

# Question ID f1bfbed3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: f1bfbed3

Marta Coll and colleagues' 2010 Mediterranean Sea biodiversity census reported approximately 17,000 species, nearly double the number reported in Carlo Bianchi and Carla Morri's 2000 census—a difference only partly attributable to the description of new invertebrate species in the interim. Another factor is that the morphological variability of microorganisms is poorly understood compared to that of vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, and algae, creating uncertainty about how to evaluate microorganisms as species. Researchers' decisions on such matters therefore can be highly consequential. Indeed, the two censuses reported similar counts of vertebrate, plant, and algal species, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

Coll and colleagues reported a much higher number of species than Bianchi and Morri did largely due to the inclusion of  
A. invertebrate species that had not been described at the time of Bianchi and Morri's census.

some differences observed in microorganisms may have been treated as variations within species by Bianchi and Morri  
B. but treated as indicative of distinct species by Coll and colleagues.

Bianchi and Morri may have been less sensitive to the degree of morphological variation displayed within a typical  
C. species of microorganism than Coll and colleagues were.

the absence of clarity regarding how to differentiate among species of microorganisms may have resulted in Coll and  
D. colleagues underestimating the number of microorganism species.

## ID: f1bfbed3 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically completes the text's discussion of the different counts of species in the Mediterranean Sea. The text states that Coll and colleagues reported almost double the number of species that Bianchi and Morri reported in their study ten years earlier. According to the text, this difference can only be partly attributed to new invertebrate species being described in the years between the two studies, which means there must be an additional factor that made Coll and colleagues' count so much higher than Bianchi and Morri's count. The text goes on to explain that factor: researchers have a relatively poor understanding of microorganisms' morphological variability, or the differences in microorganisms' structure and form. This poor understanding makes it hard to classify microorganisms by species and means that researchers' decisions about classifying microorganisms can have a large effect on the overall species counts that researchers report. Additionally, the text says that the two censuses reported similar numbers of vertebrate, plant, and algal species, which means that the difference in overall species did not come from differences in those categories. Given all this information, it most logically follows that Coll and colleagues may have treated some of the differences among microorganisms as indicative of the microorganisms being different species, whereas Bianchi and Morri treated those differences as variations within species, resulting in Coll and colleagues reporting many more species than Bianchi and Morri did.

Choice A is incorrect because the text explicitly addresses this issue by stating that the description of new invertebrate species in the years between the two studies can explain only part of the difference in the number of species reported by the studies. The focus of the text is on explaining the difference between Coll and colleagues' count and Bianchi and Morri's count that cannot be accounted for by the inclusion of invertebrate species that had not been described at the time of Bianchi and Morri's study. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Bianchi and Morri may have been less sensitive to how much the form and structure of microorganisms vary within the same species than Coll and colleagues were. If Bianchi and Morri had been less sensitive to within-species variation than Coll and colleagues were, Bianchi and Morri would likely have reported more species than Coll and colleagues did, since less sensitivity to within-species variation would lead researchers to classify as different species microorganisms that more sensitive researchers would classify as variations within the same species. The text indicates, however, that Bianchi and Morri reported far fewer species than Coll and colleagues did; since the text also excludes other explanations for this difference, it suggests that in fact Bianchi and Morri were more sensitive to within-species variation than Coll and colleagues were, leading Bianchi and Morri to report fewer overall species. Choice D is incorrect because the text is focused on explaining why Coll and colleagues reported many more species than Bianchi and Morri did, and an underestimate of the number of microorganism species by Coll and colleagues would not explain that difference—it would suggest, in fact, that the difference in the number of species should have been even larger.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 87aa7bab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 87aa7bab

A common assumption among art historians is that the invention of photography in the mid-nineteenth century displaced the painted portrait in the public consciousness. The diminishing popularity of the portrait miniature, which coincided with the rise of photography, seems to support this claim. However, photography's impact on the portrait miniature may be overstated. Although records from art exhibitions in the Netherlands from 1820 to 1892 show a decrease in the number of both full-sized and miniature portraits submitted, this trend was established before the invention of photography.

Based on the text, what can be concluded about the diminishing popularity of the portrait miniature in the nineteenth century?

- A. Factors other than the rise of photography may be more directly responsible for the portrait miniature's decline.

Although portrait miniatures became less common than photographs, they were widely regarded as having more artistic merit.

- C. The popularity of the portrait miniature likely persisted for longer than art historians have assumed.

- D. As demand for portrait miniatures decreased, portrait artists likely shifted their creative focus to photography.

## ID: 87aa7bab Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text says that the impact of photography on the portrait miniature might be "overstated," as some records show a decrease in the number of portrait miniatures *before* the invention of photography. From this, we can conclude that factors *other* than the rise of photography may be more directly responsible for the portrait miniature's decline.

Choice B is incorrect. The text never discusses the "artistic merit" of either art form. Choice C is incorrect. The text never suggests that the portrait miniature was popular for longer than historians thought—if anything, it suggests that the portrait miniature started losing its popularity *earlier* than historians thought. Choice D is incorrect. The text never suggests that portrait painters shifted to become photographers.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d73a908a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: d73a908a

Believing that living in an impractical space can heighten awareness and even improve health, conceptual artists Madeline Gins and Shusaku Arakawa designed an apartment building in Japan to be more fanciful than functional. A kitchen counter is chest-high on one side and knee-high on the other; a ceiling has a door to nowhere. The effect is disorienting but invigorating: after four years there, filmmaker Nobu Yamaoka reported significant health benefits.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

Although inhabiting a home surrounded by fanciful features such as those designed by Gins and Arakawa can be  
A. rejuvenating, it is unsustainable.

Designing disorienting spaces like those in the Gins and Arakawa building is the most effective way to create a physically  
B. stimulating environment.

C. As a filmmaker, Yamaoka has long supported the designs of conceptual artists such as Gins and Arakawa.

Although impractical, the design of the apartment building by Gins and Arakawa may improve the well-being of the  
D. building's residents.

## ID: d73a908a Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. According to the text, conceptual artists Gins and Arakawa have designed an apartment building that is disorienting because of several unconventional elements, such as uneven kitchen counters and “a door to nowhere.” The text goes on to suggest that there may be benefits to this kind of design because filmmaker Yamaoka lived in the apartment building for four years and reported health benefits. Thus, although the design is impractical, it may improve the well-being of the apartment building’s residents.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text mentions that Yamaoka lived in the apartment for four years, it doesn’t address how long someone can beneficially live in a home surrounded by fanciful features or whether doing so can be sustained. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text mentions the potential benefits of living in a home with disorienting design features, it doesn’t suggest that this is the most effective method to create a physically stimulating environment. Choice C is incorrect because the text refers to Yamaoka to support the claim that Gins and Arakawa’s apartment building design may be beneficial, but the text doesn’t indicate that Yamaoka supports the designs of other conceptual artists.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d748c3fd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: d748c3fd

In her 2021 article “Throwaway History: Towards a Historiography of Ephemera,” scholar Anne Garner discusses John Johnson (1882–1956), a devoted collector of items intended to be discarded, including bus tickets and campaign pamphlets. Johnson recognized that scholarly institutions considered his expansive collection of ephemera to be worthless—indeed, it wasn’t until 1968, after Johnson’s death, that Oxford University’s Bodleian Library acquired the collection, having grasped the items’ potential value to historians and other researchers. Hence, the example of Johnson serves to \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. demonstrate the difficulties faced by contemporary historians in conducting research at the Bodleian Library without access to ephemera.
- B. represent the challenge of incorporating examples of ephemera into the collections of libraries and other scholarly institutions.
- C. lend support to arguments by historians and other researchers who continue to assert that ephemera holds no value for scholars.
- D. illustrate both the relatively low scholarly regard in which ephemera was once held and the later recognition of ephemera’s possible utility.

## ID: d748c3fd Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Johnson collected “ephemera,” or things that are meant to be thrown away. Scholars thought his collection was worthless to them, then later realized that it was potentially valuable. This suggests that scholars went from disregarding ephemera to recognizing their usefulness.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text tells us that the Bodleian Library acquired Johnson’s large collection of ephemera back in 1968, so we can assume that contemporary historians conducting research there do have access to that collection. Choice B is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text tells us that “Oxford University’s Bodleian Library acquired the collection,” but it never suggests that it was a challenge to do so. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text actually suggests the opposite: the example of Johnson’s collection lends support to arguments that ephemera does hold value for scholars.

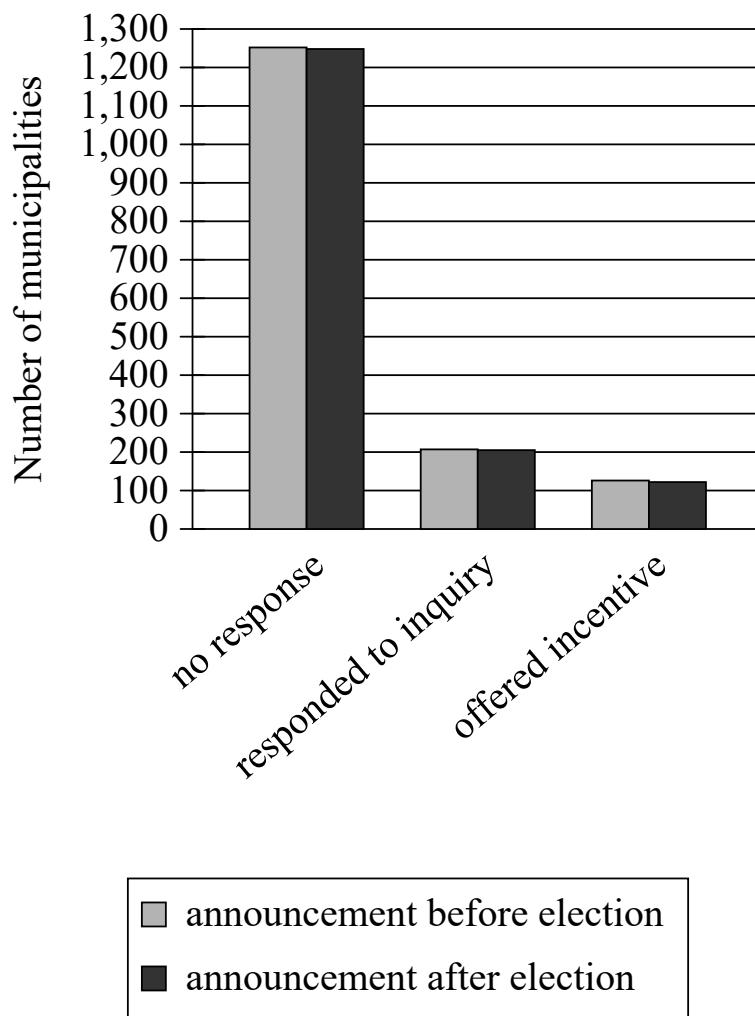
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a15b3219

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: a15b3219

## Municipalities' Responses to Inquiries about Potential Incentives for Firm



In the United States, firms often seek incentives from municipal governments to expand to those municipalities. A team of political scientists hypothesized that municipalities are much more likely to respond to firms and offer incentives if expansions can be announced in time to benefit local elected officials than if they can't. The team contacted officials in thousands of municipalities, inquiring about incentives for a firm looking to expand and indicating that the firm would announce its expansion on a date either just before or just after the next election.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that weaken the team's hypothesis?

- A large majority of the municipalities that received an inquiry mentioning plans for an announcement before the next election didn't respond to the inquiry.

- The proportion of municipalities that responded to the inquiry or offered incentives didn't substantially differ across the announcement timing conditions.

Only around half the municipalities that responded to inquiries mentioning plans for an announcement before the next C. election offered incentives.

Of the municipalities that received an inquiry mentioning plans for an announcement date after the next election, more D. than 1,200 didn't respond and only around 100 offered incentives.

### ID: a15b3219 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

#### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The lighter bars show what happened when the announcement was to come before the election, and the darker bars show what happened when the announcement was to come after the election. For all three of the outcomes, the light and dark bars are virtually the same, demonstrating that the announcement timing didn't actually make a difference.

Choice A is incorrect. This accurately describes some data from the graph, but it doesn't weaken the hypothesis. It doesn't include the "announcement after election" data for comparison. Choice C is incorrect. This accurately describes some data from the graph, but it doesn't weaken the hypothesis. It doesn't include the "announcement after election" data for comparison. Choice D is incorrect. This accurately describes some data from the graph, but it doesn't weaken the hypothesis. It doesn't include the "announcement before election" data for comparison.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID ed314256

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: ed314256

The most recent iteration of the immersive theater experience *Sleep No More*, which premiered in New York City in 2011, transforms its performance space—a five-story warehouse—into a 1930s-era hotel. Audience members, who wander through the labyrinthine venue at their own pace and follow the actors as they play out simultaneous, interweaving narrative loops, confront the impossibility of experiencing the production in its entirety. The play's refusal of narrative coherence thus hinges on the sense of spatial fragmentation that the venue's immense and intricate layout generates.

What does the text most strongly suggest about *Sleep No More*'s use of its performance space?

The choice of a New York City venue likely enabled the play's creators to experiment with the use of theatrical space in a  
A. way that venues from earlier productions could not.

Audience members likely find the experience of the play disappointing because they generally cannot make their way  
B. through the entire venue.

The production's dependence on a particular performance environment would likely make it difficult to reproduce exactly  
C. in a different theatrical space.

Audience members who navigate the space according to a recommended itinerary will likely have a better grasp of the  
D. play's narrative than audience members who depart from that itinerary.

## ID: ed314256 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text says that the production's use of its large, winding space has a very specific effect on the audience. Given that the space itself is so important to creating this effect, it would be difficult to reproduce the production in a different space.

Choice A is incorrect. The fact that the venue is in New York City isn't connected to the experimental nature of the performance. It's the size of the venue, not its location in New York, that affects the theatrical experience. Choice B is incorrect. The text never suggests that audience members are disappointed because they can't see the entire production. In fact, it suggests that that's an important part of the experience. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't mention a recommended itinerary for audience members.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8c1be131

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 8c1be131

During the World War II era, some Mexican American women adopted a striking new look called *pachuca* style. They wore altered men's jackets or zoot suits (wide-legged, long-coated suits) and dramatic makeup, and they combed their hair into high, rounded shapes. Some people criticized *pachuca* style, saying it was dangerous and women should dress traditionally. But historians see things differently. They see *pachuca* style as a form of rebellion against the era's rigid social expectations for women. They say that it showed a desire for self-expression and freedom on the part of women who adopted the style.

According to the text, how do historians view *pachuca* style?

They think that *pachuca* style was such a popular trend that it continues to influence fashion in the United States to the A. present day.

They think that *pachuca* style was a way for some Mexican American women to express themselves and resist strict B. social expectations.

They think that *pachuca* style was celebrated because it enabled some Mexican American women to show their support C. for the United States during World War II.

They think that *pachuca* style was similar to other fashion trends that different groups of women adopted in the same D. period.

## ID: 8c1be131 Answer

Correct Answer: B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a statement about how historians view *pachuca* style that is supported by the text. The text first describes the distinctive *pachuca* style of dress adopted by some Mexican American women during World War II, saying that some criticized it and asserted that women should dress traditionally. The text then goes on to contrast this position with that of historians, who "see things differently": according to these historians, the *pachuca* style showed a wish for freedom and self-expression, and it acted as a kind of rebellion against what society expected of women at the time. Therefore, according to the text, historians think that the *pachuca* style was a way for Mexican women to express themselves and resist strict social expectations.

Choice A is incorrect because the text explicitly describes the *pachuca* style as a distinctive look adopted during the World War II era. It does not indicate that the *pachuca* style influences fashion in the United States in the present day. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not indicate that Mexican American women wore the *pachuca* style to show support for the United States during World War II; rather, the style was a means of self-expression and rebellion against social expectations. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not compare the *pachuca* style to other fashion trends: the *pachuca* style is the only style mentioned.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 92c2564d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 92c2564d

Utah is home to Pando, a colony of about 47,000 quaking aspen trees that all share a single root system. Pando is one of the largest single organisms by mass on Earth, but ecologists are worried that its growth is declining in part because of grazing by animals. The ecologists say that strong fences could prevent deer from eating young trees and help Pando start thriving again.

According to the text, why are ecologists worried about Pando?

- A. It isn't growing at the same rate it used to.
- B. It isn't producing young trees anymore.
- C. It can't grow into new areas because it is blocked by fences.
- D. Its root system can't support many more new trees.

## ID: 92c2564d Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents an explanation that is directly stated in the text for why ecologists are worried about Pando. The text states that Pando is a colony of about 47,000 quaking aspen trees that represents one of the largest organisms on Earth. According to the text, ecologists are worried that Pando's growth is declining, partly because animals are feeding on the trees. In other words, the ecologists are worried that Pando isn't growing at the same rate it used to.

Choice B is incorrect. Rather than indicating that Pando isn't producing young trees anymore, the text reveals that Pando is indeed producing young trees, stating that those trees can be protected from grazing deer by strong fences. Choice C is incorrect because the text states that fences can be used to prevent deer from eating Pando's young trees, not that Pando itself can't grow in new areas because it's blocked by fences. Choice D is incorrect because the text offers no evidence that Pando's root system is incapable of supporting new trees or is otherwise a cause of worry for ecologists.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 22e4d633

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 22e4d633

Although many transposons, DNA sequences that move within an organism's genome through shuffling or duplication, have become corrupted and inactive over time, those from the long interspersed nuclear elements (LINE) family appear to remain active in the genomes of some species. In humans, they are functionally important within the hippocampus, a brain structure that supports complex cognitive processes. When the results of molecular analysis of two species of octopus—an animal known for its intelligence—were announced in 2022, the confirmation of a LINE transposon in *Octopus vulgaris* and *Octopus bimaculoides* genomes prompted researchers to hypothesize that that transposon family is tied to a species' capacity for advanced cognition.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers' hypothesis?

The LINE transposon in *O. vulgaris* and *O. bimaculoides* genomes is active in an octopus brain structure that functions

- A. similarly to the human hippocampus.
  - B. The human genome contains multiple transposons from the LINE family that are all primarily active in the hippocampus.
- A consistent number of copies of LINE transposons is present across the genomes of most octopus species, with few
- C. known corruptions.
  - D. sequences from a wider variety of transposon families.
- O. vulgaris* and *O. bimaculoides* have smaller brains than humans do relative to body size, but their genomes contain

## ID: 22e4d633 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text says that LINE transposons are important in the human hippocampus, which supports complex cognition. If the LINE transposon found in octopuses is active in a similar part of their brain, that would suggest that LINE transposons support complex cognition in octopuses too, which in turn supports the hypothesis that LINE transposons are linked to advanced cognition in general.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the hypothesis. It doesn't include anything about how LINE transposons function in species other than humans. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the hypothesis. It doesn't include anything about how the LINE transposon in octopuses might support advanced cognition. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the hypothesis. It doesn't include anything about how the LINE transposon in octopuses might support advanced cognition.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 458b4a11

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 458b4a11

To understand how temperature change affects microorganism-mediated cycling of soil nutrients in alpine ecosystems, Eva Kaštovská et al. collected plant-soil cores in the Tatra Mountains at elevations around 2,100 meters and transplanted them to elevations of 1,700–1,800 meters, where the mean air temperature was warmer by 2°C. Microorganism-mediated nutrient cycling was accelerated in the transplanted cores; crucially, microorganism community composition was unchanged, allowing Kaštovská et al. to attribute the acceleration to temperature-induced increases in microorganism activity.

It can most reasonably be inferred from the text that the finding about the microorganism community composition was important for which reason?

It provided preliminary evidence that microorganism-mediated nutrient cycling was accelerated in the transplanted A. cores.

It suggested that temperature-induced changes in microorganism activity may be occurring at increasingly high B. elevations.

C. It ruled out a potential alternative explanation for the acceleration in microorganism-mediated nutrient cycling.

It clarified that microorganism activity levels in the plant-soil cores varied depending on which microorganisms D. comprised the community.

## ID: 458b4a11 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it accurately describes why the finding about the microorganism community composition was important. The text describes an experiment by Eva Kaštovská and her team in which they collected plant-soil cores at one elevation and transplanted them to sites at a lower elevation, where the mean air temperature was warmer. Kaštovská and her team observed that microorganism-mediated nutrient cycling was accelerated in the transplanted cores and that "crucially, microorganism community composition was unchanged," which allowed the team to attribute the acceleration to changes in microorganism activity brought about by the difference in temperature. This strongly implies that the team wouldn't have been able to make that attribution otherwise, meaning that a change in microorganism composition represented another possible explanation for the acceleration that had to be ruled out.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text says microorganism-mediated cycling of soil nutrients increased in the transplanted cores, this is unrelated to what's important about the finding that the microorganism composition didn't change—that it allowed the team to attribute the change in activity solely to the change in temperature. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text compares activity in one core at two different elevations, the text doesn't address changes in activity at various elevations over time. Choice D is incorrect. Although different microorganisms likely exhibit different levels of activity, the text indicates that there was no change in microorganism composition, and there is nothing in the text about different microorganisms having different activity levels.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 1ba5ad7a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 1ba5ad7a

Many literary theorists distinguish between *fabula*, a narrative's content, and *syuzhet*, a narrative's arrangement and presentation of events. In the film *The Godfather Part II*, the *fabula* is the story of the Corleone family, and the *syuzhet* is the presentation of the story as it alternates between two timelines in 1901 and 1958. But literary theorist Mikhail Bakhtin maintained that *fabula* and *syuzhet* are insufficient to completely describe a narrative—he held that systematic categorizations of artistic phenomena discount the subtle way in which meaning is created by interactions between the artist, the work, and the audience.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

Literary theorist Mikhail Bakhtin argued that there are important characteristics of narratives that are not fully

- A. encompassed by two concepts that other theorists have used to analyze narratives.

Literary theorist Mikhail Bakhtin claimed that meaning is not inherent in a narrative but is created when an audience

- B. encounters a narrative so that narratives are interpreted differently by different people.

The storytelling methods used in *The Godfather Part II* may seem unusually complicated, but they can be easily

- C. understood when two concepts from literary theory are utilized.

Narratives that are told out of chronological order are more difficult for audiences to understand than are narratives

- D. presented chronologically.

## ID: 1ba5ad7a Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by explaining that many literary theorists rely on the concepts of *fabula* (a narrative's content) and *syuzhet* (a narrative's arrangement and presentation of events) and illustrates these concepts by explaining how they can be applied to the film *The Godfather Part II*. The text then discusses how Mikhail Bakhtin, a literary theorist, argued that *fabula* and *syuzhet* can't fully describe a narrative, since systematic categorizations such as these fail to account for all the ways in which interactions between the artist, the work, and the audience produce meaning. Thus, the main idea is that Bakhtin argued that there are important characteristics of narratives that are not fully encompassed by two concepts that other theorists have used to analyze narratives.

Choice B is incorrect because according to the text, Mikhail Bakhtin believed that meaning was created through the interactions of the artist, narrative, and audience, not simply through the interaction between the audience and narrative; moreover, the text doesn't address whether Bakhtin focused on the ways in which different people interpret narratives differently. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text implies that the storytelling methods used in *The Godfather Part II* are complicated, it discusses the film only to illustrate how the concepts of *fabula* and *syuzhet* may be applied to a narrative. The film's storytelling methods aren't the primary focus of the text. Choice D is incorrect. The text discusses *The Godfather Part II*, whose narrative doesn't adhere to a single chronological order, only to illustrate the concepts of *fabula* (a narrative's content) and *syuzhet* (a narrative's arrangement and presentation of events). The primary focus of this text isn't the structure of this film or of other narratives that are told out of chronological order; moreover, the text doesn't consider whether such structures make it harder for audiences to understand narratives.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 602b47c7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 602b47c7

Biologists have predicted that birds' feather structures vary with habitat temperature, but this hadn't been tested in mountain environments. Ornithologist Sahas Barve studied feathers from 249 songbird species inhabiting different elevations—and thus experiencing different temperatures—in the Himalaya Mountains. He found that feathers of high-elevation species not only have a greater proportion of warming downy sections to flat and smooth sections than do feathers of low-elevation species, but high-elevation species' feathers also tend to be longer, providing a thicker layer of insulation.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

Barve's investigation shows that some species of Himalayan songbirds have evolved feathers that better regulate body

- A. temperature than do the feathers of other species, contradicting previous predictions.

Barve found an association between habitat temperature and feather structure among Himalayan songbirds, lending new

- B. support to a general prediction.

Barve discovered that songbirds have adapted to their environment by growing feathers without flat and smooth

- C. sections, complicating an earlier hypothesis.

The results of Barve's study suggest that the ability of birds to withstand cold temperatures is determined more strongly

- D. by feather length than feather structure, challenging an established belief.

## ID: 602b47c7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text describes how Barve found an association between habitat temperature and feather structure among Himalayan songbirds, which supports the general prediction that birds' feather structures vary with habitat temperature.

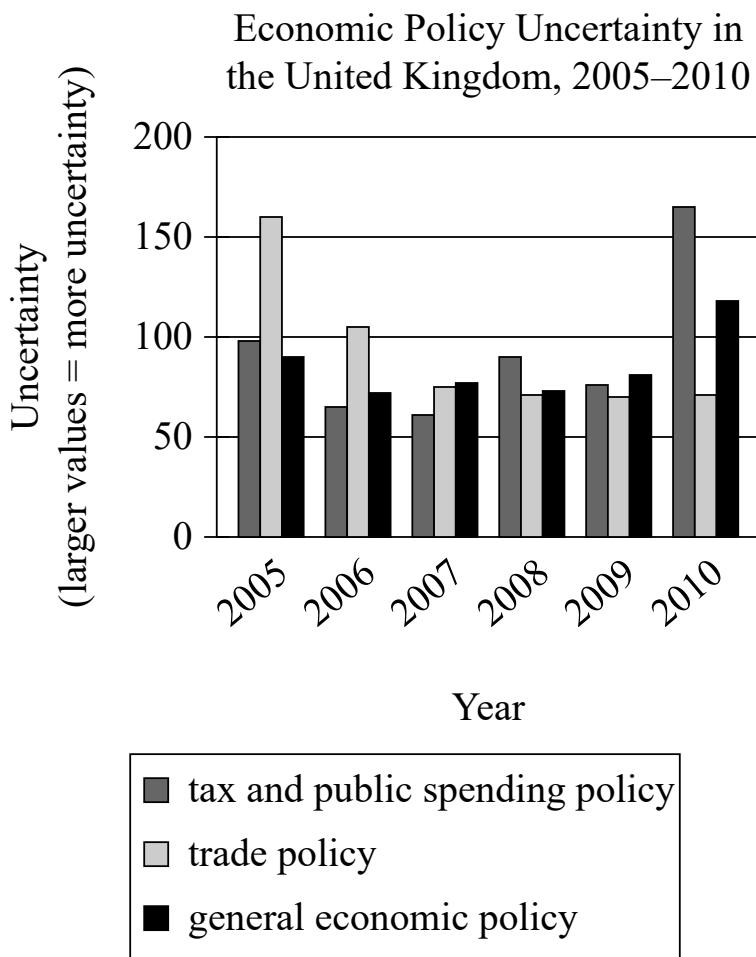
Choice A is incorrect. Barve's study isn't said to contradict previous predictions. In fact, the study supports the prediction described in the first sentence, which is that birds' feather structures vary with habitat temperature. Choice C is incorrect. Barve's study isn't said to "complicate an earlier hypothesis." In fact, the study supports the earlier prediction described in the first sentence, which is that birds' feather structures vary with habitat temperature. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't compare the importance of feather length and feather structure, and it doesn't say that Barve's study challenges any established beliefs. In fact, the study supports the prediction described in the first sentence, which is that birds' feather structures vary with habitat temperature.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 702eb7e3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 702eb7e3



High levels of public uncertainty about which economic policies a country will adopt can make planning difficult for businesses, but measures of such uncertainty have not tended to be very detailed. Recently, however, economist Sandile Hlatshwayo analyzed trends in news reports to derive measures not only for general economic policy uncertainty but also for uncertainty related to specific areas of economic policy, like tax or trade policy. One revelation of her work is that a general measure may not fully reflect uncertainty about specific areas of policy, as in the case of the United Kingdom, where general economic policy uncertainty \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to illustrate the claim?

- aligned closely with uncertainty about tax and public spending policy in 2005 but differed from uncertainty about tax and A. public spending policy by a large amount in 2009.
- B. was substantially lower than uncertainty about tax and public spending policy each year from 2005 to 2010.
- C. reached its highest level between 2005 and 2010 in the same year that uncertainty about trade policy and tax and public spending policy reached their lowest levels.

was substantially lower than uncertainty about trade policy in 2005 and substantially higher than uncertainty about trade D. policy in 2010.

### ID: 702eb7e3 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

#### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it uses data from the graph to effectively illustrate the text's claim about general economic policy uncertainty in the United Kingdom. The graph presents values for economic policy uncertainty in tax and public spending policy, trade policy, and general economic policy in the UK from 2005 to 2010. The graph shows that in 2005, the value for general economic policy uncertainty (approximately 90) was substantially lower than the value for uncertainty about trade policy specifically (approximately 160). It also shows that in 2010, the value for general economic policy uncertainty (approximately 120) was substantially higher than the value for uncertainty about trade policy (approximately 70). The substantial differences between these values in 2005 and 2010 support the claim that a general measure may not fully reflect uncertainty about specific areas of policy.

Choice A is incorrect because the graph shows that the level of general economic policy uncertainty was similar to the level of uncertainty about tax and public spending policy in both 2005 (with values of approximately 90 and 100, respectively) and 2009 (with values of approximately 80 and 75, respectively). Choice B is incorrect because the graph shows that general economic policy uncertainty was higher than uncertainty about tax and public spending policy in 2006, 2007, and 2009, not that it was lower each year from 2005 to 2010. Choice C is incorrect because the graph shows that general economic policy uncertainty reached its highest level in 2010, which was when uncertainty about tax and public spending policy also reached its highest level, not its lowest level.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 29f5c8c2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 29f5c8c2

Fish whose DNA has been modified to include genetic material from other species are known as transgenic. Some transgenic fish have genes from jellyfish that result in fluorescence (that is, they glow in the dark). Although these fish were initially engineered for research purposes in the 1990s, they were sold as pets in the 2000s and can now be found in the wild in creeks in Brazil. A student in a biology seminar who is writing a paper on these fish asserts that their escape from Brazilian fish farms into the wild may have significant negative long-term ecological effects.

Which quotation from a researcher would best support the student's assertion?

"In one site in the wild where transgenic fish were observed, females outnumbered males, while in another the numbers A. of females and males were equivalent."

"Though some presence of transgenic fish in the wild has been recorded, there are insufficient studies of the impact of B. those fish on the ecosystems into which they are introduced."

"The ecosystems into which transgenic fish are known to have been introduced may represent a subset of the C. ecosystems into which the fish have actually been introduced."

"Through interbreeding, transgenic fish might introduce the trait of fluorescence into wild fish populations, making those D. populations more vulnerable to predators."

## ID: 29f5c8c2 Answer

Correct Answer: D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because this quotation would best support the student's assertion that the escape of transgenic fish from Brazilian fish farms into the wild may have significant negative long-term ecological effects. The text explains that transgenic fish have DNA that includes genetic material from other species, that some transgenic fish have genes from jellyfish that make them glow in the dark, and that glow-in-the-dark transgenic fish can now be found in the wild in Brazilian creeks. The quotation indicates why the escape of these fish may have negative long-term ecological effects: glow-in-the-dark transgenic fish might introduce fluorescence into wild fish populations by breeding with wild fish, causing wild fish to glow in the dark and thereby allowing predators to prey on them much more easily.

Choice A is incorrect because this quotation doesn't mention any negative effects of the introduction of fluorescent transgenic fish into the wild. The quotation merely compares the ratio of females to males at two sites in the wild where transgenic fish have been observed. Choice B is incorrect because this quotation doesn't support the idea that the escape of fluorescent transgenic fish from Brazilian fish farms may have significant negative long-term ecological effects. Rather, the quotation suggests that more research is needed to understand the effects. Choice C is incorrect because this quotation supports the idea that transgenic fish may be present in more ecosystems than has been observed; it doesn't address whether the presence of fluorescent transgenic fish affects these ecosystems.

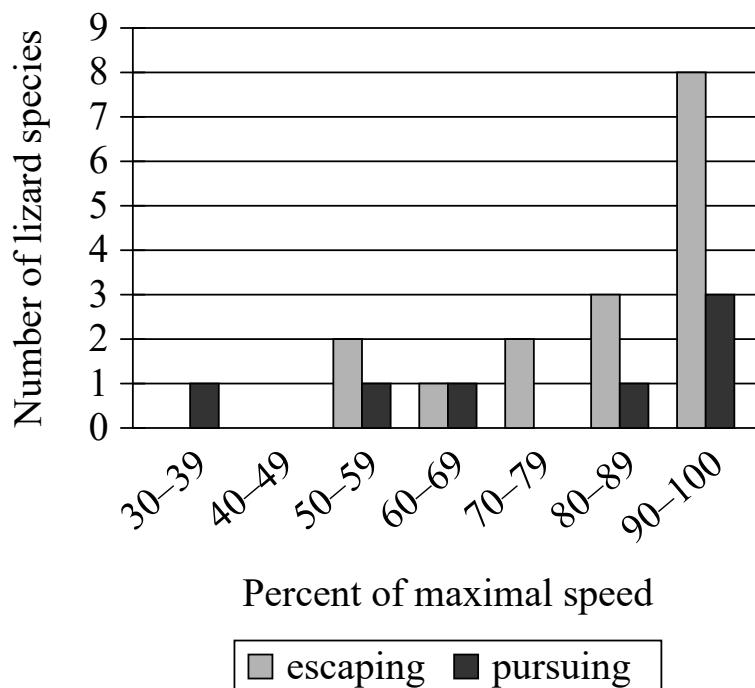
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1281dfd5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ ■

ID: 1281dfd5

Number of Lizard Species by Average Percent of Maximal Speed Used When Pursuing Prey or Escaping Predators



It may seem that the optimal strategy for an animal pursuing prey or escaping predators is to move at maximal speed, but the energy expense of exploiting full speed capacity can disfavor such a strategy even in escape contexts, as evidenced by the fact that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the text?

- most lizard species use about the same percentage of their maximal speed when escaping predation as they do when A. pursuing prey.
- B. multiple lizard species move at an average of less than 90% of their maximal speed while escaping predation.
- C. more lizard species use, on average, 90%–100% of their maximal speed while escaping predation than use any other percentage of their maximal speed.
- D. at least 4 lizard species use, on average, less than 100% of their maximal speed while pursuing prey.

ID: 1281dfd5 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that complete the text's discussion of lizard species' use of maximal speed when escaping predators. According to the text, moving at maximal speed (the highest speed possible) requires so much energy that it is not always an effective strategy for animals, even when they are escaping predators. The graph displays data on the average percent of maximal speed used by lizard species while either escaping predators or pursuing prey. The graph categorizes the data for both pursuing and escaping by the number of species using 30%–39% of maximal speed, 40%–49% of maximal speed, 50%–59% of maximal speed, 60%–69% of maximal speed, 70%–79% of maximal speed, 80%–89% of maximal speed, and 90%–100% of maximal speed, respectively. In the graph, there is at least one species in each of the following percent categories for maximal speed while escaping predators: 50%–59%, 60%–69%, 70%–79%, and 80%–89%. Thus, the data in the graph show that multiple lizard species move at an average of less than 90% of their maximal speed while escaping predation.

Choice A is incorrect because the data in the graph isn't organized in such a way that a comparison of the percentage of maximal speed used when escaping predation with the percentage used when pursuing prey is possible at the level of individual species. Choice C is incorrect. It is true that in the graph, the percent category with the largest number of species using maximal speed while escaping predators is 90%–100% (8 species total). However, these data don't complete the text, which is concerned instead with how animals are discouraged from using maximal speed even when escaping predators because of the amount of energy required to use it. Choice D is incorrect because these data from the graph pertain to maximal speed while pursuing prey and therefore don't complete the text's discussion of lizard species' use of maximal speed when escaping predators.

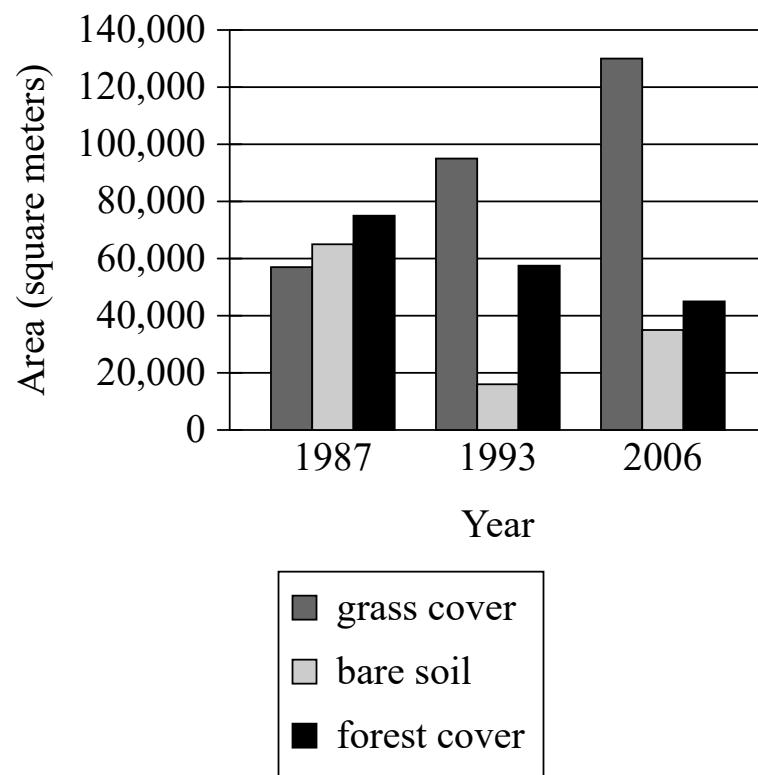
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d83c3d54

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: d83c3d54

## Characteristics of the Banks of the Provo River Downstream of the Jordanelle Dam



The Jordanelle Dam was built on the Provo River in Utah in 1992. Earth scientist Adriana E. Martinez and colleagues tracked changes to the environment on the banks of the river downstream of the dam, including how much grass and forest cover were present. They concluded that the dam changed the flow of the river in ways that benefited grass plants but didn't benefit trees.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support Martinez and colleagues' conclusion?

The lowest amount of grass cover was approximately 58,000 square meters, and the highest amount of forest cover was

- A. approximately 75,000 square meters.

There was more grass cover than forest cover in 1987, and this difference increased dramatically in 1993 and again in

- B. 2006.

There was less grass cover than bare soil in 1987 but more grass cover than bare soil in 1993 and 2006, whereas there

- C. was more forest cover than bare soil in all three years.

D. Grass cover increased from 1987 to 1993 and from 1993 to 2006, whereas forest cover decreased in those periods.

**Correct Answer:** D**Rationale**

Choice D is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that support Martinez and colleagues' conclusion that the Jordanelle Dam led to changes that benefited grass plants but not trees. The graph shows characteristics of the banks of the Provo River downstream of the Jordanelle Dam in three different years—1987, 1993, and 2006. Specifically, the graph shows the amount of grass cover, bare soil, and forest cover in those years. The text indicates that the Jordanelle Dam was built in 1992, meaning that the data from the graph for 1987 reflect conditions before the dam was built, whereas the data for 1993 and 2006 reflect conditions after the dam was built. The data show that grass cover increased substantially from 1987 to 1993 and again from 1993 to 2006. The data also show that forest cover declined over those periods. Together, these data support Martinez and colleagues' conclusion that the dam was beneficial for grass plants but not for trees—grass cover increased significantly after the dam was built, while forest cover declined.

Choice A is incorrect. Although it is true that, in the graph, the lowest value for grass cover is approximately 58,000 square meters and the highest value for forest cover is approximately 75,000 square meters, both values are from 1987, before the Jordanelle Dam was built in 1992. Therefore, this information alone cannot support Martinez and colleagues' conclusion about changes in grass and tree cover following the construction of the dam. Choice B is incorrect because it presents an inaccurate description of data from the graph. The graph shows that there was more forest cover than grass cover in 1987, not that there was more grass cover than forest cover that year. Choice C is incorrect because, while it accurately reflects data from the graph when it compares grass cover and forest cover to bare soil, these data alone cannot support Martinez and colleagues' conclusion that the dam led to changes that benefited grass plants but not trees. An increase in grass cover relative to bare soil following the construction of the dam might indicate that the dam benefited grass plants, but the fact that there was more forest cover than bare soil in all three years doesn't indicate that the dam failed to benefit trees.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ca5a3fb4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: ca5a3fb4

The practice of logging (cutting down trees for commercial and other uses) is often thought to be at odds with forest conservation (the work of preserving forests). However, a massive study in forest management and preservation spanning 700,000 hectares in Oregon's Malheur National Forest calls that view into question. So far, results of the study suggest that forest plots that have undergone limited logging (the careful removal of a controlled number of trees) may be more robust than plots that haven't been logged at all. These results, in turn, suggest that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. logging may be useful for maintaining healthy forests, provided it is limited.
- B. other forest management strategies are more effective than limited logging.
- C. as time passes, it will be difficult to know whether limited logging has any benefits.
- D. the best way to support forest health may be to leave large forests entirely untouched.

