimals 10 became larger, their numbers decreased. Consequently, the number of collisions between planetesimals decreased.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

24. The passage provides evidence that Schmidt would be likely to disagree with the theory presented in the first sentence over
- [A] the length of time it took for the rocky planets to form.
 - [B] the most likely causes of the Moon's impact craters.
 - [C] the importance of cosmic dust as a seminal material in planetary formation.

25. Which of the following best describes the “observation” (line 6) referred to in the passage?
- (A) The rocky planets were created by the rapid gravitational collapse of a dust cloud.
 - (B) Certain features on the Moon’s surface are impact craters caused by collisions with objects such as planetesimals.
 - (C) The rocky planets were formed by a slow accretion of cosmic dust into increasingly larger bodies.
 - (D) The number of objects colliding with the Moon appears to have been high for a while and then rapidly diminished.
 - (E) There are far fewer planetesimals in existence today than there were about 4.5 billion years ago.

ANSWER KEY

PRACTICE SET 1

1. **Choice C:** misleading
2. **Choice C:** panacea
3. **Choice B:** sanguine
4. **Choice A:** opulent; **Choice E:** expensive
5. **Choice A:** adroit; **Choice F:** breathtaking
6. **Choice B:** chief impetus; **Choice D:** bluntness; **Choice H:** subtlety
7. **Choice B:** unmistakable; **Choice F:** games; **Choice I:** debacle
8. **Choice A:** hidebound; **Choice D:** originality; **Choice G:** consensus about
9. **Choice C:** It increased as domesticated sources of food declined.
10. **Choice A:** It likely resulted from factors affecting crop viability.
11. **Choice B:** The animals less likely to become the victims of predators were those more alert to their surroundings in the guppy study but were the less alert ones in the tadpole study.
AND
Choice C: The situation created experimentally for the guppy study would be more likely to occur in the wild than would the situation created for the tadpole study.
12. **Choice C:** shown
13. **Choice D:** Whether adequate numbers of workers in the labor market possess the particular skills demanded by various different jobs
14. **Choice C:** cite evidence supporting Handel's argument about workers
15. **Choice A:** a sullen; AND **Choice C:** a surly
16. **Choice B:** competing; AND **Choice E:** contending
17. **Choice A:** susceptibility; AND **Choice C:** characteristic
18. **Choice B:** disintegrate; AND **Choice C:** crumble
19. **Choice C:** talent; AND **Choice F:** genius
20. **Choice E:** Performances emphasizing showy displays of technique that compromise the integrity of a composer's original score
21. **Choice D:** They were composed for instruments other than piano.
22. **Choice E:** A performance of a piano and violin sonata in which the piano part is played on the harpsichord
23. **Choice C:** Landowska's musical performances were not devoid of emotion.
24. **Choice A:** the length of time it took for the rocky planets to form
25. **Choice D:** The number of objects colliding with the Moon appears to have been high for a while and then rapidly diminished.

Answers and Explanations

PRACTICE SET 1

For each question, indicate the best answer, using the directions given.

For each of Questions 1 to 8, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. The name of the Sloane Matthew Library has long been ____; even longtime city residents assume it is a run-of-the-mill library, never suspecting what art treasures it contains.

(A) revered
(B) proposed
(C) misleading
(D) elevated
(E) intriguing

Explanation

The second half of the sentence contrasts the art treasures actually housed in the Sloane Matthew Library with city residents' perceptions of the institution. The semicolon that separates the first half of the sentence from the second half suggests that this contrast explains the assertion made in the first half. The blank, then, calls for a word that indicates the disparity between the public's image of the library and its actual contents. "Misleading" does this, suggesting that it is the name of the institution that leads residents to view it as a run-of-the-mill library rather than an art museum. "Revered," "elevated," and even "intriguing" would all suggest that the public sees the library as an extraordinary institution. "Proposed" suggests that the institution is still in the process of being named, an idea not supported by anything else in the sentence.

Thus the correct answer is **misleading** (Choice C).

2. Although economic growth has conventionally been viewed as the _____ for poverty in underdeveloped regions, this prescription's negative environmental side effects are becoming a concern.

(A) culprit
(B) recipe
(C) panacea
(D) explanation
(E) refuge

Explanation

The use of the word "prescription" suggests that the word that fills the blank will imply that economic growth is a cure for poverty. "Panacea," meaning a universal remedy, fits this sense exactly. Of the other choices, "culprit" and "recipe" would provide the opposite sense by implying that economic growth causes poverty in underdeveloped regions. Neither "refuge" nor "explanation" conveys the sense of remediation implied by the word "prescription," so they are both incorrect.

Thus the correct answer is **panacea** (Choice C).

3. Even as the economy struggled, the secretary stood by his long-term outlook, saying that technology was allowing businesses to make deep-rooted improvements in their productivity, the best indicator of an economy's ability to grow.

(A) arcane
(B) sanguine
(C) equivocal
(D) ambivalent
(E) irresolute

Explanation

The sentence contrasts the economy's current struggles with the secretary's predictions for its long-term prospects. Since the secretary believes that technology will lead to economic growth, the secretary's outlook is an optimistic one. Thus the correct answer is "sanguine," which can mean optimistic. Since there is no indication that the secretary's view has wavered or is open to alternate interpretations, "irresolute," "ambivalent," and "equivocal" are all incorrect. The straightforward explanation of the rationale for the secretary's outlook suggests that it is not an "arcane" one, making that choice incorrect as well. Thus the correct answer is **sanguine** (Choice B).

4. The villas and compounds that proliferated during the building boom of the 1990s were (i) _____, far too (ii) _____ for people of average means.

Blank (i)

(A) opulent
(B) eclectic
(C) enigmatic

Blank (ii)

(D) bucolic
(E) expensive
(F) mundane

Explanation

The sentence talks about "villas and compounds," which are high-end properties, so the intuitive answer to Blank (ii) must be a word denoting a quality that makes these properties unsuitable or out of reach for people of average means. The answer choice that best matches this meaning is "expensive," so it is correct. The answer to Blank (i) must name the quality of the properties that makes them too expensive for people of average means; the answer choice that best meets this requirement is "opulent."

"Bucolic" may also seem a plausible choice for Blank (ii), as it denotes a quality that may not normally be associated with "people of average means." However, it is incorrect, as none of the qualities named in Blank (i) would make a property bucolic.

Thus the correct answer is **opulent** (Choice A) and **expensive** (Choice E).

5. The governor has considerable political talents, but as a speaker he is far less (i) _____ than his opponent, whose oratorical skills are (ii) _____.

Blank (i)

(A) adroit
(B) unconvincing
(C) prolix

Blank (ii)

(D) unpretentious
(E) spurious
(F) breathtaking

Explanation

The “but” in the sentence suggests that there is a contrast between the governor’s political talents and his speaking ability. Since the former is described in positive terms (“considerable”), the description of the latter must be negative. The governor is described as “far less (i) _____ than his opponent” as a speaker; since this whole phrase must have a negative meaning, the answer to Blank (i) must be positive. The only answer choice for Blank (i) that is positive is “adroit,” so it is correct. Given this, the opponent’s speaking ability must be much better than the governor’s, so the answer to Blank (ii) has to be positive. The only positive choice for Blank (ii) is “breathtaking,” so it is correct.

Thus the correct answer is **adroit** (Choice A) and **breathtaking** (Choice F).

6. There is no point in combing through the director’s work for hints of ideological significance. It is unnecessary: his ideology—Marxist, anti-imperialist, aligned with the perceived interests of the powerless and the marginal—is the (i) _____ of his films. The clarity and force of that ideology are considerable, but its (ii) _____ sometimes bothers critics, who often scold the director for lacking (iii) _____.

Blank (i)

(A) hidden focus
(B) chief impetus
(C) murky lesson

Blank (ii)

(D) bluntness
(E) obscurity
(F) feebleness

Blank (iii)

(G) lucidity
(H) subtlety
(I) courage

Explanation

The colon in the second sentence indicates that the second half of the sentence will explain the first, so Blank (i) must contain a phrase that explains why it is needless to search the director’s work for hints of ideology. “Chief impetus” does so, since it implies that the director’s ideology is so obvious that “combing through” it for hints is not needed. The other two choices are incorrect because they suggest on the contrary a need for deeper analysis to detect what is “hidden” or “murky” in the films. Blank (ii) calls for an aspect of the director’s ideology that bothers critics. The first part of the sentence mentions the considerable force and clarity of that ideology, so neither “feebleness” nor “obscurity” makes sense. “Bluntness” is therefore correct. Blank (iii) must then be a word whose lack characterizes bluntness. Since “subtlety” is the opposite of “bluntness,” it is the correct answer.

Thus the correct answer is **chief impetus** (Choice B), **bluntness** (Choice D), and **subtlety** (Choice H).

7. As the finances of the energy-trading firm began unraveling, what eventually became (i) _____ was that the company had been concocting “value” out of thin air, thanks not to the trading strategies it promoted as visionary but to financial (ii) _____ that turned a once-solid entity into the most notorious (iii) _____ in an era of corporate scandals.

Blank (i)

(A) vindicated
(B) unmistakable
(C) unverifiable

Blank (ii)

(D) redemption
(E) responsibilities
(F) games

Blank (iii)

(G) omission
(H) boon
(I) debacle

Explanation

The characterization of the company's activities as "concocting 'value' out of thin air" strongly suggests that its transactions have been fraudulent. The word that completes Blank (ii) must reflect this financial trickery; "games" does so, whereas both "redemption" and "responsibilities" both reflect more upstanding behavior than the sentence ascribes to the firm. The word that completes Blank (iii) should reflect the company's fall from respectability and have a sense opposite to the "once-solid entity" with which it is contrasted. "Debacle" does this nicely, while the other two choices lack the necessary pejorative meaning. For Blank (i), "vindicated" suggests that there had been previous warnings about the firm's practices that were eventually borne out, something indicated nowhere else in the passage. "Unverifiable" is at odds with the sentence's surety about the firm's wrongdoing; that assurance is best conveyed by "unmistakable."

Thus the correct answer is **unmistakable** (Choice B), **games** (Choice F), and **debacle** (Choice I).

8. Kept (i) _____ by cloying commercial radio and clueless record executives, the American popular music scene has frequently depended on cities at the edges of the cultural map to provide a much-needed shot of (ii) _____. The momentary (iii) _____ what the next big thing is seems to come out of nowhere—as if someone blows a whistle only those in the know can hear, and suddenly record executives and journalists are crawling all over what had previously been an obscure locale.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
<input type="radio"/> A hidebound	<input type="radio"/> D originality	<input type="radio"/> G consensus about
<input type="radio"/> B liberated	<input type="radio"/> E truth	<input type="radio"/> H indifference to
<input type="radio"/> C obligated	<input type="radio"/> F orthodoxy	<input type="radio"/> I guarantee of

Explanation

The second sentence provides a clue for Blank (iii): the whistle metaphor and the talk about record executives and journalists "crawling all over" a location bring up the image of a race that involves a large number of people; this, and the fact that all these people congregate in one place, point to "consensus about" as the right answer choice for Blank (iii). The search for "the next big thing" suggests that the American popular music scene is looking for something new; this points to "originality" as the correct answer for Blank (ii). Finally, someone who needs a "shot of originality" is unwilling or unable to let go of the past; therefore, "hidebound" is the correct answer choice for Blank (i).

Thus, the correct answer choices are **hidebound** (Choice A), **originality** (Choice D) and **consensus about** (Choice G).

Mixed Practice Sets

For each of Questions 9 to 14, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

Despite hypotheses ranging from armed conflict to climate change, the abandonment of more than 600 Pueblo cliff dwellings in Mesa Verde by A.D. 1300 still puzzles archaeologists. Researchers analyzing refuse from one Pueblo community found remains of maize—a Pueblo crop—in 44 percent of samples from years when the community flourished, but in only 10 percent of samples from years near the time of depopulation, while the remains of wild plants increased significantly.

Bones found in the samples showed that the consumption of domesticated turkeys—which were fed maize—decreased from 55 to 14 percent, while there was a marked increase in wild-animal bones. These data suggest that near the end of the site’s occupation, villagers experienced substantial food shortages and adopted hunting-and-gathering strategies to compensate for crop failure.

Description

The passage presents a puzzle—why did the Pueblo abandon their dwellings in Mesa Verde?—and provides some evidence about food remains that suggests a possible explanation.

9. According to the passage, which of the following is likely true regarding the consumption of wild plants in the Pueblo community investigated by researchers?
- (A) It decreased dramatically as the settlement began to decline.
 - (B) It significantly affected the food supply of wild animals living nearby.
 - (C) It increased as domesticated sources of food declined.
 - (D) It represented a continuation of centuries-old traditions.
 - (E) It fell markedly as the consumption of wild animals increased.

Explanation

The passage presents four developments that accompanied the decline of one Pueblo community: consumption of maize and domesticated turkeys fell, while that of wild plants and wild animals increased. This summary shows that answer Choices A and E are incorrect, since both refer to a drop in the consumption of wild plants. Since the passage says nothing about whether the consumption of wild plants affected nearby wildlife nor about whether it was a long-standing tradition, Choices B and D are incorrect. **Choice C** is correct, however: consumption of wild plants rose as that of maize and domesticated turkeys fell.

10. The research described in the passage most clearly supports which of the following claims about the abandonment of Mesa Verde?
- It likely resulted from factors affecting crop viability.
 - It was more extensive than had previously been documented.
 - It may have been hastened by the abundance of wild animals in the area.
 - It has been misdated by previous archaeological research.
 - It happened more rapidly in certain Pueblo communities than in others.

Explanation

The research strongly suggests that when the Pueblo community was flourishing, maize and maize-fed turkey formed a substantial part of the inhabitants' diet, but that just before the abandonment of Mesa Verde, maize had become a much scarcer commodity. This decline in what had been a dietary mainstay supports the claim that the villagers were experiencing difficulty growing crops. Thus **Choice A** is correct. Nothing in the passage suggests that the extent or date of the abandonment should be revised (Choices B and D), nor that the rate of the abandonment was affected by wild animals or varied from one community to another (Choices C and E).

Although it is intuitively clear that an increase in antipredator behavior lowers an animal's risk of predation when predators are present, such benefits are not easily demonstrated. One study that did so found that well-fed guppies are more alert for predators and are consequently less likely to be killed than are their hungry counterparts, which feed with greater intensity. It is also well documented that a decrease in activity lowers an animal's risk of predation by reducing the probability of being detected or encountered by a predator. This effect was convincingly demonstrated by a study in which it was found that partially anesthetized tadpoles were less likely to be captured by dragonfly larvae than were unanesthetized tadpoles.

Description

The passage mentions two factors that can plausibly lower an animal's risk of predation and discusses experiments that confirm these hypotheses.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

11. It can be inferred that the guppy study and the tadpole study, as they are described in the passage, differed in which of the following ways?
- The animals less likely to become the victims of predators were the more active ones in the guppy study but were the less active ones in the tadpole study.
 - The animals less likely to become the victims of predators were those more alert to their surroundings in the guppy study but were the less alert ones in the tadpole study.
 - The situation created experimentally for the guppy study would be more likely to occur in the wild than would the situation created for the tadpole study.