## ID: ca5a3fb4 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the potential effects of logging on forest conservation. The text begins by stating that logging practices are often thought of as being contrary to forest conservation efforts. Then, the text presents the results of a research study examining the effect of limited logging practices on specific forest plots, finding that the plots with limited logging may be "more robust" (healthier) than the plots that hadn't been logged at all. Given these results, it follows that logging may be a useful practice for maintaining healthy forests if it is practiced in a limited way.

Choice B is incorrect because the study referenced in the text only provides information on limited logging as a potential forest management strategy. There is no information in the text about how other forest management strategies support forest conservation efforts. Therefore, the text does not support the assertion that other forest management strategies are more successful than limited logging. Choice C is incorrect because the text presents a research study with findings that specific plots of forest with limited logging may be more robust than the forest plots that were not logged. Rather than suggesting that it is hard to know whether limited logging might be beneficial, the text suggests that the practice could be useful in forest conservation efforts. Choice D is incorrect. The text discusses the results of a research study that compares the health of forest plots with limited logging to forest plots that were not logged. It does not take a position on the best way to support forest health but rather presents a research study with findings that question conventionally held thoughts regarding the practice of logging.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 98d0a5d7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 98d0a5d7

Almost all works of fiction contain references to the progression of time, including the time of day when events in a story take place. In a 2020 study, Allen Kim, Charuta Pethe, and Steven Skiena claim that an observable pattern in such references reflects a shift in human behavior prompted by the spread of electric lighting in the late nineteenth century. The researchers drew this conclusion from an analysis of more than 50,000 novels spanning many centuries and cultures, using software to recognize and tally both specific time references—that is, clock phrases, such as 7 a.m. or 2:30 p.m.—and implied ones, such as mentions of meals typically associated with a particular time of day.

Which finding from the study, if true, would most directly support the researchers' conclusion?

Novels published after the year 1800 include the clock phrase 10 a.m. less often than novels published before the year A. 1800 do.

Novels published after 1880 contain significantly more references to activities occurring after 10 p.m. than do novels B. from earlier periods.

Among novels published in the nineteenth century, implied time references become steadily more common than clock C. phrases as publication dates approach 1900.

D. The time references of noon (12 p.m.) and midnight (12 a.m.) are used with roughly the same frequency in the novels.

## ID: 98d0a5d7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support the researchers' conclusion that an observable pattern in time references in novels reflects a shift in human behavior prompted by the spread of electric lighting in the late nineteenth century. If novels published after 1880 contain significantly more references to activities occurring after 10 p.m. than novels from earlier periods do, this would suggest a change in human behavior and daily routines enabled by the availability of electric lighting. Before electric lighting—which provided illumination more easily than other available forms of light—many activities ceased after nightfall, so references to late-night activities would be less common in earlier novels. An increase in such references after 1880 would align with the researchers' conclusion, reflecting an increase in late-night activities made possible by electric lighting.

Choice A is incorrect because a decrease in references to 10 a.m. after the year 1800 would not support the researchers' conclusion involving a shift in human behavior prompted by the spread of electric lighting toward the end of the 1800s. The time of 10 a.m. is in the morning and, in most places, characterized by daylight, so a change in references to that time would not be clearly linked to the impact of electric lighting. Choice C is incorrect because while an increase in implied time references relative to clock phrases in nineteenth-century novels could suggest a change in writing style or conventions, it does not directly support the conclusion involving a shift in human behavior prompted by the spread of electric lighting. The text indicates that the researchers' conclusion is based on the content of the time references themselves, not the phrasing used. Choice D is incorrect. If references to noon and midnight are used with roughly the same frequency in all the novels analyzed by the researchers, this would reflect a lack of change in human behavior with regard to time and therefore would not support the researchers' conclusion involving a shift in human behavior that occurred in response to the spread of electric lighting.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 95388117

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 95388117

Land Area Covered by Native Flowering Plants at a Site in Antarctica

Species	Area covered in 2009 (in square meters)	Area covered in 2018 (in square meters)	Percent increase in area covered from 2009 to 2018
<i>Deschampsia antarctica</i>	1,230	1,576	28%
<i>Colobanthus quitensis</i>	6.9	10.7	55%

The only flowering plant species native to Antarctica, *Colobanthus quitensis* and *Deschampsia antarctica* grow in places where the earth remains free of ice for much of the year. Botanist Niccoletta Cannone wondered how the warming of Antarctica's climate in recent years had affected these species, so she visited a site in Antarctica, first in 2009 and later in 2018, to count the number of plants growing there. Cannone found that the area of land covered by the two species had significantly expanded during the nine-year period. While both species likely benefited from warming temperatures, *Colobanthus quitensis* \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the comparison?

- A. suppressed the growth of *Deschampsia antarctica*, which covered a smaller area of land in 2018 than it had in 2009.
- B. saw a greater expansion than *Deschampsia antarctica* did, increasing the area of land it covered by more than half.
- C. showed a greater increase in the average size of individual plants than *Deschampsia antarctica* did.
- D. covered land newly freed from ice at a rate 55% faster than that of *Deschampsia antarctica*.

ID: 95388117 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the comparison of how *Colobanthus quitensis* benefited from warming temperatures with how *Deschampsia antarctica* benefited from them. The table shows the land area covered by these two plant species at a site in Antarctica. According to the table, *Colobanthus quitensis* increased the area it covered by 55% from 2009 to 2018, whereas *Deschampsia antarctica* increased the area it covered by 28% during the same period. It therefore follows that *Colobanthus quitensis* saw a greater expansion than *Deschampsia antarctica* did and that *Colobanthus quitensis* increased the area of land it covered by more than half.

Choice A is incorrect because according to the table, *Deschampsia antarctica* covered 1,230 square meters of land in 2009 and 1,576 square meters of land in 2018. *Deschampsia antarctica* therefore covered a larger, not a smaller, area of land in 2018 than in 2009. Moreover, there's no information in the text or the table that suggests that one species of the plant suppressed the other. Choice C is incorrect because it inaccurately describes the data in the table. The table shows the land area covered by *Colobanthus quitensis* and *Deschampsia antarctica* and the percent increase in area covered by the two species from 2009 to 2018, not the average size of individual plants belonging to the two species. The data in the table therefore can't be used to make a comparison of the increase in individual plants' average size. Choice D is incorrect because the table shows the land area covered by *Colobanthus quitensis* and *Deschampsia antarctica* and the percent increase in area covered by the two species from 2009 to 2018, not the rate at which the species increased the area they covered. Moreover, there's nothing in the table or the text that suggests that the areas covered by the two species were newly freed from ice.

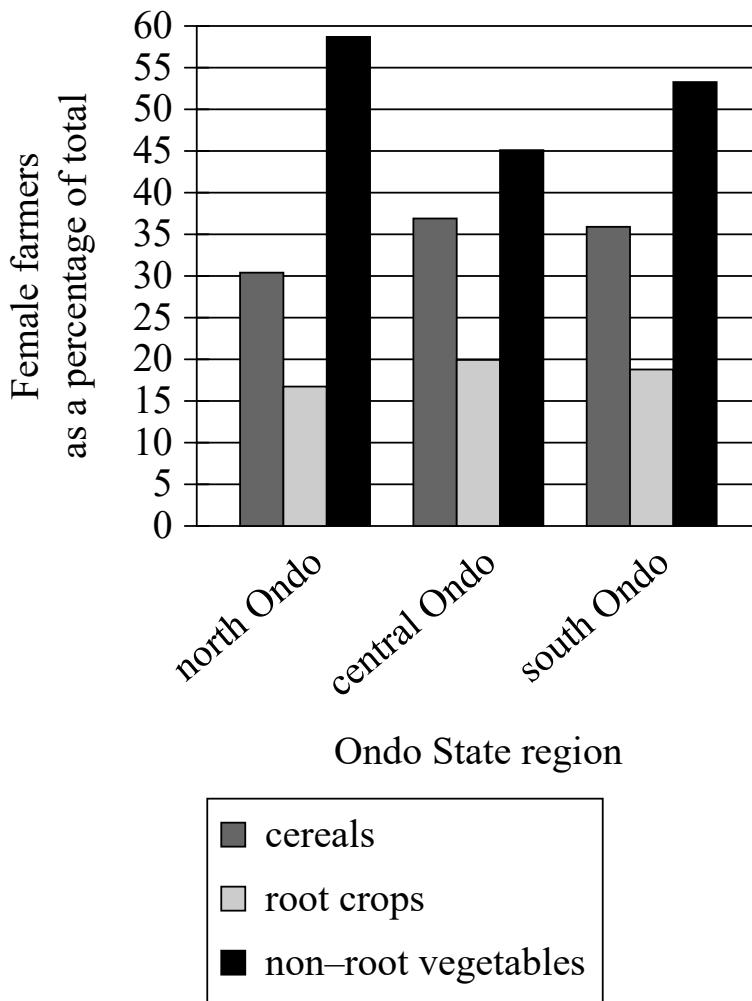
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 403fb4e4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ ■

ID: 403fb4e4

Percentage of Ondo State  
Small-Scale Farmers Who Are  
Female, by Main Crop Grown



Geographer Adebayo Oluwole Eludoyin and his colleagues surveyed small-scale farmers in three locations in Ondo State, Nigeria—which has mountainous terrain in the north, an urbanized center, and coastal terrain in the south—to learn more about their practices, like the types of crops they mainly cultivated. In some regions, female farmers were found to be especially prominent in the cultivation of specific types of crops and even constituted the majority of farmers who cultivated those crops; for instance, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the example?

most of the farmers who mainly cultivated cereals and most of the farmers who mainly cultivated non-root vegetables in A. south Ondo were women.

B. more women in central Ondo mainly cultivated root crops than mainly cultivated cereals.

C. most of the farmers who mainly cultivated non-root vegetables in north and south Ondo were women.

D. a relatively equal proportion of women across the three regions of Ondo mainly cultivated cereals.

### ID: 403fb4e4 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

#### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it uses data from the graph to effectively complete the example of Eludoyin and his colleagues' findings concerning female farmers in some regions of Ondo State, Nigeria. The graph presents values for the percentage of Ondo State small-scale farmers who are female, by type of crop and region. The graph shows that of the farmers mainly cultivating non-root vegetables, approximately 57% in north Ondo and approximately 54% in south Ondo are female; in other words, most of those farmers are female, which exemplifies the idea that female farmers make up the majority (more than half) of the farmers cultivating specific types of crops in some regions.

Choice A is incorrect because it inaccurately cites data from the graph: the graph shows that in south Ondo, most of the farmers mainly cultivating non-root vegetables are women (approximately 54%), but that only about 35% (less than half) of the farmers mainly cultivating cereals are women. Choice B is incorrect because it inaccurately cites data from the graph: the graph shows that more women in central Ondo mainly cultivate cereals than mainly cultivate root crops (approximately 36% and 20%, respectively). Additionally, it doesn't effectively complete the example because the graph shows that female farmers don't make up the majority (more than half) of the farmers for any type of crop in central Ondo. Choice D is incorrect because it doesn't effectively complete the example; it simply states that a relatively equal proportion of women across the three regions mainly cultivate cereals, which doesn't address the value for that proportion and thus doesn't show that a majority (more than half) of the farmers cultivating certain crops are female.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 94c54577

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

**ID: 94c54577**

While attending school in New York City in the 1980s, Okwui Enwezor encountered few works by African artists in exhibitions, despite New York's reputation as one of the best places to view contemporary art from around the world. According to an arts journalist, later in his career as a renowned curator and art historian, Enwezor sought to remedy this deficiency, not by focusing solely on modern African artists, but by showing how their work fits into the larger context of global modern art and art history.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the journalist's claim?

As curator of the Haus der Kunst in Munich, Germany, Enwezor organized a retrospective of Ghanaian sculptor El Anatsui's work entitled *El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale*, one of the largest art exhibitions devoted to a Black artist in Europe's A. history.

In the exhibition *Postwar: Art Between the Pacific and the Atlantic, 1945–1965*, Enwezor and cocurator Katy Siegel brought works by African artists such as Malangatana Ngwenya together with pieces by major figures from other B. countries, like US artist Andy Warhol and Mexico's David Siqueiros.

Enwezor's work as curator of the 2001 exhibition *The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945–1994* showed how African movements for independence from European colonial powers following the Second World War profoundly influenced work by African artists of the period, such as Kamala Ibrahim Ishaq and Thomas C. Mukarobgwa.

Enwezor organized the exhibition *In/sight: African Photographers, 1940 to the Present* not to emphasize a particular aesthetic trend but to demonstrate the broad range of ways in which African artists have approached the medium of D. photography.

**ID: 94c54577 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support the arts journalist's claim about Enwezor's work as a curator and art historian. In the text, the arts journalist asserts that Enwezor wished not just to focus on modern African artists but also to show "how their work fits into the larger context of global modern art and art history," or how their work relates to artistic developments and work by other artists elsewhere in the world. The description of *Postwar: Art Between the Pacific and the Atlantic, 1945–1965* indicates that Enwezor and Siegel's exhibition brought works by African artists together with works by artists from other countries, thus supporting the arts journalist's claim that Enwezor sought to show works by African artists in a context of global modern art and art history.

Choice A is incorrect because it describes a retrospective that wouldn't support the arts journalist's claim that Enwezor wanted to show how works by modern African artists fit into the larger context of global modern art and art history. The description of *El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale* indicates that the retrospective focused only on the work of a single African artist, El Anatsui. The description doesn't suggest that the exhibition showed how El Anatsui's works fit into a global artistic context. Choice C is incorrect because it describes an exhibition that wouldn't support the arts journalist's claim that Enwezor wanted to show how works by modern African artists relate to the larger context of global modern art and art history. The description of *The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945–1994* indicates that the exhibition showed how African artists were influenced by movements for independence from European colonial powers following the Second World War. Although this suggests that Enwezor intended the exhibition to place works by African artists in a political context, it doesn't indicate that the works were placed in a global artistic context. Choice D is incorrect because it describes an exhibition that wouldn't support the arts journalist's claim that Enwezor wanted to show how works by modern African artists relate to the larger context of global modern art and art history. The description of *In/sight: African Photographers, 1940 to the Present* indicates that the exhibition was intended to reveal the broad range of approaches taken by African photographers, not that the exhibition showed how photography by African artists fits into a global artistic context.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID ce4448b7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: ce4448b7

Researchers recently found that disruptions to an enjoyable experience, like a short series of advertisements during a television show, often increase viewers' reported enjoyment. Suspecting that disruptions to an unpleasant experience would have the opposite effect, the researchers had participants listen to construction noise for 30 minutes and anticipated that those whose listening experience was frequently interrupted with short breaks of silence would thus \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. find the disruptions more irritating as time went on.
- B. rate the listening experience as more negative than those whose listening experience was uninterrupted.
- C. rate the experience of listening to construction noise as lasting for less time than it actually lasted.
- D. perceive the volume of the construction noise as growing softer over time.

## ID: ce4448b7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. It most logically completes the text. The text tells us that disruptions to an enjoyable experience increase viewers' enjoyment. It also says that researchers suspect the opposite is true for disruptions to an unpleasant experience. Thus, we can infer that the researchers expect to find that the interrupted unpleasant experience was worse for listeners than the uninterrupted unpleasant experience.

Choice A is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text never makes any claims about how irritating the disruptions themselves are perceived to be. Rather, the text says that pleasant experiences are perceived as more enjoyable with interruptions, and that the opposite is suspected to be true of unpleasant experiences. Choice C is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text never makes any claims about how long any experience is perceived to be. Rather, the text says that pleasant experiences are perceived as more enjoyable with interruptions, and that the opposite is suspected to be true of unpleasant experiences. Choice D is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text never makes any claims about how interruptions affect the perceived volume of the unpleasant or pleasant experience. Rather, the text says that pleasant experiences are perceived as more enjoyable with interruptions, and that the opposite is suspected to be true of unpleasant experiences.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 60c6b64d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 60c6b64d

Male túngara frogs make complex calls to attract mates, but their calls also attract frog-biting midges, insects that feed on the frogs' blood. Researchers Ximena Bernal and Priyanka de Silva wondered if the calls alone are sufficient for midges to locate the frogs or if midges use carbon dioxide emitted by frogs as an additional cue to their prey's whereabouts, like mosquitoes do. In an experiment, the researchers placed two midge traps in a túngara frog breeding area. One trap played recordings of túngara frog calls and the other released carbon dioxide along with playing the calls. Bernal and de Silva concluded that carbon dioxide does not serve as an additional cue to frog-biting midges.

Which finding from the experiment, if true, would most directly support Bernal and de Silva's conclusion?

Only a small number of midges were found in the traps, though the majority were found in the trap that played calls and A. released carbon dioxide.

Midges entered the trap that released carbon dioxide and played calls only during or immediately after periods of carbon B. dioxide release.

C. More midges were found in the trap that only played calls than in the trap that played calls and released carbon dioxide.

The trap that released carbon dioxide and played calls attracted few midges when carbon dioxide concentrations were D. low but attracted many midges when carbon dioxide concentrations were high.

## ID: 60c6b64d Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support the researchers' conclusion that carbon dioxide does not serve as an additional cue to frog-biting midges regarding the location of male túngara frogs. The text begins by stating that the mating call of the male túngara frogs also attracts frog-biting midges, which prey on the frogs' blood. Researchers Bernal and de Silva were curious if the mating calls were sufficient signals for the midges to locate the frogs or if midges also used carbon dioxide emitted by the frogs to locate their prey. The text then details the procedure the researchers used to investigate their question and summarizes their conclusion—that carbon dioxide does not serve as an additional cue to the midges. Thus, if more midges were found in the researchers' trap that only played calls than in the trap that played calls and released carbon dioxide, it follows that the frog calls seem sufficient without the carbon dioxide cue. This finding supports the researchers' conclusion that carbon dioxide does not serve as an additional cue to frog-biting midges.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that the majority of frog-biting midges were found in the traps that both played the mating call and released carbon dioxide would present evidence that directly refutes the researchers' conclusion—that carbon dioxide does not serve as an additional cue to the frog-biting midges regarding the location of túngara frogs. Choice B is incorrect because if the midges entered the trap that played calls and released carbon dioxide only during or immediately after carbon dioxide was released, that would suggest that the midges used the carbon dioxide as a way to locate their prey, a finding that would contradict the researchers' conclusion that carbon dioxide was not an additional cue to the midges. Choice D is incorrect because a trap attracting larger numbers of midges with high carbon dioxide concentrations than a trap with low carbon dioxide concentrations suggests that carbon dioxide might serve as an additional cue to the midges as to the location on the frogs, a finding contrary to the researchers' conclusion.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1f3be847

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 1f3be847

"Loon Point" is a 1912 poem by Amy Lowell. In the poem, which presents a nighttime scene on a body of water, Lowell describes an element of nature as an active participant in the experience, writing, \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from "Loon Point" most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "Through the water the moon writes her legends / In light, on the smooth, wet sand."
- B. "Softly the water ripples / Against the canoe's curving side."
- C. "Or like the snow-white petals / Which drop from an overblown rose."
- D. "But the moon in her wayward beauty / Is ever and always the same."

## ID: 1f3be847 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that Lowell describes an element of nature as an active participant in the experience of a nighttime scene on a body of water. The quotation presents the image of the moon shining on a body of water. However, instead of describing the moon in passive terms or simply stating that it reflects through the water and onto the sandy shore, the quotation portrays the moon as being engaged in the humanlike action of writing a legend. In other words, the moon is participating actively in the nighttime scene.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the quotation describes a nighttime scene on a body of water, the element of nature in these lines—the waves—isn't portrayed as an active participant in an experience; instead, the waves merely ripple softly against a canoe, as waves would normally do. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation doesn't present a nighttime scene on a body of water; instead, it describes petals falling from a rose. Choice D is incorrect. Although the quotation presents an image of an element of nature—the moon—it doesn't mention a body of water; moreover, it portrays the moon not as an active participant in a scene but instead as static or unchanging ("ever and always the same").

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7a1877be

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 7a1877be

Nucleobase Concentrations from Murchison Meteorite and Soil Samples in Parts per Billion

Nucleobase	Murchison meteorite sample 1	Murchison meteorite sample 2	Murchison soil sample
Isoguanine	0.5	0.04	not detected
Purine	0.2	0.02	not detected
Xanthine	39	3	1
Adenine	15	1	40
Hypoxanthine	24	1	2

Employing high-performance liquid chromatography—a process that uses pressurized water to separate material into its component molecules—astrochemist Yashiro Oba and colleagues analyzed two samples of the Murchison meteorite that landed in Australia as well as soil from the landing zone of the meteorite to determine the concentrations of various organic molecules. By comparing the relative concentrations of types of molecules known as nucleobases in the Murchison meteorite with those in the soil, the team concluded that there is evidence that the nucleobases in the Murchison meteorite formed in space and are not the result of contamination on Earth.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the team's conclusion?

- A. Isoguanine and purine were detected in both meteorite samples but not in the soil sample.
- B. Adenine and xanthine were detected in both of the meteorite samples and in the soil sample.
- C. Hypoxanthine and purine were detected in both the Murchison meteorite sample 2 and in the soil sample.
- D. Isoguanine and hypoxanthine were detected in the Murchison meteorite sample 1 but not in sample 2.

ID: 7a1877be Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The researchers concluded that the meteorite's nucleobases weren't the result of soil contamination. Presence of nucleobases in the meteorite and not in soil provides evidence that those nucleobases likely didn't come from the soil.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't justify the conclusion. The researchers concluded that the meteorite's nucleobases weren't the result of soil contamination. If the nucleobases are present in both the soil and meteorite, then it's possible that these nucleobases came from the soil. Choice C is incorrect. This choice misreads the table. Purine was not detected in the soil sample. Choice D is incorrect. This choice misreads the table. Both isoguanine and hypoxanthine were detected in both Murchison meteorite samples.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 11a9f635

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 11a9f635

Paleontologists searching for signs of ancient life have found many fossilized specimens of prehistoric human ancestors, including several from the Pleistocene era discovered in a geological formation in the Minatogawa quarry in Japan. However, to study the emergence of the earliest multicellular organisms to appear on Earth, researchers must turn elsewhere, such as to the Ediacaran geological formation at Mistaken Point in Canada. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the 146-hectare reserve contains more than 10,000 fossils that together document a critical moment in evolutionary history.

What does the text indicate about the geological formation at Mistaken Point?

- A. It holds a greater number of fossils but from a smaller variety of species than the formation in the Minatogawa quarry.
- B. It has provided evidence that the earliest human species may have emerged before the Pleistocene era.
- C. It is widely considered by paleontologists to be the most valuable source of information about prehistoric life forms.
- D. It contains specimens from an older time period than those found in the formation in the Minatogawa quarry.

## ID: 11a9f635 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text says that the formation at Mistaken Point contains fossils of “the earliest multicellular organisms,” which implies that these fossils are from an older time period than the fossils of “prehistoric human ancestors” found in the Minatogawa quarry.

Choice A is incorrect. The text says that the formation at Mistake Point contains “more than 10,000 fossils,” but it doesn’t compare this number to the number of fossils in the Minatogawa quarry. It also doesn’t say anything about the variety of species in either formation. Choice B is incorrect. The text says that the formation at Mistaken Point contains fossils of “the earliest multicellular organisms,” but it never says that the site contains early human fossils too. Rather, the early human fossils mentioned in the text were found in the formation at Minatogawa quarry. Choice C is incorrect. The text says that the fossils at Mistaken Point “document a critical moment in evolutionary history,” but it never says that Mistaken Point is the most valuable source of information about prehistoric life forms.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a68fd3e7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: a68fd3e7

Many of William Shakespeare's tragedies address broad themes that still appeal to today's audiences. For instance, *Romeo and Juliet*, which is set in the Italy of Shakespeare's time, tackles the themes of parents versus children and love versus hate, and the play continues to be read and produced widely around the world. But understanding Shakespeare's so-called history plays can require a knowledge of several centuries of English history. Consequently, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. many theatergoers and readers today are likely to find Shakespeare's history plays less engaging than the tragedies.
- B. some of Shakespeare's tragedies are more relevant to today's audiences than twentieth-century plays.
- C. *Romeo and Juliet* is the most thematically accessible of all Shakespeare's tragedies.
- D. experts in English history tend to prefer Shakespeare's history plays to his other works.

## ID: a68fd3e7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the relative appeal of different kinds of plays by Shakespeare to today's audiences. According to the text, Shakespeare's tragedies address broad themes that continue to appeal to today's audiences. Indeed, the text suggests that these themes are timeless, as illustrated by the example of *Romeo and Juliet*, which the text states is still read and widely performed despite being set in the Italy of Shakespeare's time. In contrast, the text indicates that audiences and readers may need to be familiar with several centuries of English history in order to understand Shakespeare's history plays. Because many theatergoers and readers are unlikely to possess such extensive historical knowledge, it follows that they are likely to find Shakespeare's history plays less engaging than his more accessible tragedies.

Choice B is incorrect because the text never introduces a comparison between Shakespeare's tragedies and twentieth-century plays, only between Shakespeare's tragedies and his history plays. Since twentieth-century plays aren't mentioned, there's no basis in the text for the idea that some of Shakespeare's tragedies are more relevant than twentieth-century plays to today's audiences. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text indicates that *Romeo and Juliet* is thematically accessible to today's audiences, it doesn't suggest that *Romeo and Juliet* is more accessible than Shakespeare's other tragedies. Rather, the text presents *Romeo and Juliet* as an example to support the idea that Shakespeare's tragedies hold continued appeal for today's readers and theatergoers. Choice D is incorrect. Although experts in English history would likely possess the knowledge needed to understand Shakespeare's history plays, the text never mentions such experts or suggests that they would enjoy the history plays more than Shakespeare's other works.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID e677fa6c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: e677fa6c

The following text is adapted from Edgar Allan Poe's 1849 story "Landor's Cottage."

During a pedestrian trip last summer, through one or two of the river counties of New York, I found myself, as the day declined, somewhat embarrassed about the road I was pursuing. The land undulated very remarkably; and my path, for the last hour, had wound about and about so confusedly, in its effort to keep in the valleys, that I no longer knew in what direction lay the sweet village of B—, where I had determined to stop for the night.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The narrator remembers a trip he took and admits to getting lost.
- B. The narrator recalls fond memories of a journey that he took through some beautiful river counties.
- C. The narrator describes what he saw during a long trip through a frequently visited location.
- D. The narrator explains the difficulties he encountered on a trip and how he overcame them.

## ID: e677fa6c Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The narrator is “embarrassed” about the route he took, which ends up leaving him lost and confused about how to get to his destination for the evening.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't match the passage. The narrator is embarrassed, rather than fond, and he doesn't describe the beauty of the place. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't match the passage. We don't know from this excerpt whether or not the narrator has visited this part of New York multiple times. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't match the passage. The narrator doesn't explain how he overcame being lost in this excerpt.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID bc7b1a04

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: bc7b1a04

Three Studies' Estimated Average Velocity of LMC

Researchers	Study year	Estimated average velocity
Murai and Fujimoto	1980	344 km/s
Kallivayalil and colleagues	2006	378 km/s
Gardiner and colleagues	1994	297 km/s

In 2006, Nitya Kallivayalil and colleagues calculated the most accurate estimate yet of the average velocity (in kilometers per second) of the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC) galaxy. Before the 2006 study, estimates of the average velocity were low enough for the LMC to maintain an orbit around the Milky Way galaxy, but according to an analysis by Gurtina Besla and colleagues, the estimated velocity from the 2006 study is too high for the LMC to maintain such an orbit. Therefore, if Besla and colleagues are correct, the maximum average velocity for the LMC that would allow it to maintain orbit around the Milky Way is likely \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. above 344 km/s but below 378 km/s.
- B. above 297 km/s but below 344 km/s.
- C. above 378 km/s.
- D. below 297 km/s.

ID: bc7b1a04 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it uses data from the table to give the range of velocities for the LMC from the 1980 value (344 km/s) to the 2006 value (378 km/s), thereby effectively completing the text. The text indicates that before 2006, all the estimated velocities of the LMC were within the range necessary to maintain orbit around the Milky Way galaxy. It then indicates that, according to Besla and colleagues, the 2006 estimate of 378 km/s is too high to maintain that orbit. This strongly implies that if the 1980 value (344 km/s) is below the orbital threshold, and if Besla and colleagues are correct that the 2006 value (378 km/s) is above that threshold, the maximum orbital velocity for the LMC must be somewhere in the range from above 344 km/s to below 378 km/s.

Choice B is incorrect. The text indicates that the 2006 velocity estimate for the LMC (378 km/s) was the first estimate that exceeded the velocity needed to maintain orbit around the Milky Way. Thus, the 1980 estimate of 344 km/s and the 1994 estimate of 297 km/s must both be below the maximum possible orbital velocity for the LMC. Choice C is incorrect. The text states that Besla and colleagues' analysis found that the velocity from the 2006 study (378 km/s) was too high for the LMC to maintain orbit around the Milky Way. Therefore, if a velocity of 378 km/s is too high, an even higher velocity will also be too high. Choice D is incorrect. The text indicates that the 2006 velocity estimate for the LMC (378 km/s) was the first to exceed the velocity range required to maintain orbit around the Milky Way. Thus, the 1994 estimate of 297 km/s must be below the maximum possible orbital velocity for the LMC.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3d91c973

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 3d91c973

Mosasaur were large marine reptiles that lived in the Late Cretaceous period, approximately 100 million to 66 million years ago. Celina Suarez, Alberto Pérez-Huerta, and T. Lynn Harrell Jr. examined oxygen-18 isotopes in mosasaur tooth enamel in order to calculate likely mosasaur body temperatures and determined that mosasaurs were endothermic—that is, they used internal metabolic processes to maintain a stable body temperature in a variety of ambient temperatures. Suarez, Pérez-Huerta, and Harrell claim that endothermy would have enabled mosasaurs to include relatively cold polar waters in their range.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Suarez, Pérez-Huerta, and Harrell's claim?

Mosasaur's likely body temperatures are easier to determine from tooth enamel oxygen-18 isotope data than the body

- A. temperatures of nonendothermic Late Cretaceous marine reptiles are.

Fossils of both mosasaurs and nonendothermic marine reptiles have been found in roughly equal numbers in regions

- B. known to be near the poles during the Late Cretaceous, though in lower concentrations than elsewhere.

Several mosasaur fossils have been found in regions known to be near the poles during the Late Cretaceous, while

- C. relatively few fossils of nonendothermic marine reptiles have been found in those locations.

During the Late Cretaceous, seawater temperatures were likely higher throughout mosasaurs' range, including near the

- D. poles, than seawater temperatures at those same latitudes are today.

## ID: 3d91c973 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents the finding that, if true, would best support Suarez, Pérez-Huerta, and Harrell's claim about mosasaurs. The text states that Suarez, Pérez-Huerta, and Harrell's research on mosasaur tooth enamel led them to conclude that mosasaurs were endothermic, which means that they could live in waters at many different temperatures and still maintain a stable body temperature. The researchers claim that endothermy enabled mosasaurs to live in relatively cold waters near the poles. If several mosasaur fossils have been found in areas that were near the poles during the period when mosasaurs were alive and fossils of nonendothermic marine reptiles are rare in such locations, that would support the researchers' claim: it would show that mosasaurs inhabited polar waters but nonendothermic marine mammals tended not to, suggesting that endothermy may have been the characteristic that enabled mosasaurs to include polar waters in their range.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that it's easier to determine mosasaur body temperatures from tooth enamel data than it is to determine nonendothermic reptile body temperatures wouldn't support the researchers' claim. Whether one research process is more difficult than another indicates nothing about the results of those processes and therefore is irrelevant to the issue of where mosasaurs lived and what enabled them to live in those locations. Choice B is incorrect because finding roughly equal numbers of mosasaur and nonendothermic marine reptile fossils in areas that were near the poles in the Late Cretaceous would suggest that endothermy didn't give mosasaurs any particular advantage when it came to expanding their range to include relatively cold polar waters, thereby weakening the researchers' claim rather than supporting it. Choice D is incorrect because finding that the temperature of seawater in the Late Cretaceous was warmer than seawater today wouldn't weaken the researchers' claim. Seawater in the Late Cretaceous could have been warmer than seawater today but still cold enough for endothermy to be advantageous to mosasaurs, so this finding wouldn't provide enough information to either support or weaken the researchers' claim.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 11c68ded

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 11c68ded

A contraction of "you all," the pronoun "y'all" has long been used as a plural version of "you" in the South and in Black communities around the US. In recent decades, most other English-speaking communities in the US have begun to use "y'all." What explains its rise in popularity? Many varieties of English have no pronoun that specifically addresses more than one person and instead must use "you" to address both one person and more than one. But "y'all" always refers to two or more people. As a result, it conveys the speaker's meaning more precisely than "you" can.

Which question does the text most directly attempt to answer?

- A. How many other plural versions of the pronoun "you" are there in English, besides "y'all"?
- B. Why has the pronoun "y'all" become more widely used in the US?
- C. When was the first recorded use of the pronoun "y'all" in the English language?
- D. Is "y'all" commonly used in English-speaking regions of the world besides the US?

## ID: 11c68ded Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a question that the text is attempting to answer: why has the pronoun "y'all" become more widely used in the US? The text begins by explaining where and how the plural pronoun "y'all" originated and then goes on to state that its use has been rising in popularity, even in areas outside of its place of origin. The text then attributes this rise in popularity to the fact that many varieties of English do not have a pronoun to address more than one person, and thus "you" must function as both a singular and plural pronoun.

Choice A is incorrect because while the text states that "y'all" is used as a plural of "you" in English, it does not discuss other plural forms of the word. Choice C is incorrect because while the text discusses the general origins of the pronoun "y'all," it does not state when the use of the pronoun was first recorded in the English language. Choice D is incorrect because though the text addresses the use of the pronoun "y'all" within English-speaking communities in the US, it does not address its use outside of that geographic area.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7cbb9764

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 7cbb9764

Accomplished printmaker and sculptor Elizabeth Catlett (1915–2012) used her art to explore the Black experience in the United States. In a paper for an art history class, a student claims that Catlett had a particular talent for unifying various artistic traditions and styles in her work.

Which quotation from a scholar describing Catlett's work would best support the student's claim?

"In *Mother and Child*, a sculpture of two Black figures, Catlett used an ancient Indigenous sculpting technique and A. combined the visual aesthetic of modern Mexican muralists with that of German artist Kathe Kollwitz."

"In her collage *New Generation*, Catlett overlaid fabric onto the canvas to represent the clothing of a father and his B. toddler, positioned to evoke classic images of a mother and child."

"Created in 1968, Catlett's sculpture *Black Unity*, a stylized fist sculpted from mahogany and measuring two feet across, C. remains an important piece and has received renewed and well-deserved attention in recent years."

"One series of Catlett's prints, made by the artist using the linoleum cut method, depicts several notable African D. American women, including Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth."

## ID: 7cbb9764 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a quotation about Elizabeth Catlett that supports the student's claim that this artist had a talent for unifying various traditions and styles in her work. The quotation explains that to create the work, Catlett combined Indigenous sculpture with the visual aesthetic of modern muralists from Mexico as well as that of German artist Kathe Kollwitz. In other words, Catlett was able to unify several artistic traditions and styles within a single sculpture.

Choice B is incorrect because in discussing the technique and subject matter of Catlett's collage, the quotation makes no reference to particular traditions or styles. Choice C is incorrect because in describing the sculpture, the quotation doesn't mention any artistic traditions or styles that Catlett may have synthesized to create the work. Choice D is incorrect because in discussing Catlett's prints of notable African American women, the quotation doesn't characterize those prints as having fused different traditions or styles.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 94ca8ebd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 94ca8ebd

A student is examining a long, challenging poem that was initially published in a quarterly journal without explanatory notes, then later republished in a stand-alone volume containing only that poem and accompanying explanatory notes written by the poet. The student asserts that the explanatory notes were included in the republication primarily as a marketing device to help sell the stand-alone volume.

Which statement, if true, would most directly support the student's claim?

The text of the poem as published in the quarterly journal is not identical to the text of the poem published in the stand-alone volume.

Many critics believe that the poet's explanatory notes remove certain ambiguities of the poem and make it less interesting as a result.

The publishers of the stand-alone volume requested the explanatory notes from the poet in order to make the book attractive to readers who already had a copy of the poem in a journal issue.

Correspondence between the poet and the publisher reveals that the poet's explanatory notes went through several drafts.

## ID: 94ca8ebd Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it would most directly support the student's claim about the motivation for including explanatory notes with the stand-alone volume of the poem. The text explains that the poem had previously been published without the notes in a quarterly journal. It stands to reason that readers who had purchased the journal issue containing the poem would be unlikely to purchase an unchanged version of the poem in a stand-alone volume. However, the inclusion of notes in that volume would encourage the purchase of a stand-alone volume, since the later text would differ from the original by including the author's own explanation of the poem. Therefore, if it were true that the publishers of the stand-alone volume had requested the notes to make the book attractive to readers who already had a copy of the journal issue, this fact would support the student's claim that the notes were included primarily as a marketing device.

Choice A is incorrect because the student's claim is about the motivation for including the explanatory notes in the stand-alone volume, not about changes that might have been made to the poem itself for publication in that volume; moreover, the text never suggests that such changes were made. Choice B is incorrect because the student's claim is about why the explanatory notes were included in the stand-alone volume, not about how the notes affected readers' and critics' subsequent experience of the poem. Choice D is incorrect because the fact that the poet drafted multiple versions of the explanatory notes doesn't directly address the issue of whether the notes were intended as a marketing device, as the student claims; the correspondence would support this claim only if it showed that the poet had revised the notes specifically to make them useful to the marketing of the stand-alone volume.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 66c47028

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 66c47028

In 1934 physicist Eugene Wigner posited the existence of a crystal consisting entirely of electrons in a honeycomb-like structure. The so-called Wigner crystal remained largely conjecture, however, until Feng Wang and colleagues announced in 2021 that they had captured an image of one. The researchers trapped electrons between two semiconductors and then cooled the apparatus, causing the electrons to settle into a crystalline structure. By inserting an ultrathin sheet of graphene above the crystal, the researchers obtained an impression—the first visual confirmation of the Wigner crystal.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Researchers have obtained the most definitive evidence to date of the existence of the Wigner crystal.
- B. Researchers have identified an innovative new method for working with unusual crystalline structures.
- C. Graphene is the most important of the components required to capture an image of a Wigner crystal.
- D. It's difficult to acquire an image of a Wigner crystal because of the crystal's honeycomb structure.

## ID: 66c47028 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. According to the text, Eugene Wigner hypothesized that a crystal could exist that would be composed of electrons and have a honeycomb-like shape. The text goes on to say that the existence of the Wigner crystal remained unconfirmed until Feng Wang and colleagues were able to make an impression of one using two semiconductors and an ultrathin sheet of graphene. Thus, the main idea is that researchers have obtained the most definitive evidence to date of the existence of the Wigner crystal.

Choice B is incorrect because the text focuses on one kind of crystal—the Wigner crystal—and doesn't discuss crystalline structures in general. And although the text conveys that Wang and colleagues figured out a way to capture an image of a Wigner crystal, it doesn't address the idea of applying this approach to other types of crystals. Choice C is incorrect because the text describes in general the process Wang and colleagues followed to obtain an impression of the Wigner crystal; it doesn't address the relative importance of each component in that process. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't state that researchers had a hard time getting an impression of the Wigner crystal because of its honeycomb structure. Nothing in the text indicates why it took so long to prove the existence of this crystal or take an impression of it.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 58e9e497

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 58e9e497

In the early nineteenth century, some Euro-American farmers in the northeastern United States used agricultural techniques developed by the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) people centuries earlier, but it seems that few of those farmers had actually seen Haudenosaunee farms firsthand. Barring the possibility of several farmers of the same era independently developing techniques that the Haudenosaunee people had already invented, these facts most strongly suggest that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. those farmers learned the techniques from other people who were more directly influenced by Haudenosaunee practices.  
the crops typically cultivated by Euro-American farmers in the northeastern United States were not well suited to
- B. Haudenosaunee farming techniques.
- C. Haudenosaunee farming techniques were widely used in regions outside the northeastern United States.
- D. nineteenth century.  
Euro-American farmers only began to recognize the benefits of Haudenosaunee farming techniques late in the

## ID: 58e9e497 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Euro-American farmers' use of Haudenosaunee agricultural techniques. According to the text, some Euro-American farmers were using these techniques in the early nineteenth century despite few of the farmers having seen Haudenosaunee farms. One explanation for these facts might be that the farmers developed techniques on their own that already had been invented centuries earlier by the Haudenosaunee people, but the text explicitly bars, or rules out, this explanation. If Euro-American farmers didn't learn these techniques from direct observation of Haudenosaunee practices and didn't invent the techniques independently, then the most logical explanation is that they learned the techniques from other people who were more directly influenced by Haudenosaunee practices than the farmers themselves were. Once they learned about Haudenosaunee agricultural practices, Euro-American farmers could then apply those practices to their own farming.