Mixed Practice Sets

Explanation

Choices B and C are correct. The question asks how the two studies differed.

Choice A is incorrect: In the guppy study, the more likely victims are the hungry guppies who “feed with greater intensity” and are, therefore, more active than well-fed guppies.

Choice B is correct: The passage states that “well-fed guppies are more alert for predators and are consequently less likely to be killed” and that “anesthetized,” or less alert, tadpoles “were less likely to be captured by dragonfly larvae.”

Choice C is correct: In the guppy study the subjects were well fed, while in the tad-pole study the subjects were anesthetized; this latter condition is much less unlikely to occur in the wild.

12. In the context indicated, “demonstrated” (line 3) most nearly means

- (A) explained
- (B) presented
- (C) shown
- (D) protested
- (E) justified

Explanation

The passage states that benefits of increased antipredator behavior “are not easily demonstrated”; in this context, “shown” is the closest synonym, so **Choice C** is correct.

Since the 1980s, experts have been claiming that the skill demands of today’s jobs have outstripped the skills workers possess. Moss and Tilly counter that worker deficiencies lie less in job-specific skills than in such attributes as motivation, interpersonal skills,

Line and appropriate work demeanor. However, Handel suggests that these perceived defi-₅ ciencies are merely an age effect, arguing that workers pass through a phase of early adulthood characterized by weak attachment to their jobs. As they mature, workers grow out of casual work attitudes and adjust to the workplace norms of jobs that they are more interested in retaining. Significantly, complaints regarding younger workers have persisted for over two decades, but similar complaints regarding older workers
10 have not grown as the earlier cohorts aged.

Description

The passage discusses various perceived inadequacies of contemporary workers for their jobs and focuses on inadequacies stemming from lack of motivation and from poor workplace attitudes. A hypothesis is presented that attributes these deficiencies to worker youth and immaturity.

13. The passage suggests that Moss and Tilly are most likely to disagree with the “experts” (line 1) about which of the following?
- (A) Whether the skills demanded by jobs in the labor market have changed since the 1980s
 - (B) Whether employers think that job-specific skills are as important as such attributes as motivation and appropriate work demeanor
 - (C) Whether workers in today’s labor market generally live up to the standards and expectations of employers
 - (D) Whether adequate numbers of workers in the labor market possess the particular skills demanded by various different jobs
 - (E) Whether most workers are motivated to acquire new skills that are demanded by the labor market

Explanation

According to the passage, the “experts” on the one hand, and Moss and Tilly on the other, disagree about the specific kinds of deficiencies possessed by today’s workers: the “experts” claim that workers are deficient because of the lack of job skills, while Moss and Tilly believe that the deficiencies stem from the lack of motivation and poor attitude. This means that the two sides would disagree about whether the skills of today’s workers are adequate for their jobs; thus **Choice D** is correct.

14. The last sentence serves primarily to
- (A) suggest that worker deficiencies are likely to become more pronounced in the future
 - (B) introduce facts that Handel may have failed to take into account
 - (C) cite evidence supporting Handel’s argument about workers
 - (D) show that the worker deficiencies cited by Handel are more than an age effect
 - (E) distinguish certain skills more commonly possessed by young workers from skills more commonly found among mature workers

Explanation

If Handel’s account is correct, it would not be surprising that a high level of perceived skill deficiencies in young workers at one time translates into a relatively low level of perceived deficiencies among older workers some twenty years later. If the deficiencies in young workers are in job-related skills, however, some trace of those deficiencies would still be noticeable twenty years later. Since the last sentence presents data that support the first prediction rather than the second, **Choice C** is correct.

Mixed Practice Sets

For each of Questions 15 to 19, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

15. Family photos of the author suggest that she was _____ child: she seemed to wear a permanent frown.

- A a sullen
- B an amiable
- C a surly
- D a beautiful
- E a prudent
- F a stunning

Explanation

The second part of the sentence explains the first, so the blank describes someone who is best characterized by wearing a permanent frown. This disallows “an amiable,” “a beautiful,” “a prudent,” and “a stunning,” none of which demand or allow for such a characterization. While “a sullen” and “a surly” do not mean exactly the same thing, they create sentences with the same meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **a sullen** (Choice A) and **a surly** (Choice C).

16. Biologists agree that snakes descended from lizards, but exactly where this first happened has been a matter of debate since the 1800s, when two theories emerged.

- A complex
- B competing
- C dubious
- D conclusive
- E contending
- F irrefutable

Explanation

The “but” that connects the two parts of the sentence indicates that the second part contrasts in some way with the first part. In this case, the contrast is between the biologists’ agreement on a central fact (snakes’ descent from lizards) and a disagreement over the details (which have long been a matter of debate). The words that best complete the blank, then, must somehow emphasize this disagreement. Of the choices, “competing” and “contending” best do so because they imply that the two theories are what the long-running debate has centered upon. Of the other choices, “conclusive” and “irrefutable” are roughly synonymous, but neither suggests a matter worthy of a long-running debate. “Dubious,” in addition to having no near-synonym among the choices, would also not explain why the emergence of the two theories triggered the debate. While “complex” might well describe a theory, it too has no obvious pair among the choices, and it also does not foreground biologists’ disagreement regarding the two theories.

Thus the correct answer is **competing** (Choice B) and **contending** (Choice E).

17. A particular bacterium that has never encountered a particular virus will usually succumb to it, a that may, surprisingly, be beneficial to the colony in which the bacterium lives.

- A susceptibility
- B theory
- C characteristic
- D juxtaposition
- E collision
- F hypothesis

Explanation

The blank calls for words that can refer to the tendency of a bacterium to be killed by an unfamiliar virus. “Susceptibility” and “characteristic,” although not synonyms, can both be used to indicate this trait, and because it is clear that they are both referring to the same behavior, they produce sentences alike in meaning. The other choices contain a pair of synonyms—“theory” and “hypothesis”—that might at first seem tempting. But these, along with the other two choices, cannot aptly be used to characterize the typical behavior of bacteria, so they are all incorrect.

Thus the correct answer is **susceptibility** (Choice A) and **characteristic** (Choice C).

18. The remarkable thing about the mayoral race, in retrospect, is that so many people wanted the job of managing a municipality so obviously about to.

- A materialize
- B disintegrate
- C crumble
- D prosper
- E flourish
- F scuff f le

Explanation

The sentence expresses surprise that the job of mayor was seen as desirable, given the state of the municipality. Thus the phrase containing the blank likely expresses something negative about the municipality. Of the choices, three—“disintegrate,” “crumble,” and “scuffle”—are negative. Of these, two—“disintegrate” and “crumble”—are synonyms that would yield sentences alike in meaning, so they are the correct choices. Of the other three possibilities, one pairing, “prosper” and “flourish,” are synonyms, but the mayorship of a municipality on the verge of prosperity would be a desirable job, so that pairing does not fit the meaning of the sentence.

Thus the correct answer is **disintegrate** (Choice B) and **crumble** (Choice C).

19. It is a testimony to Roth’s that he could not quite bring himself to write a book as dull and flat as his original conception for his novel *Everyman* seemed to demand.

- A persistence
- B deterioration
- C talent
- D ambition
- E decline
- F genius

Explanation

The sentence suggests that both Roth's original conception and his execution were negative, but it relies on the contrast between these to create irony. While the "deterioration" and "decline" produce sentences alike in meaning, they do not capture the irony demanded by the use of the word "quite." While "ambition" and "persistence" may each capture that irony, there are no other words that when paired with them would produce sentences alike in meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **talent** (Choice C) and **genius** (Choice F).

For each of Questions 20 to 25, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

In the early twentieth century, the idea that pianists should be musician-scholars whose playing reflected the way composers wanted their music to sound replaced the notion that pianists should be virtuosos whose performances thrilled audiences

Line with emotional daring and showy displays of technique. One important figure to
 5 emerge in the period, though a harpsichordist rather than a pianist, was Wanda Landowska (1879–1959). She demonstrated how the keyboard works of Baroque composers such as Bach, Handel, Scarlatti, and Couperin probably sounded in their own times. It would be a mistake to consider Landowska a classicist, however. She had been born in an age of Romantic playing dominated by Liszt, Leschetizky,
 10 and their pupils. Thus she grew up with and was influenced by certain Romantic traditions of performance, whatever the stringency of her musical scholarship; Landowska knew how to hold audiences breathless, and when she gave recitals, they responded with deathlike silence and rapt attention.

Her playing was Romantic, but it was at least as close in spirit to the style of playing
 15 intended by composers of the Baroque (1600–1750) and Classical (1750–1830) eras, as have been the more exacting but less emotionally resonant interpretations of most harpsichordists since Landowska. She had a miraculous quality of touch, a seemingly autonomous left hand; no artist in her generation could clarify with such deftness the polyphonic writing of the Baroque masters. And none could make their music so
 20 spring to life.

Her achievements were the result of a lifetime of scholarship, truly remarkable physical gifts, and resilient rhythm, all combined with excellent judgment about when not to hold the printed note sacrosanct. Of course, developing such judgment demanded considerable experience and imagination. She was a genius at underlining the dramatic and emotional
 25 content of a piece, and to do so, she took liberties, all kinds of liberties, while nevertheless preserving the integrity of a composer's score. In short, her entire musical approach was Romantic: intensely personal, full of light and shade, never pedantic.

Thanks to Landowska, Bach's music (originally composed for the harpsichord) now sounded inappropriately thick when played on the piano. One by one, pianists stopped
 30 playing Bach's music as adapted for the piano by Liszt or by Tausig. Then they gradually stopped performing any kind of Baroque music on the piano, even Scarlatti's. The piano repertoire, it began to be felt, was extensive enough without reverting to transcriptions of Baroque music originally written for the harpsichord—and piano performances of Bach and Scarlatti were, despite the obvious similarities between the harpsichord and
 35 the piano, transcriptions, no matter how faithfully the original notes were played. In accordance with this kind of purism came an emphasis on studying composers' manuscript notations, a relatively new field of musicology that is flourishing even today.

Description

The passage describes the career, performing style, and influence of the musician Wanda Landowska in the context of a general shift in attitudes among early-twentieth-century pianists and the emergence of the belief that music should be performed in a way that fits the composer's original vision most faithfully.

20. The passage suggests that Landowska's playing embodied a rejection of which of the following?
- (A) Emotionally resonant interpretations of musical works
 - (B) An audience's complete silence during a performance
 - (C) Performances of previously obscure Baroque works
 - (D) The idea that a performer can correctly judge when not to hold the printed note sacrosanct
 - (E) Performances emphasizing showy displays of technique that compromise the integrity of a composer's original score

Explanation

Choice E is correct because throughout the passage Wanda Landowska's playing serves as the embodiment of the historical change described in the passage's first sentence: the replacement of "showy displays of technique" in favor of playing that "reflected the way composers wanted their music to sound." The passage later describes Landowska's playing as "preserving the integrity of the composer's original score."

21. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about the compositions of Scarlatti?
- (A) They were adapted by Liszt and Tausig.
 - (B) They have not been transcribed faithfully.
 - (C) They were not composed during the Baroque period.
 - (D) They were composed for instruments other than piano.
 - (E) They fell out of favor with most musicians in the early twentieth century.

Explanation

In the last paragraph, the passage states that pianists gradually stopped playing Scarlatti's music on the piano because they felt that the piano repertoire was extensive enough and that they had no need to resort to transcriptions of harpsichord pieces. It follows from this that Scarlatti's music was not written for the piano, so **Choice D** is correct.

22. The passage suggests that Landowska would probably have objected most strongly to which of the following?
- (A) A performance of a Bach keyboard piece played on the harpsichord
 - (B) A performance of a Handel organ piece on a Baroque pipe organ
 - (C) A modern composition written for a harpsichord and two pianos
 - (D) A piano solo in which the performer occasionally departs from the tempo indicated by the composer
 - (E) A performance of a piano and violin sonata in which the piano part is played on the harpsichord

Explanation

The passage tells us that Landowska was an adherent of the idea that performers of other people's musical works should play "the way composers wanted their music to sound" (line 2). In the context of the passage, this means that performers should use the instrument for which the music was originally written. This rules out Choices B, C, and D, as they are not examples of this kind of deviation from the composers' intentions. Choice A is incorrect, since the passage tells us that Bach's music was "originally composed for the harpsichord" (line 28). This leaves **Choice E** as the only correct option: Landowska would object to the music originally intended for the piano being performed on a harpsichord.

23. The author's assertion that Landowska should not be considered a classicist serves primarily to emphasize which of the following?
- (A) Landowska specialized in playing the works of composers of the Baroque era.
 - (B) Landowska's repertoire included orchestral music only.
 - (C) Landowska's musical performances were not devoid of emotion.
 - (D) Landowska's repertoire emphasized works of long-lasting interest and value.
 - (E) Landowska advocated the study of Classical style or form.

Explanation

The second paragraph of the passage suggests that the primary difference between the Classical and the Romantic styles of playing is that the former puts emphasis on technical mastery and faithfulness to the original score, while the latter focuses on the emotional aspects of a performance. Therefore, **Choice C** is correct.

Line 5 Scientists formerly believed that the rocky planets—Earth, Mercury, Venus, and Mars—were created by the rapid gravitational collapse of a dust cloud, a deflation giving rise to a dense orb. That view was challenged in the 1960s, when studies of Moon craters revealed that these craters were caused by the impact of objects that were in great abundance about 4.5 billion years ago but whose number appeared to have quickly decreased shortly thereafter. This observation rejuvenated Otto Schmidt's 1944 theory of accretion. According to this theory, cosmic dust gradually lumped into ever-larger conglomerates: particulates, gravel, small and then larger balls, planetesimals (tiny planets), and, ultimately, planets. As the planetesimals 10 became larger, their numbers decreased. Consequently, the number of collisions between planetesimals decreased.

Description

The passage describes two theories of planetary formation in the solar system: the rapid collapse theory and the accretion theory. The passage mentions that the former theory was dominant before the 1960s and discusses how data obtained in the 1960s reignited scientific interest in the latter theory.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

25. The passage provides evidence that Schmidt would be likely to DISAGREE with the theory presented in the first sentence over
- A the length of time it took for the rocky planets to form
 - B the most likely causes of the Moon's impact craters
 - C the importance of cosmic dust as a seminal material in planetary formation

Explanation

Choice A is correct. The question asks what Schmidt would disagree with in the rapid-collapse theory.

Choice A is correct: According to Schmidt's own theory, "cosmic dust gradually lumped into ever-larger conglomerates"; this means that planetary formation was a prolonged process, while in the rapid-collapse theory, it happened quickly.

Choice B is incorrect: Both theories agree that Moon craters were caused by the impact of cosmic bodies that crashed into the Moon's surface.

Choice C is incorrect: Both theories agree that cosmic dust was the material from which the planets ultimately formed.

25. Which of the following best describes the "observation" (line 6) referred to in the passage?
- A The rocky planets were created by the rapid gravitational collapse of a dust cloud.
 - B Certain features on the Moon's surface are impact craters caused by collisions with objects such as planetesimals.
 - C The rocky planets were formed by a slow accretion of cosmic dust into increasingly larger bodies.
 - D The number of objects colliding with the Moon appears to have been high for a while and then rapidly diminished.
 - E There are far fewer planetesimals in existence today than there were about 4.5 billion years ago.

Explanation

The "observation" mentioned in the passage is the finding that Moon's craters "were caused by the impact of objects that were in great abundance about 4.5 billion years ago but whose number appeared to have quickly decreased shortly thereafter." The answer choice that is closest in meaning to this description is **Choice D**.

PRACTICE SET 2

For each question, indicate the best answer, using the directions given.

For each of Questions 1 to 7, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. By recognizing commonalities among all the major political parties and by promoting a collaborative decision-making process, the prime minister has made good on his promise to cultivate a leadership style that emphasizes _____.

(A) growth
(B) politics
(C) ideology
(D) cooperation
(E) differentiation

2. In his unexpurgated autobiography, Mark Twain commented freely on the flaws and foibles of his country, making some observations so _____ that his heirs and editors feared they would damage Twain's reputation if not withheld.

(A) buoyant
(B) acerbic
(C) premonitory
(D) laudatory
(E) temperate

3. That the artist chose to remain in his hometown does not mean that he remained (i) _____; on the contrary, he (ii) _____ the international artistic movements of his day.

Blank (i)

(A) provincial
(B) capricious
(C) obstinate

Blank (ii)

(D) knew nothing about
(E) made light of
(F) kept abreast of

4. An innovation of the eighteenth-century cookbook writer Mary Cole was that in her work she (i) _____ the earlier books from which her recipes were drawn. Even in those numerous instances in which she had collated into a single version, which she could have called her own, the recipes of several earlier writers, she (ii) _____ them.

Blank (i)

(A) preserved
(B) enhanced
(C) acknowledged

Blank (ii)

(D) took pains to cite
(E) sought to imitate
(F) could not surpass

5. The lizards snapped up insects that are so (i) _____ that other potential predators avoid them. Among the lizards' prey were some beetles that they initially (ii) _____ because the insects were spraying their hot, irritant defense chemical at the time. Yet even these produced no apparent ill effects, since the lizards, having eaten, proceeded on their way (iii) _____ enough.

Blank (i)

(A) rare
(B) nutritious
(C) noxious

Blank (ii)

(D) sought
(E) rejected
(F) resembled

Blank (iii)

(G) erratically
(H) laboriously
(I) nonchalantly

6. When the normally (i) _____ film director was interviewed, it was only the topic of her next movie that (ii) _____ her flow of words. Her (iii) _____ on that subject suggested that it was an unwelcome one.

Blank (i)

(A) assiduous
(B) loquacious
(C) diffident

Blank (ii)

(D) diverted
(E) stanchéd
(F) accentuated

Blank (iii)

(G) taciturnity
(H) alacrity
(I) rhapsody

7. Bureaucrats tend to (i) _____. So it is surprising that the European Commission is proposing to hand back some of its antitrust powers to national governments. Such a willingness to (ii) _____ power is quite (iii) _____. Perhaps the commission, so often a byword for meddling, bungling, and even corruption, is starting to put its house in order following the forced resignation of the previous lot of commissioners last year.

Blank (i)

(A) value complex procedures
(B) guard their authority jealously
(C) shirk many of their responsibilities

Blank (ii)

(D) devolve
(E) misuse
(F) appropriate

Blank (iii)

(G) troubling
(H) encouraging
(I) predictable

For each of Questions 8 to 13, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

Despite a dramatic increase in the number of people riding bicycles for recreation in Parkville, a recent report by the Parkville Department of Transportation shows that the number of accidents involving bicycles has decreased for the third consecutive year.

8. Which of the following, if true during the last three years, best reconciles the apparent discrepancy in the facts?
- (A) The Parkville Department of Recreation confiscated abandoned bicycles and sold them at auction to any interested Parkville residents.
 - (B) Increased automobile and bus traffic in Parkville had been the leading cause of the most recent increase in automobile accidents.
 - (C) Because of the local increase in the number of people bicycling for recreation, many out-of-town bicyclists ride in the Parkville area.
 - (D) The Parkville Police Department enforced traffic rules for bicycle riders much more vigorously and began requiring recreational riders to pass a bicycle safety course.
 - (E) The Parkville Department of Transportation canceled a program that required all bicycles to be inspected and registered each year.

What makes a worker ant perform one particular task rather than another? From the 1970s to the mid-1980s, researchers emphasized internal factors within individual ants, such as polymorphism, the presence in the nest of workers of different shapes and sizes, each suited to a particular task. Other elements then considered to have primary influence upon an ant's career were its age—it might change tasks as it got older—and its genetics. However, subsequent ant researchers have focused on external prompts for behavior. In advocating this approach, Deborah Gordon cites experiments in which intervention in a colony's makeup perturbed worker activity. By removing workers or otherwise altering the nest conditions, researchers were able to change the tasks performed by individual workers.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

9. According to the passage, which of the following factors were considered from the 1970s to the mid-1980s to influence the division of labor among a colony's worker ants?
- [A] Ants' inherited traits
 - [B] The age of the ants
 - [C] The ants' experiences outside the nest

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

10. It can be inferred from the passage that Gordon and earlier researchers would agree with which of the following statements about worker ants?
- A Disruption of the nest can affect workers' roles.
 B Genetics predominates over other factors in determining a worker ant's role.
 C An individual worker's tasks can change during its lifetime.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

11. The last sentence has which of the following functions in the passage?
- A It explains how the experiments performed by Gordon differed from those performed by earlier researchers.
 B It justifies the methodology of the experiments cited by Gordon.
 C It gives details showing how the experiments cited by Gordon support her position.

This passage is adapted from material published in 2001.

In 1998 scientists using the neutrino detector in Kamioka, Japan, were able to observe several thousand neutrinos—elusive, tiny subatomic particles moving at nearly the speed of light and passing through almost everything in their path. The Kamioka findings have potentially far-reaching ramifications. They strongly suggest that the neutrino has mass, albeit an infinitesimal amount. Even a tiny mass means that neutrinos would outweigh all the universe's visible matter, because of their vast numbers. The findings also suggest that a given neutrino does not have one stable mass or one stable identity; instead it oscillates from one identity or “flavor” (physicists’ term describing how neutrinos interact with other particles) to another. This oscillation may explain

- Line 5 why, although the Sun is a large source of neutrinos, detectors capture far fewer solar neutrinos than the best theory of solar physics predicts: the neutrinos may be changing to flavors undetectable by detectors. Finally, while the standard particle-physics model—which describes all matter in terms of twelve fundamental particles and four fundamental forces—does not allow for neutrinos with mass, there are theories that
- 10 15 do. Further experiments to confirm that neutrinos have mass could help physicists determine which, if any, of these theories is correct.

12. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) evaluate the merits of a particular theory in light of new evidence
 (B) discuss scientists' inability to account for certain unexpected discoveries
 (C) point out certain shortcomings in a long-standing theory
 (D) compare several alternative explanations for a particular phenomenon
 (E) consider some implications of certain scientific findings

Mixed Practice Sets

13. According to the passage, one significant implication of the discovery that neutrinos have mass is that such a discovery would
- (A) cast doubt on the solar origins of many of the neutrinos that reach Earth
 - (B) help to establish the validity of the standard particle-physics model
 - (C) indicate that most of the visible matter of the universe is composed of neutrinos
 - (D) entail that the total weight of all the visible matter in the universe is less than that of all the neutrinos in the universe
 - (E) mean that the speed with which neutrinos normally move can be slowed by certain types of matter

For each of Questions 14 to 18, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

14. In film studies—a visually oriented discipline that is _____ backlit close-ups, eyeline matches, and voyeuristic gazes—scholars have often been tone-deaf to the sounds of music.
- [A] fixated on
 - [B] obsessed with
 - [C] unconcerned with
 - [D] amused by
 - [E] bothered by
 - [F] indifferent to
15. Consumers may think that genetic engineering of foods is something new, but humans have been modifying plants for ages; the _____ is not that new genes are introduced but that genes can now be moved from one species to another.
- [A] novelty
 - [B] quandary
 - [C] advantage
 - [D] innovation
 - [E] discrepancy
 - [F] predicament
16. Although the compound is abundant in the environment at large, its presence in the air is not _____; only in the form of underwater sediment does it cause damage.
- [A] trivial
 - [B] detectable
 - [C] deleterious
 - [D] substantive
 - [E] detrimental
 - [F] inconsequential

17. Deacon attempts what seems impossible: a book rich in scientific insights, in a demanding discipline, that nevertheless is accessible to .

- A skeptics
- B experts
- C nonspecialists
- D zealots
- E authorities
- F laypersons

18. Despite relying on the well-to-do for commissions, the portrait painter was no _____: he depicted the character of those he painted as he perceived it.

- A hypocrite
- B egotist
- C sycophant
- D adulator
- E braggart
- F coward

For each of Questions 19 to 25, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

Line
5

Mayor: Four years ago, when we reorganized the city police department in order to save money, critics claimed that the reorganization would make the police less responsive to citizens and would thus lead to more crime. The police have compiled theft statistics from the years following the reorganization that show that the critics were wrong. There was an overall decrease in reports of thefts of all kinds, including small thefts.

19. Which of the following, if true, most seriously challenges the mayor's argument?

- (A) When city police are perceived as unresponsive, victims of theft are less likely to report thefts to the police.
- (B) The mayor's critics generally agree that police statistics concerning crime reports provide the most reliable available data on crime rates.
- (C) In other cities where police departments have been similarly reorganized, the numbers of reported thefts have generally risen following reorganization.
- (D) The mayor's reorganization of the police department failed to save as much money as it was intended to save.
- (E) During the four years immediately preceding the reorganization, reports of all types of theft had been rising steadily in comparison to reports of other crimes.

During the 1920s, most advocates of scientific management, Frederick Taylor's method for maximizing workers' productivity by rigorously routinizing their jobs, opposed the five-day workweek. Although scientific managers conceded that reducing hours might provide an incentive to workers, in practice they more often used pay differentials to encourage higher productivity. Those reformers who wished to embrace both scientific management and reduced hours had to make a largely negative case, portraying the latter as an antidote to the rigors of the former.

In contrast to the scientific managers, Henry Ford claimed that shorter hours led to greater productivity and profits. However, few employers matched either Ford's vision or his specific interest in mass marketing a product—automobiles—that required leisure for its use, and few unions succeeded in securing shorter hours through bar-gaining. At its 1928 convention, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) boasted of approximately 165,000 members working five-day, 40-hour weeks. But although this represented an increase of about 75,000 since 1926, about 70 percent of the total came from five extremely well-organized building trades' unions.

20. The passage is primarily concerned with discussing which of the following?

- (A) The relative merits of two points of view regarding a controversy
- (B) The potential benefits to workers in the 1920s of a change in employers' policies
- (C) The reasons for a labor-management disagreement during the 1920s
- (D) The status of a contested labor issue during the 1920s
- (E) The role of labor unions in bringing about a reform

21. It can be inferred that the author of the passage mentions "automobiles" (line 10) primarily to suggest that

- (A) Ford's business produced greater profits than did businesses requiring a workweek longer than five days
- (B) Ford, unlike most other employers, encouraged his employees to use the products they produced
- (C) Ford may have advocated shorter hours because of the particular nature of his business
- (D) unions were more likely to negotiate for shorter hours in some businesses than in others
- (E) automobile workers' unions were more effective than other unions in securing a five-day workweek

22. It can be inferred that the author of the passage would probably agree with which of the following claims about the boast referred to in lines 12–13?
- (A) It is based on a mistaken estimation of the number of AFL workers who were allowed to work a five-day, 40-hour week in 1928.
 - (B) It could create a mistaken impression regarding the number of unions obtaining a five-day, 40-hour week during the 1920s.
 - (C) It exaggerates the extent of the increase between 1926 and 1928 in AFL members working a five-day, 40-hour week.
 - (D) It overestimates the bargaining prowess of the AFL building trades' unions during the 1920s.
 - (E) It is based on an overestimation of the number of union members in the AFL in 1928.
23. According to the passage, the “reformers” (line 5) claimed that
- (A) neither scientific management nor reduced hours would result in an improvement in the working conditions of most workers
 - (B) the impact that the routinization of work had on workers could be mitigated by a reduction in the length of their workweek
 - (C) there was an inherent tension between the principles of scientific management and a commitment to reduced workweeks
 - (D) scientific managers were more likely than other managers to use pay differentials to encourage higher productivity
 - (E) reducing the length of the workweek would increase productivity more effectively than would increases in pay

In November 1753, the British author Sarah Fielding accepted half the payment for her novel *The Cry* and asked that the other half, when due, go to her “or to whomsoever I shall appoint,” perhaps indicating that the remaining share was intended for someone else. Indeed, many think that the novel was a collaborative venture between Fielding and Jane Collier. This particular collaboration was likely enough, as the two were close friends with common interests. They wrote jointly authored letters, were both published authors with a lively interest in each other’s work, and were enthusiastic supporters of didacticism and innovation in fiction—central concerns of *The Cry*. However, contemporaries ascribed the work solely to Fielding, and there is nothing in the novel that is incompatible with Fielding’s other writings.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

24. The passage presents which of the following as evidence in favor of Fielding and Collier’s having collaborated in writing *The Cry*?
- [A] Their friendship
 - [B] Their joint authorship of correspondence
 - [C] Their approach to fiction

25. It can be inferred that the author of the passage would agree with which of the following claims about *The Cry*?
- (A) It develops themes commonly found in published works.
 - (B) It reflects an interest in the purposes to which fiction may be put.
 - (C) It contains elements that are incompatible with any of Collier's solo writings.
 - (D) It shows that the extent of Collier and Fielding's shared interests was not as wide as is generally thought.
 - (E) Parts of it were written jointly by Fielding and Collier.

ANSWER KEY

PRACTICE SET 2

1. **Choice D:** cooperation
2. **Choice B:** acerbic
3. **Choice A:** provincial; **Choice F:** kept abreast of
4. **Choice C:** acknowledged; **Choice D:** took pains to cite
5. **Choice C:** noxious; **Choice E:** rejected; **Choice I:** nonchalantly
6. **Choice B:** loquacious; **Choice E:** stanching; **Choice G:** taciturnity
7. **Choice B:** guard their authority jealously; **Choice D:** devolve; **Choice H:** encouraging
8. **Choice D:** The Parkville Police Department enforced traffic rules for bicycle riders much more vigorously and began requiring recreational riders to pass a bicycle safety course.
9. **Choice A:** Ants' inherited traits
Choice B: The age of the ants
10. **Choice C:** An individual worker's tasks can change during its lifetime.
11. **Choice C:** It gives details showing how the experiments cited by Gordon support her position.
12. **Choice E:** consider some implications of certain scientific findings
13. **Choice D:** entail that the total weight of all the visible matter in the universe is less than that of all the neutrinos in the universe
14. **Choice A:** fixated on AND **Choice B:** obsessed with
15. **Choice A:** novelty AND **Choice D:** innovation
16. **Choice C:** deleterious AND **Choice E:** detrimental
17. **Choice C:** nonspecialists AND **Choice F:** laypersons
18. **Choice C:** sycophant AND **Choice D:** adulator
19. **Choice A:** When city police are perceived as unresponsive, victims of theft are less likely to report thefts to the police.
20. **Choice D:** The status of a contested labor issue during the 1920s
21. **Choice C:** Ford may have advocated shorter hours because of the particular nature of his business
22. **Choice B:** It could create a mistaken impression regarding the number of unions obtaining a five-day, 40-hour week during the 1920s.
23. **Choice B:** the impact that the routinization of work had on workers could be mitigated by a reduction in the length of their workweek
24. **Choice A:** Their friendship AND
Choice B: Their joint authorship of correspondence AND
Choice C: Their approach to fiction
25. **Choice B:** It reflects an interest in the purposes to which fiction may be put.