Choice B is incorrect because the fact that some Euro-American farmers in the northeastern United States were using Haudenosaunee techniques suggests that the techniques were likely useful for the crops the farmers raised, not that the crops typically cultivated by the farmers were not well suited to Haudenosaunee farming techniques. If the farmers' crops were ill suited to the techniques, it's unlikely that the farmers would have used those techniques. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates only that Haudenosaunee agricultural techniques were used by Euro-American farmers in the northeastern United States, not that these techniques were widely used outside this region. Choice D is incorrect because the text states that some Euro-American farmers were using Haudenosaunee farming techniques early in the nineteenth century. This suggests that some Euro-American farmers were beginning to recognize the benefits of these techniques near the start of the century, not that such farmers only began to recognize the benefits of the techniques much later.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 1a2b29c9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 1a2b29c9

The following text is adapted from María Cristina Mena's 1914 short story "The Vine-Leaf."

It is a saying in the capital of Mexico that Dr. Malsufrido carries more family secrets under his hat than any archbishop. The doctor's hat is, appropriately enough, uncommonly capacious, rising very high, and sinking so low that it seems to be supported by his ears and eyebrows, and it has a furry look, as if it had been brushed the wrong way, which is perhaps what happens to it if it is ever brushed at all. When the doctor takes it off, the family secrets do not fly out like a flock of parrots, but remain nicely bottled up beneath a dome of old and highly polished ivory.

Based on the text, how do people in the capital of Mexico most likely regard Dr. Malsufrido?

- A. Many have come to tolerate him despite his disheveled appearance.
- B. Few feel concerned that he will divulge their confidences.
- C. Some dislike how freely he discusses his own family.
- D. Most would be unimpressed by him were it not for his professional expertise.

## ID: 1a2b29c9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text describes a saying in the capital that Malsufrido keeps more secrets than an archbishop. It also says that when he takes off his hat, "the family secrets do not fly out... but remain nicely bottled up," suggesting that he will not betray his confidences.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't reflect the text. While his hat is large and appears to have been brushed in the wrong direction, Dr. Malsufrido does not seem to be regarded as ill-dressed or disheveled. Choice C is incorrect. This choice is the opposite of what the text says. The secrets of families (his and others') remain "bottled up" in his head. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn't supported by the text. His professional expertise is not discussed in the passage.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 71904085

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 71904085

Linguist Deborah Tannen has cautioned against framing contentious issues in terms of two highly competitive perspectives, such as pro versus con. According to Tannen, this debate-driven approach can strip issues of their complexity and, when used in front of an audience, can be less informative than the presentation of multiple perspectives in a noncompetitive format. To test Tannen's hypothesis, students conducted a study in which they showed participants one of three different versions of local news commentary about the same issue. Each version featured a debate between two commentators with opposing views, a panel of three commentators with various views, or a single commentator.

Which finding from the students' study, if true, would most strongly support Tannen's hypothesis?

On average, participants perceived commentators in the debate as more knowledgeable about the issue than  
A. commentators in the panel.

On average, participants perceived commentators in the panel as more knowledgeable about the issue than the single  
B. commentator.

On average, participants who watched the panel correctly answered more questions about the issue than those who  
C. watched the debate or the single commentator did.

On average, participants who watched the single commentator correctly answered more questions about the issue than  
D. those who watched the debate did.

## ID: 71904085 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents the finding that, if true, would most strongly support Tannen's hypothesis. According to the text, Tannen's hypothesis is that multiple perspectives presented in a noncompetitive format is more informative than a debate between opposing viewpoints is. If participants who saw a panel of three commentators with various views about an issue answered more questions about the issue correctly than did participants who saw a debate, that would support Tannen's hypothesis since it would show that participants who heard multiple varied perspectives were better informed than were participants who heard a debate between opposing viewpoints.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that participants perceived commentators in the debate as more knowledgeable than commentators in the panel is irrelevant to Tannen's hypothesis, which is that presenting multiple perspectives on an issue is more informative to the audience than presenting opposing views of the issue is. Participants' perception of how knowledgeable panelists are has no bearing on how much participants learn from the panelists. Choice B is incorrect because finding that participants perceived commentators in the panel as more knowledgeable than a single commentator is irrelevant to Tannen's hypothesis, which is that presenting multiple perspectives on an issue is more informative to the audience than presenting opposing views of the issue is. Participants' perception of how knowledgeable panelists are has no bearing on how much participants learn from the panelists, and Tannen's hypothesis says nothing about how informative single commentators are. Choice D is incorrect because finding that participants who watched a single commentator answered more questions correctly than participants who watched the debate did wouldn't be relevant to Tannen's hypothesis, which is that hearing multiple varying perspectives is more informative than hearing a debate. Tannen's hypothesis says nothing about how informative single commentators are.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3190835d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 3190835d

Some businesses believe that when employees are interrupted while doing their work, they experience a decrease in energy and productivity. However, a team led by Harshad Puranik, who studies management, has found that interruptions by colleagues can have a social component that increases employees' sense of belonging, resulting in greater job satisfaction that benefits employees and employers. Therefore, businesses should recognize that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the interpersonal benefits of some interruptions in the workplace may offset the perceived negative effects.
- B. in order to maximize productivity, employers should be willing to interrupt employees frequently throughout the day.
- C. most employees avoid interrupting colleagues because they don't appreciate being interrupted themselves.
- D. in order to cultivate an ideal workplace environment, interruptions of work should be discouraged.

## ID: 3190835d Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of potential benefits of interruptions in the workplace. The text indicates that a common belief in business is that interruptions to working employees decrease energy and productivity levels. However, the text goes on to explain that a research team led by Harshad Puranik has found that there could be a social benefit to these interruptions. Since the team found that workplace interruptions can increase employees' sense of belonging and job satisfaction, it follows that the interpersonal benefits of some interruptions can offset the perceived negative effects.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text presents research findings that suggest some workplace interruptions can have a positive effect on employee job satisfaction, no further information is presented to suggest at what frequency these interruptions are ideal. Furthermore, the text doesn't tie workplace interruptions to increased productivity, but rather links it to social benefits such as sense of belonging. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't address employees' motives for choosing not to interrupt their colleagues. The text presents research findings that suggest that there are some positive interpersonal effects of workplace interruptions that can increase employee job satisfaction. Choice D is incorrect because asking businesses to discourage workplace interruptions doesn't follow from the team's research about the benefits of workplace interruptions, nor does the text describe an ideal work environment. Instead, the text presents research suggesting that there may be positive aspects to workplace interruptions that haven't previously been considered.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 04cbeca3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 04cbeca3

In 1534 CE, King Henry VIII of England split with the Catholic Church and declared himself head of the Church of England, in part because Pope Clement VII refused to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. Two years later, Henry VIII introduced a policy titled the Dissolution of the Monasteries that by 1540 had resulted in the closure of all Catholic monasteries in England and the confiscation of their estates. Some historians assert that the enactment of the policy was primarily motivated by perceived financial opportunities.

Which quotation from a scholarly article best supports the assertion of the historians mentioned in the text?

"At the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, about 2 percent of the adult male population of England were monks;

- A. by 1690, the proportion of the adult male population who were monks was less than 1 percent."

"A contemporary description of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, Michael Sherbrook's *Falle of the Religious Howses*,

recounts witness testimony that monks were allowed to keep the contents of their cells and that the monastery timber

- B. was purchased by local yeomen."

"In 1535, the year before enacting the Dissolution of the Monasteries, Henry commissioned a survey of the value of

church holdings in England—the work, performed by sheriffs, bishops, and magistrates, began that January and was

- C. swiftly completed by the summer."

"The October 1536 revolt known as the Pilgrimage of Grace had several economic motives: high food prices due to a

poor harvest the prior year; the Dissolution of the Monasteries, which closed reliable sources of food and shelter for

- D. many; and rents and taxes throughout Northern England that were not merely high but predatory."

## ID: 04cbeca3 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The fact that Henry VIII commissioned a survey of church holdings just before enacting the Dissolution of the Monasteries suggests that he was interested in the potential profits from claiming their assets. This supports the historians' assertion.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice describes a potential effect of the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The decrease in the proportion of monks in England isn't relevant to the question of Henry VIII's motivations. Choice B is incorrect. Details about how the monks were treated during the dissolution don't address Henry VIII's motivations for enacting the policy in the first place. That the monks could keep the content of their cells (their rooms) and sell off the timber they'd harvested has no impact on the value of the monasteries' estates—their land holdings. Choice D is incorrect. This choice mentions one impact that the Dissolution of the Monasteries contributed to, two years after it happened. But it doesn't help explain why Henry VIII might have wanted to enact the policy in the first place.

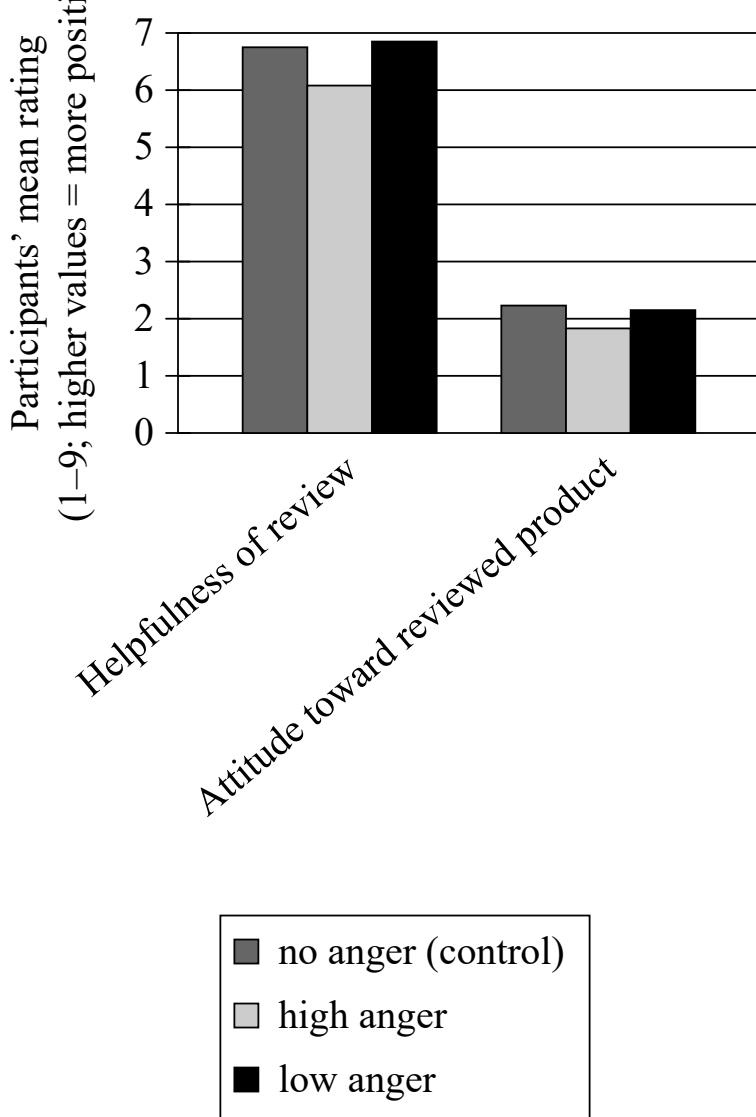
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d5b9ed0d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ □

ID: d5b9ed0d

Participants' Responses to Three Review Conditions



To understand how expressions of anger in reviews of products affect readers of those reviews, business scholar Dezhi Yin and colleagues measured study participants' responses to three versions of the same negative review—a control review expressing no anger, a review expressing a high degree of anger, and a review expressing a low degree of anger. Reviewing the data, a student concludes that the mere presence of anger in a review may not negatively affect readers' perceptions of the review, but a high degree of anger in a review does worsen readers' perceptions of the review.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support the students' conclusion?

- On average, participants' ratings of the helpfulness of the review were substantially higher than were participants' ratings A. of the reviewed product regardless of which type of review participants had seen.

Compared with participants who saw the control review, participants who saw the low-anger review rated the review as B. slightly more helpful, whereas participants who saw the high-anger review rated the review as less helpful.

Participants who saw the low-anger review rated the review as slightly more helpful than participants who saw the control review did, but participants' attitude toward the reviewed product was slightly worse when participants saw the C. low-anger review than when they saw the no-anger review.

Compared with participants who saw the low-anger review, participants who saw the high-anger review rated the review D. as less helpful and had a less positive attitude toward the reviewed product.

### ID: d5b9ed0d Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

#### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The claim is that low anger does not negatively affect readers' perceptions of the review, while high anger does negatively affect readers' perceptions of the review. This choice accurately expresses the supporting data from the "helpfulness of review" part of the graph: that low-anger reviews were rated as slightly more helpful than no-anger reviews, while high-anger reviews were rated as less helpful than no-anger reviews.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice does not support the conclusion. The conclusion is only about how participants feel about the review itself—the participants' ratings of the reviewed product are not relevant. Choice C is incorrect. This choice does not support the conclusion. The conclusion is only about how participants feel about the review itself—the participants' attitude towards the reviewed product is not relevant. Choice D is incorrect. This choice does not support the conclusion. The conclusion is only about how participants feel about the review itself—the participants' attitude towards the reviewed product is not relevant.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2fdf002

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 2fdf002

The following text is adapted from Countee Cullen's 1926 poem "Thoughts in a Zoo."

They in their cruel traps, and we in ours, Survey each other's rage, and pass the hours  
Commiserating each the other's woe, To mitigate his own pain's fiery glow. Man could but little proffer in exchange  
Save that his cages have a larger range. That lion with his lordly, untamed heart  
Has in some man his human counterpart, Some lofty soul in dreams and visions wrapped,  
But in the stifling flesh securely trapped.

Based on the text, what challenge do humans sometimes experience?

- A. They cannot effectively tame certain wild animals because of a lack of compassion.
- B. They cannot focus on setting attainable goals because of a lack of motivation.
- C. They quickly become frustrated when faced with difficult tasks because of a lack of self-control.
- D. They have aspirations that cannot be fulfilled because of certain limitations.

## ID: 2fdf002 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text metaphorically likens humans to animals in a zoo, suggesting that humans have dreams that they cannot fulfill because they are trapped.

Choice A is incorrect. The speaker says that the lion has an "untamed heart," but the speaker doesn't actually mention anything about humans taming wild animals or a lack of compassion. Choice B is incorrect. The speaker doesn't suggest that humans lack motivation. Rather, the speaker thinks that humans are "trapped" and prevented from achieving their dreams. Choice C is incorrect. The speaker doesn't mention anything about humans becoming frustrated or lacking self-control. Rather, the speaker thinks that humans are "trapped" and prevented from achieving their dreams.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6a6bbac3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 6a6bbac3

Number and Origin of Clamshell Tools Found at Different Levels Below the Surface in Neanderthal Cave

Depth of tools found below surface in cave (meters)	Clamshells that Neanderthals collected from the beach	Clamshells that Neanderthals harvested from the seafloor
3–4	99	33
6–7	1	0
4–5	2	0
2–3	7	0
5–6	18	7

Studying tools unearthed at a cave site on the western coast of Italy, archaeologist Paola Villa and colleagues have determined that prehistoric Neanderthal groups fashioned them from shells of clams that they harvested from the seafloor while wading or diving or that washed up on the beach. Clamshells become thin and eroded as they wash up on the beach, while those on the seafloor are smooth and sturdy, so the research team suspects that Neanderthals prized the tools made with seafloor shells. However, the team also concluded that those tools were likely more challenging to obtain, noting that

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to support the research team's conclusion?

at each depth below the surface in the cave, the difference in the numbers of tools of each type suggests that shells were  
A. easier to collect from the beach than to harvest from the seafloor.

the highest number of tools were at a depth of 3–4 meters below the surface, which suggests that the Neanderthal  
B. population at the site was highest during the related period of time.

at each depth below the surface in the cave, the difference in the numbers of tools of each type suggests that  
C. Neanderthals preferred to use clamshells from the beach because of their durability.

the higher number of tools at depths of 5–6 meters below the surface in the cave than at depths of 4–5 meters below  
D. the surface suggests that the size of clam populations changed over time.

ID: 6a6bbac3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to support the researchers' conclusion about the harvesting of clamshells by Neanderthals for use as tools. The text explains that Neanderthals used clamshells to make tools and that the sturdiest, and therefore the most desirable, shells for this purpose are found on the seafloor, not on the beach. However, the researchers also concluded that the clamshell tools made from shells from the seafloor are rarer than those made from shells from the beach. Meanwhile the table shows that at each depth, the number of tools made from shells from the beach exceeds the number made from the more desirable shells from the seafloor. The fact that the more desirable shells are less common suggests that it was significantly more difficult to harvest shells from the seafloor than from the beach.

Choice B is incorrect because knowing which depth represents the period of time with the highest Neanderthal population does not help answer the question of why the Neanderthals consistently made more tools from the less desirable shells from the beach than they made from the more desirable shells from the seafloor. Choice C is incorrect because it claims that the beach shells are more durable than the seafloor shells, which contradicts the text's description of shells from the seafloor as smoother and sturdier than shells from the beach. Choice D is incorrect because knowing which depth has the most artifacts or whether the clam population fluctuated does not help explain why tools made from the less desirable shells from the beach outnumber tools made from the more desirable shells from the seafloor.

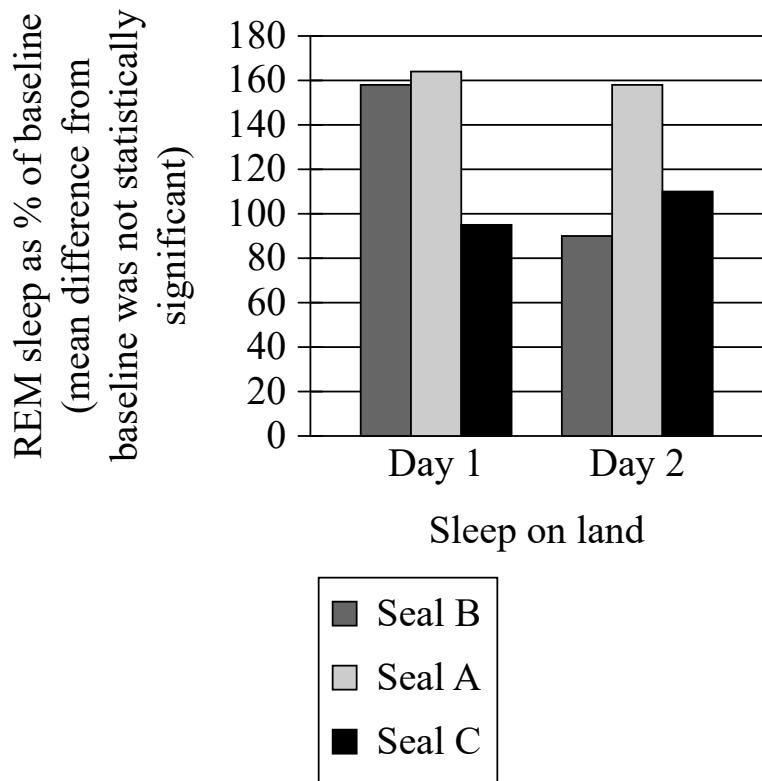
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID ccb1ab92

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: ccb1ab92

## Fur Seal REM Sleep on Land after an Extended Period in Water



Research suggests that REM sleep in animals is homeostatically regulated: animals compensate for periods of REM sleep deprivation by increasing subsequent REM sleep. When on land, fur seals get enough REM sleep, but during the weeks they're in the water, they get almost none. In a study of fur seals' sleep habits, researchers recorded the REM sleep (as a percentage of baseline) of fur seals once they had returned to land. They concluded that REM sleep may not be homeostatically regulated in fur seals, citing as evidence the fact that the seals in the study \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the text?

- A. didn't show significantly less REM sleep during the second day after returning to land than they did during the first day.
- B. showed no significant differences from one another in baseline levels of REM sleep.
- C. didn't consistently demonstrate a significant increase in REM sleep after their period of deprivation in the water.
- D. showed no significant difference between REM sleep after returning to land and REM sleep while in the water.

**Correct Answer:** C

**Rationale**

Choice C is the best answer. If REM sleep were homeostatically regulated in fur seals, then all the seals would compensate with REM levels significantly over baseline after going weeks without REM. We'd also expect the seals to maintain those elevated REM levels for some time. Since seals B and C return very quickly to baseline REM levels, this suggests that REM sleep in fur seals may not be regulated homeostatically.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn't support the conclusion. If REM sleep were homeostatically regulated in fur seals, then we'd suspect the seals to sustain REM levels well above baseline for a prolonged period in order to compensate for weeks of REM deprivation while in the water. Whether or not there's a reduction in REM sleep from day 1 to day 2 doesn't tell us how REM sleep on those days relates to baseline, which is where our focus should be. Choice B is incorrect. The y-axis of this graph doesn't depict baseline levels of REM sleep, but rather shows REM sleep as a percent of baseline. Choice D is incorrect. The graph doesn't depict REM sleep while in the water for the seals in the study. Additionally, we're told fur seals get no REM sleep while in the water, which is significantly different to the values shown in the graph for after they return to land.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 0d81b7d9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 0d81b7d9

Paleontologist Alan Tennyson and colleagues studied fossil bones found in New Zealand that are more than 55 million years old. The researchers determined that the fossil bones belonged to two previously unknown species of prehistoric penguins. Moreover, they estimated that one of the two penguin species was more than three times the size of the emperor penguin, which is the largest penguin species that exists today.

Based on the text, which choice best describes the two previously unknown penguin species?

- A. They are frequently studied by paleontologists.
- B. They are no longer living species.
- C. They were smaller than penguin species that exist today.
- D. They spent little of their lives in water.

## ID: 0d81b7d9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a statement about the two previously unknown penguin species that is supported by the text. According to the text, Alan Tennyson and colleagues studied fossil bones belonging to two previously unknown penguin species that are described as prehistoric, or ancient. The text goes on to say that one of the two species was considerably larger than the emperor penguin, which is currently the largest penguin in existence. Thus, the text indicates that the other species aren't in existence today, or that the two previously unknown penguin species are no longer living species.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text states that Alan Tennyson is a paleontologist who studied the fossils of two previously unknown penguin species, it doesn't say whether these penguins are frequently studied by paleontologists. Choice C is incorrect because the text says that one of the two previously unknown penguin species was three times larger than the emperor penguin (a penguin alive today), not that they were both smaller than penguin species that exist today. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss whether the two previously unknown penguin species spent any time in water.

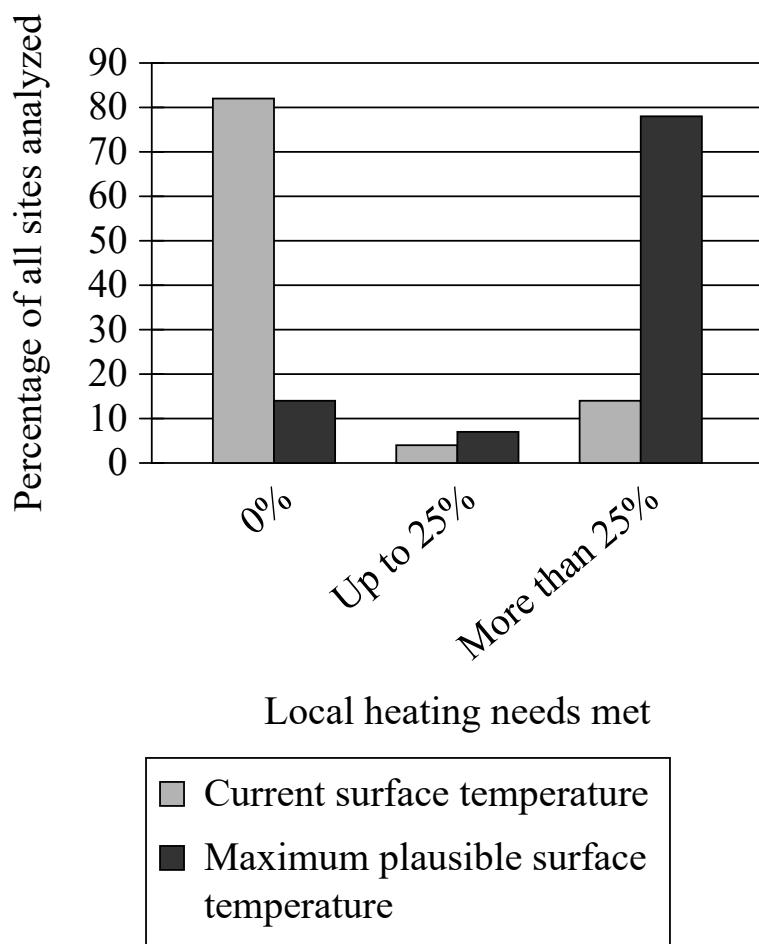
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID be19faa1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ ■

ID: be19faa1

## Home Heating Needs Met with Subsurface Thermal Pollution for Two Temperature Conditions, by Percentage of Sites



Urbanization, industrialization, and the warming climate create thermal pollution (excess heat) in the shallow subsurface soil. Susanne A. Benz and colleagues analyzed thousands of sites on three continents under one scenario in which surface temperature remains at the current level and under another in which the surface reaches the maximum plausible temperature. They then categorized each site according to the percentage of local home heating needs that could be met using this excess subsurface heat. The team concluded that if surface temperature approaches the maximum plausible level, the percentage of sites where thermal pollution could feasibly contribute to meeting home heating needs will increase.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support Benz and colleagues' conclusion?

Under both temperature conditions, less than 10% of sites were in the up-to-25% group, but at the maximum plausible A. surface temperature, almost 80% of sites could have all their local heating needs met by thermal pollution.

At current surface temperatures, more than 80% of the sites have no need for supplemental local home heating from subsurface thermal pollution, but at the maximum plausible surface temperature, more than 70% of sites exhibit B. significantly greater home heating needs.

At current surface temperatures, more than 80% of sites can meet, at most, 25% of local home heating needs with subsurface thermal pollution, but at the maximum plausible surface temperature, more than 80% of sites can meet C. greater than 25% of local home heating needs.

At current surface temperatures, more than 80% of the sites cannot use subsurface thermal pollution to meet any portion D. of local home heating needs, but at the maximum plausible surface temperature, that percentage drops below 20%.

### ID: be19faa1 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

#### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The researchers concluded that as we approach maximum plausible surface temperatures, there will be a larger percentage of sites where thermal pollution could contribute to meeting home heating needs. By showing that only a small percentage of homes can currently use thermal pollution for home heating, and that this percentage would grow much larger at maximum plausible surface temperatures, this choice supports the researchers' conclusion.

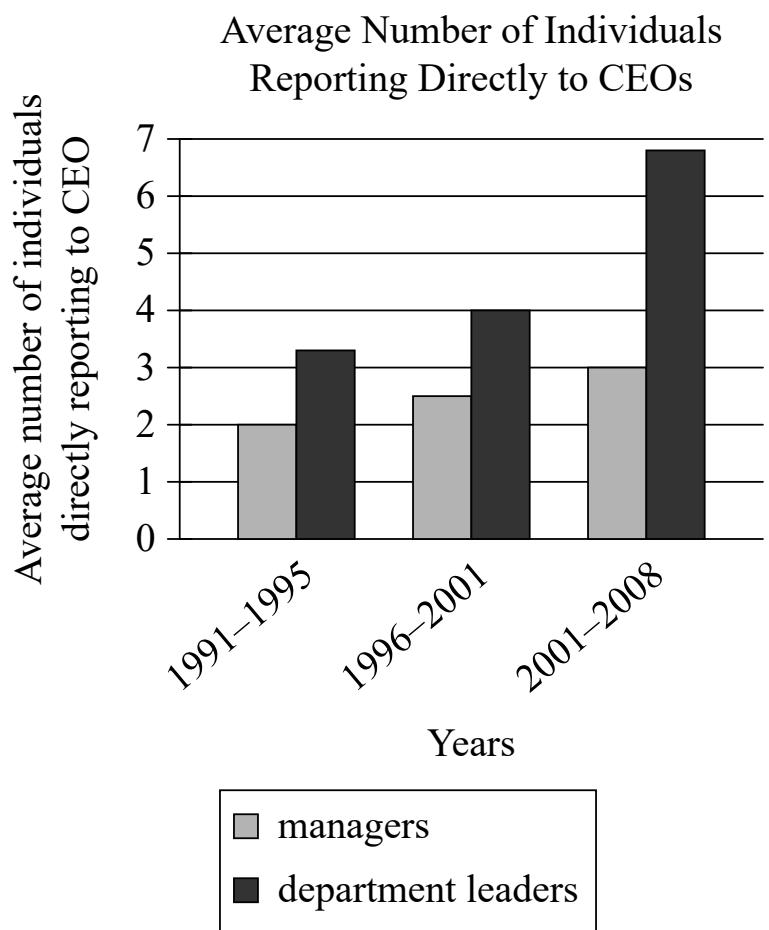
Choice A is incorrect. We do not know how many sites could have all (i.e., 100%) of their local heating needs met by thermal pollution, as the graph only classifies sites by whether "0%," "Up to 25%," and "More than 25%" of heating needs could be met. Choice B is incorrect. The graph is not depicting need for supplemental heating from thermal pollution, but rather potential to use thermal pollution for supplemental heating. Choice C is incorrect. The graph indicates that, at current surface temperatures, less than 10% of sites can meet 25% of local home heating needs and that more than 80% of sites cannot meet any local home heating needs.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 645fd11a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 645fd11a



Considering a large sample of companies, economics experts Maria Guadalupe, Julie Wulf, and Raghuram Rajan assessed the number of managers and leaders from different departments who reported directly to a chief executive officer (CEO). According to the researchers, the findings suggest that across the years analyzed, there was a growing interest among CEOs in connecting with more departments in their companies.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support the researchers' conclusion?

The average numbers of managers and department leaders reporting directly to their CEO didn't fluctuate from the A. 1991–1995 period to the 2001–2008 period.

B. The average number of managers reporting directly to their CEO was highest in the 1996–2001 period.

C. The average number of department leaders reporting directly to their CEO was greater than the average number of managers reporting directly to their CEO in each of the three periods studied.

D. The average number of department leaders reporting directly to their CEO rose over the three periods studied.

**Correct Answer:** D

**Rationale**

Choice D is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that support the researchers' conclusion that there is a growing interest among CEOs in connecting with more departments in their companies. The graph shows the average number of individuals reporting directly to CEOs during three different time periods: the individuals are divided into managers and department leaders. The average number of department leaders directly reporting to their CEO during the 1991–1995 period was slightly more than three, during the 1996–2001 period it was four, and during the 2001–2008 period it was almost seven. Thus, the average number of department leaders reporting directly to their CEO rose over the three periods studied, which suggests that CEOs were connecting with more departments.

Choice A is incorrect because the average number of managers and department leaders reporting directly to their CEO rose for both categories between the 1991–1995 and 2001–2008 periods; thus, it isn't true that the average numbers didn't fluctuate. Choice B is incorrect because the average number of managers reporting directly to their CEO was highest in the 2001–2008 period, not in the 1996–2001 period. Choice C is incorrect. Although it correctly describes a feature of the graph, the observation that more department leaders than managers are reporting to CEOs does not by itself address the question of whether CEOs are connecting with more departments over time—to address that question, one needs to know whether the number of department leaders reporting to CEOs is increasing over time.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 701126bc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 701126bc

In superfluorescence, electrical charges known as dipoles emit light in synchronized bursts so intense that they are visible to the eye. Until recently, this phenomenon has only been observed at extremely cold temperatures because dipoles cannot synchronize at higher temperatures. But in a study, Melike Biliroglu and colleagues observed superfluorescence at room temperature in thin films made of perovskite and other similarly crystalline materials; the researchers propose that the formation of shock-absorbing quasiparticles called polarons in the material protects dipoles from thermal interference.

Based on the text, how are polarons believed to be involved in the superfluorescence observed in Biliroglu and colleagues' study?

- A. Polarons enable superfluorescent bursts to cross from one crystalline material to another.
- B. Polarons allow for the dipoles to synchronize despite higher temperatures.
- C. Polarons accelerate the dipoles' release of superfluorescent bursts.
- D. Polarons decrease the intensity of the superfluorescent burst.

## ID: 701126bc Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes Biliroglu and colleagues' claim about how the polarons function in relation to superfluorescence. The text indicates that "until recently," superfluorescence (intense, synchronized bursts of light emitted by dipoles) has solely been observed at very cold temperatures. However, it also states that, recently, Biliroglu and colleagues report observing the phenomenon at room temperature. They achieved this using "thin films made of perovskite and other similarly crystalline materials," which the researchers claim allows for the formation of polarons. They also suggest that these polarons might absorb the thermal shocks that typically disrupt dipole synchronization at warmer temperatures. Thus, based on the text, Biliroglu and colleagues believe that polarons help dipoles synchronize at temperatures well above those at which superfluorescence had previously been observed.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't address the prospect of a superfluorescent burst moving between crystalline materials or any other mediums. Choice C is incorrect because the text's discussion of polarons is about how they might enable superfluorescence at higher temperatures than those at which it had previously been observed. Rather than suggesting that polarons speed up superfluorescent bursts, the text suggests that no superfluorescence can occur at room temperature in the absence of polarons. Thus, the text indicates that polarons make superfluorescent bursts more likely to occur at higher temperatures than those at which it had previously been observed, not that polarons accelerate the bursts. Choice D is incorrect because the text's discussion of polarons is about how they might enable superfluorescence at higher temperatures than those at which it had previously been observed. In the absence of polarons, the text suggests there would be no superfluorescence at room temperature. Thus, rather than decrease the intensity of superfluorescent bursts, polarons make them more likely to occur under certain circumstances.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c83e0b43

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: c83e0b43

*O Pioneers!* is a 1913 novel by Willa Cather. In the novel, Cather depicts Alexandra Bergson as a person who takes comfort in understanding the world around her: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from *O Pioneers!* most effectively illustrates the claim?

"She looked fixedly up the bleak street as if she were gathering her strength to face something, as if she were trying with A. all her might to grasp a situation which, no matter how painful, must be met and dealt with somehow."

"She had never known before how much the country meant to her. The chirping of the insects down in the long grass had been like the sweetest music. She had felt as if her heart were hiding down there, somewhere, with the quail and the plover and all the little wild things that crooned or buzzed in the sun. Under the long shaggy ridges, she felt the future B. stirring."

"Alexandra drove off alone. The rattle of her wagon was lost in the howling of the wind, but her lantern, held firmly C. between her feet, made a moving point of light along the highway, going deeper and deeper into the dark country."

"Alexandra drew her shawl closer about her and stood leaning against the frame of the mill, looking at the stars which glittered so keenly through the frosty autumn air. She always loved to watch them, to think of their vastness and distance, and of their ordered march. It fortified her to reflect upon the great operations of nature, and when she thought of the law D. that lay behind them, she felt a sense of personal security."

## ID: c83e0b43 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively uses a quotation from *O Pioneers!* to illustrate the claim that Alexandra Bergson takes comfort in understanding the world around her. In the quotation, Alexandra is described as enjoying looking at the stars and feeling a "sense of personal security" when she contemplates nature's order and its governing laws. This suggests that Alexandra takes comfort in understanding the world around her.

Choice A is incorrect because the quotation expresses how Alexandra Bergson attempts to meet difficult situations with determination, not how she takes comfort in understanding the world around her. Choice B is incorrect because the quotation expresses "how much the country meant to" Alexandra Bergson, not how she takes comfort in understanding the world around her. In detailing some of the wildlife surrounding Alexandra, the quotation conveys that nature is important to her but not necessarily that it gives her comfort. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation describes Alexandra driving her wagon down a highway at night; it doesn't describe how she takes comfort in understanding the world around her or address how she's feeling as she drives off.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID ac285054

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: ac285054

The domestic sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) descends from a wild plant native to South America. It also populates the Polynesian Islands, where evidence confirms that Native Hawaiians and other Indigenous peoples were cultivating the plant centuries before seafaring first occurred over the thousands of miles of ocean separating them from South America. To explain how the sweet potato was first introduced in Polynesia, botanist Pablo Muñoz-Rodríguez and colleagues analyzed the DNA of numerous varieties of the plant, concluding that Polynesian varieties diverged from South American ones over 100,000 years ago. Given that Polynesia was peopled only in the last three thousand years, the team concluded that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the cultivation of the sweet potato in Polynesia likely predates its cultivation in South America.
- B. Polynesian peoples likely acquired the sweet potato from South American peoples only within the last three thousand years.
- C. human activity likely played no role in the introduction of the sweet potato in Polynesia.
- D. Polynesian sweet potato varieties likely descend from a single South American variety that was domesticated, not wild.

## ID: ac285054 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the sweet potato in Polynesia. The text indicates that the sweet potato is found in Polynesia but originated in South America, and that the sweet potato was being cultivated by Native Hawaiians and other Indigenous peoples in Polynesia long before sea voyages between South America and Polynesia began. The text goes on to note that research by Muñoz-Rodríguez and colleagues has established that the Polynesian varieties of sweet potato split from South American varieties more than 100,000 years ago, which is thousands of years before humans settled in Polynesia. If Polynesian peoples were cultivating the sweet potato before sea voyages between Polynesia and South America began, and if Polynesian varieties of sweet potato diverged from South American varieties well before people were in Polynesia, it can reasonably be concluded that humans didn't play a role in bringing the sweet potato to Polynesia.

Choice A is incorrect. The text doesn't provide any information about when the sweet potato began to be cultivated in South America, so there's no support for the conclusion that cultivation began in Polynesia before it began in South America. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that the sweet potato was being cultivated in Polynesia long before sea journeys between Polynesia and South America began. Therefore, it wouldn't be reasonable to conclude that Polynesian peoples acquired the sweet potato from South American peoples. Additionally, the text indicates that the Polynesian varieties of sweet potato diverged from the South American varieties thousands of years before people settled in Polynesia, which suggests that the sweet potato was already present in Polynesia when people arrived. Choice D is incorrect because the text states that the domestic sweet potato, which is found in Polynesia, descends from a wild South American plant, not from a domesticated South American plant. The only people that the text describes as cultivating the sweet potato are Native Hawaiians and other Indigenous peoples of Polynesia.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a13541c0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

**ID: a13541c0**

Sandra Cisneros's 1984 novella *The House on Mango Street* made a lasting impact on US literature. Its depiction of Mexican American culture inspired later authors to examine their own heritage within their fictional works. Also influential was the book's portrayal of the main character, Esperanza, during a pivotal year of her youth. This insightful depiction of a preteen girl encouraged authors who, like Cisneros herself, are Latina to use fictional works to examine experiences from their own youth.

Which statement, if true, would most strongly support the claim in the underlined sentence?

In interviews, a number of Latina authors say that *The House on Mango Street* inspired them to write about their own  
A. adolescence in their novels.

In published writings, several prominent authors who are not Latina say that reading *The House on Mango Street*  
B. influenced their approach to writing fiction.

The *House on Mango Street* has sold over six million copies and is one of the most commonly read books among high  
C. school and university students in the US.

Since 1984, new novels about young Latina characters by Latina authors have often been compared to *The House on  
D. Mango Street*.

**ID: a13541c0 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most strongly support the claim in the underlined sentence. The text begins by explaining that the portrayal of Mexican American culture in Sandra Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street* inspired later authors to explore their own heritage. Noting that Cisneros's novella was also influential for its depiction of a formative year in a female character's youth, the text then claims that this depiction inspired other Latina authors to use fiction to explore their own experiences of youth. Since this claim addresses how Cisneros encouraged Latina authors specifically to portray their youthful experiences, it would be directly supported by such authors stating that her novella influenced them to write about their own adolescence, or the transitional period between childhood and adulthood.

Choice B is incorrect. The text states that with its portrayal of Mexican American culture, *The House on Mango Street* inspired later authors to explore their own heritage, and since this statement isn't limited to only Latina authors, it can be inferred that authors who aren't Latina were also likely influenced by the novella. But because the claim in the underlined sentence concerns the novella's influence on Latina authors specifically, the finding that the book also influenced authors who weren't Latina would fail to provide support for the claim. Choice C is incorrect because the finding that *The House on Mango Street* has sold millions of copies and is widely read among students in the US doesn't relate directly to the text's claim that the novella has influenced Latina authors specifically. Choice D is incorrect. While comparisons of new novels about young Latina characters by Latina authors to Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street* would likely be founded on similarities between those novels and Cisneros's novella, such similarities wouldn't necessarily be evidence of the novella's influence; such similarities might arise if Cisneros and younger Latina authors alike depicted certain basic cultural and historical features of their communities. Testimony from younger Latina authors about how *The House on Mango Street* had inspired them would be far more persuasive evidence of the novella's influence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7c1e5880

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 7c1e5880

Scholars have noted that F. Scott Fitzgerald's writings were likely influenced in part by his marriage to Zelda Fitzgerald, but many don't recognize Zelda as a writer in her own right. Indeed, Zelda authored several works herself, such as the novel *Save Me the Waltz* and numerous short stories. Thus, those who primarily view Zelda as an inspiration for F. Scott's writings \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. overlook the many other factors that motivated F. Scott to write.
- B. risk misrepresenting the full range of Zelda's contributions to literature.
- C. may draw inaccurate conclusions about how F. Scott and Zelda viewed each other's works.
- D. tend to read the works of F. Scott and Zelda in an overly autobiographical light.

## ID: 7c1e5880 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Zelda Fitzgerald's contributions to literature. The text begins by saying that many scholars view Zelda mainly in terms of her marriage to F. Scott Fitzgerald and "don't recognize Zelda as a writer in her own right." The text then mentions a novel and "numerous short stories" that she wrote and that such scholars tend to ignore. Therefore, those scholars who focus on Zelda only as an inspiration for F. Scott's writings risk misrepresenting the full range of Zelda's contributions to literature.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text does mention that Zelda Fitzgerald "likely influenced" her husband's literary work, its focus is on Zelda's own writing, not on her husband's writing or factors that might have influenced it. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not discuss F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald's opinions of each other's works. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text does suggest that F. Scott Fitzgerald's works were "likely influenced in part" by his marriage to Zelda, it does not discuss autobiographical interpretations of the works of either F. Scott or Zelda.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID dd1757fd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

**ID: dd1757fd**

Neural networks are computer models intended to reflect the organization of human brains and are often used in studies of brain function. According to an analysis of 11,000 such networks, Rylan Schaeffer and colleagues advise caution when drawing conclusions about brains from observations of neural networks. They found that when attempting to mimic grid cells (brain cells used in navigation), while 90% of the networks could accomplish navigation-related tasks, only about 10% of those exhibited any behaviors similar to those of grid cells. But even this approximation of grid-cell activity has less to do with similarity between the neural networks and biological brains than it does with the rules programmed into the networks.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the claim in the underlined sentence?

The rules that allow for networks to exhibit behaviors like those of grid cells have no equivalent in the function of  
A. biological brains.

The networks that do not exhibit behaviors like those of grid cells were nonetheless programmed with rules that had  
B. proven useful in earlier neural-network studies.

Neural networks can often accomplish tasks that biological brains do, but they are typically programmed with rules to  
C. model multiple types of brain cells simultaneously.

Once a neural network is programmed, it is trained on certain tasks to see if it can independently arrive at processes that  
D. are similar to those performed by biological brains.

**ID: dd1757fd Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. While many networks can perform navigation tasks, or even mimic grid cells, it doesn't mean they're actually behaving like biological brains—this finding suggests that the rules that govern neural network behavior are completely unlike the way real brains work.

Choice B is incorrect. Although it mentions the rules that are programmed into the networks, this finding wouldn't clarify whether or not these rules have anything to do with the function of biological brains. Choice C is incorrect. This choice suggests that neural networks are modeled after multiple types of brain cells, which sidesteps the question of whether these rule-based networks are genuinely similar to biological brains. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't address the key point of the claim, which is that the apparent similarity between neural networks and biological brains is only due to the rules programmed into the networks. It focuses on training tasks, not the originally programmed rules.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 15873d14

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ □

ID: 15873d14

Percentage of Maize Exported  
by Three Countries for Marketing  
Years 2009/2010–2013/2014



Argentina, Brazil, and the United States are among the world's leading producers of maize (corn), and each country exports a certain percentage of maize each marketing year, which runs from March to February in Argentina and Brazil and from September to August in the United States. A student is researching those percentages and finds that for the marketing year 2012/2013, the percentage of maize exported by \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the text?

- A. Brazil increased from the previous marketing year but remained lower than the percentage exported by the United States.
- B. Brazil exceeded the percentage exported by Argentina for the first time.
- C. Argentina decreased from the previous marketing year but remained the highest among the three countries.
- D. the United States reached its highest point during the five marketing years.

**Correct Answer:** C**Rationale**

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the text's discussion of the percentages of maize exported in the marketing year 2012/2013. The graph presents percentages of maize exported by Argentina, Brazil, and the United States in marketing years 2009/2010 to 2013/2014 and indicates that for the marketing year 2012/2013, the percentage of maize exported by Argentina decreased to about 70 percent from about 80 percent in the previous marketing year. The graph also shows that the percentage of maize exported by Argentina remained highest among the three countries in the marketing year 2012/2013, surpassing the percentage exported by Brazil (about 31 percent) and by the United States (about 8 percent).

Choice A is incorrect because for the marketing year 2012/2013, the graph indicates that the percentage of maize exported by Brazil didn't increase from the previous year; rather, it decreased from about 34 percent to about 31 percent. Moreover, the graph shows that the percentage of maize exported by Brazil remained higher, not lower, than the percentage exported by the United States in the marketing year 2012/2013. Choice B is incorrect because the graph indicates that the percentage of maize exported by Brazil never exceeded the percentage exported by Argentina for any of the marketing years represented. Choice D is incorrect because the graph indicates that the percentage of maize exported by the United States reached its lowest point, not its highest, during the five marketing years in 2012/2013, with the United States exporting only about 8 percent of its maize in that marketing year.

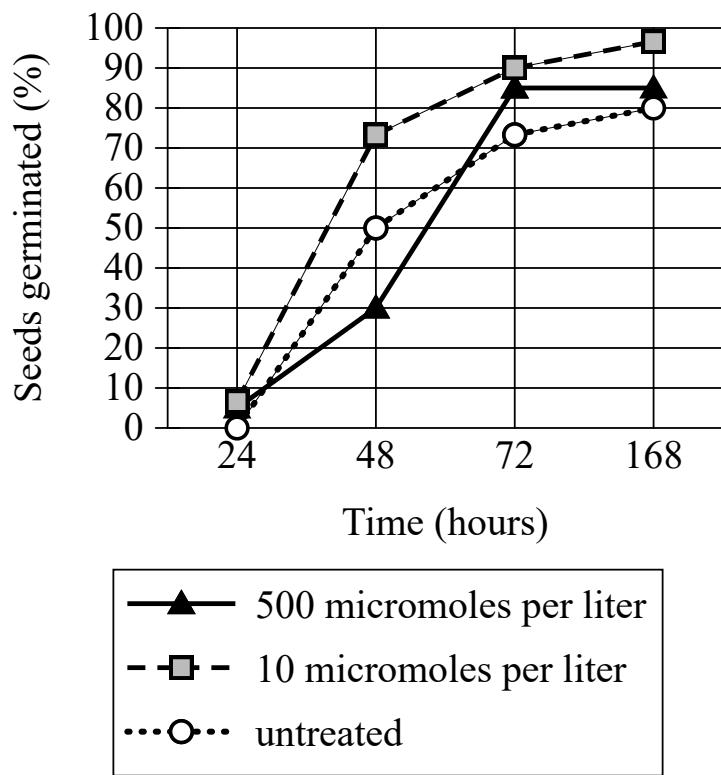
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 8a584241

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 8a584241

Seed Germination with and without H<sub>2</sub>S Treatment



In high concentrations, hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) is typically toxic to many plants. Frederick D. Dooley and colleagues wanted to understand what effects low doses of H<sub>2</sub>S might have on plant growth. They treated bean, corn, wheat, and pea seeds with various concentrations (measured in micromoles per liter) of H<sub>2</sub>S and tracked the germination of those seeds along with the germination of untreated seeds. Treatment with particular concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>S was associated with accelerated germination: for example, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement?

at 24 hours, less than 10% of seeds treated with H<sub>2</sub>S at a concentration of 10 micromoles per liter had germinated,  
A. whereas more than 90% of those seeds had germinated at 168 hours.

at 48 hours, more than 70% of seeds treated with H<sub>2</sub>S at a concentration of 10 micromoles per liter had germinated,  
B. whereas only approximately 50% of untreated seeds had germinated.

at 168 hours, more than 90% of seeds treated with H<sub>2</sub>S at concentrations of 10 or 500 micromoles per liter had  
C. germinated, whereas less than 70% of untreated seeds had germinated.

at 48 hours, approximately 50% of seeds treated with H<sub>2</sub>S at a concentration of 10 micromoles per liter had germinated, D. whereas only approximately 30% of untreated seeds had germinated.

### ID: 8a584241 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

#### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The claim is that some concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>S led to increased germination rates, and this choice accurately shows that seeds treated with 10 micromoles per liter of H<sub>2</sub>S tended to germinate faster than untreated seeds.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't justify the claim. The claim compares the germination rates of seeds exposed to certain concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>S to untreated seeds, but this choice only discusses one concentration of H<sub>2</sub>S, so it can't support any comparison between treated and untreated groups. Choice C is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. At 168 hours, only about 85% of seeds treated with H<sub>2</sub>S at 500 micromoles per liter and well over 70% of untreated seeds had germinated (about 80%). Choice D is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. At 48 hours, about 70% of seeds treated with H<sub>2</sub>S at 10 micromoles per liter and about 50% of untreated seeds had germinated.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID dd72993d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: dd72993d

Rivers rich in sediment appear yellow, while increases in red algae make rivers appear red. To track things like the sediment or algae content of large US rivers, John R. Gardner and colleagues used satellite data to determine the dominant visible wavelengths of light measured for various segments of these rivers. The researchers classified wavelengths of 495 nanometers (nm) and below as red, wavelengths between 495 and 560 nm as blue, and wavelengths of 560 nm and above as yellow. The researchers concluded that for the Missouri River, segments flowing into lakes tend to carry more sediment than those flowing out of lakes.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers' conclusion?

The segments of the Missouri River that had higher levels of chlorophyll-a, which contributes to the green color of  
A. photosynthetic organisms, have dominant wavelengths of light between 490 and 560 nm.

In lakes through which segments of the Missouri River pass, the dominant wavelength of light tended to be above 560  
B. nm near the lakes' shores and below 560 nm in the lakes' centers.

The majority of the segments of the Missouri River were found to have dominant wavelengths of light significantly higher  
C. than 560 nm.

Segments of the Missouri River flowing into lakes typically had dominant wavelengths of light above 560 nm, while  
D. segments flowing out of lakes typically had dominant wavelengths below 560 nm.

## ID: dd72993d Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support Gardner and colleagues' conclusion that segments of the Missouri River flowing into lakes tend to carry more sediment than do segments of the river flowing out of lakes. The text says that rivers appear yellow when they contain a lot of sediment and appear red when they contain a lot of algae. It goes on to explain that Gardner and colleagues measured the wavelengths of light for different segments of rivers in the United States and classified those wavelength measurements into colors: red for wavelengths of 495 nanometers and below, blue for wavelengths between 495 and 560 nanometers, and yellow for wavelengths of 560 nanometers and above. Combined with the earlier information about river colors, this suggests that rivers rich in sediment will have wavelengths of 560 nanometers and above (since such rivers appear yellow). If researchers found that Missouri River segments flowing into lakes tend to have wavelengths above 560 nanometers and segments flowing out of lakes tend to have wavelengths below 560 nanometers, this finding would support Gardner and colleagues' conclusion, since it would suggest that the river tends to carry more sediment when it flows into lakes than when it flows out of lakes.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that sections of the Missouri River with high chlorophyll-a levels have wavelengths between 490 and 560 nanometers would be irrelevant to the researchers' conclusion that segments of the river flowing into lakes are richer in sediment than are segments of the river flowing out of lakes. This finding would not indicate anything about segments flowing into or out of lakes. Choice B is incorrect because finding that lakes through which the Missouri River passes have higher wavelengths near their shores than in the center would not support the researchers' conclusion that segments of the river flowing into lakes have more sediment than segments flowing out of lakes. This finding would suggest only that there is more sediment around the edges of lakes than in their centers, which does not have any direct bearing on the researchers' conclusion about river segments flowing into and out of lakes. Choice C is incorrect because finding that most segments of the Missouri River have wavelengths significantly higher than 560 nanometers would suggest that most segments of the river are high in sediment, not that segments flowing into lakes are higher in sediment than segments flowing out of lakes. Only a comparison of river segments flowing into lakes with segments flowing out of lakes can support the researchers' conclusion.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 086dd8cc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 086dd8cc

The morphological novelty of echinoderms—marine invertebrates with radial symmetry, usually starlike, around a central point—impedes comparisons with most other animals, in which bilateral symmetry on an anterior-posterior (head to tail) axis through a trunk is typical. Particularly puzzling are sea stars, thought to have evolved a headless layout from a known bilateral origin. Applying genomic knowledge of *Saccoglossus kowalevskii* acorn worms (close relatives of sea stars, and thus expected to have similar markers for corresponding anatomical regions) to the body patterning genes of *Patiria miniata* sea stars, Laurent Formery et al. observed activity only in anterior genes across *P. miniata*'s entire body and some posterior genes limited to the edges, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- despite the greater prevalence of anterior genes in sea stars' genetic makeup, posterior genes active at the body's perimeter are primarily responsible for the starlike layout that distinguishes sea stars' radial symmetry from that of other A. echinoderms.
- contrary to the belief that they evolved from early ancestors with the bilateral form typical of many other animals, sea B. stars instead originated with an atypical body layout that was neither bilaterally nor radially symmetrical.
- although the two species are closely related, there is only minimal correspondence in the genetic markers for head, tail, C. and trunk region development in *P. miniata* sea stars and *S. kowalevskii* acorn worms.
- rather than undergoing changes resulting in the eventual elimination of a head region in their radial body plan, as D. previously assumed, sea stars' morphology evolved to completely lack a trunk and consist primarily of a head region.

## ID: 086dd8cc Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the morphology (form and structure) of sea stars, a type of echinoderm. The text indicates that echinoderms have radially symmetrical body plans (symmetrical around a central point, usually in the form of a star), whereas most animals have bilaterally symmetrical body plans (symmetrical along an axis running from head to tail through a trunk). According to the text, sea stars are unusual echinoderms because, despite their radial body plan, they descended from known bilateral ancestors. This shift in body plan was thought to be a process of losing the genetic markers associated with the head region. The text explains that by comparing the genes of one sea star species (*P. miniata*) to those of a close relative, the acorn worm, researchers determined that instead, anterior (head) genes are active across the sea star's entire body, posterior (tail) genes are active in limited, peripheral locations of the body, and no trunk-related genes are active. This finding strongly suggests that, rather than becoming "headless" as they evolved from a bilateral ancestor, sea stars developed a body plan consisting almost entirely of a head region with a minimal tail region and no trunk region present.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't identify how any particular region of sea stars' bodies influences the layout of sea stars' radial symmetry. Moreover, the text indicates that the radial symmetry of echinoderms is "usually starlike," not that a starlike layout distinguishes sea stars from other echinoderms. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the idea that sea stars evolved from an ancestor with bilateral symmetry is incorrect (describing the bilateral origin as "known") and doesn't address any body plans other than those with radial or bilateral symmetry. The text strongly suggests that rather than revealing something about sea stars' origin, Formery et al.'s findings contradict the assumption that the current body plan of sea stars is "headless." Choice C is incorrect because the text suggests that Formery et al. were able to make determinations about *P. miniata* sea stars' body plan based on the comparability of genetic markers between *P. miniata* and *S. kowalevskii* acorn worms. The text indicates only that little or no activity was observed in certain types of genes associated with body development in *P. miniata*, not that those genes turned out to largely differ from body-development genes in *S. kowalevskii*.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID e185a21f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: e185a21f

One theory behind human bipedalism speculates that it originated in a mostly ground-based ancestor that practiced four-legged “knuckle-walking,” like chimpanzees and gorillas do today, and eventually evolved into moving upright on two legs. But recently, researchers observed orangutans, another relative of humans, standing on two legs on tree branches and using their arms for balance while they reached for fruits. These observations may suggest that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. bipedalism evolved because it was advantageous to a tree-dwelling ancestor of humans.
- B. bipedalism must have evolved simultaneously with knuckle-walking and tree-climbing.
- C. moving between the ground and the trees would have been difficult without bipedalism.
- D. a knuckle-walking human ancestor could have easily moved bipedally in trees.

## ID: e185a21f Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the evolution of bipedalism in humans. According to the text, one potential explanation for humans walking upright on two legs is that the behavior evolved from an ancestor that mostly stayed on the ground and walked on four limbs, as modern chimpanzees and gorillas do. However, the finding that orangutans, also a relative of humans, sometimes stand on two legs in trees while using their arms to balance and reach for fruits suggests another possible explanation: perhaps a tree-dwelling ancestor of humans began moving on two legs because it offered an advantage, such as access to certain foods.

Choice B is incorrect because the finding that modern orangutans (a relative of humans) sometimes stand on two legs in trees doesn’t offer any insight into when either bipedalism or tree-climbing behavior emerged in human ancestors. Additionally, the text indicates that one theory is that bipedalism evolved from a mostly ground-based ancestor that was already practicing knuckle-walking, not that bipedalism and knuckle-walking developed at the same time. Choice C is incorrect because the finding that orangutans (a relative of humans) sometimes stand on two legs in trees doesn’t offer any insight into how difficult it would’ve been to move between the ground and the trees without bipedalism; there’s no suggestion that climbing or moving in trees depends on the ability to walk on two legs rather than four, even if that ability might be helpful in certain circumstances. Choice D is incorrect because the finding that orangutans (a relative of humans) sometimes stand on two legs in trees doesn’t suggest that a knuckle-walking human ancestor could’ve easily moved on two legs in trees. Although the text indicates that bipedalism may have evolved from a human ancestor that mostly stayed on the ground and walked on four limbs, it gives no indication of how easy it would’ve been for such an ancestor to move bipedally in trees.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 64cd7321

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 64cd7321

As media consumption has become increasingly multiplatform and socially mediated, active news acquisition has diminished in favor of an attitude known as “news finds me” (NFM), in which people passively rely on their social networks and ambient media environments for information about current events. Homero Gil de Zúñiga and Trevor Diehl examined data on a representative group of adults in the United States to determine participants’ strength of NFM attitude, political knowledge, and political interest. Although no major election took place sufficiently near the study for Gil de Zúñiga and Diehl to identify causality between NFM and voting behavior, they did posit that NFM may reduce voting probability through an indirect effect.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the idea advanced by Gil de Zúñiga and Diehl?

NFM attitude tends to increase in strength as major elections approach, and people are significantly more likely to vote in  
A. major elections than in minor elections.

NFM attitude has a strong negative effect on political knowledge and interest, and there is known to be a strong positive  
B. correlation between political knowledge and interest and the likelihood of voting.

Political interest is known to have a strong positive effect on likelihood of voting but shows only a weak positive effect on  
C. political knowledge, and NFM attitude shows little correlation with either political knowledge or political interest.

The likelihood of voting increases as political knowledge increases, and the relationship between NFM attitude and  
D. political knowledge tends to strengthen as the size of people’s social networks increases.

## ID: 64cd7321 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support the idea advanced by Homero Gil de Zúñiga and Trevor Diehl that NFM ("news finds me") attitude may reduce voting probability through an indirect effect. The text describes NFM as an attitude that has lowered people's interest in actively acquiring news and introduces Gil de Zúñiga and Diehl's study on the effects of NFM on people in the United States' political knowledge and interest. The text goes on to say that despite the fact that the study didn't occur near a major election, Gil de Zúñiga and Diehl still conclude that NFM may reduce voting probability. If the likelihood, or probability, that a person will vote is linked to that person's level of political knowledge and interest, that would suggest that negatively affecting a person's level of political knowledge and interest would also negatively affect how likely that person is to vote. Thus, if NFM attitude has a negative effect on political knowledge and interest, then it would also likely reduce voting probability.

Choice A is incorrect because the finding that NFM attitude increases as major elections approach wouldn't address the effect of NFM on the likelihood of voting, which is the idea advanced by Gil de Zúñiga and Diehl. Moreover, although the text mentions that there were no major elections that occurred near the time of the study, it doesn't discern between major and minor elections when discussing voting probability. Choice C is incorrect because finding that NFM attitude shows little correlation with either political knowledge or political interest would undermine, not support, Gil de Zúñiga and Diehl's idea that NFM may reduce voting probability because it suggests that NFM has no effect on political knowledge or political interest. Choice D is incorrect. Although Gil de Zúñiga and Diehl's idea would be supported by the finding that the likelihood of voting increases as political knowledge increases, nothing in the text suggests that the researchers' idea hinges on the size of people's social networks.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 25176ff8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 25176ff8

"Mrs. Spring Fragrance" is a 1912 short story by Sui Sin Far. In the story, Mrs. Spring Fragrance, a Chinese immigrant living in Seattle, is traveling in California. In letters to her husband and friend, she demonstrates her concern for what's happening at her home in Seattle while she is away: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from Mrs. Spring Fragrance's letters most effectively illustrates the claim?

"My honorable cousin is preparing for the Fifth Moon Festival, and wishes me to compound for the occasion some

- A. American 'fudge,' for which delectable sweet, made by my clumsy hands, you have sometimes shown a slight prejudice."

"Next week I accompany Ah Oi to the beauteous town of San José. There will we be met by the son of the Illustrious

- B. Teacher."

"Forget not to care for the cat, the birds, and the flowers. Do not eat too quickly nor fan too vigorously now that the

- C. weather is warming."

"I am enjoying a most agreeable visit, and American friends, as also our own, strive benevolently for the accomplishment

- D. of my pleasure."

## ID: 25176ff8 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a quotation that illustrates the claim that Mrs. Spring Fragrance demonstrates concern for what's happening at home while she's in California. By giving reminders to "care for the cat, the birds, and the flowers," "not eat too quickly," and avoid engaging in strenuous activity in the heat, Mrs. Spring Fragrance shows that she's thinking about what's happening at home and wants to ensure everything is taken care of.

Choice A is incorrect because the quotation, while it does suggest that Mrs. Spring Fragrance has made fudge at home before, is focused on preparations for an upcoming festival, not on concerns for anything happening at home while Mrs. Spring Fragrance is away. Choice B is incorrect because the quotation has to do with an upcoming event during Mrs. Spring Fragrance's trip—visiting San José and meeting someone new—rather than her concern for what's happening at home. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation is focused on how Mrs. Spring Fragrance feels about her trip and the friends she's seeing, not on her concern for what's happening at home.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 67b59a67

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 67b59a67

Plants like potatoes, tomatoes, and soybeans are susceptible to bacterial wilt disease caused by the bacteria *Ralstonia solanacearum*. A multinational team of scientists led by Zhong Wei studied whether other microbes in the soil might influence the degree to which plants are affected by the disease. The team sampled soil surrounding individual tomato plants over time and compared the results of plants that became diseased with those that remained healthy. They concluded that the presence of certain microbes in the soil might explain the difference between healthy and diseased plants.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the team's conclusion?

A. The soil surrounding healthy plants contained significantly higher concentrations of microbes known to inhibit *Ralstonia solanacearum* than the soil surrounding diseased plants did.

B. The soil surrounding the plants contained high concentrations of *Ralstonia solanacearum* regardless of whether the plants were affected by wilt disease.

C. The soil surrounding healthy plants tended to have significantly higher moisture levels than the soil surrounding diseased plants did.

D. By the end of the experiment, over half the plants had been affected by wilt disease regardless of differences in the types and concentrations of microbes in the surrounding soil.

## ID: 67b59a67 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice provides evidence that directly links the presence of *R. solanacearum*-inhibiting microbes in the soil to the health of tomato plants.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice would weaken the team's conclusion. It suggests that the presence of the disease-causing bacteria had no effect on the health of the tomato plants. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the team's conclusion. The conclusion is about microbes, not soil moisture. Choice D is incorrect. This choice would weaken the team's conclusion. It suggests that the presence of the bacteria-inhibiting microbe in soil had no effect on the health of the tomato plants.

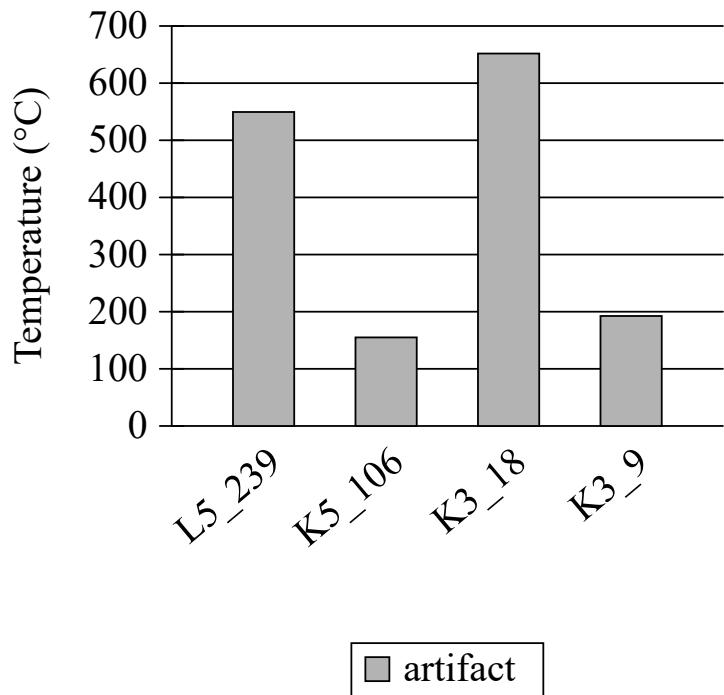
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7edfb2c5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 7edfb2c5

Estimated Temperatures to which  
Evron Quarry Artifacts Were Exposed



 artifact

Flint artifacts dating to 800,000 to 1,000,000 years ago have been recovered from the Evron Quarry in Israel. Likely created by the hominin *Homo erectus*, the artifacts have no visual features suggesting that they were exposed to fire, leading some scholars to conclude that these hominins had not acquired control of fire. But Zane Stepka and colleagues recently used a new method to determine whether these artifacts had been exposed to temperatures above 400°C (the typical temperature campfires reach) and concluded that the hominins who inhabited the site may have had control of fire.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support the team's conclusion?

- A. Artifacts K5\_106 and K3\_9 were exposed to temperatures above 400°C.
- B. Artifacts L5\_239 and K3\_18 were exposed to temperatures of approximately 550°C and 650°C, respectively.
- C. All of the artifacts were exposed to temperatures above 100°C.
- D. Artifact K3\_9 was exposed to a higher temperature than was artifact K5\_106.

ID: 7edfb2c5 Answer

**Correct Answer: B**

**Rationale**

Choice B is the best answer. Campfires typically reach over 400°C, so human artifacts that were exposed to temperatures higher than this may indicate some human control over fire.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. Neither artifact K3\_9 nor K5\_106 was exposed to temperatures above even 200°C. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the claim. Campfires typically reach over 400°C, so exposure to temperatures of 100°C wouldn't demonstrate exposure to fire. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the claim. Both artifacts K3\_9 and K5\_106 were exposed to temperatures of less than 200°C. Since campfires typically reach over 400°C, this wouldn't demonstrate exposure to fire.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 0c622cfb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 0c622cfb

Although it's clear that Mars once had liquid water on its surface, astronomers have debated whether the evidence of ancient water reflects a prolonged phase of warm, wet conditions—the so-called wet and warm scenario—or a brief period of melting in an otherwise consistently frozen environment. Researchers Benjamin T. Cardenas and Michael P. Lamb recently added to this debate by using data from NASA and the Mars Orbiter Laser Altimeter to map the topography of what is now a large basin in Mars's northern hemisphere. Cardenas and Lamb concluded that the wet and warm scenario is likely correct.

Which finding about the basin, if true, would most directly support Cardenas and Lamb's conclusion?

- A. Its dimensions and shape indicate that it is unlikely to have formed as the result of an asteroid or comet impact.
- B. It has features suggesting that it once held an ocean that underwent gradual sea-level changes over an extended time.
- C. liquid water.
- D. It is surrounded by channels that could have been formed either by running water or by flowing lava.

## ID: 0c622cfb Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice provides direct support for the researchers' conclusion. If the basin once held an ocean of liquid water for "an extended time," that supports the "wet and warm scenario" on Mars, which involved a "prolonged" period of temperate conditions (and not just a "brief period of melting").

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't provide support for the researchers' conclusions. The dimensions of the basin have little bearing on whether or not it was filled with liquid water, and for how long, and that's the evidence that would support the "wet and warm" theory. Similarly, whether or not the basin was formed by an asteroid or a comet is irrelevant to the question of whether or not there was water in the basin for a long period. Choice C is incorrect. This choice does not provide support for the researchers' conclusions, but rather the opposite. A "massive but short lived influx" of liquid water is not the same as a "prolonged phase of warm, wet conditions." It more reflects the opposing theory, a "brief period of melting." Choice D is incorrect. This choice does not support Cardenas and Lamb's conclusion. Both theories about liquid water on Mars ("wet and warm" and "brief period of melting") involve flowing water, but lava isn't mentioned at all in the text. Therefore, this choice doesn't provide exclusive support for either theory.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5fb6ed10

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 5fb6ed10

*The Land of Enchantment* is a 1906 travel book by Lilian Whiting. In the book, which describes the experience of traveling through the southwestern United States by train, Whiting reflects on the escape from everyday life that such a journey provides: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from *The Land of Enchantment* most effectively illustrates the claim?

"The opportunities and advantages already offered and constantly increasing are greater than would at first be A. considered possible."

"The social and the picturesque charm of the long journey is singularly enhanced by the leisurely stops made for B. refreshment."

"The real journey begins, of course, at Chicago, and as these trains leave in the evening the traveller fares forth in the C. seclusion of his berth."

D. "One experiences a certain sense of detachment from ordinary day and daylight duties that is exhilarating."

## ID: 5fb6ed10 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because. This quotation specifically describes a "sense of detachment from ordinary day," which matches the claim's focus on "escape from everyday life."

Choice A is incorrect. While this quotation describes new opportunities associated with Whiting's experience, it doesn't frame these opportunities as "an escape," and it doesn't directly compare Whiting's journey with "everyday life." Choice B is incorrect. While this quotation includes a positive characterization of Whiting's journey, it doesn't specifically address the idea of an "escape from everyday life," which is the focus of the claim. Choice C is incorrect. This quotation focuses on where the journey begins, not on how it feels like an "escape from everyday life."

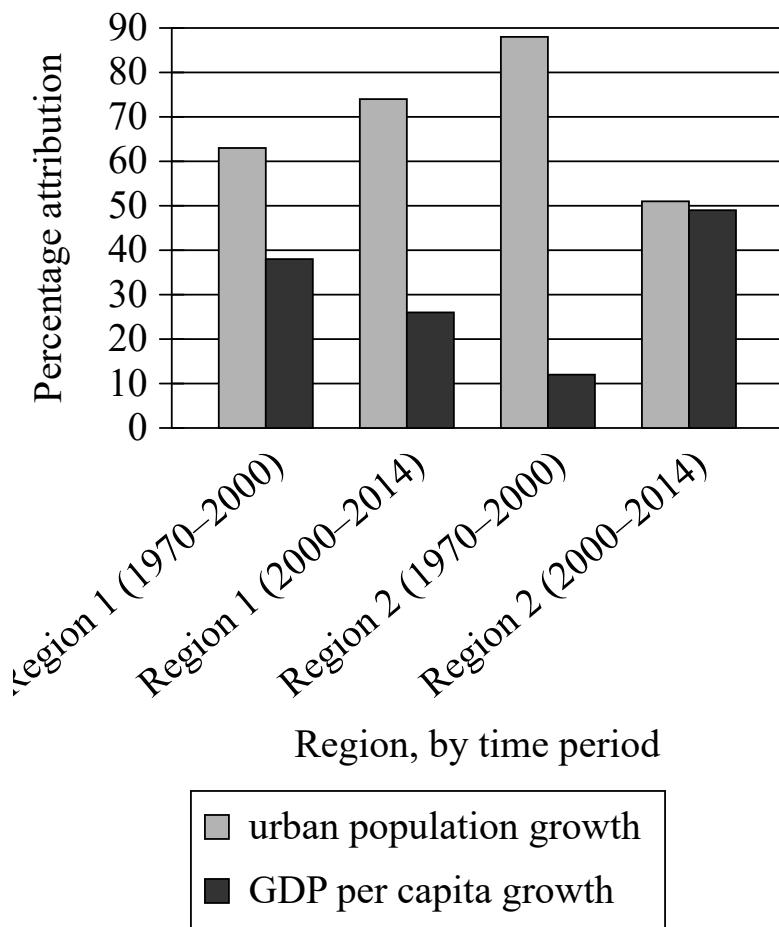
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a16128e2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: a16128e2

Percentage of ULE Attributed to Population Growth and GDP per Capita Growth in Two World Regions



In a study of urban physical expansion, Richa Mahtta et al. conducted a meta-analysis of more than 300 cities worldwide to determine whether urban land expansion (ULE) was more strongly influenced by urban population growth or by growth in gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, a measure of economic activity. Because efficient national government is necessary to provide urban services and infrastructure that attract economic investment, Mahtta et al. propose that absent other factors, the importance of GDP per capita growth to ULE would likely increase relative to the importance of population growth as governments become more efficient. If true, this suggests the possibility that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement?

A. national governments of countries in Region 1 experienced declines in efficiency in the period from 2000 to 2014, relative to the period from 1970 to 2000.

B. Region 2 did, despite increasing national government efficiency in Region 1.

national governments of most countries in Region 2 became more efficient in the period from 2000 to 2014 than they C. had been in the period from 1970 to 2000, but those of several countries in this region did not.

national governments of countries in Region 1 and in Region 2 generally became more efficient in the period from 2000 D. to 2014 than they had been in the period from 1970 to 2000, but at different rates.

### ID: a16128e2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

#### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement about Mahtta et al.'s proposal regarding factors that affect urban land expansion (ULE). According to the text, ULE is influenced by urban population growth and by gross domestic product (GDP) growth per capita. Reasoning that efficient national governments provide urban services and infrastructure needed to attract economic investment, Mahtta et al. suggest that, as governments become more efficient at providing urban services and infrastructure, GDP growth per capita will account for more ULE and urban population growth will account for less. But according to the graph, Region 1 saw an increase in the percentage attributed to urban population growth from 1970–2000 (between 60 and 65%) to 2000–2014 (between 70 and 75%) and a decrease in the percentage attributed to GDP growth per capita from 1970–2000 (between 35 and 40%) to 2000–2014 (about 25%). Because the percentage attributed to GDP growth per capita decreased (the opposite of what Mahtta et al. claimed would happen if the governments had become more efficient), the data suggest that the governments of Region 1 became less efficient at providing urban services and infrastructure over that period.

Choice B is incorrect. Neither the graph nor the text gives the regions' relative levels of economic growth or what effect Mahtta et al. would expect such growth to have. Furthermore, Mahtta et al.'s proposal suggests that Region 1's decline in the percentage of ULE attributed to GDP growth per capita from 1970–2000 (between 35 and 40%) to 2000–2014 (about 25%) would suggest decreasing, not increasing, government efficiency over this time. Choice C is incorrect. Neither the text nor the graph provides information about the relative efficiencies of different governments in Region 2. Choice D is incorrect. Mahtta et al.'s proposal suggests that more efficient governments will have a higher percentage of their ULE driven by GDP growth per capita and a lower percentage driven by urban population growth. For Region 2, the percentage of ULE attributed to GDP growth per capita increased from 1970–2000 (between 10 and 15%) to 2000–2014 (between 45 and 50%), but the opposite is true for Region 1, which saw the percentage of ULE attributed to GDP growth per capita decline over the same period. Thus, whereas the data suggest governments in Region 2 became more efficient, the data for Region 1 suggest that those governments became less efficient, not more.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 9731a22b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 9731a22b

Paleontologist Lucas E. Fiorelli and colleagues have reported the discovery at a mine in Brazil of several egg clutches, partially preserved single eggs, and egg shells from the Late Cretaceous period. The researchers have concluded that the area was once a nesting and breeding site for titanosaurs, a group of sauropod dinosaurs. The finding is significant given the previous lack of known nesting sites in northern regions of South America, which led many paleontologists to assume that titanosaurs migrated south to lay eggs.

What does the text most strongly suggest about the site discovered by the researchers?

- A. It is the earliest known example of a titanosaur nesting and breeding site.
- B. It was very difficult to excavate given that it was discovered in a mine.
- C. It may have been occupied by other sauropods in addition to titanosaurs.
- D. It is farther north than any other nesting site discovered in South America.

## ID: 9731a22b Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about the site discovered by the researchers that is supported by the text. The text discusses Fiorelli and colleagues' discovery of egg clutches, single eggs, and eggshells in a Brazilian mine. According to the text, the presence of these eggs, which are from the Late Cretaceous period, led the researchers to conclude that the location was once a nesting and breeding site for titanosaurs. The text then explains that the finding is important because of the "previous lack of known nesting sites in northern regions of South America." If there haven't been any other discoveries of a nesting site in South America's northern regions and the site in the Brazilian mine is the first, then the text strongly suggests that the site is farther north than other nesting sites that have been discovered in South America.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the site discovered by Fiorelli and colleagues is the earliest titanosaur nesting and breeding site known to paleontologists but rather that it's the first nesting site found in northern regions of South America. Moreover, the text doesn't suggest how the timeline of the newly discovered site compares with that of other titanosaur nesting and breeding sites. Choice B is incorrect because there is no mention in the text about any difficulties that Fiorelli and colleagues faced when they were excavating the nesting and breeding site in the Brazilian mine. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't support the idea that the nesting and breeding site in the Brazilian mine was occupied by sauropods other than titanosaurs. The text simply mentions that titanosaurs are sauropod dinosaurs and presents the researchers' conclusion that the site they discovered was for titanosaurs.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID db876fd5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

**ID: db876fd5**

Songbirds learn to respond to and imitate their species' songs from an early age. With each generation, small differences are introduced that result in distinct variations—called dialects—among geographically isolated populations of the same species. A research study examined whether twelve-day-old *Ficedula hypoleuca* (pied flycatcher) nestlings prefer local dialects over the unfamiliar dialects of nonlocal *F. hypoleuca* populations: the more begging calls the nestlings made in response to a song, the stronger their preference. The researchers found that nestlings produced more begging calls in response to their own dialect than to nonlocal dialects. Since song preference plays a role in songbird mate selection, the finding suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings' preference for their own dialect likely disappears as they mature to promote socialization between different *F. hypoleuca* populations.

B. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings who show an early preference for their own dialect are likely to receive more food from their caretakers than nestlings who show no preferences among any *F. hypoleuca* dialects.

C. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings' preference for their own dialect likely drives them when they mature to reproduce with other *F. hypoleuca* from local rather than nonlocal populations.

D. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings show a preference for both local *F. hypoleuca* dialects and the songs of other local songbirds over the songs of nonlocal birds of any species.

**ID: db876fd5 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. Because “song preference plays a role in songbird mate selection,” and because *F. hypoleuca* nestlings display a preference for local dialects, we can infer that they will be more likely to choose mates from local populations.

Choice A is incorrect. We don’t have any information suggesting that this preference disappears, so there’s no basis for this inference. Choice B is incorrect. Although the passage discusses the number of begging calls made in response to various *F. hypoleuca* dialects, no mention is made about the amount of food received based on dialect preference. Therefore, there’s no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. There’s no mention in the passage of methods of other types of local songbirds, so there’s no basis for this inference.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 09f9edb0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 09f9edb0

In the 1980s, many musicians and journalists in the English-speaking world began to draw attention to music from around the globe—such as mbaqanga from South Africa and quan họ from Vietnam—that can't be easily categorized according to British or North American popular music genres, typically referring to such music as “world music.” While some scholars have welcomed this development for bringing diverse musical forms to prominence in countries where they'd previously been overlooked, musicologist Su Zheng claims that the concept of world music homogenizes highly distinct traditions by reducing them all to a single category.

Which finding about mbaqanga and quan họ, if true, would most directly support Zheng's claim?

- A. Mbaqanga and quan họ developed independently of each other and have little in common musically.
- B. Mbaqanga is significantly more popular in the English-speaking world than quan họ is.

Mbaqanga and quan họ are now performed by a diverse array of musicians with no direct connections to South Africa or C. Vietnam.

Mbaqanga and quan họ are highly distinct from British and North American popular music genres but similar to each D. other.

## ID: 09f9edb0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Zheng's claim is that the idea of world music “homogenizes” (meaning makes similar) distinct kinds of music by reducing them to one category. In other words, Zheng thinks the concept of world music is a harmful oversimplification of diverse musical forms. To support this claim, we need evidence that these musical traditions are so different from one another that they should not fall into the same category. If it's true that mbaqanga and quan họ developed separately and have little in common musically, then it wouldn't make sense to lump them into the same category.

Choice B is incorrect. If true, this wouldn't affect the claim. To support the claim, we need evidence that these musical traditions are so different from one another that they should not fall into the same category. A difference in popularity doesn't necessarily mean that the two musical traditions shouldn't be categorized together: instead, we need to know if the music itself is similar or different. Choice C is incorrect. If true, this wouldn't affect the claim. To support the claim, we need evidence that these musical traditions are so different from each other that they should not fall into the same category. This choice doesn't do that. Choice D is incorrect. If true, this would actually weaken the claim. Zheng thinks it's reductive or oversimplifying to put distinct musical traditions into a single category. But if mbaqanga and quan họ are similar to each other, then it would make sense to put them in the same category.