Answers and Explanations

PRACTICE SET 2

For each question, indicate the best answer, using the directions given.

For each of Questions 1 to 7, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. By recognizing commonalities among all the major political parties and by promoting a collaborative decision-making process, the prime minister has made good on his promise to cultivate a leadership style that emphasizes _____.

(A) growth
(B) politics
(C) ideology
(D) cooperation
(E) differentiation

Explanation

The second half of the sentence states that the prime minister has kept his promise to cultivate a certain leadership style; the “by” that begins the first part of the sentence indicates that the actions it describes are cited as examples of this style of leadership. The blank, then, must be filled with a word that describes the prime minister’s focus on recognizing commonalities and promoting collaboration. “Cooperation” does this. None of the other choices touches upon the prime minister’s efforts to work with others in the political process; indeed, “ideology” and “differentiation” might well imply the opposite. Thus the correct answer is **cooperation** (Choice D).

2. In his unexpurgated autobiography, Mark Twain commented freely on the flaws and foibles of his country, making some observations so _____ that his heirs and editors feared they would damage Twain's reputation if not withheld.

(A) buoyant
(B) acerbic
(C) premonitory
(D) laudatory
(E) temperate

Explanation

The blank must be filled with a word that characterizes Mark Twain's comments on the "flaws and foibles" of his country; since pointing out flaws implies that the comments are critical, "laudatory," meaning flattering, is not the correct choice. "Buoyant," meaning lighthearted, would also be an unlikely adjective to apply to criticism, and both it and "temperate" suggest an inoffensiveness that would not explain the heirs' and editors' fears that publishing the comments would damage Twain's reputation. "Premonitory" suggests that Twain's observations were predictive or that their purpose was to warn, something not supported by any other information in the sentence. "Acerbic," however, implies a bitterness of tone that could very plausibly accompany criticism, and it also suggests why Twain's heirs and editors were worried about the remarks' effect on the writer's reputation.

Thus the correct answer is **acerbic** (Choice B).

3. That the artist chose to remain in his hometown does not mean that he remained (i) _____; on the contrary, he (ii) _____ the international artistic movements of his day.

Blank (i)

(A) provincial
(B) capricious
(C) obstinate

Blank (ii)

(D) knew nothing about
(E) made light of
(F) kept abreast of

Explanation

The first part of the sentence suggests that the answer to Blank (i) names a quality that someone who chose to remain in his hometown might tend to have; in addition, the second part of the sentence suggests that this quality has to do with that person's attitude toward the wider world. The answer choice for Blank (i) that best fits these conditions is "provincial," so it is correct. Someone who is the opposite of provincial is interested in what is happening outside of his or her narrow domain, so the correct answer choice for Blank (ii) is "kept abreast of."

"Obstinate" may seem a plausible choice for Blank (i), as those who fit the "provincial" stereotype often not only are uninterested in other people's opinions but also actively resist any pressure to change. However, "obstinate" by itself does not imply any particular attitude toward the world beyond one's immediate environment, as one can be interested in other people's opinions while at the same time clinging firmly to one's own.

Thus the correct answer is **provincial** (Choice A) and **kept abreast of** (Choice F).

Mixed Practice Sets

4. An innovation of the eighteenth-century cookbook writer Mary Cole was that in her work she (i) _____ the earlier books from which her recipes were drawn. Even in those numerous instances in which she had collated into a single version, which she could have called her own, the recipes of several earlier writers, she (ii) _____ them.

Blank (i)

(A) preserved
(B) enhanced
(C) acknowledged

Blank (ii)

(D) took pains to cite
(E) sought to imitate
(F) could not surpass

Explanation

The second sentence suggests that Cole did not call certain recipes her own even though doing so would have been justified. Blank (ii) must describe Cole's actual practice, which contrasts with calling the recipes her own. Among the answer choices only "took pains to cite" provides a direct contrast, so it is correct. Because the second sentence is presented as a special or extreme case of the first, the answer to Blank (i) must be similar in meaning to Blank (ii). "Acknowledged" is the only choice that fits this criterion, so it is the correct answer to Blank (i).

Thus the correct answer is **acknowledged** (Choice C) and **took pains to cite** (Choice D).

5. The lizards snapped up insects that are so (i) _____ that other potential predators avoid them. Among the lizards' prey were some beetles that they initially (ii) _____ because the insects were spraying their hot, irritant defense chemical at the time. Yet even these produced no apparent ill effects, since the lizards, having eaten, proceeded on their way (iii) _____ enough.

Blank (i)

(A) rare
(B) nutritious
(C) noxious

Blank (ii)

(D) sought
(E) rejected
(F) resembled

Blank (iii)

(G) erratically
(H) laboriously
(I) nonchalantly

Explanation

Blank (i) calls for a description of insects that predators would generally avoid. "Noxious," meaning harmful, is the correct answer; there is no reason to suspect that predators would avoid nutritious or rare prey. Blank (ii) characterizes the lizards' initial response to beetles they eventually ate, and since it is followed by a clause beginning with "because," the lizards' response must be explained by the beetles' irritant-spraying behavior. "Rejected" fits these criteria; animals routinely avoid unpleasant stimuli. "Sought" is incorrect because it is unlikely that lizards would seek out prey with such defensive behavior, and "resembled" is incorrect because nothing else in the passage suggests that the described behavior is shared by the lizards. Finally, the author states that eating the beetles apparently did not harm the lizards; the "since" of the last sentence introduces the evidence on which this observation is based. Thus Blank (iii) must be filled by a word that suggests the lizards were unharmed. "Erratic" or "laborious" postmeal locomotion might indicate otherwise; therefore the correct answer for Blank (iii) is "nonchalantly."

Thus the correct answer is **noxious** (Choice C), **rejected** (Choice E), and **nonchalantly** (Choice I).

6. When the normally (i) _____ film director was interviewed, it was only the topic of her next movie that (ii) _____ her flow of words. Her (iii) _____ on that subject suggested that it was an unwelcome one.

Blank (i)

(A) assiduous
(B) loquacious
(C) diffident

Blank (ii)

(D) diverted
(E) stanchéd
(F) accentuated

Blank (iii)

(G) taciturnity
(H) alacrity
(I) rhapsody

Explanation

The reader is told that the director's reaction to being asked about her next movie indicates that it is an unwelcome subject. Of the choices for Blank (iii), both "alacrity" and "rhapsody" would indicate excitement or eagerness to talk about this topic, making them implausible choices. "Taciturnity," on the other hand, indicates an unwillingness or reserve about speaking; it is therefore the correct choice. This particular reaction is contrasted to the director's normal conversational style, so the answer to Blank (i) must indicate a ready willingness to converse. "Loquacious," meaning talkative, is the choice that fits; neither "diffident," which means reserved, nor "assiduous," which means diligent, conveys the necessary contrast to taciturnity. Finally, Blank (ii) suggests that the topic of the director's next movie provoked a verbal reaction different from her usual one. Since the director is normally a talkative person, the unwelcome topic likely checked her conversation; therefore, "stanchéd" is the correct answer. "Accentuated" indicates the opposite, and while "diverted" might seem plausible, it suggests a potential change of topic unsupported by the rest of the passage. Thus the correct answer is **loquacious** (Choice B), **stanchéd** (Choice E), and **taciturnity** (Choice G).

Mixed Practice Sets

7. Bureaucrats tend to (i) _____. So it is surprising that the European Commission is proposing to hand back some of its antitrust powers to national governments. Such a willingness to (ii) _____ power is quite (iii) _____. Perhaps the commission, so often a byword for meddling, bungling, and even corruption, is starting to put its house in order following the forced resignation of the previous lot of commissioners last year.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) value complex procedures	(D) devolve	(G) troubling
(B) guard their authority jealously	(E) misuse	(H) encouraging
(C) shirk many of their responsibilities	(F) appropriate	(I) predictable

Explanation

The second sentence states that the European Commission's current actions are surprising, so they must run counter to the general tendency of bureaucrats described in Blank (i). Since the commission is considering giving up powers it currently possesses, "guard their authority jealously" expresses the opposite of this action, so it is the correct choice. The other two options could potentially describe the process of delegating powers back to national governments; therefore the commission's actions would not be described as surprising in the context of either of those bureaucratic tendencies. Blank (ii) calls for a word that paraphrases the commission's proposal; since "devolve" is a synonym for delegate, it is the correct choice. "Appropriate" expresses the opposite, while "misuse" suggests a negative judgment about the commission's actions belied by the author's hope that they mark a positive turn. Blank (iii) calls for an adjective describing the commission's actions. Since the author is hopeful that this latest proposal marks a new direction for a commission whose history is described in negative terms, the correct choice for Blank (iii) is "encouraging." "Predictable" does not fit because the proposal is described as potentially marking a break in the commission's former bad practices, and "troubling" does not work because that change is described as a positive rather than a negative one.

Thus the correct answer is **guard their authority jealously** (Choice B), **devolve** (Choice D), and **encouraging** (Choice H).

For each of Questions 8 to 13, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

Despite a dramatic increase in the number of people riding bicycles for recreation in Parkville, a recent report by the Parkville Department of Transportation shows that the number of accidents involving bicycles has decreased for the third consecutive year.

8. Which of the following, if true during the last three years, best reconciles the apparent discrepancy in the facts?
- (A) The Parkville Department of Recreation confiscated abandoned bicycles and sold them at auction to any interested Parkville residents.
 - (B) Increased automobile and bus traffic in Parkville had been the leading cause of the most recent increase in automobile accidents.
 - (C) Because of the local increase in the number of people bicycling for recreation, many out-of-town bicyclists ride in the Parkville area.
 - (D) The Parkville Police Department enforced traffic rules for bicycle riders much more vigorously and began requiring recreational riders to pass a bicycle safety course.
 - (E) The Parkville Department of Transportation canceled a program that required all bicycles to be inspected and registered each year.

Explanation

The correct answer is **Choice D**. Enforcing traffic rules and educating bicyclists about safety will obviously tend to reduce the number of bicycle accidents. Actions mentioned in the other answer choices will not have this effect. Choices A and C would explain the increase in the number of bicyclists in Parkville but not the decrease in bicycle accidents. The number of automobile accidents (Choice B) is not correlated with the number of bicycle accidents. Finally, cancellation of a bicycle inspection program (Choice E), if anything, would tend to *increase* the number of bicycle accidents.

What makes a worker ant perform one particular task rather than another? From the 1970s to the mid-1980s, researchers emphasized internal factors within individual ants, such as polymorphism, the presence in the nest of workers of different shapes and sizes, each suited to a particular task. Other elements then considered to have primary influence upon an ant's career were its age—it might change tasks as it got older—and its genetics. However, subsequent ant researchers have focused on external prompts for behavior. In advocating this approach, Deborah Gordon cites experiments in which intervention in a colony's makeup perturbed worker activity. By removing workers or otherwise altering the nest conditions, researchers were able to change the tasks performed by individual workers.

Description

The passage discusses research aimed at discovering factors that determine the division of labor among ants and talks about a shift in focus from internal to external factors that occurred during the 1980s.

Mixed Practice Sets

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

9. According to the passage, which of the following factors were considered from the 1970s to the mid-1980s to influence the division of labor among a colony's worker ants?
- A Ants' inherited traits
 B The age of the ants
 C The ants' experiences outside the nest

Explanation

Choices A and B are correct. The question asks about the factors considered to affect ant roles in the earlier period under discussion. Describing the period from the 1970s to the mid-1980s, the passage states that "Other elements then considered to have primary influence upon an ant's career were its age . . . and its genetics."

Choice C is incorrect: the passage never discusses ants' experiences outside the nest.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

10. It can be inferred from the passage that Gordon and earlier researchers would agree with which of the following statements about worker ants?
- A Disruption of the nest can affect workers' roles.
 B Genetics predominates over other factors in determining a worker ant's role.
 C An individual worker's tasks can change during its lifetime.

Explanation

Choice C is correct. The question asks about points that Gordon and earlier researchers would agree on.

Choice A is incorrect: Nest disruption is an external factor favored by later researchers such as Gordon, but there is no suggestion that earlier researchers considered it a factor.

Choice B is incorrect: Earlier researchers might have thought that genetics was a predominant factor, but the later work showed that other factors could override genetics.

Choice C is correct: Both earlier and later researchers knew that an individual worker ant can change its role. According to the passage, the earlier researchers thought that an ant "might change tasks as it got older," and later researchers "were able to change the tasks performed by individual workers."

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

11. The last sentence has which of the following functions in the passage?
- A It explains how the experiments performed by Gordon differed from those performed by earlier researchers.
 B It justifies the methodology of the experiments cited by Gordon.
 C It gives details showing how the experiments cited by Gordon support her position.

Explanation

Choice C is correct. The question asks about the role of the last sentence.

Choice A is incorrect: the passage never mentions any experiments performed by earlier researchers.

Choice B is incorrect: the last sentence simply describes the experiments and their results but does not make any attempt to justify their methodology.

Choice C is correct: the experiments described in the last sentence show that ants' roles in the nest can be affected by external conditions, and Gordon is described in the passage as "advocating this approach."

This passage is excerpted from material published in 2001.

In 1998 scientists using the neutrino detector in Kamioka, Japan, were able to observe several thousand neutrinos—elusive, tiny subatomic particles moving at nearly the speed of light and passing through almost everything in their path. The Kamioka findings have potentially far-reaching ramifications. They strongly suggest that the neutrino has mass, albeit an infinitesimal amount. Even a tiny mass means that neutrinos

5 would outweigh all the universe's visible matter, because of their vast numbers. The findings also suggest that a given neutrino does not have one stable mass or one stable identity; instead it oscillates from one identity or "flavor" (physicists' term describing how neutrinos interact with other particles) to another. This oscillation may explain
 10 why, although the Sun is a large source of neutrinos, detectors capture far fewer solar neutrinos than the best theory of solar physics predicts: the neutrinos may be changing to flavors undetectable by detectors. Finally, while the standard particle-physics model—which describes all matter in terms of twelve fundamental particles and four fundamental forces—does not allow for neutrinos with mass, there are theories that
 15 do. Further experiments to confirm that neutrinos have mass could help physicists determine which, if any, of these theories is correct.

Description

The passage discusses the observations of neutrinos made by physicists in Japan. It mentions two properties of neutrinos suggested by the observations—the nonzero mass and the ability to change flavor—and discusses the ramifications of these results.

12. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) evaluate the merits of a particular theory in light of new evidence
- (B) discuss scientists' inability to account for certain unexpected
- (C) discoveries
- (D) point out certain shortcomings in a long-standing theory
- (E) compare several alternative explanations for a particular phenomenon
- (F) consider some implications of certain scientific findings

Explanation

The passage discusses the "potentially far-reaching ramifications" of two findings made during an observation of neutrinos: that neutrinos have nonzero mass and that they are capable of changing their flavor. Therefore the correct answer is **Choice E**.

13. According to the passage, one significant implication of the discovery that neutrinos have mass is that such a discovery would
- (A) cast doubt on the solar origins of many of the neutrinos that reach Earth
 - (B) help to establish the validity of the standard particle-physics model
 - (C) indicate that most of the visible matter of the universe is composed of neutrinos
 - (D) entail that the total weight of all the visible matter in the universe is less than that of all the neutrinos in the universe
 - (E) mean that the speed with which neutrinos normally move can be slowed by certain types of matter

Explanation

The passage states that “Even a tiny mass [of a neutrino] means that neutrinos would outweigh all the universe’s visible matter, because of their vast numbers.” Therefore the correct answer is **Choice D**.

For each of Questions 14 to 18, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

14. In film studies—a visually oriented discipline that is _____ backlit close-ups, eyeline matches, and voyeuristic gazes—scholars have often been tone-deaf to the sounds of music.
- [A] fixated on
 - [B] obsessed with
 - [C] unconcerned with
 - [D] amused by
 - [E] bothered by
 - [F] indifferent to

Explanation

The sentence suggests a difference between a scholarly discipline’s attentions to the visual versus the aural, with the latter being relatively ignored in favor of the former. The blank must therefore designate this attention, which “unconcerned with” and “indifferent to” do not. “Amused by” conveys a lesser degree of attention and a more positive affect than both “fixated on” and “obsessed with” and lacks another word that would produce a sentence with the same meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **fixated on** (Choice A) and **obsessed with** (Choice B).

15. Consumers may think that genetic engineering of foods is something new, but humans have been modifying plants for ages; the is not that new genes are introduced but that genes can now be moved from one species to another.

- A novelty
- B quandary
- C advantage
- D innovation
- E discrepancy
- F predicament

Explanation

The last part of the sentence makes a distinction between the fact of genetic modification and the particulars of how this modification is done. This distinction is made in order to support the sentence's implication that consumers who believe that genetic engineering itself is new are mistaken. Therefore, the distinction must relate to what about genetic engineering is in fact new, so the blank must be completed with words that are synonymous with "newness." Both "novelty" and "innovation" fit this description, and the pairing produces sentences alike in meaning, so it is the correct answer. Of the other responses, while "quandary" and "predicament" are synonymous, nothing in the rest of the sentence mentions the problematic aspects of genetic engineering; therefore they do not fit the meaning of the sentence as well as the correct pairing. "Advantage" has no synonym among the choices, nor does the passage otherwise mention genetic engineering's benefits. "Discrepancy" likewise has no synonyms among the choices; it also does not describe the subject of the distinction made in the latter half of the sentence.

Thus the correct answer is **novelty** (Choice A) and **innovation** (Choice D).

16. Although the compound is abundant in the environment at large, its presence in the air is not ; only in the form of underwater sediment does it cause damage.

- A trivial
- B detectable
- C deleterious
- D substantive
- E detrimental
- F inconsequential

Explanation

The "only" that follows the blank indicates that the effect of the compound in water is an exception to its general state in the air. Since the compound is dangerous underwater, it follows that it is generally harmless in the air. The blank is preceded by "not," so in order for the phrase to mean "harmless," it must be filled by words that are synonymous with "harmful." "Deleterious" and "detrimental" mean just that, and as synonyms they produce sentences alike in meaning, so they are the correct response. Of the other choices, "trivial" and "inconsequential" are synonyms, but they, like the other two choices, do not produce the necessary contrast with the last part of the sentence.

Thus the correct answer is **deleterious** (Choice C) and **detrimental** (Choice E).

17. Deacon attempts what seems impossible: a book rich in scientific insights, in a demanding discipline, that nevertheless is accessible to .

- A skeptics
- B experts
- C nonspecialists
- D zealots
- E authorities
- F laypersons

Explanation

The “nevertheless” that precedes the blank indicates that the book’s accessibility contrasts in some way to its scientific insights and demanding subject matter. Among the choices for the blanks, there are two pairings that would yield similar meanings: “experts/authorities” and “nonspecialists/laypersons.” Considering these two pairings, it would not be surprising if a book rich in scientific insights were accessible to experts, whereas writing such a book accessible to those not in the field would be a feat. “Nonspecialists/laypersons,” then, provides the necessary contrast to the book’s other qualities, so it is the correct response. The other two choices, “skeptics” and “zealots,” can be eliminated straightaway because neither has a synonym among the other responses; in addition, neither helps form the contrast that the use of “nevertheless” requires.

Thus the correct answer is **nonspecialists** (Choice C) and **laypersons** (Choice F).

18. Despite relying on the well-to-do for commissions, the portrait painter was no he depicted the character of those he painted as he perceived it.

- A hypocrite
- B egotist
- C sycophant
- D adulator
- E braggart
- F coward

Explanation

The sentence indicates that despite being paid by wealthy patrons to paint their portraits, the painter depicted his subjects as he saw them. This fact indicates that the painter was not a “sycophant” or “adulator” in that he did not seek to flatter his patrons. Although both “hypocrite” and “coward” make some sense when inserted in the blank, neither produces a sentence similar in meaning to that produced by any other option. “Braggart” and “egotist” are similar in meaning, but neither fits the sentence’s focus on the painter’s honest depiction of his subjects.

Thus the correct answer is **sycophant** (Choice C) and **adulator** (Choice D).

For each of Questions 19 to 25, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

Line
5

Mayor: Four years ago, when we reorganized the city police department in order to save money, critics claimed that the reorganization would make the police less responsive to citizens and would thus lead to more crime. The police have compiled theft statistics from the years following the reorganization that show that the critics were wrong. There was an overall decrease in reports of thefts of all kinds, including small thefts.

19. Which of the following, if true, most seriously challenges the mayor's argument?

- (A) When city police are perceived as unresponsive, victims of theft are less likely to report thefts to the police.
- (B) The mayor's critics generally agree that police statistics concerning crime reports provide the most reliable available data on crime rates.
- (C) In other cities where police departments have been similarly reorganized, the numbers of reported thefts have generally risen following reorganization.
- (D) The mayor's reorganization of the police department failed to save as much money as it was intended to save.
- (E) During the four years immediately preceding the reorganization, reports of all types of theft had been rising steadily in comparison to reports of other crimes.

Explanation

The argument—that the reorganization did not lead to more crime—hinges upon statistics compiled from reports of crime, and therefore assumes that such reports are indicative of the actual incidence of crime. Something that weakens this connection between reports and incidence of theft, then, would challenge the mayor's argument.

Choice A does exactly that, so it is the correct answer. Choices B and E would strengthen rather than challenge the mayor's argument, so they are incorrect. Choice C might give one reason to question the mayor's conclusion, but it does not speak to his argument, which does not involve other cities, so it is not the correct choice.

Choice D is incorrect because the mayor's argument makes no claims regarding the economics of the reorganization, only its effectiveness at crime reduction.

During the 1920s, most advocates of scientific management, Frederick Taylor's method for maximizing workers' productivity by rigorously routinizing their jobs, opposed the five-day workweek. Although scientific managers conceded that reducing hours might Line 5 provide an incentive to workers, in practice they more often used pay differentials to encourage higher productivity. Those reformers who wished to embrace both scientific management and reduced hours had to make a largely negative case, portraying the latter as an antidote to the rigors of the former.

In contrast to the scientific managers, Henry Ford claimed that shorter hours led to greater productivity and profits. However, few employers matched either Ford's vision 10 or his specific interest in mass marketing a product—automobiles—that required leisure for its use, and few unions succeeded in securing shorter hours through bar-gaining. At its 1928 convention, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) boasted of approximately 165,000 members working five-day, 40-hour weeks. But although this represented an increase of about 75,000 since 1926, about 70 percent of the total came ¹⁵from five extremely well-organized building trades' unions.

Description

The passage describes the opposition of most advocates of scientific management to reducing work hours during the 1920s and then describes the positions taken by a few reformers and by Henry Ford to justify workweek reduction. It notes that most employers, however, did not agree with Ford and points to some supporting labor data.

20. The passage is primarily concerned with discussing which of the following?
- (A) The relative merits of two points of view regarding a controversy
 - (B) The potential benefits to workers in the 1920s of a change in employers' policies
 - (C) The reasons for a labor-management disagreement during the 1920s
 - (D) The status of a contested labor issue during the 1920s
 - (E) The role of labor unions in bringing about a reform

Explanation

The passage is primarily concerned with discussing the opposition to, and the advocacy and adoption of, 40-hour workweeks during the 1920s; therefore **Choice D** is the correct answer. Because the passage lays out different viewpoints but does not consider their relative merits, Choice A is not correct. The passage does not discuss the benefit to workers of a 40-hour work-week or the opinion or role of labor unions on the issue, so Choices B, C, and E are incorrect.

21. It can be inferred that the author of the passage mentions “automobiles” (line 10) primarily to suggest that
- (A) Ford’s business produced greater profits than did businesses requiring a workweek longer than five days
 - (B) Ford, unlike most other employers, encouraged his employees to use the products they produced
 - (C) Ford may have advocated shorter hours because of the particular nature of his business
 - (D) unions were more likely to negotiate for shorter hours in some businesses than in others
 - (E) automobile workers’ unions were more effective than other unions in securing a five-day workweek

Explanation

Choice C is the correct answer. The mention of “automobiles” is directly followed by the observation that it is a product whose use requires leisure. Thus it can be inferred that one factor leading Ford to advocate shorter hours is that workers with newfound leisure time would become consumers of his product. There is no indication that Ford was unlike other employers in encouraging employees to consume their own products, so Choice B is incorrect. Choice A is incorrect because the passage does not say that Ford’s business was highly profitable. Choices D and E are incorrect because the mention of automobiles is not connected to the likelihood or success of different types of unions in securing shorter hours.

22. It can be inferred that the author of the passage would probably agree with which of the following claims about the boast referred to in lines 12–13?
- (A) It is based on a mistaken estimation of the number of AFL workers who were allowed to work a five-day, 40-hour week in 1928.
 - (B) It could create a mistaken impression regarding the number of unions obtaining a five-day, 40-hour week during the 1920s.
 - (C) It exaggerates the extent of the increase between 1926 and 1928 in AFL members working a five-day, 40-hour week.
 - (D) It overestimates the bargaining prowess of the AFL building trades’ unions during the 1920s.
 - (E) It is based on an overestimation of the number of union members in the AFL in 1928.

Explanation

The sentence mentioning this boast is followed by an explanation that although the number of workers with 40-hour weeks increased significantly, most of this gain could be attributed to just a few unions. Since the author is seemingly correcting a misimpression—that this increase involved many unions—**Choice B** is the correct answer. Because the passage does not suggest that the statistics themselves are questionable, Choices A and C are incorrect. Since the passage makes no mention of the total number of AFL members, Choice E cannot be correct. Choice D is incorrect because the boast makes no reference to the building trades’ unions.

23. According to the passage, the “reformers” (line 5) claimed that
- (A) neither scientific management nor reduced hours would result in an improvement in the working conditions of most workers
 - (B) the impact that the routinization of work had on workers could be mitigated by a reduction in the length of their workweek
 - (C) there was an inherent tension between the principles of scientific management and a commitment to reduced workweeks
 - (D) scientific managers were more likely than other managers to use pay differentials to encourage higher productivity
 - (E) reducing the length of the workweek would increase productivity more effectively than would increases in pay

Explanation

The sentence in question states that the reformers had to portray reduced hours as “an antidote” to the rigors of scientific management. Since an antidote can negate or reverse ill effects, **Choice B**, which states that the effects of scientific management (previously described as “rigorously routinizing” jobs) can be mitigated by workweek reduction, is the correct choice. Choice A is incorrect because there is no evidence that the reformers made negative claims about the effect of changes on working conditions; similarly, since no mention is made of the reformers’ attitudes towards increases in pay, Choice E cannot be correct. The passage states something similar to Choice D, but this is not put into the mouths of the reformers, so that choice is incorrect. Choice C might seem appealing, since the debate on productivity is couched as one between scientific management and workweek reduction. But the reformers are claiming that the two can be combined to increase production. Therefore Choice C is incorrect.

In November 1753, the British author Sarah Fielding accepted half the payment for her novel *The Cry* and asked that the other half, when due, go to her “or to whomsoever I shall appoint,” perhaps indicating that the remaining share was intended for someone else. Indeed, many think that the novel was a collaborative venture between Fielding and Jane Collier. This particular collaboration was likely enough, as the two were close friends with common interests. They wrote jointly authored letters, were both published authors with a lively interest in each other’s work, and were enthusiastic supporters of didacticism and innovation in fiction—central concerns of *The Cry*. However, contemporaries ascribed the work solely to Fielding, and there is nothing in the novel that is incompatible with Fielding’s other writings.

Description

The passage discusses the question of the provenance of the eighteenth-century novel *The Cry* and suggests that the novel could have been a collaboration between two authors, but that at the time of its publication it was believed to be the work of only one writer, Sarah Fielding.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

24. The passage presents which of the following as evidence in favor of Fielding and Collier's having collaborated in writing *The Cry*?

- A Their friendship
- B Their joint authorship of correspondence
- C Their approach to fiction

Explanation

All three choices are correct. The question asks what is offered as evidence of the joint authorship of *The Cry*.

Choice A is correct: the passage states that Fielding and Collier "were close friends."

Choice B is correct: the passage states that Fielding and Collier "wrote jointly authored letters."

Choice C is correct: the passage states that Fielding and Collier were both "enthusiastic supporters of didacticism and innovation in fiction."

25. It can be inferred that the author of the passage would agree with which of the following claims about *The Cry*?

- (A) It develops themes commonly found in published works.
- (B) It reflects an interest in the purposes to which fiction may be put.
- (C) It contains elements that are incompatible with any of Collier's solo writings.
- (D) It shows that the extent of Collier and Fielding's shared interests was not as wide as is generally thought.
- (E) Parts of it were written jointly by Fielding and Collier.

Explanation

The passage states that *The Cry*'s "central concerns" are "didacticism and innovation in fiction," so **Choice B** is correct. The passage does not discuss how popular the novel's themes are (Choice A), whether the writing is compatible with Collier's (Choice C), or what the novel shows about the extent of Collier and Fielding's joint interests (Choice D). Finally, Choice E is incorrect, as the author of the passage never takes a stand on whether the novel was written by Fielding alone or in collaboration with Collier.

PRACTICE SET 3

For each question, indicate the best answer, using the directions given.

For each of Questions 1 to 7, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. While not _____ the arguments in favor of the proposal for new highway construction, the governor nevertheless decided to veto the proposal.

(A) optimistic about
(B) convinced by
(C) happy with
(D) sanguine about
(E) unsympathetic to

2. The children's_____ natures were in sharp contrast to the even-tempered dispositions of their parents.

(A) mercurial
(B) blithe
(C) phlegmatic
(D) apathetic
(E) cunning

3. The first major exhibits of modern art left the public (i)_____, its (ii)_____ intensified by the response of art critics, who stooped to vituperation to express their disgust with the new art.

Blank (i)

(A)aghast
(B)bemused
(C)unsurprised

Blank (ii)

(D)shock
(E)apathy
(F)empathy

4. While many outside the company attributed the company's success to its president's(i)_____, insiders realized that this success owed more to the president's inflexibility than to any (ii)_____ that the president might be supposed to have displayed.

Blank (i)

(A)perseverance
(B)popularity
(C)prescience

Blank (ii)

(D)obduracy
(E)caprice
(F)foresight

5. With the rate of technological (i) _____ accelerating—many people now consider a personal computer (ii) _____ after three years—the question of how to properly dispose of old equipment is no small matter.

Blank (i)

(A) affordability
(B) complexity
(C) obsolescence

Blank (ii)

(D) outdated
(E) familiar
(F) inestimable

6. In the nineteenth century the (i) _____ advanced mechanical printing techniques made it possible for newspaper owners to print newspapers cheaply and in mass quantities, but unlike many other mechanized industries, where machines (ii) _____ workers, the new printing machines required trained compositors to run them, thereby (iii) _____ the demand for skilled printing labor.

Blank (i)

(A) wide application of
(B) extensive resistance to
(C) great expense of

Blank (ii)

(D) marginalized
(E) intrigued
(F) isolated

Blank (iii)

(G) ignoring
(H) anticipating
(I) increasing

7. It may be that a kind of pendulum is built into United States politics: if a particular interest group scores a major victory, its supporters (i) _____ and its adversaries (ii) _____ their efforts, so that the victory is soon (iii) _____ .

Blank (i)

(A) consider new possibilities
(B) grow complacent
(C) become even more focused

Blank (ii)

(D) abandon
(E) redouble
(F) defend

Blank (iii)

(G) reversed
(H) augmented
(I) institutionalized

For each of Questions 8 to 14, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

The binary planet hypothesis—that Earth and the Moon formed simultaneously by the accretion of smaller objects—does not explain why the Moon’s iron core is so small relative to the Moon’s total volume, compared with Earth’s core relative to Earth’s total volume. According to the giant-impact hypothesis, the Moon was created during a collision between Earth and a large object about the size of Mars. Computer simulations of this impact show that both of the objects would melt in the impact and the dense core of the impactor would fall as molten rock into the liquefied iron core of Earth. The ejected matter—mantle rock that had surrounded the cores of both objects—would be almost devoid of iron. This matter would become the Moon.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

8. According to the passage, the binary planet hypothesis holds that
 - [A] Earth and the Moon were formed at the same time
 - [B] smaller objects joined together to form Earth and the Moon
 - [C] the Moon’s core is the same absolute size as Earth’s core
9. The giant-impact hypothesis as described in the passage answers all of the following questions EXCEPT:
 - (A) What happened to the rock that surrounded the impactor’s core after the impactor hit Earth?
 - (B) What happened to the impactor’s core after the impactor hit Earth?
 - (C) Where did the impactor that collided with Earth originate?
 - (D) Why is the Moon’s iron core small relative to that of Earth?
 - (E) What was the size of the impactor relative to that of Mars?
10. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?
Ⓐ The development of one theory into another is outlined.
Ⓑ Two explanations are provided, both of which are revealed as inadequate.
Ⓒ A theory is presented, and then evidence that undermines that theory is discussed.
Ⓓ Similarities and differences between two theories are described.
Ⓔ A flawed hypothesis is introduced, and then an alternative hypothesis is presented.

Most recent work on the history of leisure in Europe has been based on the central hypothesis of a fundamental discontinuity between preindustrial and industrial societies. According to this view, the modern idea of leisure did not exist in medieval and early modern Europe: the modern distinction between the categories of work and leisure was a product of industrial capitalism. Preindustrial societies had festivals (together with informal and irregular breaks from work), while industrial societies have leisure in the form of weekends and vacations. The emergence of leisure is therefore part of the process of modernization. If this theory is correct, there is what Michel Foucault called a conceptual rupture between the two periods, and so the very idea of ¹⁰a history of leisure before the Industrial Revolution is an anachronism.

To reject the idea that leisure has had a continuous history from the Middle Ages to the present is not to deny that late medieval and early modern Europeans engaged in many pursuits that are now commonly considered leisure or sporting activities—jousting, hunting, tennis, card playing, travel, and so on—or that Europe in this period ¹⁵ was dominated by a privileged class that engaged in these pursuits. What is involved in the discontinuity hypothesis is the recognition that the people of the Middle Ages and early modern Europe did not regard as belonging to a common category activities (hunting and gambling, for example) that are usually classified together today under the heading of leisure. Consider fencing: today it may be considered a “sport,” but for ²⁰ the gentleman of the Renaissance it was an art or science. Conversely, activities that today may be considered serious, notably warfare, were often described as pastimes.

Serious pitfalls therefore confront historians of leisure who assume continuity and who work with the modern concepts of leisure and sport, projecting them back onto the past without asking about the meanings contemporaries gave to their activities. ²⁵ However, the discontinuity hypothesis can pose problems of its own. Historians holding this view attempt to avoid anachronism by means of a simple dichotomy, cutting European history into two eras, preindustrial and industrial, setting up the binary opposition between a “festival culture” and a “leisure culture.” The dichotomy remains of use insofar as it reminds us that the rise of industrial capitalism was not purely a ³⁰ phenomenon of economic history, but had social and cultural preconditions and consequences. The dichotomy, however, leads to distortions when it reduces a great variety of medieval and early modern European ideas, assumptions, and practices to the simple formula implied by the phrase “festival culture.”

11. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) refute the idea that the history of leisure is discontinuous
- (B) show why one of two approaches is more useful in studying the history of leisure
- (C) suggest the need for a new, more inclusive concept to replace the concept of leisure
- (D) trace the development of a theory about the history of leisure
- (E) point out the basis for, and the limits of, an approach to the history of leisure

12. The author of the passage asserts that the “dichotomy” (line 26) can lead to which of the following?
- (A) Reliance on only one of several equally valid theoretical approaches
(B) The imposition of modern conceptions and meanings on past societies
(C) Failure to take into account the complexity of certain features of European culture
(D) Failure to utilize new conceptual categories in the study of the history of leisure
(E) Failure to take account of the distinction between preindustrial and industrial societies
13. According to the passage, the “simple dichotomy” (line 26) is useful primarily because it serves as
- (A) a way of calling historians’ attention to certain facts about the Industrial Revolution
(B) an antidote to the oversimplification encouraged by such terms as “festival culture”
(C) a device for distinguishing between the work and the leisure activities of preindustrial Europeans
(D) a way of understanding the privileged class of medieval Europe by viewing its activities in modern terms
(E) a tool for separating social history, including the history of leisure, from economic history
14. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage as a whole? A
- (A) Two hypotheses are discussed, and evidence in support of one is presented.
(B) A hypothesis is presented and discussed, and a limitation to the hypothesis is identified.
(C) A hypothesis is proposed, its supposed advantages are shown to be real, and its supposed disadvantages are shown to be illusory.
(D) A problem is identified, two hypotheses are advanced to resolve it, and both are rejected.
(E) A problem is identified, two resolutions are proposed, and a solution combining elements of both is recommended.

For each of Questions 15 to 19, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

15. If big sums are to be spent on cleaning up environmental disasters, it is better to spend them on unglamorous but problems such as unsanitary water in Third World countries.
- A futile
 B ephemeral
 C pressing
 D controversial
 E transitory
 F critical
16. The process of establishing a literary canon is seen by some as, in part, an attempt by certain scholars to make their own labors central and to relegate the work of others to _____ status.
- A orthodox
 B marginal
 C mainstream
 D definitive
 E conditional
 F peripheral
17. The mayor is more ideologically consistent than is widely believed: her long-term commitment to tax reform, for example, is not indicative of _____.
- A perspicacity
 B capriciousness
 C callousness
 D fickleness
 E clearheadedness
 F insensitivity
18. At first glance Watkins Park, with its meandering stream and its thicket of greenery, seems _____; however, upon closer inspection one is quickly reminded that the park is in the middle of a major city.
- A bucolic
 B remarkable
 C urban
 D noteworthy
 E pastoral
 F spurious

Mixed Practice Sets

19. Although relying on much of the recent scholarship on the bison, Lott's book is a distinctly and even idiosyncratic contribution to the field.

- A derivative
- B original
- C innovative
- D imitative
- E insightful
- F surprising

For each of Questions 20 to 25, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

James W. Coleman's book on John Edgar Wideman's literary career addresses the needs of a general, if well-read, public rather than the esoteric vanities of scholarly specialists, whom he neither ignores nor flatters. To assume the former audience was familiar

Line with every work Wideman ever penned would have been pretentious. Instead, Cole-
5 man furnishes more than ample descriptive criticism and background information, avoiding the cryptic allusiveness that is favored by some academic critics but that dis-
courages the undergraduate audience he likely envisioned. Unfortunately, this accent
on bringing serious Wideman criticism to a broader audience often frustrates the reader
who wishes that announced themes, techniques, and stylistic devices would not
10 whisk by as quickly as world capitals on a seven-day package tour of the globe.

20. The reference to "a seven-day package tour of the globe" (line 10) is most likely meant to suggest a treatment that is

- A inclusive
- B cursory
- C focused
- D broad based
- E substantial

The painter Peter Brandon never dated his works, and their chronology is only now beginning to take shape in the critical literature. A recent dating of a Brandon self-portrait to 1930 is surely wrong. Brandon was 63 years old in 1930, yet the painting shows a young, dark-haired man—obviously Brandon, but clearly not a man of 63.

21. Which of the following, if justifiably assumed, allows the conclusion to be properly drawn?

- (A) There is no securely dated self-portrait of Brandon that he painted when he was significantly younger than 63.
- (B) In refraining from dating his works, Brandon intended to steer critical discussion of them away from considerations of chronology.
- (C) Until recently, there was very little critical literature on the works of Brandon.
- (D) Brandon at age 63 would not have portrayed himself in a painting as he had looked when he was a young man.
- (E) Brandon painted several self-portraits that showed him as a man past the age of 60.

Experts have differed about where the genus *Varanus* (monitor lizards) originated.

Because most existing species live in Australia, early researchers concluded that *Varanus* originated in Australia and subsequently island hopped westward along the

Line Indo-Australian archipelago. Herpetologist Robert Mertens later argued that *Varanus* probably originated in the archipelago. Chromosomal analysis has since supported Mertens' contention, and in addition, geologic evidence points to a collision between the archipelago and the Australian landmass after *Varanus* evolved—a fact that could account for the genus' present distribution.

A related puzzle for scientists is the present distribution of *Varanus'* largest surviving species, the Komodo dragon. These carnivores live only on four small islands in the archipelago where, scientists note, the prey base is too small to support mammalian carnivores. But the Komodo dragon has recently been shown to manage body temperature much more efficiently than do mammalian carnivores, enabling it to survive on about a tenth of the food energy required by a mammalian carnivore of comparable size.

23. It can be inferred from the passage that the geographical distribution of the Komodo dragon is

- (A) currently less restricted than it was at the time researchers first began investigating the origins of the genus *Varanus*
- (B) currently more restricted than it was at the time researchers first began investigating the origins of the genus *Varanus*
- (C) less restricted than is the distribution of the genus *Varanus* as a whole
- (D) more restricted than is the distribution of the genus *Varanus* as a whole
- (E) viewed as evidence in favor of the hypothesis that the genus *Varanus* originated in the Indo-Australian archipelago

23. Which of the following elements in the debate over the origin of *Varanus* is NOT provided in the passage?
- (A) The evidence that led Mertens to argue that *Varanus* originated in the Indo-Australian archipelago
 - (B) The evidence that led early researchers to argue that *Varanus* originated in Australia
 - (C) A possible explanation of how *Varanus* might have spread to the Indo-Australian archipelago if it had originated in Australia
 - (D) A possible explanation of how *Varanus* might have spread to Australia if it had originated in the Indo-Australian archipelago
 - (E) An indication of the general present-day distribution of *Varanus* species between Australia and the Indo-Australian archipelago
24. It can be inferred that which of the following is true of the “geologic evidence” (line 6)?
- (A) It was first noted by Mertens as evidence in favor of his theory about the origins of *Varanus*.
 - (B) It cannot rule out either one of the theories about the origins of *Varanus* discussed in the passage.
 - (C) It accounts for the present distribution of the Komodo dragon.
 - (D) It has led to renewed interest in the debate over the origins of *Varanus*.
 - (E) It confirms the conclusions reached by early researchers concerning the origins of *Varanus*.

Geographers and historians have traditionally held the view that Antarctica was first sighted around 1820, but some sixteenth-century European maps show a body that resembles the polar landmass, even though explorers of the period never saw it. Some scholars, therefore, argue that the continent must have been discovered and mapped by the ancients, whose maps are known to have served as models for the European cartographers.

- Line 5
25. Which of the following, if true, is most damaging to the inference drawn by the scholars?
- (A) The question of who first sighted Antarctica in modern times is still much debated, and no one has been able to present conclusive evidence.
 - (B) Between 3,000 and 9,000 years ago, the world was warmer than it is now, and the polar landmass was presumably smaller.
 - (C) There are only a few sixteenth-century global maps that show a continental landmass at the South Pole.
 - (D) Most attributions of surprising accomplishments to ancient civilizations or even extraterrestrials are eventually discredited or rejected as preposterous.
 - (E) Ancient philosophers believed that there had to be a large landmass at the South Pole to balance the northern continents and make the world symmetrical.

ANSWER KEY

PRACTICE SET 3

1. **Choice E:** unsympathetic to
2. **Choice A:** mercurial
3. **Choice A:** aghast; **Choice D:** shock
4. **Choice C:** prescience; **Choice F:** foresight
5. **Choice C:** obsolescence; **Choice D:** outdated
6. **Choice A:** wide application of; **Choice D:** marginalized; **Choice I:** increasing
7. **Choice B:** grow complacent; **Choice E:** redouble; **Choice G:** reversed
8. **Choice A:** Earth and the Moon were formed at the same time AND
Choice B: smaller objects joined together to form Earth and the Moon
9. **Choice B:** What happened to the impactor's core after the impactor hit Earth?
10. **Choice E:** A flawed hypothesis is introduced, and then an alternative hypothesis is presented.
11. **Choice E:** point out the basis for, and the limits of, an approach to the history of leisure
12. **Choice C:** Failure to take into account the complexity of certain features of European culture
13. **Choice A:** a way of calling historians' attention to certain facts about the Industrial Revolution
14. **Choice B:** A hypothesis is presented and discussed, and a limitation to the hypothesis is identified.
15. **Choice C:** pressing AND **Choice F:** critical
16. **Choice B:** marginal AND **Choice F:** peripheral
17. **Choice B:** capriciousness AND **Choice D:** fickleness
18. **Choice A:** bucolic AND **Choice E:** pastoral
19. **Choice B:** original AND **Choice C:** innovative
20. **Choice B:** cursory
21. **Choice D:** Brandon at age 63 would not have portrayed himself in a painting as he had looked when he was a young man.
22. **Choice D:** more restricted than is the distribution of the genus *Varanus* as a whole
23. **Choice A:** The evidence that led Mertens to argue that *Varanus* originated in the Indo-Australian archipelago
24. **Choice B:** It cannot rule out either one of the theories about the origins of *Varanus* discussed in the passage.
25. **Choice E:** Ancient philosophers believed that there had to be a large landmass at the South Pole to balance the northern continents and make the world symmetrical.