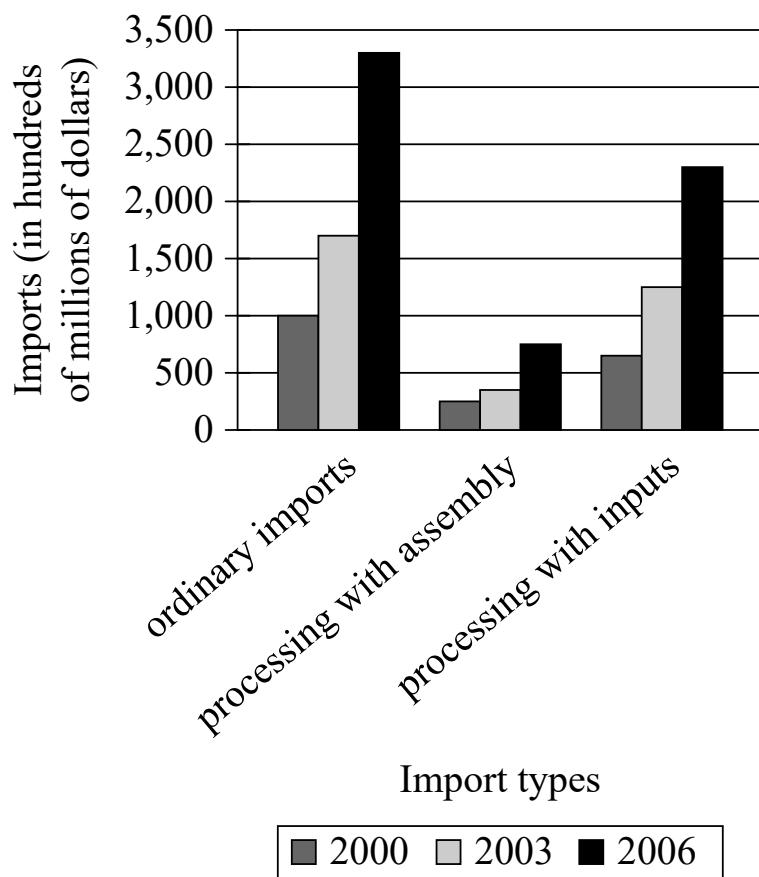
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID da438257

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ ■

ID: da438257

China's Imports by Type, 2000–2006



A student is researching the Chinese government's 1992 shift to a market economy that emphasizes trade liberalization. One means of trade liberalization involves expanding from ordinary imports into an emphasis on processing imports, which have two types: processing with assembly (in which a firm obtains raw materials from a foreign trading partner without payment and sells the final goods to that partner, charging for assembly) and processing with inputs (in which a firm expends capital to buy raw materials from a trading partner, processes them into final goods, and sells those goods to whichever trading partner it chooses). The student asserts that while initial efforts at trade liberalization were shaped by Chinese firms' limited capital, this situation resolved during the 2000s.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support the student's assertion?

- A. Processing imports with inputs were greater than both ordinary imports and processing imports with assembly in 2006.
- B. From 2000 to 2006, processing imports with inputs rose much more sharply than processing imports with assembly did.

From 2000 to 2006, neither processing imports with inputs nor processing imports with assembly were greater than ordinary imports.

- D. Processing imports with assembly were greater in 2006 than processing imports with inputs in 2000.

**Correct Answer:** B

**Rationale**

Choice B is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that best support the student's assertion that initial efforts at trade liberalization in China were shaped by firms having limited capital (assets available for use) and that this situation resolved during the 2000s. The text explains that an approach to trade liberalization involves engaging in processing imports, one type of which doesn't require payment to a trade partner (processing with assembly) and one type of which requires upfront payment to a trade partner for raw materials (processing with inputs). The graph, which presents China's imports for ordinary imports and both types of processing imports in the years 2000, 2003, and 2006, shows that while processing imports with assembly rose from about 250 hundred million dollars in 2000 to about 750 hundred million dollars in 2006, processing imports with inputs rose much more sharply, increasing from approximately 650 hundred million dollars in 2000 to about 2,300 hundred million dollars in 2006. Because processing with inputs requires firms to pay for materials (expending capital) and processing with assembly doesn't, the sharper rise in processing imports with inputs suggests that Chinese firms' assets—and thus their ability to engage in that type of processing imports—were relatively limited in (and before) 2000 and then substantially increased from 2000 to 2006. In other words, the data suggest that the situation of having limited capital resolved during the 2000s.

Choice A is incorrect because the graph indicates that ordinary imports were greater than both types of processing imports in 2006, not that processing imports with inputs were greater than ordinary imports and processing imports with assembly that year. Choice C is incorrect because the observation that ordinary imports were greater than both types of processing imports in 2000, 2003, and 2006 doesn't address a change within any type of imports from 2000 to 2006, and an indication of a change in that period that might be related to the availability of assets is needed to support the assertion that the situation of having limited capital resolved during the 2000s. Choice D is incorrect because the fact that processing imports with assembly were greater at the end of the period from 2000 to 2006 than processing imports with inputs were at the start of the same period doesn't address a change within either type of imports during the period, and an indication of such a change that might be related to the availability of assets is needed to support the assertion that the situation of having limited capital resolved during the 2000s.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f39507a3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: f39507a3

One challenge when researching whether holding elected office changes a person's behavior is the problem of ensuring that the experiment has an appropriate control group. To reveal the effect of holding office, researchers must compare people who hold elected office with people who do not hold office but who are otherwise similar to the office-holders. Since researchers are unable to control which politicians win elections, they therefore \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. struggle to find valid data about the behavior of politicians who do not currently hold office.
- B. can only conduct valid studies with people who have previously held office rather than people who presently hold office.
- C. should select a control group of people who differ from office-holders in several significant ways.
- D. will find it difficult to identify a group of people who can function as an appropriate control group for their studies.

## ID: f39507a3 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of the challenge researchers face when studying the effects of holding elected office on a person's behavior. The text explains that it's hard for researchers to test for the effects that elected office has on people because finding people to serve as a control group is difficult. The text indicates that a control group needs to be made up of people who share characteristics of the group being tested but don't have the variable being tested (in this case, holding elected office). Because researchers aren't able to influence who wins elections, they're also unable to determine who would serve as an appropriately similar member of a control group. Thus, it logically follows that researchers will find it difficult to identify a group of people who can function as an appropriate control group for their studies.

Choice A is incorrect because the text focuses on the struggle to put together a control group for experiments; it doesn't suggest that finding information about politicians' behavior is difficult. Choice B is incorrect because the experiments mentioned in the text are testing the effects of holding elected office on a person's behavior. Studying people who have already held elected office wouldn't provide an opportunity to note any behavioral changes that the position might cause. Choice C is incorrect because the text defines people in a control group as those "who are otherwise similar to the office-holders"; selecting people who differ from the office-holders wouldn't fit the criteria for an appropriate control group.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5325b3cc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 5325b3cc

Philadelphia's Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra, founded by Jeri Lynne Johnson, performs classical music, from well-known compositions by Beethoven to contemporary works by Jessie Montgomery. For the orchestra's iConduct! program, Johnson invites community members to learn some basic elements of conducting and then experience conducting the Black Pearl orchestra themselves.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- The Black Pearl orchestra performs music from all over the world but mostly performs music composed by  
A. Philadelphians.
- B. Johnson founded the Black Pearl orchestra to perform classical music by contemporary artist Jessie Montgomery.
- The Black Pearl orchestra gives community members the chance to both listen to and participate in classical music  
C. performance.
- D. Johnson has community members conduct an orchestra to demonstrate how difficult the task is.

## ID: 5325b3cc Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by stating that the Black Pearl orchestra performs classical music, and then goes on to explain that the orchestra offers an iConduct! program. According to the text, this program offers community members the opportunity to learn some basics about conducting and then apply what they learn by conducting the orchestra themselves. Thus, the main idea of the text is that community members can both listen to and participate in a classical music performance.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text states that the Black Pearl orchestra is based in Philadelphia, it doesn't indicate that most of the music it plays was composed by Philadelphians. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text does state that Johnson founded the Black Pearl orchestra, this is just a detail and not the main focus of the text. Moreover, while the text does say that the orchestra sometimes plays music by Montgomery, it doesn't assert that the orchestra was founded solely for the purpose of performing Montgomery's work. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text explains that community members are invited to conduct the Black Pearl orchestra after participating in the iConduct! program, the text doesn't indicate that Johnson allows community members to do this for the specific purpose of showing how difficult the task is.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 70aacc03

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 70aacc03

Elizabeth Asiedu has identified a negative correlation between the share of developing countries' economies derived from natural-resource extraction and those countries' receipts of foreign investment. This may appear counterintuitive—resource extraction requires initial investments (in extractive technology, for instance) at scales best met by multinational corporations—but Asiedu notes that natural-resource industries' boom-bust cycle can destabilize local currencies and increase developing countries' vulnerability to external shocks, creating levels of uncertainty to which foreign investors are typically averse.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

Although it may seem surprising that foreign investment declines in developing countries as natural-resource extraction makes up a larger share of those countries' economies, that decline happens because resource extraction requires initial

- A. investments too large for foreign investors to supply.

Although developing countries tend to become less dependent on foreign investment as natural-resource industries make up a larger share of their economies, this change may not occur if the boom-bust cycle of those industries

- B. destabilizes local currencies or increases countries' vulnerability to external shocks.

Although one might expect that foreign investment would increase as natural-resource extraction makes up a larger share of developing countries' economies, the opposite happens because heavy reliance on natural resources can lead to

- C. unattractive conditions for investors.

Although foreign investors tend to avoid initial investments in natural-resource industries in developing countries, foreign

- D. investment may increase significantly as those industries stabilize and the risks associated with them decline.

## ID: 70aacc03 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it accurately states the main idea of the text. According to the text, contrary to what some might expect, foreign investment is typically lower in developing countries whose economies are more dependent on natural-resource extraction. The text explains that high reliance on natural-resource extraction can subject a developing country to economic shocks that can destabilize the local currency and introduce economic uncertainty that tends to keep investors away. In other words, although we may think otherwise, foreign investors are less willing to invest in projects in developing countries whose economies are heavily dependent on natural-resource extraction because those economies tend to exhibit instability that investors want to avoid.

Choice A is incorrect. The text does indicate that foreign investment is typically lower in developing countries whose economies are more dependent on natural-resource extraction; the text further indicates that natural-resource extraction requires substantial initial investments (to acquire things like required technologies) for which there are fewer investors willing to participate at this stage than one might think. But the text does not implicate the cost of these initial investments as a reason why foreign investment is less widely available than some might think. Choice B is incorrect. The text indicates that greater dependence on natural-resource extraction makes a developing country less appealing to foreign investors because of associated economic instability. Rather than arguing that the goal of developing countries is to become less dependent on foreign investment, as the phrasing of choice B suggests, the text focuses only on why foreign investors become less involved with such countries, which suggests that more investment would be preferable. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text indicates that natural-resource extraction requires substantial initial investments (to acquire things like required technologies) and that there are fewer likely investors willing to participate at this stage than one might think, the text does not address what investors are likely to do over time as the industry stabilizes itself.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 57303718

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 57303718

"Looking Back on Girlhood" is an 1892 short story by Sarah Orne Jewett. In the story, the narrator explains that she prefers her hometown to other places she has visited: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from "Looking Back on Girlhood" most effectively illustrates this claim?

A. "There is always something fresh, something to be traced or discovered, something particularly to be remembered."

B. "Two large rivers join just below the village at the head of tide-water, and these, with the great inflow from the sea, make a magnificent stream, bordered by lovely green fields that slope gently to long lines of willows at the water's edge."

C. "I have had a good deal of journeying in my life, and taken great delight in it, but I have never taken greater delight than in my rides and drives and tramps and voyages within the borders of my native town."

D. "There is never-ending pleasure in making one's self familiar with such a region."

## ID: 57303718 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that the narrator prefers her hometown to other places she has visited. In the quotation, the narrator compares how she feels about places she has traveled to how she feels about the town she's from. The narrator states that although the many journeys she has made in her lifetime have brought her much pleasure, she has gained the most enjoyment from her experiences inside the borders of her hometown.

Choice A is incorrect because it doesn't express that the narrator likes her hometown better than other places she has visited; instead, the quotation describes something unspecified in positive terms, saying it continues to offer new things to explore and remember. Choice B is incorrect. Although the quotation praises a landscape surrounding a village, it doesn't specify that this village is the narrator's hometown, nor does it express a preference for this village over other places the narrator has visited. Choice D is incorrect. Although the quotation describes enjoyment from getting to know a region, it doesn't compare the narrator's feelings for this region with her feelings for her hometown.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c538954d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: c538954d

*Sense and Sensibility* is an 1811 novel by Jane Austen. In the novel, Austen describes Marianne Dashwood's ability to persuade others of the rightness of her artistic judgments, as is evident when Marianne visits with John Willoughby, a potential suitor: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from *Sense and Sensibility* most effectively illustrates the claim?

"Above all, when she heard him declare, that of music and dancing he was passionately fond, she gave him such a look of A. approbation as secured the largest share of his discourse to herself for the rest of his stay."

"Their taste was strikingly alike. The same books, the same passages were idolized by each—or if any difference appeared, any objection arose, it lasted no longer than till the force of her arguments and the brightness of her eyes B. could be displayed."

"It was only necessary to mention any favourite amusement to engage her to talk. She could not be silent when such C. points were introduced, and she had neither shyness nor reserve in their discussion."

"They speedily discovered that their enjoyment of dancing and music was mutual, and that it arose from a general conformity of judgment in all that related to either. Encouraged by this to a further examination of his opinions, she D. proceeded to question him on the subject of books."

## ID: c538954d Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. By showing that "any difference" in taste was quickly overcome by "the force of [Marianne's] arguments," this choice effectively demonstrates Marianne's "ability to persuade others."

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't effectively illustrate the claim. This choice shows that Marianne and John share an interest in music and dancing, but it doesn't provide evidence of Marianne's "ability to persuade others." Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't effectively illustrate the claim. This choice shows that Marianne enjoys talking about her interests, but it doesn't provide evidence of Marianne's "ability to persuade others." Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't effectively illustrate the claim. This choice shows that Marianne and John share many interests and generally agree on music and dancing, but it doesn't provide evidence of Marianne's "ability to persuade others."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f9bd4e61

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: f9bd4e61

German theater practitioner Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956) believed that theater should elicit an intellectual rather than an emotional response from audiences, provoking them to consider social and political realities that extend beyond the characters and events depicted onstage. Brecht's influence can be seen in English playwright Caryl Churchill's 1979 play *Cloud 9*: although the play sometimes invites empathetic reactions, it primarily works to engage audiences in an interrogation of patriarchy and colonialism, which it does by placing audiences at a distance, thereby encouraging them to

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. focus on the characters' beliefs about social and political issues as revealed by the characters' actions.
- B. reflect on social and political phenomena not directly related to patriarchy and colonialism.
  - recognize pertinent social and political parallels between Germany during Brecht's time and England at the time when C. Churchill was writing *Cloud 9*.
- D. be dispassionate as they think critically about the social and political questions raised by the play.

## ID: f9bd4e61 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Churchill's play was influenced by Brecht's belief that theater should elicit an intellectual rather than an emotional response from audiences, making them think about social and political issues that also exist outside of the play. Therefore, it makes sense that Churchill would strive to have audiences think dispassionately (i.e., without emotion) and critically about the social and political questions raised by the play.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage mentions that Churchill was influenced by Brecht's belief that plays should provoke audience members "to consider social and political realities that extend beyond the characters and events depicted onstage," so there's no basis for an inference about audience members deeply engaging with characters' beliefs and actions. Choice B is incorrect. Reflecting on things that aren't related to patriarchy and colonialism wouldn't "engage audiences in an interrogation of patriarchy and colonialism." That creates a confusing contradiction. Choice C is incorrect. No mention is made of social and political issues in Germany during Brecht's time, so there's no basis for this inference.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f7bd14de

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: f7bd14de

Several scholars have argued that conditions in England in the late ninth through early eleventh centuries—namely, burgeoning literacy amid running conflicts between England's Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and Danish invaders—were especially conducive to the production of the Old English epic poem *Beowulf*, and they have dated the poem's composition accordingly. It is not inconceivable that *Beowulf* emerged from such a context, but privileging contextual fit over the linguistic evidence of an eighth- or even seventh-century composition requires a level of justification that thus far has not been presented.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

Although there are some grounds for believing that *Beowulf* was composed between the late ninth and early eleventh centuries, advocates for that view tend to rely on evidence that has been called into question by advocates for an earlier A. date.

Although several scholars have dated *Beowulf* to the late ninth through early eleventh centuries, others have argued that B. doing so privileges a controversial interpretation of the social conditions of the period.

Although *Beowulf* fits well with the historical context of England in the late ninth through early eleventh centuries, it fits C. equally well with the historical context of England in the seventh and eighth centuries.

Although the claim of a late ninth- through early eleventh-century composition date for *Beowulf* has some plausibility, D. advocates for the claim have not compellingly addressed evidence suggesting an earlier date.

## ID: f7bd14de Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text states that some scholars have dated the composition of *Beowulf* to the late ninth through early eleventh centuries due to the poem's fit with that period's historical context. The text goes on to say that while it is "not inconceivable that *Beowulf* emerged from such a context"—that is, it is possible that *Beowulf* was composed during the late ninth through eleventh centuries—there is linguistic evidence that the poem was composed earlier, in the seventh or eighth century. According to the text, favoring the historical context over the linguistic evidence requires justification that scholars have not yet supplied. In other words, the text suggests that scholars who favor the later composition date need to explain why the poem's fit with historical context should take precedence over the linguistic evidence, but they have not yet done so. Thus, the main idea of the text is that while there is some plausibility to the later composition date, advocates for the later date have not compellingly addressed evidence suggestive of an earlier date.

Choice A is incorrect because the text says that scholars who date the poem to the late ninth through early eleventh centuries have failed to account for the linguistic evidence that the poem may have been composed earlier, not that the evidence those scholars cite in favor of their view is unreliable or that anyone has cast doubt on that evidence. In other words, the text does not suggest that there are problems with the evidence cited by advocates of the later composition date, only that there is other evidence of an earlier composition date that those advocates need to consider. Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that those scholars who date the poem to the late ninth through early eleventh centuries are giving priority to a controversial view of the social conditions at that time. The text makes no reference to any controversy about how scholars interpret that historical period. Instead, the text suggests that scholars who date the poem on the basis of its fit with the historical context of England in the late ninth through early eleventh centuries have failed to account for linguistic evidence that the poem may have been composed earlier. Choice C is incorrect because the text says nothing about how well the poem fits the historical context of England in the seventh and eighth centuries, let alone that it fits that historical context as well as it fits the historical context of the late ninth through early eleventh centuries. Rather, the text says that there is linguistic evidence that the poem may have been composed in the seventh or eighth century.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3fc06a91

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 3fc06a91

Employment by Sector in France and the United States, 1800–2012 (% of total employment)

Year	Agriculture in France	Manufacturing in France	Services in France	Agriculture in US	Manufacturing in US	Services in US
1800	64	22	14	68	18	13
1900	43	29	28	41	28	31
1950	32	33	35	14	33	53
2012	3	21	76	2	18	80

Rows in table may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Over the past two hundred years, the percentage of the population employed in the agricultural sector has declined in both France and the United States, while employment in the service sector (which includes jobs in retail, consulting, real estate, etc.) has risen. However, this transition happened at very different rates in the two countries. This can be seen most clearly by comparing the employment by sector in both countries in \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. 1900 with the employment by sector in 1950.
- B. 1800 with the employment by sector in 2012.
- C. 1900 with the employment by sector in 2012.
- D. 1800 with the employment by sector in 1900.

ID: 3fc06a91 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents data from the table that most effectively complete the statement about the rates at which employment shifted in France and the United States. The text states that over the last two hundred years employment in the agricultural sector has declined while employment in the service sector has risen in both France and the US, and the data from the table reflect these trends. The text asserts, however, that the transition from agriculture to services "happened at very different rates in the two countries." This assertion is best supported by a comparison of data from 1900 and 1950: the table shows that in those years, employment in agriculture went from 43% to 32% in France (a decline of 11 percentage points) and from 41% to 14% in the US (a decline of 27 percentage points), and that employment in services went from 28% to 35% in France (an increase of 7 percentage points) and from 31% to 53% in the US (an increase of 22 percentage points). In other words, the rate of change was greater in the US than in France for both sectors.

Choice B is incorrect because comparing the data for 1800 and 2012 would suggest a similar rate of change in the two countries, not very different rates: employment in agriculture went from 64% in 1800 to 3% in 2012 in France, which is close to the change from 68% in 1800 to 2% in 2012 in the US, while employment in services went from 14% in 1800 to 76% in 2012 in France, which is close to the change from 13% in 1800 to 80% in 2012 in the US. Choice C is incorrect because comparing the data for 1900 and 2012 would suggest a similar rate of change in the two countries rather than very different rates: employment in agriculture went from 43% in 1900 to 3% in 2012 in France, which is close to the change from 41% in 1900 to 2% in 2012 in the US, while employment in services went from 28% in 1900 to 76% in 2012 in France, which is close to the change from 31% in 1900 to 80% in 2012 in the US. Choice D is incorrect because comparing the data for 1800 and 1900 would suggest a similar rate of change in the two countries, not very different rates: employment in agriculture went from 64% in 1800 to 43% in 1900 in France, which is fairly close to the change from 68% in 1800 to 41% in 1900 in the US, while employment in services went from 14% in 1800 to 28% in 1900 in France, which is close to the change from 13% in 1800 to 31% in 1900 in the US.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 96802cc0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 96802cc0

For centuries, the widespread acknowledgment of the involvement of the cerebellum—a dense brain structure in vertebrates—in coordinating motor control in humans has hindered recognition of other possible functions of the structure. Neuroscience research from the last two decades now suggests that the cerebellum regulates emotion and social behavior, and recent research by Ilaria Carta and colleagues has identified a pathway connecting the cerebellum to a center for motivation and reward processing known as the ventral tegmental area (VTA).

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

The recent verification of a pathway between the VTA and the cerebellum confirms the cerebellum's long-suspected role  
A. in motor coordination.

Recent advances in the field of neuroscience have challenged widely accepted claims about the function of a pathway  
B. connecting the VTA and the cerebellum.

The cerebellum has primarily been thought to regulate motor functioning, but in recent years neuroscience researchers  
C. have been uncovering additional functions.

Technological limitations have historically hindered the study of the cerebellum, but the recent development of new  
D. technologies has led to greater insights into its functions.

## ID: 96802cc0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text says that the cerebellum has long been thought to regulate motor functioning, but new research shows that it may also have other functions—including regulating emotion and social behavior and some connection to motivation and rewards processing.

Choice A is incorrect. The VTA is described as “a center for motivation and reward processing,” and the discovery of the pathway between the VTA and the cerebellum supports the theory that the cerebellum is involved in functions other than motor coordination. Choice B is incorrect. The text says that recent research has identified this pathway, but it doesn’t discuss any previous “widely accepted claims” about the pathway’s function. The “widespread acknowledgement” mentioned early in the passage is about the cerebellum alone, not its connection to the VTA. Choice D is incorrect. The text never discusses any technological limitations or any new technologies.

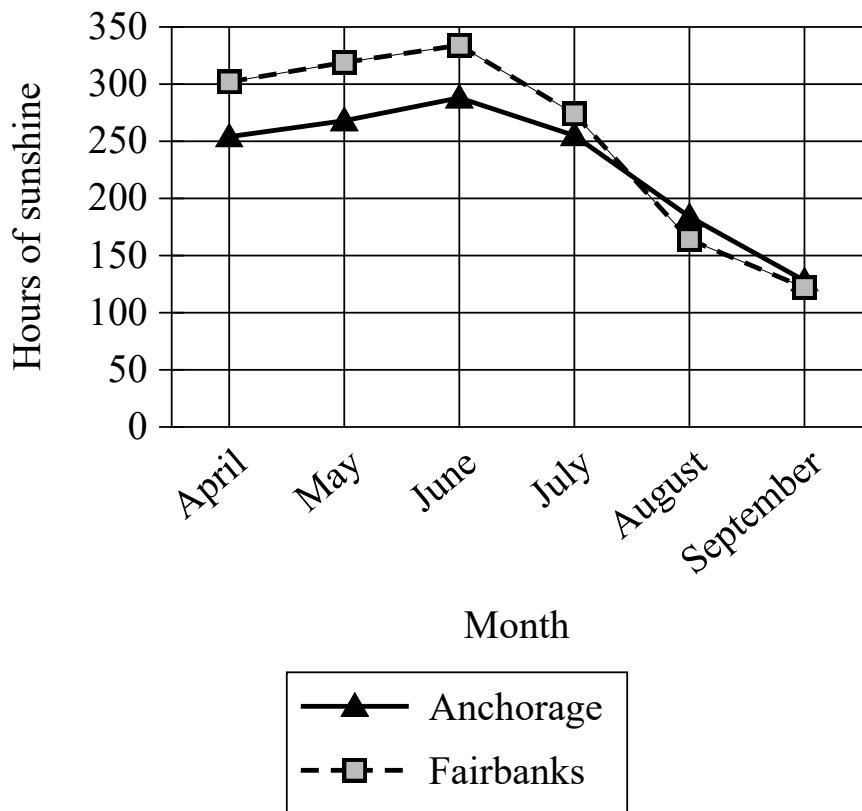
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8a668840

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 8a668840

Monthly Hours of Sunshine from April to September in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska



A student is researching monthly hours of sunshine in different cities in Alaska. When comparing trends in Anchorage and Fairbanks, the student concludes that the two cities show a similar pattern in the monthly hours of sunshine from April to September.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support the student's conclusion?

- The monthly hours of sunshine in both Anchorage and Fairbanks hold steady in June and July before beginning to decline in August.

- The monthly hours of sunshine in both Anchorage and Fairbanks increase from April to June and then decrease from June to September.

- Anchorage and Fairbanks both have less than 200 monthly hours of sunshine from April to September.

- Anchorage and Fairbanks both have more than 300 monthly hours of sunshine from April to June and less than 200 hours from July to September.

**Correct Answer:** B

**Rationale**

Choice B is the best answer because it best describes data from the graph that support the student's conclusion about weather patterns in Anchorage and Fairbanks. According to the graph, the amount of sunshine increases in both cities from April to June: in Anchorage, the number of monthly hours increases from about 250 to just under 300, and in Fairbanks the number of monthly hours increases from about 300 to just under 350. Also according to the graph, the amount of sunshine decreases in both cities from June to September: in Anchorage the number of monthly hours decreases from just under 300 to about 125, and in Fairbanks the number of monthly hours decreases from just under 350 to about 125. Thus, the monthly hours of sunshine in both cities follow a similar pattern, increasing from April to June and then decreasing from June to September.

Choice A is incorrect because, according to the graph, the monthly hours of sunshine in both Anchorage and Fairbanks decrease from June to July. They don't hold steady. In June there are slightly less than 300 hours of sunshine in Anchorage and slightly less than 350 hours in Fairbanks. Then, in July there are approximately 250 hours of sunshine in both cities. Choice C is incorrect because the graph shows that Anchorage and Fairbanks have less than 200 monthly hours of sunshine only in August and September. For the rest of the months represented in the graph, both cities have more than 200 monthly hours of sunshine. Choice D is incorrect because, according to the graph, Anchorage doesn't have more than 300 monthly hours of sunshine from April to June. In addition, both cities have more than 200 hours of sunshine in July, although the amount of sunshine does decrease to less than 200 monthly hours in August and September.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ec93e52c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: ec93e52c

Archaeologist Petra Vaiglova, anthropologist Xinyi Liu, and their colleagues investigated the domestication of farm animals in China during the Bronze Age (approximately 2000 to 1000 BCE). By analyzing the chemical composition of the bones of sheep, goats, and cattle from this era, the team determined that wild plants made up the bulk of sheep's and goats' diets, while the cattle's diet consisted largely of millet, a crop cultivated by humans. The team concluded that cattle were likely raised closer to human settlements, whereas sheep and goats were allowed to roam farther away.

Which finding, if true, would most strongly support the team's conclusion?

- A. Analysis of the animal bones showed that the cattle's diet also consisted of wheat, which humans widely cultivated in A. China during the Bronze Age.
- B. Further investigation of sheep and goat bones revealed that their diets consisted of small portions of millet as well.
- C. Cattle's diets generally require larger amounts of food and a greater variety of nutrients than do sheep's and goats' diets.
- D. The diets of sheep, goats, and cattle were found to vary based on what the farmers in each Bronze Age settlement could D. grow.

## ID: ec93e52c Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most strongly support the team's conclusion that cattle were likely raised closer to human settlements than sheep and goats were. The text explains that Vaiglova, Liu, and their colleagues analyzed the chemical composition of sheep, goat, and cattle bones from the Bronze Age in China in order to investigate the animals' domestication, or their adaptation from a wild state to a state in which they existed in close connection with humans. According to the text, the team's analysis showed that sheep and goats of the era fed largely on wild plants, whereas cattle fed on millet—importantly, a crop cultivated by humans. If analysis of the animal bones shows that the cattle's diet also consisted of wheat, another crop cultivated by humans in China during the Bronze Age, the finding would support the team's conclusion by offering additional evidence that cattle during this era fed on human-grown crops—and, by extension, that humans raised cattle relatively close to the settlements where they grew these crops, leaving goats and sheep to roam farther away in areas with wild vegetation, uncultivated by humans.

Choice B is incorrect because if it were true that sheep's and goats' diets consisted of small portions of millet, which the text states was a crop cultivated by humans, the finding would suggest that sheep and goats were raised relatively close to human settlements, weakening the team's conclusion that cattle were likely raised closer to those settlements than sheep and goats were. Choice C is incorrect because the finding that cattle generally require more food and nutrients than do sheep and goats wouldn't support the team's conclusion that cattle were likely raised closer to human settlements than sheep and goats were. Nothing in the text suggests that cattle were incapable of obtaining sufficient food and nutrients without access to human-grown crops. Hence, even if cattle's diets are found to have different requirements than the diets of sheep and goats, the cattle could have met those requirements from food located far from human settlements. Choice D is incorrect because if it were true that the diets of sheep, goats, and cattle varied based on what the farmers in each Bronze Age settlement could grow, the finding would weaken the team's conclusion that cattle were likely raised closer to human settlements than sheep and goats were, suggesting instead that all three types of animals were raised close enough to human settlements to feed on those settlements' crops.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 4889580c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 4889580c

Archaeologists and historians used to believe that the Maya civilization during its Classic period (roughly 250–900) lacked agricultural marketplaces. One reason for this belief was that these scholars misunderstood the ecology of the regions the Maya inhabited. Marketplaces typically emerge because different individuals or groups want to trade resources they control for resources they don't control. Scholars seriously underestimated the ecological diversity of the Maya landscape and thus assumed that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. marketplaces likely would not have attracted many traders from outside the regions controlled by the Maya.  
farming practices would have been largely the same throughout Maya lands even if the crops people produced varied
- B. significantly.
- C. marketplaces would not have enabled Maya people to acquire many products different from those they already produced.
- D. farmers would trade agricultural products only if they had already produced enough to meet their own needs.

## ID: 4889580c Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of scholars' understanding of Maya ecology and agricultural marketplaces. The text indicates that scholars used to believe that during the Classic period, the Maya civilization didn't have agricultural marketplaces. According to the text, scholars held this view because they misunderstood the ecology of areas where the Maya lived. The text points out that people tend to create marketplaces in order to acquire resources they don't otherwise control. Agricultural marketplaces would have allowed farmers who produced one type of crop to trade that crop for other types of crops that they didn't produce. The text goes on to say, however, that scholars underestimated the ecological diversity of the Maya areas, meaning that scholars thought that the Maya landscape produced a smaller range of resources than it actually produced. Taken together, then, this information suggests that scholars assumed that marketplaces wouldn't have allowed Maya people to acquire products different from the products they already produced: that is, if everyone produced the same array of crops, as scholars mistakenly believed, then there wouldn't have been any need for marketplaces where people could trade those crops.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't say anything about trade between the Maya and people from outside the regions controlled by the Maya. Although scholars' mistaken belief that the Maya lands weren't very ecologically diverse would give those scholars a reason to think that the Maya didn't have marketplaces, it wouldn't lead scholars to assume that traders from outside Maya lands were uninterested in acquiring resources produced by the Maya. Even if the Maya actually did produce only a small array of resources throughout their lands, there is no reason to believe from the text that people outside Maya lands also produced these same resources and thus would have no need to trade with the Maya people. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that scholars underestimated the ecological diversity of the Maya lands, which suggests that they mistakenly believed that the Maya produced a relatively small array of resources throughout their territory, not that the crops the Maya produced varied significantly throughout the Maya lands. Although the scholars might have assumed that a lack of ecological diversity suggests that Maya farming practices were largely the same everywhere, the text does not support that they also assumed there was a lot of variation in the crops that Maya people produced. In fact, the text states that marketplaces emerge when people want to obtain resources they don't already control. If it were the case that scholars assumed that the crops Maya people produced varied significantly, this would have led them to conclude that Maya people likely established marketplaces so they could trade for resources they didn't already possess, not that the Maya civilization lacked marketplaces. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that scholars assumed that farmers wouldn't trade their agricultural products unless they had already met their own needs with those products. Instead, the text says that scholars thought that the Maya lands produced a smaller array of resources than they actually did, which the text suggests led scholars to assume that the Maya didn't have any need for marketplaces. The scholars' mistaken belief has no bearing on the issue of whether farmers met their own needs before trading their products.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b7d51f84

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: b7d51f84

In West Africa, jalis have traditionally been keepers of information about family histories and records of important events. They have often served as teachers and advisers, too. New technologies may have changed some aspects of the role today, but jalis continue to be valued for knowing and protecting their peoples' stories.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Even though there have been some changes in their role, jalis continue to preserve their communities' histories.
- B. Although jalis have many roles, many of them like teaching best.
- C. Jalis have been entertaining the people within their communities for centuries.
- D. Technology can now do some of the things jalis used to be responsible for.

## ID: b7d51f84 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it best states the main idea of the text. According to the text, jalis' traditional role has been to maintain information about families' histories and significant events. The text goes on to say that although technological changes have altered jalis' role somewhat, jalis are still valued for preserving the histories of their communities.

Choice B is incorrect because the text says nothing about jalis' views of the various tasks they perform. There is no information to support the idea that many jalis prefer teaching to other tasks. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't describe jalis as being sources of entertainment. Rather, jalis are presented as valued sources of knowledge. Additionally, the text gives no indication of how long jalis have been serving their communities. Choice D is incorrect because the main focus of the text is on jalis' role and their continued value despite the effects of technology, not on what technology can now do. Although the text indicates that jalis' role has changed as a result of technological changes, the text doesn't present any specific information about technology performing tasks that jalis once performed.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID aa0968dd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: aa0968dd

Poetry in Classical Nahuatl, the language of the Aztec Empire, relies on *difrasismo*, or a parallel noun construction that conventionally operates as a single metaphor. For example, the common difrasismo *in cuauhtli in ocelotl* (literally, “the eagle, the jaguar”) signifies “warrior.” The device’s function is both formal—providing structure to lines of verse—and ritual: semantic relations among the two nouns and the concept they signify can be tenuous, as in the previous example, such that difrasismos are often only intelligible according to the conceptual associations observed in Aztec ceremonial culture.

Which statement about the difrasismo *in cuauhtli in ocelotl* is most strongly supported by the text?

- A. Its metaphorical significance derives from the semantic equivalence of the two nouns constituting the difrasismo.
- B. Its unintelligibility may cause its formal function within a line of verse to go unnoticed by present-day readers.
- C. Its apparent obscurity can be resolved when considered in the proper cultural context.
- D. Its frequency in Classical Nahuatl poetry confirms its intelligibility to the Aztec audience.

## ID: aa0968dd Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a statement about the difrasismo *in cuauhtli in ocelotl* that is directly supported by the text. The text begins by describing difrasismo, a device used in Classical Nahuatl poetry. The text then mentions the device’s two functions: a formal one (giving structure to lines of verse) and a ritualistic one. The text indicates that the relation between the words in a difrasismo may appear tenuous without the additional information supplied by Aztec ceremonial culture but that the meaning becomes intelligible in the context of that information. Therefore, the difrasismo’s apparent obscurity can be resolved when considered in the proper cultural context.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that the two nouns used in a difrasismo are semantically equivalent; instead, the text indicates that the two nouns used in a difrasismo make up a single metaphor whose meaning is often intelligible only in the context of information supplied by Aztec ceremonial culture. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that there’s a relationship between the formal function of the difrasismo and the difrasismo’s intelligibility. Additionally, the text suggests that present-day readers who are familiar with Aztec ceremonial culture wouldn’t find the difrasismo to be unintelligible. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that the frequency of difrasismo’s use in Classical Nahuatl is a necessary feature of intelligibility: the text indicates that an infrequently used difrasismo would presumably also be intelligible to members of an Aztec audience who are sufficiently familiar with Aztec ceremonial culture.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d0f51067

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: d0f51067

Modern dog breeds are largely the result of 160 years of owners crossbreeding certain dogs in order to select for particular physical appearances. Owners often say that some breeds are also more likely than others to have particular personality traits—basset hounds are affectionate; boxers are easy to train—but Kathleen Morrill and colleagues found through a combination of owner surveys and DNA sequencing of 2,000 dogs that while physical traits are predictably heritable among purebred dogs, behavior varies widely among dogs of the same breed.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Dog breeds would not exist without many years of human intervention in dogs' reproduction.
- B. Research fails to confirm a commonly held belief about dog breeds and behavior.
- C. The dog breeds most popular among owners have often changed over the past 160 years.
- D. A study of dog breeds is notable for its usage of both opinion surveys and DNA sequencing.

## ID: d0f51067 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text indicates that dog owners typically claim that some dog breeds are “more likely than others to have particular personality traits.” In other words, the text points out that a commonly held belief about dog breeds is that their personality traits are heritable. The text then states that Kathleen Morrill and colleagues undertook research about dog trait heritability and found that “behavior varies widely among dogs of the same breed.” Because Morrill and colleagues found evidence for variability rather than consistency in the behavior of dogs of the same breed, the statement that research fails to uphold a commonly held belief about dog breeds and behavior accurately reflects the main idea of the text.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text mentions that humans have long intervened in dogs' reproduction by intentionally crossbreeding certain dogs, it doesn't argue that such intervention is essential to the existence of dog breeds. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss the popularity of any dog breeds; breeds are mentioned as having certain traits, but the text says nothing about the popularity of these breeds or traits. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text briefly mentions that Morrill and colleagues conducted a study about dog traits using both surveys and DNA sequencing, this is not the main focus of the text. The text concerns the study's results about the heritability of dog traits, not the particular methodology used by Morrill and colleagues.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3cc2eacc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 3cc2eacc

In a study of the mechanisms underlying associative memory—or the ability to learn and remember connections between inherently unrelated things—neuroscientists Kei Igarashi, Jasmine Chavez, and others presented mice with memory tests. The team discovered that fan cells, a type of cell found in the medial temporal lobe of the brain, are necessary for the acquisition of new associative memories. They also found that fan cell activity requires dopamine, a chemical the brain produces in response to pleasure and rewards. Consequently, receiving a reward should likely help to \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. decrease an individual's capacity to utilize dopamine.
- B. increase an individual's capacity to recognize differences between unrelated things.
- C. increase an individual's capacity to form associative memories.
- D. decrease an individual's capacity to create fan cells.

## ID: 3cc2eacc Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the mechanisms underlying associative memory. The text explains that fan cells—a type of brain cell—are necessary for the acquisition of new associative memories, and that activity among these cells requires a chemical known as dopamine, which the brain produces in response to rewards. Since the brain cells that enable the formation of associative memories require dopamine in order to function, and since the brain produces dopamine in response to rewards, it can be inferred that receiving a reward should likely help to increase an individual’s capacity to form associative memories.

Choice A is incorrect because the relationship between rewards and dopamine sketched by the text is that rewards result in the production of dopamine, not that they cause an individual’s capacity to utilize dopamine to decrease. Choice B is incorrect. The text suggests that receiving a reward would produce dopamine and thereby assist with associative memory formation. However, the text never suggests that associative memory involves the capacity to recognize differences between unrelated things, indicating only that associative memory involves remembering what connects those things. Choice D is incorrect because the text never discusses how fan cells are initially created and therefore provides no evidence for a conclusion about how receiving a reward would affect their creation.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 54057e3f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 54057e3f

Although military veterans make up a small proportion of the total population of the United States, they occupy a significantly higher proportion of the jobs in the civilian government. One possible explanation for this disproportionate representation is that military service familiarizes people with certain organizational structures that are also reflected in the civilian government bureaucracy, and this familiarity thus \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. makes civilian government jobs especially appealing to military veterans.
- B. alters the typical relationship between military service and subsequent career preferences.
- C. encourages nonveterans applying for civilian government jobs to consider military service instead.
- D. increases the number of civilian government jobs that require some amount of military experience to perform.