Answers and Explanations

PRACTICE SET 3

For each question, indicate the best answer, using the directions given.

For each of Questions 1 to 7, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. While not _____ the arguments in favor of the proposal for new highway construction, the governor nevertheless decided to veto the proposal.

- | |
|----------------------|
| (A) optimistic about |
| (B) convinced by |
| (C) happy with |
| (D) sanguine about |
| (E) unsympathetic to |

Explanation

“Nevertheless” indicates that the governor’s action—vetoing the proposal—was done despite some inclination to act otherwise. The first part of the sentence, then, must show that the governor had some reason to support the proposal. Thus the correct response, when preceded by “not,” should describe an attitude toward the arguments in favor of the proposal that would lead the governor to support it. Four of the choices, “optimistic about,” “convinced by,” “happy with,” and “sanguine about,” indicate positive attitudes. When they are negated by the “not” that precedes the blank, then, they all indicate reasons that the governor would not support the proposal, so they are the opposite of what is called for. However, if the governor was not “unsympathetic to” the arguments for the proposal, he would have had a reason to support the measure he ultimately vetoed. Thus the correct answer is **unsympathetic to** (Choice E).

2. The children’s natures were in sharp contrast to the even-tempered dispositions of their parents.

- | |
|----------------|
| (A) mercurial |
| (B) blithe |
| (C) phlegmatic |
| (D) apathetic |
| (E) cunning |

Explanation

The children's natures are the opposite to those of their parents; since the parents are even tempered, the word that fills the blank must mean the opposite of even tempered. "Mercurial," meaning quickly changing, exactly fits, so it is the correct choice. Although the other answer choices encompass a range of temperaments ("blithe" means happy, "phlegmatic" means unemotional, "apathetic" means uncaring), none suggest a tendency to change from one state to another, so none of them contrast as well with "even-tempered."

Thus the correct answer is **mercurial** (Choice A).

3. The first major exhibits of modern art left the public (i) _____, its (ii) intensified by the response of art critics, who stooped to vituperation to express their disgust with the new art.

Blank (i)

(A) aghast
(B) bemused
(C) unsurprised

Blank (ii)

(D) shock
(E) apathy
(F) empathy

Explanation

The sentence implies that the public and the art critics had similar negative reactions to the modern art exhibits; the words "vituperation" and "disgust" further suggest that this reaction was very intense. Thus answers to both Blank (i) and Blank (ii) must be synonymous with "strong negative reaction." The only combination of the answer choices that matches this meaning is "aghast" and "shock," so this answer is correct.

Thus the correct answer is **aghast** (Choice A) and **shock** (Choice D).

4. While many outside the company attributed the company's success to its president's (i) _____, insiders realized that this success owed more to the president's inflexibility than to any (ii) _____ that the president might be supposed to have displayed.

Blank (i)

(A) perseverance
(B) popularity
(C) prescience

Blank (ii)

(D) obduracy
(E) caprice
(F) foresight

Explanation

The second part of the sentence suggests that there is a contrast between a negative quality of the president ("inflexibility") that was the actual primary cause of the company's success and a positive quality named by Blank (ii) that the outsiders took to be the cause. Among the answer choices for Blank (ii), only "foresight" denotes a positive quality, so it is the correct answer. The sentence as a whole implies that the answer to Blank (i) must be similar in meaning to the answer for Blank (ii); the only answer choice that is synonymous with "foresight" is "prescience," so it is the correct answer for Blank (i).

Thus the correct answer is **prescience** (Choice C) and **foresight** (Choice F).

5. With the rate of technological (i) _____ accelerating—many people now consider a personal computer (ii) _____ after three years—the question of how to properly dispose of old equipment is no small matter.

Blank (i)

(A) affordability
(B) complexity
(C) obsolescence

Blank (ii)

(D) outdated
(E) familiar
(F) inestimable

Explanation

Since the last part of the sentence mentions the problem of disposing of old equipment, it is likely that the three-year-old personal computer described by Blank (ii) will be characterized by a word that suggests why it is being disposed of. Neither “familiar” nor “inestimable” suggests something that needs to be cast off, while “outdated” does; therefore, it is the correct response. Since the outdated three-year-old computer is presented as an example of the trend in technology mentioned in the first part of the sentence, Blank (i) must be completed with a word that characterizes this outdatedness. “Obsolescence” does exactly that, so it is the correct response. Neither “affordability” nor “complexity” is exemplified by computers that become quickly outdated, so they are incorrect.

Thus the correct answer is **obsolescence** (Choice C) and **outdated** (Choice D).

6. In the nineteenth century the (i) _____ advanced mechanical printing techniques made it possible for newspaper owners to print newspapers cheaply and in mass quantities, but unlike many other mechanized industries, where machines (ii) _____ workers, the new printing machines required trained compositors to run them, thereby (iii) _____ the demand for skilled printing labor.

Blank (i)

(A) wide application of
(B) extensive resistance to
(C) great expense of

Blank (ii)

(D) marginalized
(E) intrigued
(F) isolated

Blank (iii)

(G) ignoring
(H) anticipating
(I) increasing

Explanation

The author states that in the nineteenth century great quantities of newspapers could be printed cheaply, and Blank (i) calls for something related to advanced mechanical printing techniques that allowed this to happen. Of the choices, “great expense of” contradicts the assertion that newspaper printing became cheap, while “extensive resistance to” advanced technology would likely result in no notable changes in the industry. Thus “wide application of” is the correct answer. Blank (iii) must describe the effect of new printing machines on the skilled labor market. Since the author states that these machines required trained workers, jobs would have been created that did not previously exist. Thus the correct answer is “increasing.” As for the other choices, there is no evidence that the demand for skilled printing labor was ignored and no mention of future demand for skilled labor that might have been anticipated. Blank (ii) requires a word that characterizes the effect of machines on workers in other mechanized industries, which the author contrasts to the newspaper industry’s need for trained operators. The implication is that the mechanization of other industries did not require trained workers but rather that machines simply replaced human labor. This suggests that the answer to Blank (ii) is “marginalized.” Since the passage contains no references to workers’ interest in the machines or to their working conditions, neither “intrigued” nor “isolated” makes sense.

Thus the correct answer is **wide application of** (Choice A), **marginalized** (Choice D), and **increasing** (Choice I).

7. It may be that a kind of pendulum is built into United States politics: if a particular interest group scores a major victory, its supporters (i) _____ and its adversaries (ii) _____ their efforts, so that the victory is soon (iii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) consider new possibilities	(D) abandon	(G) reversed
(B) grow complacent	(E) redouble	(H) augmented
(C) become even more focused	(F) defend	(I) institutionalized

Explanation

The colon indicates that the second half of the sentence will explain the first. What is being explained is an analogy between United States politics and a pendulum, so it follows that the second half of the sentence shows how momentum in politics swings back and forth. Blank (iii) must be filled with a word that describes this seesawing effect; “reversed” does so. “Augmented” instead suggests momentum that builds upon itself, while “institutionalized” would characterize change that once made is difficult to undo, so neither of those choices fit. Blanks (i) and (ii) then must be filled with a pair of choices whose contrast explains why reversals in political momentum happen. “Grow complacent” and “redouble” do this, suggesting that the motivation of partisans on both sides of an issue is affected in opposite ways by a victory for either side. For Blank (i), “become even more focused” suggests that other victories for the winning side would follow the initial one, while “consider new possibilities” implies an expansion rather than a reversal of a political agenda. For Blank (ii), neither “abandon” nor “defend” suggests the political will that could lead to the reversal of a defeat.

Thus the correct answer is **grow complacent** (Choice B), **redouble** (Choice E), and **reversed** (Choice G).

For each of Questions 8 to 14, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

The binary planet hypothesis—that Earth and the Moon formed simultaneously by the accretion of smaller objects—does not explain why the Moon’s iron core is so small relative to the Moon’s total volume, compared with Earth’s core relative to Earth’s total volume. According to the giant-impact hypothesis, the Moon was created during a collision between Earth and a large object about the size of Mars. Computer simulations of this impact show that both of the objects would melt in the impact and the dense core of the impactor would fall as molten rock into the liquefied iron core of Earth. The ejected matter—mantle rock that had surrounded the cores of both objects—would be almost devoid of iron. This matter would become the Moon.

Description

The passage discusses two hypotheses about the formation of Earth’s moon and explains why one of them appears to be more plausible than the other.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

8. According to the passage, the binary planet hypothesis holds that
- [A] Earth and the Moon were formed at the same time
 - [B] smaller objects joined together to form Earth and the Moon
 - [C] the Moon’s core is the same absolute size as Earth’s core

Explanation

Choices A and B are correct. The question asks what the binary planet hypothesis holds.

Choice A is correct: According to the first sentence of the passage, the binary planet hypothesis holds that “Earth and the Moon formed simultaneously,” that is, at the same time.

Choice B is correct: According to the first sentence of the passage, the binary planet hypothesis holds that Earth and the Moon formed “by the accretion of smaller objects,” that is, by smaller objects joining together.

Choice C is incorrect: The passage does not mention the absolute sizes of Earth’s core and the Moon’s core; it only compares their sizes relative to the volumes of the two objects.

9. The giant-impact hypothesis as described in the passage answers all of the following questions EXCEPT:
- (A) What happened to the rock that surrounded the impactor’s core after the impactor hit Earth?
 - (B) What happened to the impactor’s core after the impactor hit Earth?
 - (C) Where did the impactor that collided with Earth originate?
 - (D) Why is the Moon’s iron core small relative to that of Earth?
 - (E) What was the size of the impactor relative to that of Mars?

Explanation

The questions in Choices A, B, D, and E are all answered by the giant-impact hypothesis: for Choice A, the rock that surrounded the impactor's core “would become the Moon”; for Choice B, the impactor's core “would fall as molten rock into the liquefied iron core of the Earth”; for Choice D, the Moon's iron core is small relative to the Earth's core because the matter that formed the Moon was “almost devoid of iron”; and for Choice E, the passage states that the impactor was “a large object about the size of Mars.” But nothing in the passage refers to the origin of the impactor, so **Choice B** is the correct answer.

10. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage? A The development of one theory into another is outlined. (B) Two explanations are provided, both of which are revealed as inadequate. (C) A theory is presented, and then evidence that undermines that theory is discussed. (D) Similarities and differences between two theories are described. (E) A flawed hypothesis is introduced, and then an alternative hypothesis is presented.

Explanation

The passage begins by presenting the binary planet hypothesis about the formation of Earth and the Moon and claiming that the hypothesis fails to explain the disparity in the sizes of Earth's iron core and the Moon's iron core relative to their volumes. The passage then introduces an alternative—the giant-impact hypothesis—and argues that this alternative explains the disparity better. Thus, **Choice E** is correct. The second theory is not presented as having been developed out of the first, so Choice A is incorrect; only the first theory is revealed as inadequate, so Choice B is incorrect; and the two theories are not compared extensively, so Choice D is incorrect. Although “a theory [the binary planet hypothesis] is presented, and then evidence that undermines that theory [the disparity related to iron cores] is discussed,” that description fails to capture the organization of the passage as a whole, so Choice C is incorrect.

Most recent work on the history of leisure in Europe has been based on the central hypothesis of a fundamental discontinuity between preindustrial and industrial societies. According to this view, the modern idea of leisure did not exist in medieval and early modern Europe: the modern distinction between the categories of work and leisure was a product of industrial capitalism. Preindustrial societies had festivals (together with informal and irregular breaks from work), while industrial societies have leisure in the form of weekends and vacations. The emergence of leisure is therefore part of the process of modernization. If this theory is correct, there is what Michel Foucault called a conceptual rupture between the two periods, and so the very idea of ¹⁰a history of leisure before the Industrial Revolution is an anachronism.

To reject the idea that leisure has had a continuous history from the Middle Ages to the present is not to deny that late medieval and early modern Europeans engaged in many pursuits that are now commonly considered leisure or sporting activities—jousting, hunting, tennis, card playing, travel, and so on—or that Europe in this period was dominated by a privileged class that engaged in these pursuits. What is involved in the discontinuity hypothesis is the recognition that the people of the Middle Ages and early modern Europe did not regard as belonging to a common category activities (hunting and gambling, for example) that are usually classified together today under the heading of leisure. Consider fencing: today it may be considered a “sport,” but for the gentleman of the Renaissance it was an art or science. Conversely, activities that today may be considered serious, notably warfare, were often described as pastimes.

Serious pitfalls therefore confront historians of leisure who assume continuity and who work with the modern concepts of leisure and sport, projecting them back onto the past without asking about the meanings contemporaries gave to their activities. However, the discontinuity hypothesis can pose problems of its own. Historians holding this view attempt to avoid anachronism by means of a simple dichotomy, cutting European history into two eras, preindustrial and industrial, setting up the binary opposition between a “festival culture” and a “leisure culture.” The dichotomy remains of use insofar as it reminds us that the rise of industrial capitalism was not purely a phenomenon of economic history, but had social and cultural preconditions and consequences. The dichotomy, however, leads to distortions when it reduces a great variety of medieval and early modern European ideas, assumptions, and practices to the simple formula implied by the phrase “festival culture.”

Description

The passage deals with the historical study of leisure in Europe and discusses the view that the concept of leisure underwent a fundamental change at the time of the Industrial Revolution (the “discontinuity” hypothesis). The second paragraph explains how the hypothesis can accommodate certain historical data, and the third paragraph discusses the usefulness of the hypothesis while at the same time outlining some potential drawbacks.

11. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) refute the idea that the history of leisure is discontinuous
- (B) show why one of two approaches is more useful in studying the history of leisure
- (C) suggest the need for a new, more inclusive concept to replace the concept of leisure
- (D) trace the development of a theory about the history of leisure
- (E) point out the basis for, and the limits of, an approach to the history of leisure

Explanation

The first paragraph of the passage tells us that the difference between preindustrial and industrial society in Europe was so great that “the modern distinction between the categories of work and leisure” (lines 4–5) cannot be meaningfully applied to the former, implying that there exists a discontinuity between the two periods. The second paragraph argues that the discontinuity approach can accommodate historical data. Finally, the third paragraph admits that, while useful in some respects, this approach “can pose problems of its own” (line 25) and briefly describes these problems. All this points to **Choice E** as correct.

12. The author of the passage asserts that the “dichotomy” (line 26) can lead to which of the following?

- (A) Reliance on only one of several equally valid theoretical approaches
- (B) The imposition of modern conceptions and meanings on past societies
- (C) Failure to take into account the complexity of certain features of European culture
- (D) Failure to utilize new conceptual categories in the study of the history of leisure
- (E) Failure to take account of the distinction between preindustrial and industrial societies

Explanation

The word “dichotomy” appears only in the last paragraph of the passage. One of the key claims there is that the dichotomy “reduces a great variety . . . to the simple formula” (lines 31–33). Therefore **Choice C** is correct.