## ID: 54057e3f Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of military veterans working in civilian government jobs in the United States. The text indicates that the proportion of military veterans working in civilian government jobs is considerably higher than the proportion of military veterans in the population as a whole. The text also notes that the unusually high representation of military veterans in these jobs may be a result of the organizational structures shared by civilian government entities and the military. Hence, it's reasonable to infer that it's the familiarity of the structures of civilian government that makes jobs there particularly attractive to military veterans.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't address what a typical relationship between military service and later career preferences would be, and there's no indication that it's atypical for veterans to work in civilian government jobs after they've left the military. On the contrary, the text suggests that many military veterans are drawn to such jobs. Choice C is incorrect because the text is focused on the high representation of military veterans in civilian government jobs and doesn't address nonveterans or their possible interest in military service. Choice D is incorrect because the text conveys that military veterans may be particularly interested in civilian government jobs due to the familiarity of organizational structures that are already in place, but there's no reason to think that this interest would mean that more civilian government jobs will start to require military experience.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID aadd60f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: aadd60f

Scientists studying Mars long thought the history of its crust was relatively simple. One reason for this is that geologic and climate data collected by a spacecraft showed that the crust was largely composed of basalt, likely as a result of intense volcanic activity that brought about a magma ocean, which then cooled to form the planet's surface. A study led by Valerie Payré focused on additional information—further analysis of data collected by the spacecraft and infrared wavelengths detected from Mars's surface—that revealed the presence of surprisingly high concentrations of silica in certain regions on Mars. Since a planetary surface that formed in a mostly basaltic environment would be unlikely to contain large amounts of silica, Payré concluded that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- the information about silica concentrations collected by the spacecraft is likely more reliable than the silica information
- A. gleaned from infrared wavelengths detected from Mars's surface.
- high silica concentrations on Mars likely formed from a different process than that which formed the crusts of other
- B. planets.
- having a clearer understanding of the composition of Mars's crust and the processes by which it formed will provide
- C. more insight into how Earth's crust formed.
- D. Mars's crust likely formed as a result of other major geological events in addition to the cooling of a magma ocean.

## ID: aadd60f Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Cooling magma would create basalt, but “a planetary surface that formed in a mostly basaltic environment would be unlikely to contain large amounts of silica.” Since Mars’s crust does contain large amounts of silica, it is unlikely that Mars’s crust was formed exclusively by cooling magma. Therefore, there were likely other major geological events that created the high silica concentrations.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the passage discusses these two methods of collecting data about Mars’s crust, it never compares their reliability, so there’s no basis for this inference. Choice B is incorrect. The passage never mentions anything about the crusts of other planets, so there’s no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage never mentions Earth’s crust, so there’s no basis for this inference.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 1c69ff20

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 1c69ff20

For many years, the only existing fossil evidence of mixopterid eurypterids—an extinct family of large aquatic arthropods known as sea scorpions and related to modern arachnids and horseshoe crabs—came from four species living on the paleocontinent of Laurussia. In a discovery that expands our understanding of the geographical distribution of mixopterids, paleontologist Bo Wang and others have identified fossilized remains of a new mixopterid species, *Terropterus xiushanensis*, that lived over 400 million years ago on the paleocontinent of Gondwana.

According to the text, why was Wang and his team's discovery of the *Terropterus xiushanensis* fossil significant?

- A. The fossil constitutes the first evidence found by scientists that mixopterids lived more than 400 million years ago.

The fossil helps establish that mixopterids are more closely related to modern arachnids and horseshoe crabs than  
B. previously thought.

The fossil helps establish a more accurate timeline of the evolution of mixopterids on the paleocontinents of Laurussia  
C. and Gondwana.

The fossil constitutes the first evidence found by scientists that mixopterids existed outside the paleocontinent of  
D. Laurussia.

## ID: 1c69ff20 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it states why Wang and his team's discovery of the *Terropterus xiushanensis* fossil was significant. The text explains that up until Wang and his team's discovery, the only fossil evidence of mixopterids came from the paleocontinent of Laurussia. Wang and his team, however, identified fossil remains of a mixopterid species from the paleocontinent Gondwana. Therefore, the team's discovery was significant because the fossil remains of a mixopterid species were outside of the paleocontinent Laurussia.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text states that Wang and his team identified fossilized remains of a mixopterid species that lived more than 400 million years ago, it doesn't indicate that mixopterid fossils previously found by scientists dated to a more recent period than that. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text states that mixopterids are related to modern arachnids and horseshoe crabs, it doesn't suggest that the fossil discovered by Wang and his team confirmed that this relationship is closer than scientists had previously thought. Choice C is incorrect because the team's fossil established the presence of mixopterids on Gondwana, not on Laurussia. Moreover, the text only discusses the fossil in relation to the geographical distribution of mixopterids, not in relation to their evolution.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 39e440e4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 39e440e4

Archaeologists have held that the Casarabe culture, which emerged in the southwestern Amazon basin in the first millennium CE, was characterized by a sparse, widely distributed population and little intervention in the surrounding wilderness. Recently, however, archaeologist Heiko Prümers and colleagues conducted a study of the region using remote-sensing technology that enabled them to create three-dimensional images of the jungle-covered landscape from above, and the researchers concluded that the Casarabe people developed a form of urbanism in the Amazon basin.

Which finding about the remote-sensing images, if true, would most directly support Prümers and colleagues' conclusion?

A. They show shapes consistent with widely separated settlements of roughly equal small size surrounded by uncultivated jungle.

B. They show shapes consistent with long-distance footpaths running from Casarabe territories to large cities outside the region inhabited by the Casarabe people.

C. They show shapes consistent with scattered small farms created by clearing jungle areas near sources of fresh water.

D. They show shapes consistent with monumental platforms and dense central settlements linked to smaller settlements by a system of canals and roadways.

## ID: 39e440e4 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This finding, if true, would support the archaeologists' conclusion. Dense central settlements linked to smaller ones would provide evidence of cities and suburbs—in other words, “a form of urbanism.”

Choice A is incorrect. This finding, if true, would weaken the archaeologists' conclusion. Widely separated, small settlements with jungle in between would support the long-held belief that the Casarabe culture “was characterized by a sparse, widely distributed population and little intervention in the surrounding wilderness.” Choice B is incorrect. This choice wouldn't support the researchers' conclusion. These large cities are located outside Casarabe territory, which doesn't show evidence of Casarabe urbanism. Choice C is incorrect. This finding wouldn't support the archaeologists' conclusion. Scattered small farms in jungle clearings are not good evidence to support the existence of cities (“a form of urbanism”).

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 29cde5fa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 29cde5fa

"Mr. Cornelius Johnson, Office-Seeker" is a 1900 short story by Paul Laurence Dunbar. In the story, the narrator describes Mr. Cornelius Johnson's appearance as conveying his exaggerated sense of his importance: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from "Mr. Cornelius Johnson, Office-Seeker" most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "He carried himself always as if he were passing under his own triumphal arch."
- B. "The grey Prince Albert was scrupulously buttoned about his form, and a shiny top hat replaced the felt of the afternoon." "It was a beautiful day in balmy May and the sun shone pleasantly on Mr. Cornelius Johnson's very spruce Prince Albert C. suit of grey as he alighted from the train in Washington."
- D. "Mr. Cornelius Johnson always spoke in a large and important tone."

## ID: 29cde5fa Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This quote most effectively illustrates the claim. The claim is that the narrator describes Mr. Johnson as arrogant and self-important. This basically says that Mr. Johnson always looks like he's congratulating himself for something, which definitely supports the idea that Mr. Johnson is arrogant! .

Choice B is incorrect. This quote doesn't illustrate the claim. The claim is that the narrator describes Mr. Johnson's appearance as conveying his arrogance. This describes his appearance, but the description doesn't suggest a sense of arrogance. Choice C is incorrect. This quote doesn't illustrate the claim. The claim is that the narrator describes Mr. Johnson's appearance as conveying his arrogance. This doesn't describe Mr. Johnson's appearance very much, and it doesn't suggest a sense of arrogance. Choice D is incorrect. This quote doesn't effectively illustrate the claim. It describes Mr. Johnson's tone of voice as "large and important," but it doesn't describe his appearance as conveying a sense of self-importance.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d0fbf1ae

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: d0fbf1ae

Algae living within the tissues of corals play a critical role in keeping corals, and the marine ecosystems they are part of, thriving. Some coral species appear brown in color when healthy due to the algae colonies living in their tissues. In the event of an environmental stressor, the algae can die or be expelled, causing the corals to appear white. To recover the algae, the bleached corals then begin to produce bright colors, which block intense sunlight, encouraging the light-sensitive algae to recolonize the corals.

What does the text most strongly suggest about corals that produce bright colors?

- A. These corals have likely been subjected to stressful environmental conditions.
- B. These corals are likely more vulnerable to exposure from intense sunlight than white corals are.
- C. These corals have likely recovered from an environmental event without the assistance of algae colonies.
- D. These corals are more likely to survive without algae colonies than brown corals are.

## ID: d0fbf1ae Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text says that corals produce bright colors to block sunlight and encourage algae to recolonize after “an environmental stressor.” From this, we can infer that corals that produce bright colors have probably been subjected to an environmental stressor.

Choice B is incorrect. The text says that corals produce bright colors to block intense sunlight, which protects the light-sensitive algae that keep the coral healthy. In other words, bright colors make the coral’s health less vulnerable to intense sunlight. Choice C is incorrect. The text says that corals produce bright colors to encourage algae to recolonize, not that they have recovered without the assistance of algae colonies. Choice D is incorrect. The text never compares the likelihood of differently colored corals surviving without algae colonies.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d2c2a7ef

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: d2c2a7ef

The following text is from Anton Chekhov's 1898 short story "Ionitch" (translated by Marian Fell in 1915). The text is set in a Russian city referred to as the city of S.

If newcomers to the little provincial city of S. complained that life there was monotonous and dull, its inhabitants would answer that, on the contrary, S. was a very amusing place, indeed, that it had a library and a club, that balls were given there, and finally, that very pleasant families lived there with whom one might become acquainted. And they always pointed to the Turkins as the most accomplished and most enlightened family of all.

What does the text suggest about the Turkins?

- A. They are relative newcomers to the city of S.
- B. They have a unique status in the city of S.
- C. They have long disliked living in the city of S.
- D. They are amused by the other residents of the city of S.

## ID: d2c2a7ef Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a statement about the Turkins that is suggested by the text. The text explains that while many pleasant families live in the city of S., inhabitants of the city consider the Turkins to be "the most accomplished and most enlightened family of all." Thus, by indicating that they are seen as more accomplished and more enlightened than all the other families in the city of S., the text suggests that the Turkins have a unique status there.

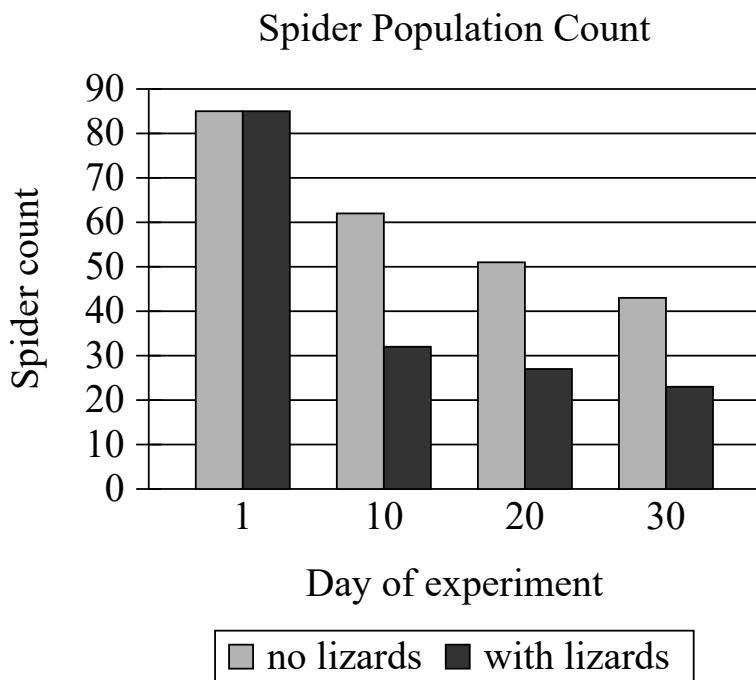
Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that the Turkins have recently moved to the city of S.; it provides no information about when the Turkins arrived. Choice C is incorrect because the text explains how the Turkins are viewed by others in the city of S. but gives no indication of how the Turkins feel about living there. Choice D is incorrect because the text explains how the Turkins are viewed by other residents of the city of S. but gives no indication of how the Turkins view the other residents.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID b30a2613

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: b30a2613



To investigate the effect of lizard predation on spider populations, a student in a biology class placed spiders in two enclosures, one with lizards and one without, and tracked the number of spiders in the enclosures for 30 days. The student concluded that the reduction in the spider population count in the enclosure with lizards by day 30 was entirely attributable to the presence of the lizards.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that weaken the student's conclusion?

- A. The spider population count was the same in both enclosures on day 1.
- B. The spider population count also substantially declined by day 30 in the enclosure without lizards.
- C. The largest decline in spider population count in the enclosure with lizards occurred from day 1 to day 10.
- D. The spider population count on day 30 was lower in the enclosure with lizards than in the enclosure without lizards.

ID: b30a2613 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that weaken the student's conclusion about the reduction in the spider population in the enclosure with lizards. The graph shows that the enclosure with lizards and the enclosure without lizards each began with about 85 spiders, and that the number of spiders in each enclosure fell over the 30 days of the study. The student's claim is that the reduction in spiders in the enclosure with lizards is "entirely attributable to the presence of the lizards," meaning that the spider population wouldn't have declined except for the presence of the lizards. This claim is weakened, however, by the fact that the enclosure without lizards also saw a substantial reduction in the number of spiders. Since the number of spiders fell in the enclosure without lizards as well as in the enclosure with lizards, there must be some other factor than just the presence of the lizards that contributed to the reduction in the spider population.

Choice A is incorrect because the fact that the two enclosures started with the same number of spiders is irrelevant to the claim that the reduction in spider population by day 30 in the enclosure with lizards can be entirely attributed to the lizards. Choice C is incorrect because the fact that the spider population in the enclosure with lizards fell more between days 1 and 10 than in other periods has nothing to do with the student's claim that the reduction in spiders in that enclosure by day 30 can be entirely attributed to the lizards. Choice D is incorrect. Although it's true that on day 30 the spider population was lower in the enclosure with lizards than in the enclosure without lizards, this fact doesn't weaken the student's claim that the reduction in the spider population in the enclosure with lizards can be entirely attributed to the lizards. Indeed, the lower spider population in the enclosure with lizards suggests that the lizards are contributing to the reduction in the spider population, though the fact that the spider population also fell substantially in the other enclosure means that the lizards aren't the only cause of the reduction.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 123bd312

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: 123bd312

Herbivorous sauropod dinosaurs could grow more than 100 feet long and weigh up to 80 tons, and some researchers have attributed the evolution of sauropods to such massive sizes to increased plant production resulting from high levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide during the Mesozoic era. However, there is no evidence of significant spikes in carbon dioxide levels coinciding with relevant periods in sauropod evolution, such as when the first large sauropods appeared, when several sauropod lineages underwent further evolution toward gigantism, or when sauropods reached their maximum known sizes, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. fluctuations in atmospheric carbon dioxide affected different sauropod lineages differently.
- B. the evolution of larger body sizes in sauropods did not depend on increased atmospheric carbon dioxide.
  - atmospheric carbon dioxide was higher when the largest known sauropods lived than it was when the first sauropods C. appeared.
  - saupods probably would not have evolved to such immense sizes if atmospheric carbon dioxide had been even slightly D. higher.

ID: 123bd312 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of the relationship between atmospheric carbon dioxide and sauropod body size. The text establishes that sauropods evolved to reach enormous sizes, and it notes that some scientists have asserted that the cause of this phenomenon was increased plant production that resulted from increased atmospheric carbon dioxide. The text goes on to state, however, that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels didn't increase around the time of important periods in sauropods' evolution of larger body sizes. If significant periods of sauropod evolution toward larger sizes occurred without increased atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, that suggests that the evolution of larger sizes didn't depend on increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't describe any fluctuations in atmospheric carbon dioxide, so there's no evidence in the text to support the conclusion that such fluctuations had different effects on different sauropod lineages. All that the text says about atmospheric carbon dioxide levels is that there weren't increases at particular points that correspond with key moments in sauropod evolution. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that there weren't significant increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide around the time of important periods in sauropods' evolution toward larger body sizes, not that atmospheric carbon dioxide was higher when the largest sauropods lived than when sauropods first appeared. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels didn't increase at important periods in sauropod evolution, not that higher levels would have affected that evolution. The text provides no information about how higher levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide might have affected sauropods.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 3f4ab688

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 3f4ab688

In a research paper, a student criticizes some historians of modern African politics, claiming that they have evaluated Patrice Lumumba, the first prime minister of what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, primarily as a symbol rather than in terms of his actions.

Which quotation from a work by a historian would best illustrate the student's claim?

"Lumumba is a difficult figure to evaluate due to the starkly conflicting opinions he inspired during his life and continues A. to inspire today."

"The available information makes it clear that Lumumba's political beliefs and values were largely consistent throughout B. his career."

"Lumumba's practical accomplishments can be passed over quickly; it is mainly as the personification of Congolese C. independence that he warrants scholarly attention."

"Many questions remain about Lumumba's ultimate vision for an independent Congo; without new evidence coming to D. light, these questions are likely to remain unanswered."

## ID: 3f4ab688 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it illustrates the student's claim about some historians viewing Lumumba primarily as a symbol. This quotation argues that Lumumba "warrants" (or deserves) "scholarly attention" as a symbol and not for his "practical accomplishments"—that is, his actions as prime minister—which "can be passed over quickly," or dismissed as being of comparatively little importance. Thus, the quotation expresses the view that the student criticizes some historians for holding.

Choice A is incorrect. Although this quotation touches on the difficulty of evaluating Lumumba's legacy, it doesn't address how historians of modern African politics view him as a symbol. Choice B is incorrect. While this quotation mentions Lumumba's political beliefs, it doesn't discuss historians viewing him as a symbol. Choice D is incorrect. This quotation touches on Lumumba's vision for his country, but it doesn't discuss historians viewing him as a symbol.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 08395130

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 08395130

The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is projected to maintain operation until at least 2030, but it has already revolutionized high-resolution imaging of solar-system bodies in visible and ultraviolet (UV) light wavelengths, notwithstanding that only about 6% of the bodies imaged by the HST are within the solar system. NASA researcher Cindy L. Young and colleagues assert that a new space telescope dedicated exclusively to solar-system observations would permit an extensive survey of minor solar-system bodies and long-term UV observation to discern how solar-system bodies change over time. Young and colleagues' recommendation therefore implies that the HST \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. will likely continue to be used primarily to observe objects outside the solar system.
- B. will no longer be used to observe solar system objects if the telescope recommended by Young and colleagues is deployed.
- C. can be modified to observe the features of solar system objects that are of interest to Young and colleagues.
- D. lacks the sensors to observe the wavelengths of light needed to discern how solar system bodies change over time.

## ID: 08395130 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The HST will operate until at least 2030, but it's only observing stuff inside our solar system 6% of the time. If we could get a different telescope to observe stuff inside our solar system 100% of the time and take more extensive images of certain things, then the HST could continue to be used mainly for observing stuff outside the solar system.

Choice B is incorrect. This inference is too strong to be supported by the text. Even if the new telescope is deployed, the HST might still be used as it's being used now. Based on the text, the new telescope would just be used for more extensive and long-term imaging of solar system bodies, which doesn't necessarily overlap with the HST. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never mentions the possibility of modifying the HST, so there is no basis to make this inference. Rather, the researchers suggest using a different telescope to more closely observe certain objects. Choice D is incorrect. This inference is too strong to be supported. The text doesn't give us enough info to assume that the HST lacks any particular sensors.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 26f5c4ba

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 26f5c4ba

In 2022, Crystal Reeck and colleagues studied whether the decision-making modes that guide consumers influence their choice between nonenvironmentally friendly standard electricity plans and environmentally friendly green plans that cap electricity usage. Study participants who self-reported using either an Affect Mode or Role Mode—which prioritize choices that have a stronger positive emotional or social impact, respectively—were more likely to select a green plan. Conversely, participants using a Calculation Mode—which aims to minimize both financial cost and personal inconvenience—were more likely to select a standard plan, even when the green option was cheaper. This finding suggests that participants using a Calculation Mode \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

were equally unlikely to factor the financial savings of the green plan into their decision-making as were participants  
A. using either the Affect or Role Modes.

B. may have been less strongly motivated to appear socially responsible with their choice of plan than they realized.

may have determined that the green plan imposed additional burdens on them that were not sufficiently offset by the  
C. potential financial savings.

were less likely to believe that the green plan was truly cost-effective than were participants using either the Affect or  
D. Role Modes.

## ID: 26f5c4ba Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the influence of decision-making modes on consumers' choices of different electricity plans. The Affect Mode describes choices based on the decision-maker's preferred emotional outcome, the Role Mode describes choices based on the decision-maker's social motivations, and the Calculation Mode describes choices based on minimizing financial costs and maximizing the decision-maker's convenience. Thus, if those using a Calculation Mode disfavor the green plan, it would be due to some financial or convenience burden the green plan imposes that the other doesn't. The text indicates that the green plan had a lower financial cost but was nonetheless rejected by participants using the Calculation Mode. It therefore follows that the green plan likely imposed a convenience burden that outweighed potential financial savings for these participants.

Choice A is incorrect. According to the text, the Affect Mode involves the decision-maker's preferred emotional outcome, the Role Mode involves social motivations, and the Calculation Mode is oriented toward minimizing financial costs and maximizing the decision-maker's convenience. Thus, unlike the Affect or Role Modes, the Calculation Mode would almost certainly involve taking price differences into account. Choice B is incorrect. According to the text, the Affect Mode involves the decision-maker's preferred emotional outcome, the Role Mode involves social motivations, and the Calculation Mode is oriented toward minimizing financial costs and maximizing the decision-maker's convenience. Thus, there is no reason to think that participants using the Calculation Mode at any point took social responsibility into account, let alone think that they discovered a disparity between their expectations and reality. Choice D is incorrect. According to the text, the Affect Mode involves the decision-maker's preferred emotional outcome, the Role Mode involves social motivations, and the Calculation Mode is oriented toward minimizing financial costs and maximizing the decision-maker's convenience. Thus, the text doesn't indicate that cost-effectiveness is a factor for participants using the Affect or Role Modes, and there is no basis to compare their beliefs in the truthfulness of the green-plan description with those of the Calculation Mode users.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 14189fbb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 14189fbb

Having written the impassioned call to arms “Letter to the Spanish Americans” in 1791, Peruvian intellectual Juan Pablo Viscardo y Guzmán is often considered a forerunner for the independence movements in Latin America. But Viscardo’s role in history would have remained insignificant were it not for Venezuelan revolutionary Francisco de Miranda, who was handed the unpublished letter after Viscardo’s death. Miranda not only helped circulate the letter, but his edits and footnotes to the text position Miranda as a central figure in the text’s creation.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The original authorship of “Letter to the Spanish Americans” is disputed by contemporary historians.
- B. The majority of the most eloquently stated arguments in “Letter to the Spanish Americans” were written by Miranda.
- C. Miranda played a crucial role in influencing the content and distribution of “Letter to the Spanish Americans.”
- D. “Letter to the Spanish Americans” persuaded many people in Latin America to pursue national independence.

## ID: 14189fbb Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text describes how Miranda circulated, edited, and added footnotes to “Letter to the Spanish Americans,” and it claims that the letter and its author would have “remained insignificant” if it weren’t for Miranda’s efforts.

Choice A is incorrect. The text only says that Viscardo wrote the letter and that Miranda edited it: it never suggests that the original authorship of the letter is up for debate. Choice B is incorrect. This contradicts the text. The text says that Miranda edited and footnoted the letter, but it identifies Viscardo as the letter’s author. It also never identifies certain arguments as more eloquent than others. Choice D is incorrect. This is outside the scope of the text. The paragraph describes Miranda’s role in the creation and distribution of the letter, but it doesn’t get into the effects of the letter on other people.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID cef77aa7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: cef77aa7

Geoglyphs are large-scale designs of lines or shapes created in a natural landscape. The Nazca Lines were created in the Nazca Desert in Peru by several Indigenous civilizations over a period of many centuries. Peruvian archaeologist Johny Isla specializes in these geoglyphs. At a German exhibit about the Nazca Lines, he saw an old photograph of a large geoglyph of a whalelike figure and was surprised that he didn't recognize it. Isla returned to Peru and used a drone to search a wide area, looking for the figure from the air. This approach suggests that Isla thought that if he hadn't already seen it, the whalelike geoglyph \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. must represent a species of whale that went extinct before there were any people in Peru.
- B. is actually located in Germany, not Peru, and isn't part of the Nazca Lines at all.
- C. is probably in a location Isla hadn't ever come across while on the ground.
- D. was almost certainly created a long time after the other Nazca Lines geoglyphs were created.

## ID: cef77aa7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Johny Isla and the whalelike geoglyph. The text indicates that the German exhibit about the Nazca Lines included a photograph showing a whalelike geoglyph that Isla hadn't known about before attending the exhibit, even though Isla "specializes in" Nazca Lines geoglyphs. Given his expertise, and his surprise at being unfamiliar with the whale glyph, the text strongly suggests that Isla believed he would have noticed the glyph if he had been to its location. Thus, the text implies that the whalelike geoglyph is likely in a location Isla had not previously been to.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't address either the species of whale that the geoglyph is meant to represent or its relationship to the earliest humans in the area that is now Peru. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text indicates that the photograph of the whalelike geoglyph was on display at a "German exhibit," that exhibit was specifically "about the Nazca Lines," which the text indicates are located in Peru. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text does indicate that the glyphs were created "over a period of many centuries," the text doesn't address when in that period of time any particular glyphs were created.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID dc3ea63e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: dc3ea63e

To dye wool, Navajo (Diné) weaver Lillie Taylor uses plants and vegetables from Arizona, where she lives. For example, she achieved the deep reds and browns featured in her 2003 rug *In the Path of the Four Seasons* by using Arizona dock roots, drying and grinding them before mixing the powder with water to create a dye bath. To intensify the appearance of certain colors, Taylor also sometimes mixes in clay obtained from nearby soil.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Reds and browns are not commonly featured in most of Taylor's rugs.
- B. Taylor draws on local resources in the approach she uses to dye wool.
- C. Taylor finds it difficult to locate Arizona dock root in the desert.
- D. *In the Path of the Four Seasons* is widely acclaimed for its many colors and innovative weaving techniques.

## ID: dc3ea63e Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. It best states the main idea of the text. The text opens with the statement that Taylor uses local plants and vegetables to dye wool. The rest of the text describes how she does this.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn't state the main idea of the text. The text only mentions one rug: *In the Path of the Four Seasons*, in which reds and browns are featured. It never mentions whether or not these colors are featured in her other rugs. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn't state the main idea of the text. The text never says that Taylor finds it difficult to locate Arizona dock roots. Choice D is incorrect. This doesn't state the main idea of the text. The text never says that *In the Path of the Four Seasons* is widely acclaimed. Rather, it discusses the rug to illustrate the point made earlier in the passage: that Taylor uses local plants and vegetables to dye wool.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9c591ff7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 9c591ff7

Some *Astyanax mexicanus*, a river-dwelling fish found in northeast Mexico, have colonized caves in the region. Although there is little genetic difference between river and cave *A. mexicanus* and all members of the species can emit the same sounds, biologist Carole Hyacinthe and colleagues found that the context and significance of those sounds vary by location—e.g., the click that river-dwelling *A. mexicanus* use to signal aggression is used by cave dwellers when foraging—and the acoustic properties of cave fish sounds show some cave-specific variations as well. Hyacinthe and colleagues note that differences in sonic communication could accumulate to the point of inhibiting interbreeding among fish from different locations, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- although *A. mexicanus* living in rivers are genetically similar to those living in caves, river fish rely on sonic communication less than cave fish do.
- although *A. mexicanus* is a single species at present, it could be in the process of splitting into distinct populations with different characteristics.
- although all *A. mexicanus* emit sounds, the fish living in rivers produce some sounds that the fish living in caves do not, and vice versa.
- although *A. mexicanus* from different locations can interbreed currently, river fish and cave fish are sufficiently genetically distinct that they can be considered separate species.

## ID: 9c591ff7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of *A. mexicanus*. According to the text, *A. mexicanus*, a river-dwelling fish species, has colonized caves. The fish that live in rivers and those that live in caves show no significant genetic differences and are all capable of making the same sounds. The text indicates, however, that Hyacinthe and colleagues found that sounds that the river fish use in a particular context and for a particular purpose are used in a different context and for a different purpose by the cave fish. Additionally, the sounds made by cave fish show some differences depending on the specific cave the fish inhabit. The text goes on to state that Hyacinthe and colleagues have noted that differences in how the fish use sound to communicate could eventually become so great that they prevent fish from different locations from interbreeding. In other words, the river fish might eventually only breed with other river fish (with whom they share characteristics regarding sonic communication that they do not share with cave fish), while the cave fish might only breed with other cave fish for a similar reason. In context, this observation suggests that even though the fish are a single species right now, they could be in the process of splitting into distinct populations with different characteristics.

Choice A is incorrect because there is no information in the text suggesting that the river fish are less reliant on sonic communication than the cave fish are. Although the text does indicate that the river fish and cave fish are genetically similar, the text describes both groups as using sonic communication and says nothing to indicate that one group depends on that communication more than the other group does. Choice C is incorrect. The text states that all members of the species can emit the same sounds but that the function and context of sounds differ depending on whether the fish live in rivers or caves, but it does not indicate that river fish produce sounds that cave fish do not or vice versa. Choice D is incorrect because it contradicts the text. The text says that there is little genetic difference between the river fish and the cave fish, not that the river fish and cave fish are so genetically distinct that they can be considered separate species.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5d122d45

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 5d122d45

Psychologists Dacher Keltner and Jonathan Haidt have argued that experiencing awe—a sensation of reverence and wonder typically brought on by perceiving something grand or powerful—can enable us to feel more connected to others and thereby inspire us to act more altruistically. Keltner, along with Paul K. Piff, Pia Dietze, and colleagues, claims to have found evidence for this effect in a recent study where participants were asked to either gaze up at exceptionally tall trees in a nearby grove (reported to be a universally awe-inspiring experience) or stare at the exterior of a nearby, nondescript building. After one minute, an experimenter deliberately spilled a box of pens nearby.

Which finding from the researchers' study, if true, would most strongly support their claim?

Participants who had been looking at the trees helped the experimenter pick up significantly more pens than did A. participants who had been looking at the building.

Participants who helped the experimenter pick up the pens used a greater number of positive words to describe the trees B. and the building in a postexperiment survey than did participants who did not help the experimenter.

Participants who did not help the experimenter pick up the pens were significantly more likely to report having C. experienced a feeling of awe, regardless of whether they looked at the building or the trees.

Participants who had been looking at the building were significantly more likely to notice that the experimenter had D. dropped the pens than were participants who had been looking at the trees.

## ID: 5d122d45 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most strongly support the researchers' claim that they found evidence that experiencing awe can make people feel more connected to others and thus more likely to behave altruistically (with beneficial and unselfish concern for others). According to the text, the researchers tested for this effect by first having participants look at either something known to be awe-inspiring (very tall trees) or something ordinary (a plain building) and then purposely spilling pens near the participants. The finding that participants who had looked at the trees helped pick up significantly more pens than did participants who had looked at the building would support the researchers' claim by demonstrating that the people who had experienced awe behaved more altruistically when the experimenter needed help than the other participants did.

Choice B is incorrect because a finding about helpful participants using positive words to describe the trees and the building after the experiment was over wouldn't have any bearing on the researchers' claim that experiencing awe increases altruistic behavior. The text doesn't address the use of positive words to describe things or suggest any connection between using such words and having experienced awe, so that behavior wouldn't serve as evidence that experiencing awe played a role in promoting helpful behavior. Choice C is incorrect because a finding that participants who didn't help the experimenter were significantly more likely than others to report having experienced awe whether they had looked at the building or the trees would weaken the researchers' claim that experiencing awe increases altruistic behavior by suggesting that the opposite might be true—that experiencing awe is in fact linked to choosing not to act in a way that benefits someone else. Choice D is incorrect because a finding about participants noticing that the experimenter had dropped the pens wouldn't have any bearing on the researchers' claim about people behaving altruistically. Being aware of a challenge or problem isn't necessarily beneficial on its own and isn't the same as offering help, so the finding wouldn't support the idea that experiencing awe increases altruistic behavior.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID fd1095d7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: fd1095d7

To address the susceptibility of materials used in components of high-performance machinery, such as aircraft engines, to creep (deformation that is induced by persistent mechanical stress and that often occurs at elevated temperatures), materials researchers have developed silicon carbide (SiC) fibers for producing aerospace composites. Testing the thermomechanical properties of several commercially available SiC fibers, Ramakrishna T. Bhatt et al. found that in comparison with two polymer-derived SiC fibers, a nitrogen-treated SiC fiber exhibited a lower minimum creep rate, a measure of the rate at which a stress-exposed material deforms at a constant temperature and uniaxial load. The finding suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

unlike the two polymer-derived SiC fibers, the nitrogen-treated SiC fiber can substantially inhibit creep, provided that  
A. temperatures and loads are consistent.

the two polymer-derived SiC fibers likely hold similar potential for reducing the creep resistance of materials exposed to  
B. stress and elevated temperatures, thus prolonging the life span of aerospace machinery.

composites based on the two polymer-derived SiC fibers have chemical properties that may improve the mechanical and  
C. thermal stability of aerospace equipment to a greater extent than do composites based on the nitrogen-treated SiC fiber.

aerospace composites containing the nitrogen-treated SiC fiber may have the ability to withstand mechanical stress for a  
D. longer period of time than can aerospace composites containing either of the two polymer-derived SiC fibers.

## ID: fd1095d7 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of silicon carbide (SiC) fibers and creep, or deformation related to ongoing mechanical stress and elevated temperatures. The text states that Bhatt et al. found that a nitrogen-treated SiC fiber had a lower minimum creep rate than two polymer-derived SiC fibers did. Because having a lower creep rate means that the material is slower to deform with exposure to stress, as the text explains, this finding suggests that aerospace composites made with the nitrogen-treated SiC fiber may be able to withstand mechanical stress for a longer period than those made with the other two polymer-derived SiC fibers can.

Choice A is incorrect because it overstates the implications of the study's findings, which have to do with the rate of a material's deformation under stress, not the absolute degree of deformation. The text states that Bhatt et al. observed that a nitrogen-treated SiC fiber had a lower minimum creep rate than two polymer-derived SiC fibers did, meaning only that it deformed more slowly over time under constant stress, not that it underwent less deformation overall. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't establish any similarity between the two polymer-derived SiC fibers other than that both had a higher creep rate than the nitrogen-treated SiC fiber did in Bhatt et al.'s study. Moreover, reducing a material's resistance to creep would mean that the material becomes *more* susceptible to deformation with exposure to stress and elevated temperatures, which would be expected to shorten rather than prolong the lifespan of machinery made with that material. Choice C is incorrect because the text suggests that the stability of aerospace equipment may be better improved by composites containing nitrogen-treated SiC fiber than by composites containing the two polymer-derived SiC fibers, not the other way around. The text indicates that Bhatt et al. observed that the nitrogen-treated SiC fiber had a lower minimum creep rate than the other two fibers did, meaning that it was slower to degrade under exposure to mechanical stress and elevated temperatures—suggesting that it may remain stable for longer periods.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a95075c5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: a95075c5

Mean Ratings for Patients after 21 Days

Measure	Mean rating for participants aware of taking a placebo	Mean rating for participants in the control group
Global improvement	5.0	3.9
Symptom severity reduction	92.00	46.00
Quality of life improvement	11.4	5.4

To test whether a medication is effective, scientists compare outcomes for patients taking it and patients taking a placebo (a medically inactive substance). Patients normally aren't told they're receiving a placebo, but a research team conducted a study to see if there might be a medical benefit to telling them. The team used various measures to evaluate participants, with higher ratings indicating greater well-being in each measure. Compared to the mean ratings after 21 days for participants in the control group, the mean ratings for participants who were aware of taking a placebo \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. ranged from 5.0 to 92.00, indicating that well-being varied widely from participant to participant.
- B. were lower for two measures, with the rating for only one measure indicating greater well-being for these participants.
- C. ranged from 3.9 to 46.00, with no rating indicating greater well-being in any measure for these participants.
- D. were higher for all three measures, indicating greater overall well-being for these participants.

ID: a95075c5 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement comparing the mean ratings for two different groups of participants in a study. The text explains that a research team evaluated the study's participants using various measures in order to learn whether there might be a medical benefit to telling patients they're receiving a placebo. The table shows the team's mean ratings for participants after 21 days for three of the measures: global improvement, symptom severity reduction, and quality of life improvement. According to the table, the mean ratings were higher for all three measures for participants aware of taking a placebo than for participants in the control group. Given that higher ratings indicate greater well-being, as the text states, the mean ratings in the table indicate greater overall well-being for participants aware of taking a placebo than for participants in the control group.

Choice A is incorrect because the table doesn't include data about individual participants; rather, it presents means, or mathematical averages, of ratings. For this reason, no conclusions can be drawn from data in the table about the extent to which well-being may have varied from participant to participant. Choice B is incorrect because according to the table, the mean ratings for participants aware of taking a placebo were higher for all three measures than for participants in the control group, not lower for two of the measures. Choice C is incorrect because it cites data from the table related to participants in the control group, not to participants aware of taking a placebo. Additionally, the mean ratings in the table for participants aware of taking a placebo are higher for all three measures than for participants in the control group. Given that higher ratings indicate greater well-being, as the text states, the ratings in the table for participants aware of taking a placebo indicate greater well-being for these participants in all three measures.

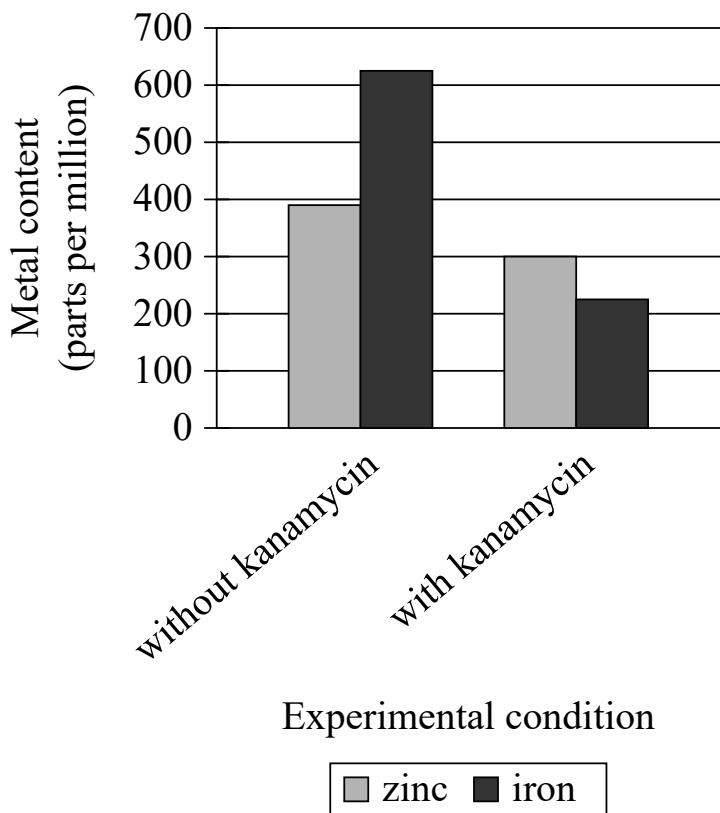
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 742fd8ba

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 742fd8ba

## Metal Content of Plants with and without Kanamycin Exposure



Many plants lose their leaf color when exposed to kanamycin, an antibiotic produced by some soil microorganisms. Spelman College biologist Mentewab Ayalew and her colleagues hypothesized that plants' response to kanamycin exposure involves altering their uptake of metals, such as iron and zinc. The researchers grew two groups of seedlings of the plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*, half of which were exposed to kanamycin and half of which were a control group without exposure to kanamycin, and measured the plants' metal content five days after germination.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support Ayalew and her colleagues' hypothesis?

- The control plants contained higher levels of zinc than iron, but plants exposed to kanamycin contained higher levels of
- A. iron than zinc.
  - B. Both groups of plants contained more than 200 parts per million of both iron and zinc.
  - C. Zinc levels were around 300 parts per million in the control plants but nearly 400 parts per million in the plants exposed to kanamycin.
  - D. The plants exposed to kanamycin showed lower levels of iron and zinc than the control plants did.