13. According to the passage, the “simple dichotomy” (line 26) is useful primarily because it serves as

- (A) a way of calling historians’ attention to certain facts about the Industrial Revolution
- (B) an antidote to the oversimplification encouraged by such terms as “festival culture”
- (C) a device for distinguishing between the work and the leisure activities of preindustrial Europeans
- (D) a way of understanding the privileged class of medieval Europe by viewing its activities in modern terms
- (E) a tool for separating social history, including the history of leisure, from economic history

Explanation

“Simple dichotomy” is mentioned in line 26. The passage states that this dichotomy “remains of use insofar as it reminds us that the rise of industrial capitalism” (lines 28–29) was not just an economic phenomenon, but also a social and a cultural phenomenon. This points to **Choice A** as correct.

14. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage as a whole?
- (A) Two hypotheses are discussed, and evidence in support of one is presented.
 - (B) A hypothesis is presented and discussed, and a limitation to the hypothesis is identified.
 - (C) A hypothesis is proposed, its supposed advantages are shown to be real, and its supposed disadvantages are shown to be illusory.
 - (D) A problem is identified, two hypotheses are advanced to resolve it, and both are rejected.
 - (E) A problem is identified, two resolutions are proposed, and a solution combining elements of both is recommended.

Explanation

The main purpose of the passage is to discuss the idea of “the central hypothesis of a fundamental discontinuity between preindustrial and industrial societies” (lines 1–3) in terms of the development of the concept of leisure. Most of the passage is focused on demonstrating the usefulness of this hypothesis; however, the second part of the third paragraph mentions some “distortions” (line 31) that may result if the hypothesis is accepted. Therefore **Choice B** is correct. Choices A, D, and E are incorrect, as only one hypothesis/solution is discussed in the passage. Choice C is incorrect, as the passage does not mention that the “distortions” (line 31) caused by accepting the hypothesis are illusory.

For each of Questions 15 to 19, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

15. If big sums are to be spent on cleaning up environmental disasters, it is better to spend them on unglamorous but problems such as unsanitary water in Third World countries.
- [A] futile
 - [B] ephemeral
 - [C] pressing
 - [D] controversial
 - [E] transitory
 - [F] critical

Explanation

The blank calls for words that characterize the types of environmental problems worth spending large sums on. Among the choices are two sets of near synonyms: “ephemeral/transitory” and “pressing/critical.” Of these two pairings, only the latter makes sense in the context of the rest of the sentence—it would be unlikely for anyone to advocate spending large sums on problems that will be quickly gone without any intervention, as “ephemeral” and “transitory” imply, nor would unsanitary water likely be characterized as a merely temporary dilemma. Of the other two options, neither “futile” nor “controversial” has a synonym among the answer choices, so they can be ruled out on that account; in addition, neither would be used to justify the expenditure of large sums of money.

Thus the correct answer is **pressing** (Choice C) and **critical** (Choice F).

16. The process of establishing a literary canon is seen by some as, in part, an attempt by certain scholars to make their own labors central and to relegate the work of others to status.

- A orthodox
- B marginal
- C mainstream
- D definitive
- E conditional
- F peripheral

Explanation

The attempt by certain scholars to make their own work central is contrasted to the way they treat the work of others. The blank, then, must be completed with a pairing whose meaning is the opposite of central. Of the choices, “orthodox,” “mainstream,” and “definitive” are all too close in meaning to “central” to provide the necessary contrast; therefore they are incorrect. “Conditional” suggests a status that is yet to be determined, a nuance unsupported by anything else in the sentence; therefore it is also incorrect. The two remaining answers, “marginal” and “peripheral,” are synonyms with meanings that contrast nicely with “central.”

Thus the correct answer is **marginal** (Choice B) and **peripheral** (Choice F).

17. The mayor is more ideologically consistent than is widely believed: her long-term commitment to tax reform, for example, is not indicative of .

- A perspicacity
- B capriciousness
- C callousness
- D fickleness
- E clearheadedness
- F insensitivity

Explanation

The first part of the sentence suggests that the mayor is widely believed to be the opposite of ideologically consistent, while the portion of the sentence following the colon provides support for the assertion that her reputation for wavering is undeserved. The blank, then, must be completed with words that mean the opposite of ideological consistency. “Capriciousness” and “fickleness” are both opposites of consistency, so they are the correct answers. Of the other possible responses, one other pairing—“insensitivity” and “callousness”—are synonyms that would yield sentences alike in meaning, while the other two choices are also close in meaning. But neither of these pairs provides the necessary contrast to consistency that the sentence’s structure calls for.

Thus the correct answer is **capriciousness** (Choice B) and **fickleness** (Choice D).

18. At first glance Watkins Park, with its meandering stream and its thicket of greenery, seems ; however, upon closer inspection one is quickly reminded that the park is in the middle of a major city.

- [A] bucolic
- [B] remarkable
- [C] urban
- [D] noteworthy
- [E] pastoral
- [F] spurious

Explanation

The sentence characterizes certain physical features of the park and contrasts them with the park's location within a major city. The blank must describe those features so as to provide that contrast, which "urban" and "spurious" do not. While "remarkable" and "noteworthy" produce sentences with the same meaning, they also do not provide the required contrast between the park's features and its location.

Thus the correct answer is **bucolic** (Choice A) and **pastoral** (Choice E).

19. Although relying on much of the recent scholarship on the bison, Lott's book is a distinctly and even idiosyncratic contribution to the field.

- [A] derivative
- [B] original
- [C] innovative
- [D] imitative
- [E] insightful
- [F] surprising

Explanation

The "although" that begins the sentence indicates that the words that fill the blank will contrast with the author's reliance on recent scholarship. Of the choices, "derivative" and "imitative" both describe works that lean too heavily on the work of others; since these would not form a contrast with the first part of the sentence, they do not fit the blank. "Original" and "innovative" do describe qualities that are the opposite of reliant on the work of others, and they also yield sentences that are alike in meaning, so they are the correct answers. Of the other two responses, while both "insightful" and "surprising" contrast in some ways with the first part of the sentence, neither has a synonym among the other choices.

Thus the correct answer is **original** (Choice B) and **innovative** (Choice C).

For each of Questions 20 to 25, select one answer choice unless otherwise directed.

James W. Coleman's book on John Edgar Wideman's literary career addresses the needs of a general, if well-read, public rather than the esoteric vanities of scholarly specialists, whom he neither ignores nor flatters. To assume the former audience was familiar with every work Wideman ever penned would have been pretentious. Instead, Line 5 Coleman furnishes more than ample descriptive criticism and background information, avoiding the cryptic allusiveness that is favored by some academic critics but that discourages the undergraduate audience he likely envisioned. Unfortunately, this accent on bringing serious Wideman criticism to a broader audience often frustrates the reader who wishes that announced themes, techniques, and stylistic devices would ¹⁰ not whisk by as quickly as world capitals on a seven-day package tour of the globe.

Description

The passage discusses Coleman's approach to writing John Edgar Wideman's literary biography and claims that it was intended for the general public rather than for the academic community. The passage also describes the book's weak and strong points from the point of view of its intended audience.

20. The reference to "a seven-day package tour of the globe" (line 10) is most likely meant to suggest a treatment that is
- (A) inclusive
 - (B) cursory
 - (C) focused
 - (D) broad based
 - (E) substantial

Explanation

Choice B is correct. The phrase occurs in the last sentence of the passage; this sentence claims that Coleman's narrative progresses too fast, and the analogy with the "seven-day package tour of the globe" is meant to emphasize the fact that Coleman does not spend enough time on describing important aspects of Wideman's work. Therefore the correct answer choice is "cursory."

Mixed Practice Sets

The painter Peter Brandon never dated his works, and their chronology is only now beginning to take shape in the critical literature. A recent dating of a Brandon self-portrait to 1930 is surely wrong. Brandon was 63 years old in 1930, yet the painting shows a young, dark-haired man—obviously Brandon, but clearly not a man of 63.

21. Which of the following, if justifiably assumed, allows the conclusion to be properly drawn?
- (A) There is no securely dated self-portrait of Brandon that he painted when he was significantly younger than 63.
 - (B) In refraining from dating his works, Brandon intended to steer critical discussion of them away from considerations of chronology.
 - (C) Until recently, there was very little critical literature on the works of Brandon.
 - (D) Brandon at age 63 would not have portrayed himself in a painting as he had looked when he was a young man.
 - (E) Brandon painted several self-portraits that showed him as a man past the age of 60.

Explanation

The passage concludes that the self-portrait must be improperly dated and cites as proof the discrepancy between Brandon's actual age (63) in 1930 and his youthful appearance in the painting. The assumption is that a self-portrait depicts the artist's current appearance; therefore, **Choice D** is the correct answer. Since the argument does not depend on the existence or absence of other self-portraits, Choices A and E are incorrect. The argument also does not depend upon Brandon's motivations for not dating his works or upon the lack of critical literature about his work, so Choices B and C are incorrect.

Experts have differed about where the genus *Varanus* (monitor lizards) originated. Because most existing species live in Australia, early researchers concluded that *Varanus* originated in Australia and subsequently island hopped westward along the Indo-Australian archipelago. Herpetologist Robert Mertens later argued that *Varanus* probably originated in the archipelago. Chromosomal analysis has since supported Mertens' contention, and in addition, geologic evidence points to a collision between the archipelago and the Australian landmass after *Varanus* evolved—a fact that could account for the genus' present distribution.

A related puzzle for scientists is the present distribution of *Varanus'* largest surviving species, the Komodo dragon. These carnivores live only on four small islands in the archipelago where, scientists note, the prey base is too small to support mammalian carnivores. But the Komodo dragon has recently been shown to manage body temperature much more efficiently than do mammalian carnivores, enabling it to survive on about a tenth of the food energy required by a mammalian carnivore ¹⁵ of comparable size.

Description

The passage begins by identifying a question that has long puzzled scientists. The first paragraph is devoted to considering two possible answers to the question. The second paragraph introduces a question that is related to the question discussed in the first paragraph. It then provides a possible answer to it.

22. It can be inferred from the passage that the geographical distribution of the Komodo dragon is
- (A) currently less restricted than it was at the time researchers first began investigating the origins of the genus *Varanus*
 - (B) currently more restricted than it was at the time researchers first began investigating the origins of the genus *Varanus*
 - (C) less restricted than is the distribution of the genus *Varanus* as a whole
 - (D) more restricted than is the distribution of the genus *Varanus* as a whole
 - (E) viewed as evidence in favor of the hypothesis that the genus *Varanus* originated in the Indo-Australian archipelago

Explanation

Choice D is correct. Because the Komodo dragon, a species of *Varanus*, is restricted to "four small islands in the archipelago" but "most existing species" of the genus *Varanus* as a whole live in Australia, the geographical distribution of the genus includes species in both places. The distribution of the Komodo dragon is restricted to only one of these places and is thus more restricted than the genus as a whole, not less restricted. Thus, Choice C is incorrect. Choices A and B are incorrect because the passage does not describe the specific change in the geographic distribution of the Komodo dragon, but rather just describes its present distribution. Choice E is incorrect because the passage does not present its discussion of the Komodo dragon as evidence for either hypothesis of the origin of *Varanus* but rather as a "related puzzle."

23. Which of the following elements in the debate over the origin of *Varanus* is NOT provided in the passage?
- (A) The evidence that led Mertens to argue that *Varanus* originated in the Indo-Australian archipelago
 - (B) The evidence that led early researchers to argue that *Varanus* originated in Australia
 - (C) A possible explanation of how *Varanus* might have spread to the Indo-Australian archipelago if it had originated in Australia
 - (D) A possible explanation of how *Varanus* might have spread to Australia if it had originated in the Indo-Australian archipelago
 - (E) An indication of the general present-day distribution of *Varanus* species between Australia and the Indo-Australian archipelago

Explanation

Choice A is correct. The passage provides support for Mertens' argument by providing later chromosomal evidence as well as geologic evidence but it does not provide nor describe the evidence with which Mertens originally argued. Choices B and E are incorrect because the passage states that early researchers argued for a specific origin for *Varanus* "because most existing species live in Australia," which indicates the present-day distribution of species. Choices C and D are incorrect because the passage provides geologic evidence to suggest a possible explanation for how *Varanus* may have spread to either Australia or the archipelago regardless of its origin.

24. It can be inferred that which of the following is true of the "geologic evidence" (line 6)?
- (A) It was first noted by Mertens as evidence in favor of his theory about the origins of *Varanus*.
 - (B) It cannot rule out either one of the theories about the origins of *Varanus* discussed in the passage.
 - (C) It accounts for the present distribution of the Komodo dragon.
 - (D) It has led to renewed interest in the debate over the origins of *Varanus*.
 - (E) It confirms the conclusions reached by early researchers concerning the origins of *Varanus*.

Explanation

Choice B is correct. The passage presents the "geologic evidence" so as to provide a possible explanation for the prevalence of the various species of *Varanus* in Australia if indeed Mertens' theory is correct. But the evidence itself does not rule out the possibility that the earlier theory is correct and that Mertens is not, so the "geologic evidence" cannot rule out either theory. Choice A is incorrect because there is no specific indication that Mertens first provided this evidence, and the chronology of the presentation suggests that he did not. Choice C is incorrect as there is no mention in the passage of a specifically renewed interest in the debate. Choice D is incorrect since the "geologic evidence" does not rule out nor confirm either Mertens' conclusions or those of earlier researchers.

Line
5 Geographers and historians have traditionally held the view that Antarctica was first sighted around 1820, but some sixteenth-century European maps show a body that resembles the polar landmass, even though explorers of the period never saw it. Some scholars, therefore, argue that the continent must have been discovered and mapped by the ancients, whose maps are known to have served as models for the European cartographers.

25. Which of the following, if true, is most damaging to the inference drawn by the scholars?
- (A) The question of who first sighted Antarctica in modern times is still much debated, and no one has been able to present conclusive evidence.
 - (B) Between 3,000 and 9,000 years ago, the world was warmer than it is now, and the polar landmass was presumably smaller.
 - (C) There are only a few sixteenth-century global maps that show a continental landmass at the South Pole.
 - (D) Most attributions of surprising accomplishments to ancient civilizations or even extraterrestrials are eventually discredited or rejected as preposterous.
 - (E) Ancient philosophers believed that there had to be a large landmass at the South Pole to balance the northern continents and make the world symmetrical.

Explanation

The inference that Antarctica was discovered by the ancients would be weakened if there were an alternative explanation of why the ancients might have drawn a land-mass in that area on their maps. **Choice E** provides just such an explanation, so it is the correct answer. Choice A is incorrect because the identity of the modern discoverer of the Antarctica has no bearing on why the continent was included on sixteenth-century maps. Since the ancients referred to in the passage likely postdate the warm period mentioned in Choice B, that option is also incorrect. The passage never mentions how many sixteenth-century maps show a southern polar landmass, and the argument does not depend upon any particular quantity, so Choice C is incorrect. Choice D comments upon the conclusion but does not pertain to the argument itself, so it is also incorrect.

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