**Correct Answer:** D

**Rationale**

Choice D is the best answer because it best describes data in the graph supporting Ayalew and her colleagues' hypothesis that plants' response to kanamycin exposure involves altering their uptake of metals. The graph compares the metal content of two groups of plants, one with kanamycin exposure and a control group without such exposure. The amount of zinc in plants without kanamycin exposure is around 400 parts per million, while the amount of zinc in plants with kanamycin exposure is lower, at around 300 parts per million. Similarly, the amount of iron in plants without kanamycin exposure is a little over 600 parts per million, while the amount of iron in plants with kanamycin exposure is lower, at a little over 200 parts per million. Thus, the graph shows that plants with kanamycin exposure have significantly lower levels of both iron and zinc than the plants without kanamycin exposure. This is evidence supporting the hypothesis that kanamycin exposure results in plants altering their uptake of metals.

Choice A is incorrect because the graph shows that control plants contained higher levels of iron than zinc, not higher levels of zinc than iron; similarly, the plants exposed to kanamycin contained higher levels of zinc than iron, not higher levels of iron than zinc. Choice B is incorrect. Though the claim that both groups of plants contained more than 200 parts per million of both iron and zinc is supported by the graph, this alone does not state whether plants with kanamycin exposure have a different metal content than plants without kanamycin exposure. Choice C is incorrect. The graph shows that the zinc levels for the control plants (those without kanamycin exposure) were around 400 parts per million, not 300 parts per million, and that the zinc levels for plants with kanamycin exposure were around 300 parts per million, not 400 parts per million.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 03e5cf33

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 03e5cf33

Many insects are iridescent, or have colors that appear to shimmer and change when seen from different angles. Scientists have assumed that this feature helps to attract mates but could also attract predators. But biologist Karin Kjernsmo and a team had the idea that the shifting appearance of colors might actually make it harder for other animals to see iridescent insects. To test this idea, the team put beetle forewings on leaves along a forest path and then asked human participants to look for them. Some of the wings were naturally iridescent. Others were painted with a nonchanging color from the iridescent spectrum, such as purple or blue.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the team's idea?

- A. On average, participants found most of the purple wings and blue wings and far fewer of the iridescent wings.
- B. On average, participants found the iridescent wings faster than they found the purple wings or blue wings.
- C. Some participants reported that the purple wings were easier to see than the blue wings.
- D. Some participants successfully found all of the wings on the leaves.

## ID: 03e5cf33 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the finding that, if true, would most strongly support the research team's idea about the effect of iridescence, or colors that appear to shimmer and change. The text indicates that although some scientists have assumed that iridescence could attract predators, Kjernsmo's team wondered if iridescent insects might be harder for other animals to see. The team tested this idea by asking human participants to look for both iridescent beetle wings and beetle wings that weren't iridescent but that had been painted colors such as purple or blue. If participants located most of the purple or blue wings but far fewer of the iridescent wings, that finding would support the team's idea since it would suggest that noniridescent wings are easier to see than iridescent wings.

Choice B is incorrect because if participants located the iridescent wings more quickly than the purple or blue wings, that finding would weaken the team's idea, not support the team's idea, since it would suggest that the iridescent wings were easier to see than the noniridescent wings. Choice C is incorrect because finding that some participants believed that the purple wings were easier to see than the blue wings would be irrelevant to the team's idea. The purple and blue wings were both noniridescent, so any difference in how easy those two colors were to see would have nothing to do with the idea that iridescent insects are harder to see than noniridescent insects. Choice D is incorrect because if some participants found all the wings, that wouldn't support the team's idea that iridescent insects may be harder to see than noniridescent insects. If anything, this finding might weaken the team's idea since it could suggest that iridescence had no effect on how difficult the wings were to see.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 156ff681

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 156ff681

Many governments that regularly transfer money to individuals—to provide supplemental incomes for senior citizens, for example—have long done so electronically, but other countries typically have distributed physical money and have only recently developed electronic transfer infrastructure. Researchers studied the introduction of an electronic transfer system in one such location and found that recipients of electronic transfers consumed a different array of foods than recipients of physical transfers of the same amount did. One potential explanation for this result is that individuals conceive of and allocate funds in physical money differently than they conceive of and allocate funds in electronic form.

Which finding from the study, if true, would most directly weaken the potential explanation?

- A. Recipients of electronic transfers typically spent their funds at a slower rate than recipients of physical transfers did.
- B. Nearly every recipient of an electronic transfer withdrew the entire amount in physical money shortly after receiving the transfer.
- C. Recipients of physical transfers tended to purchase food about as frequently as recipients of electronic transfers did.
- D. Some recipients of physical transfers received small amounts of money relatively frequently, while others received large amounts relatively infrequently.

## ID: 156ff681 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This would weaken the explanation. If the recipients of electronic money immediately withdrew it all as physical money, then both kinds of recipients ended up spending physical money on food. So there must be some other explanation why those who initially received electronic money ate different kinds of food.

Choice A is incorrect. This wouldn't weaken the explanation. If anything, it actually supports it: it demonstrates that recipients of electronic money and recipients of physical money have different spending habits. Choice C is incorrect. This wouldn't weaken the explanation. The explanation we're testing this choice against is about the way that people might "conceive of and allocate" physical and electronic funds differently. This choice only focuses on the timing, not what they spend the money on. Choice D is incorrect. This would have no impact on the explanation. It doesn't tell us anything about possible differences between the spending habits of those who spend physical money and those who spend money electronically.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8545ccfe

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 8545ccfe

Icebergs generally appear to be mostly white or blue, depending on how the ice reflects sunlight. Ice with air bubbles trapped in it looks white because much of the light reflects off the bubbles. Ice without air bubbles usually looks blue because the light travels deep into the ice and only a little of it is reflected. However, some icebergs in the sea around Antarctica appear to be green. One team of scientists hypothesized that this phenomenon is the result of yellow-tinted dissolved organic carbon in Antarctic waters mixing with blue ice to produce the color green.

Which finding, if true, would most directly weaken the team's hypothesis?

- A. White ice doesn't change color when mixed with dissolved organic carbon due to the air bubbles in the ice.
- B. Dissolved organic carbon has a stronger yellow color in Antarctic waters than it does in other places.
- C. Blue icebergs and green icebergs are rarely found near each other.
- D. Blue icebergs and green icebergs contain similarly small traces of dissolved organic carbon.

## ID: 8545ccfe Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would weaken the scientists' hypothesis about icebergs that appear to be green. The text indicates that most icebergs are either mostly white or blue in color but that some icebergs in Antarctica appear to be green. The text goes on to say that the scientists hypothesized that this green color occurs when yellow-tinted dissolved organic carbon in ocean waters mixes with blue ice. A finding that both blue icebergs and green icebergs contain similarly small traces of dissolved organic carbon would suggest that something other than yellow-tinted organic carbon causes some icebergs' green color, since the blue icebergs that contain yellow-tinted organic carbon remained blue instead of turning green.

Choice A is incorrect because, according to the text, the scientists' hypothesis was that blue icebergs, not white ones, change color when their ice mixes with yellow-tinted dissolved organic carbon. A finding that white ice, because of its air bubbles, doesn't change color when it's mixed with dissolved organic carbon would therefore have no bearing on the scientists' hypothesis. Choice B is incorrect because the text focuses only on Antarctic icebergs that appear to be green. It doesn't indicate that icebergs in locations other than Antarctica have been found to have a green hue. A finding that dissolved organic carbon has a stronger yellow color in Antarctic waters than in other places would therefore have no bearing on the scientists' hypothesis that green color in icebergs in Antarctica is caused by yellow-tinted dissolved organic carbon mixing with blue ice. Choice C is incorrect because, according to the text, the scientists' hypothesis was that blue icebergs turn green when their ice mixes with yellow-tinted dissolved organic carbon in the sea around them. If that's correct, one would expect blue icebergs and green icebergs to be located at a distance from each other since all blue icebergs in an area where the waters contain yellow-tinted dissolved organic carbon would take on a green hue. A finding that blue icebergs and green icebergs are rarely found near each other would therefore strengthen, not weaken, the researchers' hypothesis.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

## Question ID e1504a2a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

### ID: e1504a2a

The Cretaceous pterosaur *Tupandactylus navigans* is known for having an anomalously oversized head crest. Until an almost complete fossil skeleton was found in Brazil, paleontologists had been able to study only skull specimens from *T. navigans*, though it was presumed that, like other pterosaurs, the species's primary form of locomotion was powered flight. Examining the fuller skeleton in 2016, Victor Beccari and his team determined that *T. navigans* had long hind legs, short wings, and an unusually long neck—characteristics that, combined with the creature's large-crested head, would have made sustained flight difficult and walking upright relatively comfortable. Based on these findings the team suggests that *T. navigans* likely \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. flew for longer distances than did other pterosaur species that had oversized head crests.
- B. had longer wings than other pterosaur species considered to have been comfortable walking.
- C. had a smaller head than researchers expected based on the earlier *T. navigans* skull specimens.
- D. flew for shorter distances and spent more time walking than researchers previously thought.

### ID: e1504a2a Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the Cretaceous pterosaur *Tupandactylus navigans*. The text first describes what paleontologists initially speculated to be true of *T. navigans* based on observing only fossilized skulls of the pterosaur rather than complete skeletons—namely, that *T. navigans* had an oversized head crest and that, like other pterosaurs, its main mode of movement must have been flight. The text goes on to describe what researcher Victor Beccari and his team concluded based on studying a nearly complete fossilized skeleton of *T. navigans*, which provided additional information that fossilized skulls alone could not. Beccari and colleagues determined that *T. navigans* had long hind legs, short wings, and an unusually long neck, in addition to the oversized head crest previously observed by paleontologists. Taken together, these characteristics would have made sustained flight difficult and upright walking comfortable, which would make *T. navigans* different from other pterosaurs that moved mainly through flight. Thus, Beccari and colleagues suggest that previously held speculations of paleontologists are inaccurate: that instead of moving mainly through powered flight, *T. navigans* likely flew for shorter distances and spent more time walking than researchers previously thought.

Choice A is incorrect because Beccari and his team determined, based on their examination of a nearly complete skeleton, that *T. navigans* would have found "sustained flight difficult," which would differentiate it from most other pterosaurs that moved mainly through flight. Therefore, Beccari's team would not suggest that *T. navigans* flew for longer distances than did other pterosaur species with large head crests. Choice B is incorrect because the fossilized skeleton studied by Beccari and colleagues was notable for its short wings, and because no indication in the text is made that other pterosaurs were thought by paleontologists to be comfortable walking. Therefore, Beccari's team would not suggest that *T. navigans* had longer wings than other pterosaur species considered to have been comfortable walking. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that Beccari and his team agree with the paleontologists mentioned earlier in the text that *T. navigans* had a large-crested head. Therefore, Beccari's team would not suggest that *T. navigans* had a smaller head than researchers previously expected.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e946a32e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: e946a32e

Boldly mixing elements of poetry, fiction, drama, philosophy, and manifesto, Puerto Rican writer Giannina Braschi creates cross-genre literature that explores themes such as immigration and independence. Her works have inspired responses from individuals across different fields and in a wide range of formats, from musical compositions and a comic book to architecture and furniture design. In an essay, a student asserts that the production of these diverse creations by others is reflective of Braschi's own approach to crafting literature.

Which quotation from a scholarly review of Braschi's work best supports the student's claim?

"Braschi is the focus of a 2020 collection of essays in which fifteen scholars from seven different countries delved into A. the linguistic and structural patterns of her writings."

"Braschi's eagerness to push boundaries and blend genres within literature invites us to consider how other art forms B. might also engage with literature."

"Before settling in New York City, where she would go on to become a college professor, Braschi studied both literature C. and philosophy in several cities around the world."

"In addition to her creative literary works, Braschi has produced academic pieces analyzing writings by Miguel de D. Cervantes, Federico García Lorca, and other authors."

## ID: e946a32e Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents the quotation that best supports the student's claim about Braschi. By describing how Braschi's blending of genres invites her audience to think about how other art forms could also engage with literature, the quotation supports the idea that the diversity of responses to Braschi's work reflects Braschi's own approach to creating literature.

Choice A is incorrect because the quotation describes scholars from different countries writing essays about Braschi's use of language in her writings; it doesn't address how Braschi's creation of cross-genre literature inspires diverse types of responses, which is the claim the student makes. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation focuses on the fact that Braschi studied in several different cities, which doesn't address the student's claim that Braschi's creation of cross-genre literature inspires diverse types of responses. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation lists some of the authors who Braschi has written academic works about, which is irrelevant to the student's claim that Braschi's creation of cross-genre literature inspires diverse types of responses.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d696eafa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: d696eafa

Early Earth is thought to have been characterized by a stagnant lid tectonic regime, in which the upper lithosphere (the outer rocky layer) was essentially immobile and there was no interaction between the lithosphere and the underlying mantle. Researchers investigated the timing of the transition from a stagnant lid regime to a tectonic plate regime, in which the lithosphere is fractured into dynamic plates that in turn allow lithospheric and mantle material to mix. Examining chemical data from lithospheric and mantle-derived rocks ranging from 285 million to 3.8 billion years old, the researchers dated the transition to 3.2 billion years ago.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers' conclusion?

Among rocks known to be older than 3.2 billion years, significantly more are mantle derived than lithospheric, but the  
A. opposite is true for the rocks younger than 3.2 billion years.

Mantle-derived rocks older than 3.2 billion years show significantly more compositional diversity than lithospheric rocks  
B. older than 3.2 billion years do.

There is a positive correlation between the age of lithospheric rocks and their chemical similarity to mantle-derived rocks,  
C. and that correlation increases significantly in strength at around 3.2 billion years old.

Mantle-derived rocks younger than 3.2 billion years contain some material that is not found in older mantle-derived rocks  
D. but is found in older and contemporaneous lithospheric rocks.

## ID: d696eafa Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support the researchers' conclusion that the transition from a stagnant lid regime to a tectonic plate regime occurred around 3.2 billion years ago. The text explains that early in Earth's history, Earth exhibited a stagnant lid regime in which there's no interaction between the lithosphere and the underlying mantle. The text further explains that, by contrast, once Earth began to exhibit a tectonic plate regime, its lithospheric and mantle material began to mix. If mantle-derived rocks younger than 3.2 billion years contain material not found in older mantle-derived rocks, that material must have originated somewhere other than the mantle. And if this material is found in both older and contemporaneous lithospheric rocks, that would imply that the lithosphere was able to mix with mantle material beginning around 3.2 billion years ago, as the researchers concluded.

Choice A is incorrect. The text gives no basis for comparing the quantities of lithospheric and mantle-derived rocks. Choice B is incorrect. The text gives no basis for comparing the material makeup of lithospheric rocks to that of mantle-derived rocks. Choice C is incorrect. A positive correlation between the age of lithospheric rocks and these rocks' chemical similarity to mantle-derived rocks would mean that the oldest rocks would be the most similar, which contradicts the text's claim that lithospheric and mantle-derived rocks were completely separate until 3.2 billion years ago. If the researchers' conclusion about the onset of tectonics on Earth is correct, then younger lithospheric rocks would show greater chemical similarity to mantle-derived rocks than older lithospheric rocks do.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 36e2868f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

ID: 36e2868f

The following text is from Thomas Mann's 1924 novel *The Magic Mountain*, translated by John E. Woods in 1995.

The story of Hans Castorp that we intend to tell here—not for his sake (for the reader will come to know him as a perfectly ordinary, if engaging young man), but for the sake of the story itself, which seems to us to be very much worth telling (although in Hans Castorp's favor it should be noted that it is *his* story, and that not every story happens to everybody)—is a story that took place long ago, and is, so to speak, covered with the patina of history and must necessarily be told with verbs whose tense is that of the deepest past.

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What does the text most strongly suggest about the story of Hans Castorp?

Though it is true that stories of even the most uninteresting people are themselves interesting because all people are  
A. unique, the reason this story is interesting is nonetheless difficult to understand because of the passage of time.

Even though it is a story of a person of no particular importance, its age and the manner in which it therefore must be  
B. told are both indicators that the story itself is important.

Like all stories about the lives of inconsequential people, this story must necessarily be related in a particular way if the  
C. reason the story is consequential is to be made evident to the audience.

It is a remarkable story that happened to an unremarkable person, though one could plausibly argue that because the  
D. story is valuable, some of its value accrues to the person at its center.

ID: 36e2868f Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about Hans Castorp's story that is suggested by the text. The narrator of the text indicates that the story about Hans Castorp will be told not because there is something particularly notable about him, since he is pleasant but "perfectly ordinary," but because the story itself is remarkable ("very much worth telling"). The narrator then notes that there is a benefit in being at the heart of the story—that it is "in Hans Castorp's favor" that the story is his, and maybe uniquely so ("not every story happens to everybody"). Thus, the text suggests both that the story that will be told is a remarkable one that happened to an unremarkable person and that it is reasonable to argue that the person at the center of a valuable story takes on some of the story's value.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the narrator of the text makes the point that "not every story happens to everybody," the narrator doesn't state that stories are interesting simply because the people they are about are unique. Rather, the narrator suggests that one particular story is "very much worth telling" on its own and that Hans Castorp benefits from the fact that the story is remarkable and may be unique to him. Further, the narrator never suggests that the story will be hard to understand even though it is old. Choice B is incorrect. Although the narrator of the text suggests that Hans Castorp is of no particular importance, since he is a "perfectly ordinary" person, the narrator never reveals what makes the story of Castorp important, just that "the story itself" is "very much worth telling." The narrator states that the story "took place long ago," is "covered with the patina of history," and can be told only "with verbs whose tense is that of the deepest past," but the story's age and the way it must be told aren't presented as reasons the story is important; the narrator is simply providing details about how the story will be told. Choice C is incorrect because the narrator of the text doesn't suggest that all stories about people who are "perfectly ordinary" (like Hans Castorp) must be told in particular ways to make it clear why those stories are consequential. Further, the narrator suggests that Hans Castorp's story must be told "with verbs whose tense is that of the deepest past" because it took place so long ago, not because telling it that way will convey the story's importance.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 9fe7aafa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 9fe7aafa

The ancient writing system used in the Maya kingdoms of southern Mexico and Central America had a symbol for the number zero. The earliest known example of the symbol dates to more than 2,000 years ago. At that time, almost none of the writing systems elsewhere in the world possessed a zero symbol. And the use of zero in Mexico and Central America may be even more ancient. Some historians suggest that Maya mathematicians inherited it from the Olmec civilization, which flourished in the region 2,400–3,600 years ago.

According to the text, what do some historians suggest about Maya civilization?

- A. Maya civilization acquired the use of zero from the Olmec civilization.
- B. Maya civilization respected its historians more than it respected its mathematicians.
- C. Maya civilization was highly secretive about its intellectual achievements.
- D. Maya civilization tried to introduce its writing system to other civilizations.

## ID: 9fe7aafa Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents information about Maya civilization that is supported by the text. The text states that the writing system used in the Maya kingdoms had a symbol for the number zero. It goes on to say that at the time of the zero symbol's earliest example, more than 2,000 years ago, almost no other writing systems in the world featured such a symbol. The text also points out that some historians suggest that Maya mathematicians inherited the use of zero from the Olmec civilization, which existed in the same area as the Maya civilization at an earlier date. Thus, according to the text, some historians suggest that the Maya civilization acquired the use of zero from the Olmec civilization.

Choice B is incorrect because although the text mentions present-day historians and Maya mathematicians, it does not say anything about how much the Maya civilization respected its historians and mathematicians. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not indicate that the Maya civilization treated its use of the zero symbol, or any other intellectual achievements, as secrets to be kept from other civilizations. Choice D is incorrect because although the text mentions historians who suggest that the writing system of the Maya civilization inherited some features from the earlier Olmec civilization, the text does not describe any attempts of Maya civilization to introduce its writing system to other civilizations.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID dc87adf4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: dc87adf4

*Barchester Towers* is an 1857 novel by Anthony Trollope. In the novel, Trollope's portrayal of Dr. Proudie underscores the character's exaggerated sense of his own abilities: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from *Barchester Towers* most effectively illustrates the claim?

"It must not...be taken as proved that Dr. Proudie was a man of great mental powers, or even of much capacity for A. business, for such qualities had not been required in him."

"[Dr. Proudie] was comparatively young, and had, as he fondly flattered himself, been selected as possessing such gifts, B. natural and acquired, as must be sure to recommend him to a yet higher notice."

"[Dr. Proudie's] residence in the metropolis, rendered necessary by duties thus entrusted to him, his high connexions, and C. the peculiar talents and nature of the man, recommended him to persons in power."

"[Dr. Proudie] was certainly possessed of sufficient tact to answer the purpose for which he was required without making D. himself troublesome."

## ID: dc87adf4 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. In this quotation, Dr. Proudie is described as "fondly flatter[ing] himself" that he has gifts that "must be sure to recommend him to a yet higher notice." In other words, he expects his skills to push him to greater fame and success. This implies an exaggerated sense of his own abilities, which matches the claim we're trying to support.

Choice A is incorrect. This quotation doesn't describe Proudie's view of himself, nor does it paint him in an especially flattering light. Instead, by saying his mental powers and business skill are not "proved," it implies that he is actually dim-witted and bad at business. Choice C is incorrect. This choice describes Proudie's closeness to power and importance, but it doesn't show what Proudie thinks of himself. Proudie is not describing himself or his abilities here. The narrator is. Choice D is incorrect. While this quotation offers Proudie very mild praise, it doesn't show what Proudie thinks of himself or his own abilities, which is what the claim focuses on.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 4b8eda0a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 4b8eda0a

For its 1974 work *Instant Mural*, the Chicano art collective Asco taped members Patssi Valdez and Humberto Sandoval to an outdoor wall in East Los Angeles. The work is manifestly a commentary on constraint, but many critics focus on Valdez and the social constraints women faced at the time, which is understandable but leaves the presence of Valdez's male collaborator Sandoval unexplained. We should instead consider that in 1974, the art establishment's recognition of Chicano artists was (and had long been) restricted to sociohistorical muralists, leaving nonmuralist Chicano artists—like Asco's members—struggling to even exhibit their work; attending to this context opens an interpretation that accounts for all the evidence, allowing us to conclude that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

while Valdez's presence in *Instant Mural* represents the social constraints placed on women at the time, Sandoval's  
A. presence represents Chicano muralists' frustration at their lack of recognition by the art establishment.

the main subject of *Instant Mural* is female Chicano artists' experience of being doubly constrained by gender-role  
B. expectations and the marginalization of certain types of art.

*Instant Mural* is a reflection on the constraining aesthetic expectations placed on Chicano artists in general rather than  
C. on the social constraints placed on women specifically.

*Instant Mural* is best understood not as a critique of the social constraints placed on women but rather as a critique of  
D. sociohistorical muralists' depictions of Chicano culture.

## ID: 4b8eda0a Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of *Instant Mural*. According to the text, the 1974 work *Instant Mural* involved taping two Asco members (Patssi Valdez and Humberto Sandoval) to an outdoor wall as a direct commentary on constraint (limitation or restriction). The text suggests that instead of focusing on Valdez's role in the work and on social limitations women faced at the time—an approach that fails to explain the role of Sandoval, a man—people should consider that in 1974 (and long before) the art establishment limited recognition of Chicano artists to those who created murals with social and historical subjects, making it challenging for nonmuralist Chicano artists (such as Asco's members) to show their work. The text suggests that considering the situation with the art establishment leads to a conclusion that accounts for the fact that *Instant Mural* is explicitly about constraint and features both a woman and a man taped to the wall: *Instant Mural* isn't a reflection of the social constraints placed on women specifically but instead is a reflection on the constraining aesthetic expectations placed on Chicano artists in general (that is, the limits resulting from the lack of recognition of Chicano artists of any gender who did not create sociohistorical murals).

Choice A is incorrect. The text indicates that the art establishment in 1974 (and earlier) did recognize Chicano muralists to the exclusion of other Chicano artists, so there's no reason to assume Asco's work *Instant Mural* was intended to represent Chicano muralists' frustration; it's far more likely that Asco's members—described as Chicano nonmuralists—were representing their own frustration at being unrecognized by the art establishment. Choice B is incorrect. The text emphasizes that while a common approach to *Instant Mural* focuses on Valdez and the social limitations women faced in 1974 but fails to account for the presence of a man in the work, there is a conclusion that explains Sandoval's role. But concluding that *Instant Mural* represents a double constraint experienced specifically by female Chicano artists would still fail to account for the inclusion of a man in the work. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text suggests that *Instant Mural* can be understood as something other than a commentary on social constraints women faced in 1974, it doesn't suggest that the work is best understood as a critique of the content of any other artworks. The text doesn't address how Chicano culture is depicted in sociohistorical murals; it discusses such murals only to make the point that in 1974 (and earlier) the art establishment recognized Chicano artists who produced them to the exclusion of Chicano nonmuralists, indicating a constraint all of Asco's members faced, regardless of gender.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3bfcb73b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 3bfcb73b

An archaeological team led by Piotr Bieliński and Sultan al-Bakri found remnants of a 4,000-year-old Bronze Age board game at a site in Oman. Little is left of the game except a stone board, which is carved with a grid and has places to hold game pieces. Some scholars claim that the game was largely played by traders.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the scholars' claim?

Other examples of the game dating to the same period have been found in the remains of several homes in the region,  
A. including in one home that may have belonged to a trader.

Similar games have been found in other sites dating to the same period that were connected to the site in Oman via trade  
B. routes.

The other known examples of the game dating to the same period have been found along routes that seem to have been  
C. used primarily by traders at the time.

D. Remnants of other goods have been found at the site in Oman that probably also reached the location through trade.

## ID: 3bfcb73b Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support the scholars' claim about the board game. The text explains that the remains of a 4,000-year-old board game were found in Oman. The text then states that scholars claim this board game was played mostly by traders. If the other known examples of this board game from the same time period were discovered along routes that seem to have been used primarily by traders, this finding would directly support the scholars' claim because it suggests that the game was largely played by traders who brought it with them for entertainment as they traveled.

Choice A is incorrect because this finding would suggest only that a single trader may have possessed examples of the board game, perhaps for the purpose of trading or selling the game to residents of Oman. For this reason, the finding wouldn't directly support the scholars' claim that the majority of the game's players were traders. Choice B is incorrect because this finding doesn't mention the board game at all, referring only to similar games found at other sites, and would therefore provide no direct support for the scholars' claim about the board game. Choice D is incorrect because this finding doesn't mention the board game at all, referring only to the remains of other goods found at the site in Oman, and would therefore provide no direct support for the scholars' claim about the board game.

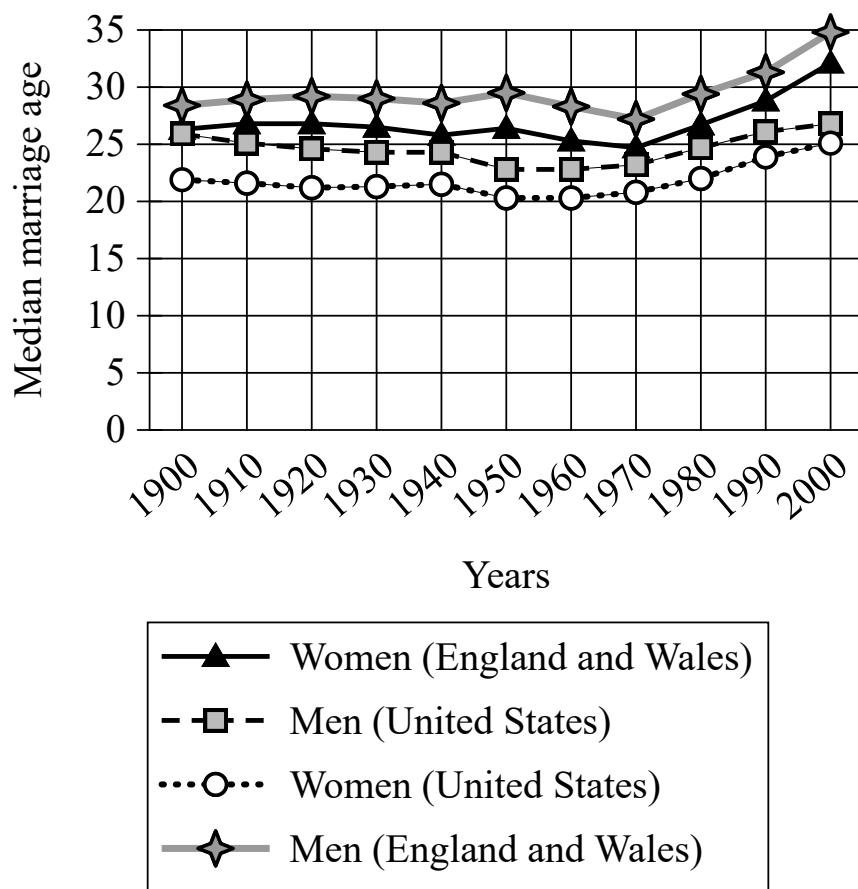
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 53c6c179

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 53c6c179

Median Ages of First Marriage for Men and Women in the United States and in England and Wales, 1900–2000



A sociology student is reading an essay on the median age of first marriage in Western countries throughout the twentieth century. The author of the essay cites factors common to these countries that the author believes caused an increase in the median age of first marriage, such as new technologies that shortened the time needed for domestic chores, making two-person households less necessary and living alone more viable. The student asserts that beyond these factors there must be additional ones specific to particular Western countries that influenced the increase of age at first marriage.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph that support the student's assertion?

- Between 1970 and 2000, the median age of first marriage rose more sharply for men in England and Wales than it did for A. men in the United States.

In England and Wales, the median age of first marriage was consistently higher for men than for women between 1900 B. and 2000, but this was not always the case in the United States.

C. The median age of first marriage for men in England and Wales was lower in 1970 than in 1950 or 1990.

Between 1900 and 2000, the median age of first marriage for women in England and Wales was consistently higher than D. for women in the United States, as was the case for men.

### ID: 53c6c179 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

#### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The student concluded that country-specific factors influence changes to median age of first marriage. This choice describes a time period when the rate of change differed between countries, suggesting that country-specific factors may have played a role in these changes.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. The median age of first marriage was consistently higher for men than for women in the United States during the time period depicted. Choice C is incorrect. The student concluded that country-specific factors influence changes to median age of first marriage. However, this choice doesn't provide any contrasts between countries and thus doesn't support the idea of country-specific factors influencing median age of first marriage.

Choice D is incorrect. The students' conclusion is about changes that occurred during the 20th century. This choice provides broad information about the century as a whole, so it doesn't give insight into how median age at first marriage changed over time.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 55688b3c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 55688b3c

Dutch painters in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries often showed tables filled with large wheels of cheese or carved shards of butter. Some art historians, noting that dairy products were a major component of the Dutch diet, interpret these depictions as reflections of everyday Dutch eating habits. However, a group of researchers recently reviewed hundreds of food-related paintings and found that lemons—which could only be acquired in the Netherlands at great cost, since they had to be imported from warmer climates—feature in Dutch paintings of the period more than three times as frequently as dairy products do, thereby casting doubt on the idea that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. dairy products were a more significant component of the Dutch diet of the period than lemons were.
  - B. food was a more popular subject among Dutch painters than it was among painters from other countries at the time.
  - C. depictions of food in Dutch paintings of the period should be taken as realistic representations of Dutch eating habits.
  - D. typically ate.
- Dutch painters of the period may have depicted foods for symbolic reasons rather than to show what Dutch people

## ID: 55688b3c Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text tells us that lemons—an expensive imported product—feature in Dutch paintings of the period more frequently than dairy products do. Since it's unlikely lemons were eaten more often than dairy, this fact casts doubt on the theory that these paintings realistically depicted Dutch diets.

Choice A is incorrect. In fact, the text suggests the opposite: it says that dairy products were a "major component of the Dutch diet," while lemons were an expensive import item, so we can infer that lemons were eaten much more rarely than dairy products. Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention painters from other countries, so there's no basis to make this inference. Choice D is incorrect. In fact, the text suggests that Dutch painters do have reasons for depicting foods other than to show what Dutch people typically ate. For example, lemons in a painting could indicate wealth or prosperity.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ed586475

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: ed586475

*There Is Confusion* is a 1924 novel by Jessie Redmon Fauset. In the novel, the narrator portrays the character Joanna as someone who admires ambition in other people to the exclusion of all other qualities: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from *There Is Confusion* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "Joanna was mightily interested in people who had a 'purpose' in life. Otherwise not at all."
- B. "Indeed from the very beginning Joanna showed her preference for her father."
- C. "Joanna was like her father not only so far as ambition was concerned but also in her willingness to work."
- D. "She had a good sense of logic, a strong power of concentration, and a remarkably retentive and visualizing memory."

## ID: ed586475 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively presents a quotation from *There Is Confusion* that illustrates the claim that the narrator portrays Joanna as admiring the quality of ambition, or the determination to achieve something, and no other qualities in other people. By describing Joanna as not being interested in people unless they have "a 'purpose' in life"—that is, a goal they are determined to achieve—in which case she is very interested in them, the quotation reveals that Joanna cares only about others' ambition.

Choice B is incorrect because this quotation indicates only that Joanna has a preference for her father, without giving a reason for that preference; therefore, it doesn't illustrate the claim that Joanna cares only about others' ambition. Choice C is incorrect because this quotation doesn't illustrate that Joanna greatly admires the quality of ambition in others; it refers to Joanna's similarity to her father "so far as ambition was concerned" but doesn't reveal how she (or her father) views that quality. Choice D is incorrect because this quotation describes qualities Joanna possesses—praising her logic, concentration, and memory—instead of Joanna's interest in other people's qualities.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1bf2173e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 1bf2173e

In a three-year study of parasitic infections by *Anomotaenia brevis* tapeworms in *Temnothorax nylanderi* ants, entomologist Susanne Foitzik and colleagues found something unexpected: rather than reducing its host's fitness, as is typical of parasites, *A. brevis* greatly extends the lifespan of a *T. nylanderi* worker ant and seems to halt the effects of aging. Furthermore, those infected receive special treatment, ceasing their share of labor to sustain the colony and remaining in the nest as uninfected workers feed, groom, and transport them. By contrast, the researchers observed that uninfected workers in parasitized colonies have shortened lifespans, most likely because the \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

uninfected workers are at high risk for direct exposure to *A. brevis* in the course of providing social care to the infected  
A. workers in the nest.

need to compensate for reduced contributions within the colony while also caring for infected workers is burdensome to  
B. the uninfected workers.

high level of activity maintained by the uninfected workers makes them better able than infected workers to quickly  
C. disperse when the nest is attacked by a predator.

average lifespan of *T. nylanderi* worker ants in colonies without parasitic activity typically falls well below three years, the  
D. range covered by the study.

## ID: 1bf2173e Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text describes a study examining the relationship between a species of parasitic tapeworm, *A. brevis*, and its host insect, the *T. nylanderi* ant. According to the text, researchers were surprised to find that the tapeworm extends the life of its ant host, rather than reducing it. The text goes on to state that the infected ants end up doing less work to sustain the colony and that as a result, the uninfected ants take on the infected ants' share of labor in addition to caring for them in their infected state. The study's researchers also observed that the uninfected ants have shorter lifespans than expected. If the infected ants, who are doing less work in the colony, have longer lifespans, it can be inferred that the less an ant works, the longer it will live. The opposite of this statement can also be inferred: the more an ant works, the shorter its life. So, since the workload within the colony is being redistributed so that the infected ants work less while the uninfected ants work more (as they take on the neglected duties of the infected ants and also care for those ants), then it can be inferred that the lifespans of the uninfected ants are shortened because the need to compensate for reduced contributions within the colony while also caring for infected workers is burdensome to the uninfected workers.

Choice A is incorrect because the text does not indicate how *A. brevis* is transmitted to the ants or assert that uninfected ants are more likely to be directly exposed to *A. brevis* while caring for infected ants. Choice C is incorrect because the text makes no mention of the relative abilities of infected and uninfected ants to escape predators: in fact, predators are not mentioned in the text at all. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not supply any information about the average lifespans of the ants in colonies without parasitic activity; the text only indicates factors that lengthen and shorten the lifespans of ants in parasitized colonies.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID df91532e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: df91532e

In the “language nest” model of education, Indigenous children learn the language of their people by using it as the medium of instruction and socialization at pre-K or elementary levels. In their 2016 study of a school in an Anishinaabe community in Ontario, Canada, scholars Lindsay Morcom and Stephanie Roy (who are Anishinaabe themselves) found that the model not only imparted fluency in the Anishinaabe language but also enhanced students’ pride in Anishinaabe culture overall. Given these positive effects, Morcom and Roy predict that the model increases the probability that as adults, former students of the school will transmit the language to younger generations in their community.

Which finding, if true, would most strongly support the researchers’ prediction?

Anishinaabe adults who didn’t attend the school feel roughly the same degree of cultural pride as the former students of  
A. the school feel.

B. After transferring to the school, new students experience an increase in both fluency and academic performance overall.

C. As adults, former students of the school are just as likely to continue living in their community as individuals who didn’t attend the school.

D. As they complete secondary and higher education, former students of the school experience no loss of fluency or cultural pride.

## ID: df91532e Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support the researchers' prediction about the language nest model of education. The text states that Morcom and Roy studied the effects of the language nest model of education on students at an Anishinaabe school, and they found that the model—which is used with students during pre-K or elementary school—increased students' fluency in the Anishinaabe language and pride in Anishinaabe culture. The researchers predicted that the students' positive early experiences with the Anishinaabe language would lead them to be more likely to later share the language with younger generations. If former students maintain full fluency and cultural pride after finishing secondary and higher education, it follows that they would be both able and motivated to share what they know with others; this would likely result in a higher probability of transmitting the language to younger generations, as the researchers predict.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that Anishinaabe adults who didn't attend the school feel approximately the same degree of cultural pride as those adults who did attend wouldn't support the researchers' prediction that former students will be more likely to share their knowledge with younger generations. This finding would identify a similarity between the groups rather than a factor that might make former students more likely than other adults to transmit the language to younger people. Choice B is incorrect because finding that new students experience increased performance in language fluency and academics would suggest that the school has a positive effect on students when they attended but wouldn't reveal anything about those students' later actions as adults (such as their likelihood of sharing their knowledge with younger generations). Choice C is incorrect because finding that Anishinaabe adults who attended the school are equally likely to stay in the community as adults who didn't attend the school wouldn't support the researchers' prediction that former students will be more likely to share their knowledge with younger generations. This finding would identify a similarity between the groups rather than a factor that might make former students more likely than other adults to transmit the language to younger people.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 81af81d4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 81af81d4

"Often Rebuked, Yet Always Back Returning" is an 1846 poem by Emily Brontë. The poem conveys the speaker's determination to experience the countryside around her: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from the poem most effectively illustrates the claim?

"Often rebuked, yet always back returning / To those first feelings that were born with me, / And leaving busy chase of  
A. wealth and learning / For idle dreams of things which cannot be."

"I'll walk, but not in old heroic traces, / And not in paths of high morality, / And not among the half-distinguished faces, /  
B. The clouded forms of long-past history."

"I'll walk where my own nature would be leading: / It vexes me to choose another guide: / Where the grey flocks in ferny  
C. glens are feeding; / Where the wild wind blows on the mountain side."

"To-day, I will seek not the shadowy region; / Its unsustaining vastness waxes drear; / And visions rising, legion after  
D. legion, / Bring the unreal world too strangely near."

## ID: 81af81d4 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents the quotation that best illustrates the claim that the speaker is determined to experience the countryside around her. In the quotation, the speaker makes it clear that she plans to walk somewhere based on her own wishes ("where my own nature would be leading") rather than follow anything else ("another guide"), and that she'll walk "in ferny glens" alongside the mountain.

Choice A is incorrect because this quotation suggests that the speaker wants to avoid pursuing money and education ("busy chase of wealth and learning") and instead return to some earlier interests (her "first feelings"); the quotation doesn't address her determination to experience the countryside. Choice B is incorrect because the speaker is describing the circumstances under which she won't walk, which doesn't address her determination to experience the countryside. Choice D is incorrect because rather than conveying her determination to experience the countryside, the speaker is explaining a particular thing she won't do ("seek not the shadowy region").

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 8af0c099

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 8af0c099

"Ad recall" measures how memorable an advertising campaign is. To provide advertisers with information about their ads' memorability, a social media site regularly surveys users about whether they remember ads they had recently interacted with on the site. In a study that drew on this survey data, advertising researcher Kristen Sussman and colleagues noted that different kinds of social media interactions involve different levels of cognitive engagement: commenting on or sharing a post is more cognitively demanding than is clicking on embedded links or on a "like" button. The researchers hypothesized that interactions indicating high levels of cognitive engagement with ad content would result in relatively high levels of ad recall.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers' hypothesis?

Users who interacted with an ad were much more likely to do so by clicking on the ad's "like" button than they were to  
A. interact with the ad in any other way.

Users who interacted with an ad were significantly more likely to purchase the advertised product at the time they saw  
B. the ad than were users who saw the ad but did not interact with it.

Compared with users who clicked on links in an ad, users who commented on that same ad were significantly more likely  
C. to remember seeing the ad when surveyed two days later.

Although users who shared an ad were highly likely to remember details from the ad when surveyed two days later, those  
D. same users tended to forget those details when surveyed again a week later.

## ID: 8af0c099 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it details a finding that, if true, would most directly support the researchers' hypothesis about ad recall. According to the text, the researchers found that commenting on an ad that appears as a social media post is more cognitively demanding for users than simply clicking on embedded links in such an ad. The researchers then hypothesized that a high level of cognitive engagement with ad content would result in a high level of ad recall, or memory of ad content. This hypothesis would be supported by the finding that users who had commented on an ad were more likely to recall its content when surveyed two days later than users who had simply clicked on links in the same ad.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text compares one form of social media user interaction with ads—clicking on the ad's "like" button—with other forms of interaction—commenting on the ad and sharing it through social media—it does so in order to determine which form of interaction is associated with a higher level of ad recall. The text doesn't note whether users were more likely to click on the "like" button than they were to interact with the ad in other ways. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that the study attempted to track whether social media users purchased the advertised product or to determine which form of interaction with ad content was more strongly associated with making a purchase. Choice D is incorrect. Finding that social media users who shared an ad forgot the content one week later would weaken, not support, the researchers' hypothesis that cognitive engagement is associated with a high level of recall.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 8584f3ce

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 8584f3ce

When digging for clams, their primary food, sea otters damage the roots of eelgrass plants growing on the seafloor. Near Vancouver Island in Canada, the otter population is large and well established, yet the eelgrass meadows are healthier than those found elsewhere off Canada's coast. To explain this, conservation scientist Erin Foster and colleagues compared the Vancouver Island meadows to meadows where otters are absent or were reintroduced only recently. Finding that the Vancouver Island meadows have a more diverse gene pool than the others do, Foster hypothesized that damage to eelgrass roots increases the plant's rate of sexual reproduction; this, in turn, boosts genetic diversity, which benefits the meadows' health overall.

Which finding, if true, would most directly undermine Foster's hypothesis?

- At some sites in the study, eelgrass meadows are found near otter populations that are small and have only recently been  
A. reintroduced.
- At several sites not included in the study, there are large, well-established sea otter populations but no eelgrass  
B. meadows.
- At several sites not included in the study, eelgrass meadows' health correlates negatively with the length of residence  
C. and size of otter populations.
- At some sites in the study, the health of plants unrelated to eelgrass correlates negatively with the length of residence  
D. and size of otter populations.

## ID: 8584f3ce Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would weaken Foster's hypothesis that damage to eelgrass roots improves the health of eelgrass meadows by boosting genetic diversity. The text indicates that sea otters damage eelgrass roots but that eelgrass meadows near Vancouver Island, where there's a large otter population, are comparatively healthy. When Foster and her colleagues compared the Vancouver Island eelgrass meadows to those that don't have established otter populations, the researchers found that the Vancouver Island meadows are more genetically diverse than the other meadows are. This finding led Foster to hypothesize that damage to the eelgrass roots encourages eelgrass reproduction, thereby improving genetic diversity and the health of the meadows. If, however, other meadows not included in the study are less healthy the larger the local otter population is and the longer the otters have been in residence, that would suggest that damage to the eelgrass roots, which would be expected to increase with the size and residential duration of the otter population, isn't leading meadows to be healthier. Such a finding would therefore weaken Foster's hypothesis.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that small, recently introduced otter populations are near other eelgrass meadows in the study wouldn't weaken Foster's hypothesis. If otter populations were small and only recently established, they wouldn't be expected to have caused much damage to eelgrass roots, so even if those eelgrass meadows were less healthy than the Vancouver Island meadows, that wouldn't undermine Foster's hypothesis. In fact, it would be consistent with Foster's hypothesis since it would suggest that the greater damage caused by larger, more established otter populations is associated with healthier meadows. Choice B is incorrect because the existence of areas with otters but without eelgrass meadows wouldn't reveal anything about whether the damage that otters cause to eelgrass roots ultimately benefits eelgrass meadows. Choice D is incorrect because the health of plants other than eelgrass would have no bearing on Foster's hypothesis that damage to eelgrass roots leads to greater genetic diversity and meadow health. It would be possible for otters to have a negative effect on other plants while nevertheless improving the health of eelgrass meadows by damaging eelgrass roots.

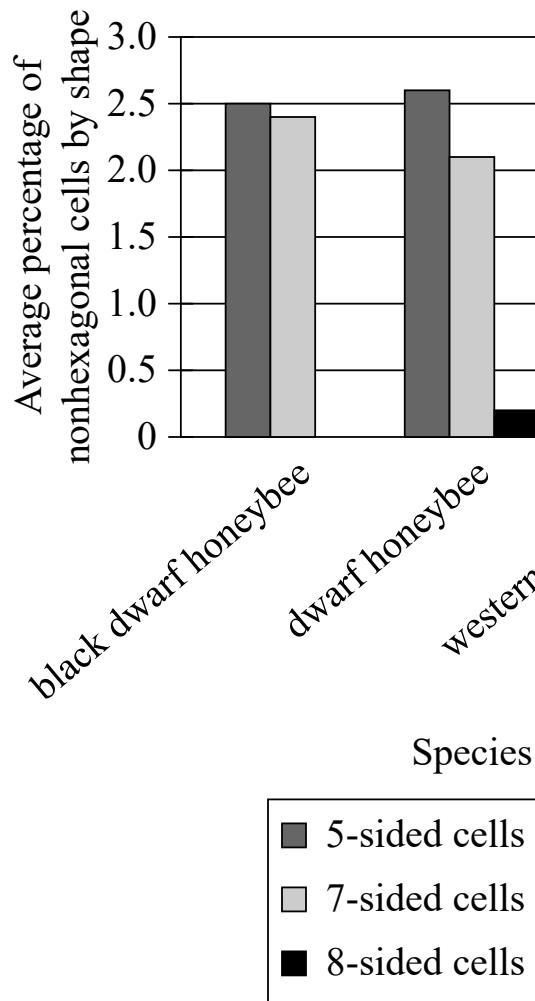
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f71802d6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ ■

ID: f71802d6

Percentage of Nonhexagonal Cells in Hives of Three Honeybee Species



Honeybee hives consist mainly of hexagonal (six-sided) units called cells, in which queens lay eggs. Hexagonal cells for eggs that develop into nonreproductive workers are smaller than those for eggs that develop into reproductive drones, though the size difference varies by species. Difference in cell size results in a construction problem—it's hard to neatly connect sections of small cells to sections of large cells—that worsens as the difference increases. To fill in gaps between the sections when building a hive, bees rely on cells that have more or fewer than six sides. A student studying beehive structure consults data on three species, concluding that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the student's conclusion?

- cells for worker eggs are probably closer in size to cells for drone eggs in the hives of the western honeybee than in the A. hives of the dwarf honeybee and the black dwarf honeybee.

both the western honeybee and the black dwarf honeybee probably reserve eight-sided cells for drone eggs, while the B. dwarf honeybee likely deposits drone eggs in seven-sided cells.

the western honeybee probably relies on many more geometrical shapes when constructing cells than either the dwarf C. honeybee or the black dwarf honeybee does.

the percentage of hexagonal cells is probably slightly lower in the hives of the western honeybee than in the hives of the D. dwarf honeybee and the black dwarf honeybee.

### ID: f71802d6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

#### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the student's conclusion about beehive structure. The text explains that in the hives of honeybees, the hexagonal cells housing drone eggs are larger than the hexagonal cells housing worker eggs, and that this size difference results in a construction problem that the bees address by using nonhexagonal cells to fill gaps between sections of drone-egg cells and worker-egg cells. The text also states that the size difference between drone-egg cells and worker-egg cells varies by species of honeybee. The graph displays data on the percentage of nonhexagonal cells in the hives of three species. In the hives of the western honeybee, the percentages of five-sided, seven-sided, and eight-sided cells are all less than 0.5%. But in the hives of the black dwarf honeybee, the percentages of five-sided and seven-sided cells are higher than those for the western honeybee: about 2.5% for both. And for the dwarf honeybee, the percentages of five-sided and seven-sided cells are also higher than those for the western honeybee: slightly over 2.5% and slightly over 2.0%, respectively; additionally, the dwarf honeybee possesses a higher percentage of eight-sided cells than the western honeybee does. Taken altogether, the graph shows that the hives of the western honeybee consist of a smaller percentage of nonhexagonal cells than the hives of the two other species do. Since the nonhexagonal cells exist only to solve the construction problem arising from the difference in size between drone-egg cells and worker-egg cells, a smaller percentage of nonhexagonal cells would be associated with a smaller size difference between the two types of cells. Therefore, it can be concluded from the data that worker-egg cells are probably closer in size to drone-egg cells in the hives of the western honeybee than in the hives of the other two species.

Choice B is incorrect because, as the text states, honeybee species deposit their eggs in hexagonal cells, not in nonhexagonal ones. Thus, the western honeybee and black dwarf honeybee wouldn't deposit drone eggs in eight-sided cells, and the dwarf honeybee wouldn't deposit drone eggs in seven-sided cells. Choice C is incorrect. The text explains that honeybees rely mainly on one geometric shape, the hexagon, when constructing their hives, and the graph shows that the western honeybee relies on the same nonhexagonal shapes as the dwarf honeybee does: five-sided, seven-sided, and eight-sided cells. In other words, the western honeybee and dwarf honeybee rely on the same number of geometric shapes. For the black dwarf honeybee, the graph displays data only for five-sided and seven-sided cells, which suggests a total absence of eight-sided cells. Yet this would be only one less nonhexagonal shape than is seen in the western honeybee. Thus, based on the graph, it would be inaccurate to say that the western honeybee relies on "many more" geometrical shapes than the other two species do. Choice D is incorrect. As the text explains, honeybee hives consist mainly of hexagonal cells, and sections of nonhexagonal cells are used to connect sections of hexagonal cells of different sizes. Since the graph indicates that the percentage of nonhexagonal cells is lower for the western honeybee than it is for the dwarf honeybee or black dwarf honeybee, the western honeybee would conversely have a *higher* percentage of hexagonal cells than the either the dwarf honeybee or black dwarf honeybee does, not a lower percentage.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c95995bc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: c95995bc

Colonized by Spain in the 1600s, New Mexico is home to a dialect of Spanish that differs significantly from dialects spoken in Spain's other former colonies in the Americas. Most notably, the New Mexican dialect retains older features of the language that other dialects lost in later centuries. But why would it have done so? New Mexico was so distant from population centers in Spain's other colonies that it attracted few colonists after its initial colonization. Geographical isolation in turn would have limited the exposure of New Mexican colonists to changes occurring to Spanish grammar and vocabulary elsewhere in the empire. Thus, the present-day uniqueness of the New Mexican dialect suggests the extent to which \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. a language can protect itself from being influenced by other languages.
- B. the grammar and vocabulary of any given language change from one generation to the next.
- C. geographical isolation can influence how a language develops.
- D. speakers of one dialect of a language can understand speakers of another dialect of that language.

## ID: c95995bc Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it is the choice that most logically completes the text. The text mentions a dialect of Spanish spoken in New Mexico, which was colonized by Spain in the 1600s. The text then states that the New Mexican dialect differs greatly from other Spanish dialects in that it still has characteristics of an older Spanish that other dialects eventually lost. After asking why this might be, the text points out that the New Mexico colony was distant from Spain's other colonies, making it less attractive to colonists after the initial colonization. This geographic isolation limited the colony's exposure to other Spanish colonists who would have otherwise introduced the changes to the Spanish language that occurred in their respective colonies. It can therefore be inferred that this isolation is a reason why the New Mexican dialect still has characteristics of an older Spanish, while the Spanish dialects spoken in less isolated areas that have more interaction with speakers of other dialects would lose those characteristics over time. Thus, the most logical completion of the text is that geographical isolation can influence how a language develops.

Choice A is incorrect because the text discusses different dialects of Spanish, not different languages altogether. Choice B is incorrect because the text focuses on how the New Mexican dialect has stayed the same over time in some ways, not on how it has changed from one generation to the next. Choice D is incorrect because though the text discusses how the New Mexican dialect of Spanish is different from others, it does not discuss how speakers of different dialects are able to understand each other.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2573d64b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 2573d64b

At over a thousand pages across two volumes, *The Fifty-Year Mission*, compiled by Edward Gross and Mark A. Altman, is presented as the “complete, uncensored, unauthorized oral history” as told by the people behind the media franchise *Star Trek*. The work aspires to be comprehensive by, for example, including accounts from cast and crew members of every *Star Trek* television series and film to date. But while *The Fifty-Year Mission* is clearly a unique and valuable resource, it has a shortcoming common among oral histories: it lacks a clear authorial point of view that could otherwise unite the various accounts into a cohesive whole.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

The compilers of *The Fifty-Year Mission* had lofty goals for their oral history of the *Star Trek* franchise, but the published

- A. work lacks information about many key events in the franchise's history.

*The Fifty-Year Mission* includes more accounts from people involved with *Star Trek* television shows than it does from

- B. people involved with *Star Trek* films.

The large amount of material compiled into *The Fifty-Year Mission* is surprising given that many of the people involved in

- C. the *Star Trek* franchise did not participate in the oral history project.

*The Fifty-Year Mission* represents a worthwhile attempt to thoroughly recount the history of the *Star Trek* franchise, but its

- D. approach has an important limitation.

## ID: 2573d64b Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. According to the text, Gross and Altman's book is a "valuable resource" because it's a "complete, uncensored, unauthorized oral history" that features accounts from people involved with "every *Star Trek* television series and film" made. However, the text also points out an inherent shortcoming of the oral history approach used by the book's creators: the lack of an authorial voice that could unify the many accounts into a coherent narrative. Thus, the text's main idea is that while the book's attempt at presenting a comprehensive oral history of the *Star Trek* franchise is a worthwhile one, the approach the creators selected has an important limitation.

Choice A is incorrect. While the goal of the book's creators (providing a comprehensive history of the *Star Trek* franchise) could be described as lofty, the text's criticism of the book is focused on the shortcomings of the oral history form, not on events in the *Star Trek* franchise that were not reflected in the book. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the book includes more accounts from people involved with television shows than with films. In fact, the text explicitly states that the book includes accounts from people involved with "every *Star Trek* television series and film" ever made. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that many people involved with the *Star Trek* franchise failed to participate in the book's oral history project. The only mention of the scope of participation states that the book includes accounts "from cast and crew members of every *Star Trek* television series and film to date." This information implies a high level of participation from relevant individuals, not a lack of participation.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e1546fd6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: e1546fd6

Average Nitrate and Phosphate Concentrations in Seawater after Volcanic Eruption

Nutrient	Seawater in lava-affected area, 5–45 meters below surface	Seawater in lava-affected area, 75–125 meters below surface	Seawater outside of lava-affected area, 5–45 meters below surface	Seawater outside of lava-affected area, 75–125 meters below surface
Nitrate (micromoles per liter)	3.1	0.4	≤0.03	≤0.01
Phosphate (micromoles per liter)	0.17	0.09	0.14	0.06

After a volcanic eruption spilled lava into North Pacific Ocean waters, a dramatic increase of diatoms (a kind of phytoplankton) near the surface occurred. Scientists assumed the diatoms were thriving on nutrients such as phosphate from the lava, but analysis showed these nutrients weren't present near the surface in forms diatoms can consume. However, there was an abundance of usable nitrate, a nutrient usually found in much deeper water and almost never found in lava. Microbial oceanographer Sonya Dyhrman and colleagues believe that as the lava plunged nearly 300 meters below the surface it dislodged pockets of this nutrient, releasing it to float upward, given that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

at 5–45 meters below the surface, the average concentration of phosphate was about the same in the seawater in the  
A. lava-affected area as in the seawater outside of the lava-affected area.

for both depth ranges measured, the average concentrations of nitrate were substantially higher in the seawater in the  
B. lava-affected area than in the seawater outside of the lava-affected area.

for both depth ranges measured in the seawater in the lava-affected area, the average concentrations of nitrate were  
C. substantially higher than the average concentrations of phosphate.

in the seawater outside of the lava-affected area, there was little change in the average concentration of nitrate from 75–  
D. 125 meters below the surface to 5–45 meters below the surface.

ID: e1546fd6 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The claim is that the lava freed the deep nitrate, allowing it to float upward. The table supports this by showing that there was more nitrate in the lava-affected seawater at various depths above 300 meters (the depth to which the lava plunged) than in unaffected seawater.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't complete the statement in a way that supports the claim. The claim is about nitrate, not phosphate. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't complete the statement in a way that supports the claim. The claim is only about nitrate—the concentrations of phosphate aren't relevant. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't complete the statement in a way that supports the claim. It doesn't say anything about the seawater inside the lava-affected area.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 04dff083

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 04dff083

In present-day Chiapas, Mexico, archaeologist Robert Rosenswig, remote-sensing specialist Ricardo López-Torrijos, and colleagues have located 41 smaller settlements surrounding the ancient Mesoamerican city of Izapa. The researchers have concluded that these settlements were culturally linked to Izapa because each of the settlements is the same age and configured in the same manner as Izapa, with a pyramid to the north and a plaza to the south. Their shared structural orientation suggests that residents of the settlements likely performed some of the same cultural ceremonies as residents in Izapa did.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

Researchers have determined that the arrangement of Izapa's structures was based on those of other nearby  
A. settlements.

Cultural ceremonies in Izapa seem to have played a more important role for its residents than those in smaller,  
B. surrounding settlements did.

Although archaeologists have learned much about Izapa over years of research, they have only recently found the smaller  
C. settlements that surrounded it.

Researchers have inferred that Izapa was related to the smaller settlements that surrounded it based in part on the  
D. similarity of their construction.

## ID: 04dff083 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text indicates that Rosenswig, López-Torrijos, and colleagues concluded that there is a cultural link between the city of Izapa and the 41 smaller settlements they located around the city. According to the text, the researchers reached this conclusion because Izapa and the settlements are of the same age and configuration in that all have a pyramid to the north and a plaza to the south. Thus, the main idea of the text is that researchers have inferred that Izapa was related to the smaller settlements that surrounded it based in part on the similarity of their construction.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text discusses a similarity between how structures in Izapa and nearby settlements are arranged, the text doesn't indicate that the arrangement in Izapa is based on those of the nearby settlements. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text mentions that residents of Izapa and its surrounding settlements may have performed the same cultural ceremonies, the text doesn't discuss the ceremonies' importance for the residents. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text describes findings about Izapa, it doesn't specify how much archaeologists have learned about Izapa over the years. Additionally, while the text indicates that the discovery of the 41 smaller settlements surrounding Izapa was made in present-day Chiapas and thus may be of recent date, this is a detail in the text, not its main idea.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9391b7cc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 9391b7cc

If some artifacts recovered from excavations of the settlement of Kuulo Kataa, in modern Ghana, date from the thirteenth century CE, that may lend credence to claims that the settlement was founded before or around that time. There is other evidence, however, strongly supporting a fourteenth century CE founding date for Kuulo Kataa. If both the artifact dates and the fourteenth century CE founding date are correct, that would imply that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. artifacts from the fourteenth century CE are more commonly recovered than are artifacts from the thirteenth century CE.
- B. the artifacts originated elsewhere and eventually reached Kuulo Kataa through trade or migration.
- C. Kuulo Kataa was founded by people from a different region than had previously been assumed.
- D. excavations at Kuulo Kataa may have inadvertently damaged some artifacts dating to the fourteenth century CE.

## ID: 9391b7cc Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of artifacts and Kuulo Kataa's founding date. If it were true both that Kuulo Kataa was founded in the fourteenth century CE and that artifacts found in excavations of the settlement are from the thirteenth century CE, it would be reasonable to conclude that the artifacts weren't created in the Kuulo Kataa settlement. That would suggest, then, that the artifacts originated somewhere else and eventually reached the settlement through trading or as people migrated.

Choice A is incorrect because the existence of thirteenth-century CE artifacts recovered during excavations of a settlement founded in the fourteenth century CE isn't logically connected to artifacts from one century being more commonly recovered than artifacts from another century. Rather than suggesting anything about how frequently artifacts from different times are found, the existence of artifacts confirmed as predating the settlement's founding suggests that those items arrived in Kuulo Kataa during or after its establishment. Choice C is incorrect because the text focuses on time periods and says nothing about which region the founders of Kuulo Kataa have been thought to come from; similarly, the text doesn't suggest anything about where the thirteenth-century CE artifacts originated other than not from Kuulo Kataa. Therefore, it isn't logical to conclude that the mere existence of artifacts confirmed as predating the Kuulo Kataa settlement suggests that the founders of the settlement came from a particular region other than one previously assumed. Choice D is incorrect because the existence of artifacts from the thirteenth century CE at a site dated to the fourteenth century CE doesn't imply that fourteenth-century objects were damaged during excavations. There's nothing in the text to suggest that any objects were damaged; rather, the existence of artifacts confirmed as predating the settlement's founding suggests that those items were brought to Kuulo Kataa during or after its establishment.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 9452092c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 9452092c

Effects of Mycorrhizal Fungi on 3 Plant Species

Plant species	Mycorrhizal host	Average mass of plants grown in soil containing mycorrhizal fungi (in grams)	Average mass of plants grown in soil treated to kill fungi (in grams)
Corn	yes	15.1	3.8
Marigold	yes	10.2	2.4
Broccoli	no	7.5	7

Mycorrhizal fungi in soil benefits many plants, substantially increasing the mass of some. A student conducted an experiment to illustrate this effect. The student chose three plant species for the experiment, including two that are mycorrhizal hosts (species known to benefit from mycorrhizal fungi) and one nonmycorrhizal species (a species that doesn't benefit from and may even be harmed by mycorrhizal fungi). The student then grew several plants from each species both in soil containing mycorrhizal fungi and in soil that had been treated to kill mycorrhizal and other fungi. After several weeks, the student measured the plants' average mass and was surprised to discover that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

broccoli grown in soil containing mycorrhizal fungi had a slightly higher average mass than broccoli grown in soil that  
A. had been treated to kill fungi.

corn grown in soil containing mycorrhizal fungi had a higher average mass than broccoli grown in soil containing  
B. mycorrhizal fungi.

marigolds grown in soil containing mycorrhizal fungi had a much higher average mass than marigolds grown in soil that  
C. had been treated to kill fungi.

corn had the highest average mass of all three species grown in soil that had been treated to kill fungi, while marigolds  
D. had the lowest.

ID: 9452092c Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement. The text explains that mycorrhizal hosts are plants that benefit from the presence of mycorrhizal fungi in the soil and that some such plants produce more mass when grown in the presence of these fungi, while for nonmycorrhizal species the fungi either have no effect or may be harmful. The experiment included two mycorrhizal hosts (corn and marigold) and one nonmycorrhizal species (broccoli). Given the claim in the text that nonmycorrhizal species will see either no difference or a decrease in mass when exposed to mycorrhizal fungi, the student would likely have been surprised by the higher average mass for broccoli grown in the presence of the fungi than the broccoli grown in the soil treated to kill fungi.

Choice B is incorrect. Although this choice accurately describes the corn data from the table, the fact that the mycorrhizal host corn is more massive in the presence of the fungi likely fits with what the student expected and would therefore not be surprising. Choice C is incorrect. Although this choice accurately describes the marigold data from the table, the fact that the mycorrhizal host marigold is more massive in the presence of the fungi is likely what the student expected and thus would not be surprising. Choice D is incorrect because it does not accurately represent the data in the table—when grown in soil treated to kill fungi, corn had an average mass of 3.8 g while broccoli had an average mass of 7g—and because making comparisons among the plants in the no-fungi condition, by itself, does not provide a basis to compare the average mass of mycorrhizal hosts and nonmycorrhizal species grown in the presence of the fungi with those grown in the soil treated to kill fungi.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2a075bd1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 2a075bd1

Indigenous cultures possess unique knowledge of the medicinal uses of plants. According to a 2021 study, 73 percent of the medicinal uses of plants native to North America are reflected in the vocabulary of a single Indigenous language. However, as more and more Indigenous people exclusively speak a globally dominant language, such as English, their ancestral languages fade from daily use. These facts lend added importance to tribal nations' efforts to preserve their languages. By ensuring the continued use of Cherokee, Ojibwe, and the hundreds of other Indigenous languages in what is now the United States, tribal nations are also \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. increasing the number of medicinal plants represented in the vocabularies of Indigenous languages.
- B. transmitting terms for medicinal plants from Indigenous languages to globally dominant languages.
- C. preserving knowledge about the medicinal value of plants native to the tribal nations' lands.
- D. ensuring that citizens of tribal nations have physical access to medicinal plants.

## ID: 2a075bd1 Answer

Correct Answer: C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the relationship between Indigenous languages and knowledge of the medicinal uses of plants. The text states that Indigenous cultures possess special knowledge of the medicinal uses of plants, which is reflected in their vocabulary. The text then discusses how tribal nations are working to preserve their languages, whose daily use is declining as globally dominant languages become increasingly dominant in Indigenous communities. Given that the languages of tribal nations in what is now the United States function as repositories of knowledge about plants' medicinal uses, it logically follows that continued use of those languages will assist with passing on knowledge about the medicinal value of plants native to the tribal nations' lands.

Choice A is incorrect because the text states that preserving Indigenous languages will increase the knowledge, not the number, of medicinal plants. Choice B is incorrect because the text is concerned with how vocabulary about the medicinal value of plants can be preserved through the continued daily use of Indigenous languages, not with how such vocabulary can be incorporated into globally dominant, non-Indigenous languages. Moreover, the text explains that the exclusive use of globally dominant languages in Indigenous communities comes at an expense to the continued daily use of those communities' languages. Given this relationship, it is unlikely globally dominant languages would borrow Indigenous vocabulary pertaining to plants' medicinal uses. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss physical access to medicinal plants, instead focusing on Indigenous knowledge and language surrounding the medicinal uses of plants.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 23ecf625

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 23ecf625

Conservationists worldwide are working to protect ecosystems from habitat destruction and biodiversity loss, and in many cases, initiatives that rely on natural features or processes can help address such challenges. In response to a rapidly dwindling population of blueback salmon, the Quinault Indian Nation (a tribe in Washington State) partnered with the conservation organization Wild Salmon Center to restore naturally occurring logjams in the Quinault River. The logjams create shady pools where the blueback salmon can rest and spawn, thus promoting blueback population recovery.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

A partnership between the Quinault Indian Nation and Wild Salmon Center shows the importance of collaborative

A. approaches to preserving biodiversity.

B. Nature-based approaches can be effective ways to achieve conservation goals.

C. As indicated by a recent project, logjams help the blueback salmon thrive and reproduce.

Scientists now realize that nature-based conservation methods offer better long-term solutions to environmental issues

D. than methods that are not nature-based do.

## ID: 23ecf625 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best states the main idea of the text: that nature-based approaches can be effective for achieving conservation goals. The text indicates that in many cases where conservationists are trying to protect ecosystems, their methods depend on natural processes or features. The text then gives an example of this phenomenon, a project with the Quinault Indian Nation that allowed logjams to form naturally in a river, creating spawning habitats for blueback salmon.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text does suggest that the partnership with the Quinault Indian Nation was beneficial, this is not the central aim of the text; the text primarily argues that nature-based approaches to conservation can be effective.

Choice C is incorrect. Although the text indicates that logjams are helpful to blueback salmon, the example of the blueback salmon project is included to illustrate the larger point made earlier in the text: that nature-based approaches to conservation are often effective. Choice D is incorrect. There is no evidence in the text to support a direct comparison of the efficacy of nature-based conservation approaches to other types of approaches. The text merely indicates that nature-based approaches can often be effective.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8fbed1cb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 8fbed1cb

When the Vinland Map, a map of the world purported to date to the mid-1400s, surfaced in 1957, some scholars believed it demonstrated that European knowledge of the eastern coast of present-day North America predated Christopher Columbus's 1492 arrival. In 2021, a team including conservators Marie-France Lemay and Paula Zyats and materials scientist Anikó Bezur performed an extensive analysis of the map and the ink used. They found that the ink contains titanium dioxide, a compound that was first introduced in ink manufacturing in the early 1900s. Therefore, the team concluded that

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Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. mid-1400s Europeans could not have known about the eastern coast of present-day North America.
- B. the Vinland Map could not have been drawn by mid-1400s mapmakers.
- C. mapmakers must have used titanium compounds in their ink in the 1400s.
- D. there isn't enough information to determine when the ink was created.

## ID: 8fbed1cb Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Lemay, Zyats, and Bezur's 2021 analysis of the Vinland Map. The text indicates that while some scholars have believed that the map was drawn in the mid-1400s, the 2021 analysis showed the presence of the compound titanium dioxide in the ink used to draw the map. The text goes on to say that titanium dioxide wasn't used to manufacture ink until the early 1900s, which means that ink containing this compound couldn't have been available to mapmakers in the 1400s. Since mapmakers in the mid-1400s couldn't have used ink with titanium dioxide, it follows that the Vinland Map couldn't have been drawn by mid-1400s mapmakers.

Choice A is incorrect because the 2021 finding that the ink used to draw the Vinland Map wasn't available until the early 1900s doesn't imply that Europeans in the mid-1400s couldn't have known about the eastern coast of North America. While this finding suggests that the map couldn't have been created in the mid-1400s, it doesn't preclude the possibility that Europeans nevertheless had knowledge—and perhaps even drew other maps that are no longer in existence or are yet to be discovered by researchers—of the eastern coast of present-day North America as early as the mid-1400s. Choice C is incorrect because there's nothing in the text that suggests that the 2021 discovery of the presence of titanium dioxide in the ink used to draw the Vinland Map caused Lemay, Zyats, and Bezur to question or reach a new conclusion about when mapmakers began using ink containing titanium compounds. Instead, the text indicates that titanium dioxide wasn't used in ink before the early 1900s. This knowledge led the team to conclude that the map, which was drawn with ink containing titanium dioxide, couldn't have been created in the mid-1400s. Choice D is incorrect because although the text doesn't indicate that Lemay, Zyats, and Bezur established an exact date for the creation of the ink that was used to draw the Vinland Map, the text does say that titanium dioxide was introduced in ink manufacturing in the early 1900s. This fact provides enough information to determine that the ink that was used to draw the map was created no earlier than the early 1900s. This finding, in turn, led the team to conclude that the Vinland Map couldn't have been drawn in the mid-1400s.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f2b3b53b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: f2b3b53b

External shopping cues are a type of marketing that uses obvious messaging—a display featuring a new product, for example, or a “buy one, get one free” offer—to entice consumers to make spontaneous purchases. In a study, data scientist Sam K. Hui and colleagues found that this effect can also be achieved with a less obvious cue: rearranging a store’s layout. The researchers explain that trying to find items in new locations causes shoppers to move through more of the store, exposing them to more products and increasing the likelihood that they’ll buy an item they hadn’t planned on purchasing.

Which response from a survey given to shoppers who made a purchase at a retail store best supports the researchers’ explanation?

“I needed to buy some cleaning supplies, but they weren’t in their regular place. While I was looking for them, I saw this A. interesting notebook and decided to buy it, too.”

“I didn’t buy everything on my shopping list today. I couldn’t find a couple of the items in the store, even though I looked B. all over for them.”

“The store sent me a coupon for a new brand of soup, so I came here to find out what kinds of soup that brand offers. I C. decided to buy a few cans because I had the coupon.”

“This store is larger than one that’s closer to where I live, and it carries more products. I came here to buy some things D. that the other store doesn’t always have.”

## ID: f2b3b53b Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it best supports the researchers' explanation of the results of rearranging a store's layout. According to the text, Sam K. Hui and colleagues found that rearranging a store's layout can encourage customers to make spontaneous purchases. The text states that the researchers explain that a change in layout causes shoppers to hunt for items' new locations, which exposes the shoppers to more products and increases the likelihood that they'll make an unplanned purchase. This quotation from a surveyed shopper indicates that the shopper spontaneously purchased a notebook while looking for cleaning supplies that weren't in their usual place. The quotation therefore supports the researchers' explanation that rearranging a store's layout can lead shoppers to make unanticipated purchases.

Choice B is incorrect because it doesn't support the researchers' explanation that rearranging a store's layout can lead shoppers to make unanticipated purchases. Instead of attributing an unplanned purchase to a change in layout, the quotation notes that the shopper searched for but couldn't find some items, and as a result the shopper purchased less, not more, than what was anticipated. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation attributes what was purchased to coupons that the shopper received, not to a new store layout. Thus, the quotation doesn't support the researchers' explanation that rearranging a store's layout can lead shoppers to make unanticipated purchases. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation attributes what was purchased to the size and stock of the store, not to a new store layout. The shopper simply purchased products that the shopper wanted in a particular store because other stores didn't carry those products, so the quotation doesn't support the researchers' explanation that rearranging a store's layout can lead shoppers to make spontaneous purchases.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5432d1de

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 5432d1de

It's common for jazz musicians and fans to refer to certain songs as having "swing," indicating that the songs provoke a strong feeling, like the impulse to tap one's foot or dance. The exact acoustic properties that give a song swing, however, have long been thought to be undefinable. To investigate swing, a team led by physicist Corentin Nelias delayed the downbeats and synchronized the offbeats in jazz piano solos and asked jazz musicians to compare the intensity of swing in each modified piece with the intensity of swing in the original piece. They found that participants were more than seven times likelier to characterize the modified songs as having swing than to characterize the original versions as having swing, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. synchronized offbeats tend to give a song swing regardless of whether downbeats are delayed.
- B. the acoustic properties that give a song swing are not easy for jazz musicians to manipulate.
- C. jazz songs that feature the piano are more likely to have swing than are jazz songs that do not feature the piano.
- D. the timing of downbeats and offbeats may play a crucial role in giving a song swing.

## ID: 5432d1de Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The passage tells us that participants were "more than seven times likelier to characterize the modified songs as having swing than to characterize the original versions as having swing." Because the modified songs had been changed by altering the timing of the downbeats and offbeats, this suggests that the timing of downbeats and offbeats may play a crucial role in giving a song swing.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the passage mentions that the researchers "synchronized the offbeats" in the modified songs, they also "delayed the downbeats" in those songs. Because we can't disentangle whether it was the synchronized offbeats, the delayed downbeats, or the combination of both that increased the song's swing, we don't have enough information to make this inference. Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention whether or not it's difficult for a jazz musician to give a song swing, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn't compare jazz songs that feature piano to those that don't, so there's no basis for this inference.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4e9af7a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 4e9af7a

The Indus River valley civilization flourished in South Asia from 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE. Many examples of the civilization's writing system exist, but researchers haven't yet deciphered it or identified which ancient language it represents. Nevertheless, archaeologists have found historical artifacts, such as clay figures and jewelry, that provide information about the civilization's customs and how its communities were organized. The archaeologists' findings therefore suggest that

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Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. investigating an ancient civilization is easier without knowledge of the civilization's language.
- B. knowing an ancient civilization's language isn't necessary in order to learn details about the civilization.
- C. archaeological research should focus on finding additional artifacts rather than deciphering ancient languages.
- D. examining the civilization's historical artifacts has resolved the debate about this civilization's language.

## ID: 4e9af7a Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the Indus River valley civilization. The text establishes that archaeologists haven't been able to interpret the Indus River valley civilization's writing system but have nevertheless acquired information about the civilization through historical artifacts. The fact that archaeologists have been able to learn about the Indus River valley civilization's customs and community organization from historical artifacts suggests that it isn't necessary to understand an ancient civilization's language to learn about the civilization.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss how easy it is to investigate ancient civilizations with or without knowledge of the civilization's language; rather, it states that even though researchers have not yet deciphered the language of the Indus River valley civilization, they are still able to learn about it through historical artifacts. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't make any claims as to what the focus of archaeological research should be. Rather, the text discusses how archaeologists have been able to learn about an ancient civilization through historical artifacts despite not understanding the civilization's language. Choice D is incorrect because the text states that the civilization's language has not yet been interpreted; it makes no mention of a debate about the language. Instead, the text suggests that examination of the historical artifacts has allowed archaeologists to learn about the civilization but has not aided thus far in deciphering its language.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 3882ddf6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 3882ddf6

To investigate the history of plate subduction—when one of Earth’s tectonic plates slides beneath another—Sarah M. Aarons and colleagues compared ancient rocks from the Acasta Gneiss Complex in Canada to modern rocks. Using isotope analysis, the researchers found that Acasta rocks dating to about 4.02 billion years ago (bya) most strongly resemble modern rocks formed in a plume setting (an area in which hot rocks from Earth’s mantle flow upward into the crust). By contrast, they found that Acasta rocks dating to about 3.75 bya and 3.6 bya have an isotope composition that is similar to that of modern rocks formed in a subduction setting. Aarons’s team therefore concluded that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. subduction-like processes began occurring in some locations no later than 3.75 bya.
- B. subduction replaced mantle plume formation as the most common geological process by about 4.02 bya.
- C. the majority of the rocks in the Acasta Gneiss Complex formed through subduction.
- D. the rocks in the Acasta Gneiss Complex are of a more recent origin than scientists previously thought.

## ID: 3882ddf6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Because researchers found “Acasta rocks dating to about 3.75 bya” were similar to “modern rocks formed in a subduction setting,” we can infer that subduction-like processes must have begun occurring in the Acasta Gneiss Complex by this time.

Choice B is incorrect. We only know about geological processes at the Acasta Gneiss Complex, so we do not have information to make inferences about geological processes in general. Also, notice that the rocks dated to 4.02 bya were found to still be formed in a plume setting, so the transition must have happened after this time. Choice C is incorrect. There’s no mention in the passage of what proportion of the rocks within Acasta Gneiss Complex were formed through subduction, so there’s no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. The passage discusses various rocks in the Acasta Gneiss Complex that are dated to different periods of time, but nothing in the passage suggests that these dates are or were wrong.

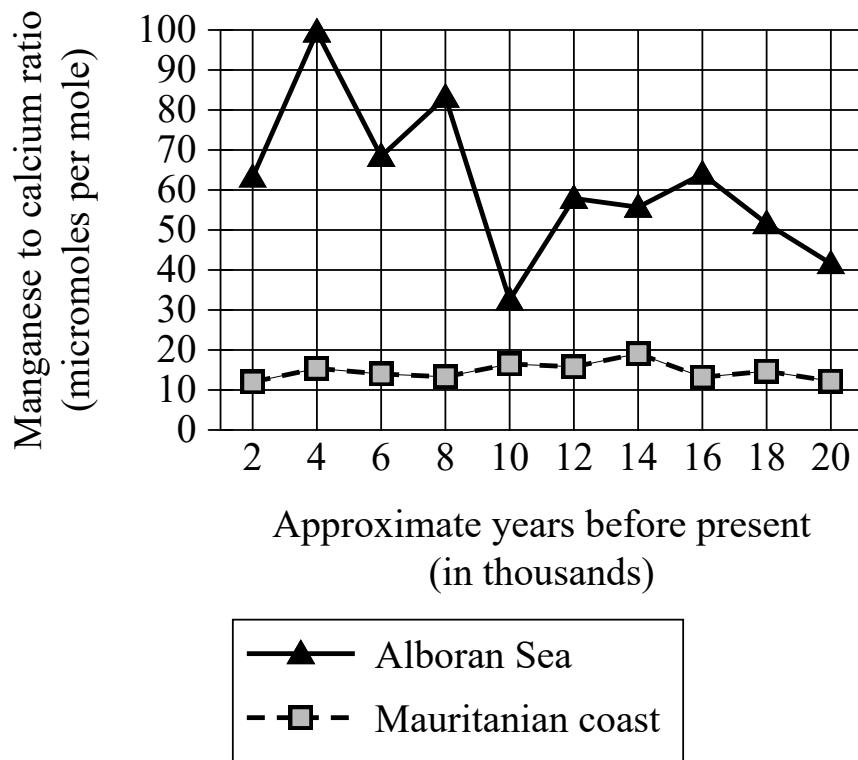
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 3233c162

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 3233c162

## Ratio of Manganese to Calcium in Samples from Alboran Sea and Mauritanian Coast



The population of the coral *Lophelia pertusa* declined significantly around 9,000 years ago in the Alboran Sea and around 11,000 years ago near the Mauritanian coast. Using the ratio of manganese to calcium, which inversely correlates with ocean oxygenation levels, marine scientist Rodrigo da Costa Portilho-Ramos and colleagues evaluated whether oxygenation played a role in the declines of *L. pertusa*. The researchers concluded that oxygenation may have been important in the Alboran Sea but not near the Mauritanian coast, since \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement?

- a substantial increase in oxygenation in the Alboran Sea corresponded with the local decline in *L. pertusa*, but the  
A. opposite relationship between oxygenation and *L. pertusa* was found near the Mauritanian coast.

- L. pertusa* declined in the Alboran Sea during a period of substantial local decline in oxygenation, but *L. pertusa* declined  
B. near the Mauritanian coast during a period of little local change in oxygenation.

- oxygenation in the Alboran Sea was higher before the decline in *L. pertusa* than after the decline, whereas oxygenation  
C. near the Mauritanian coast was relatively low both before and after the decline in *L. pertusa*.

oxygenation in the Alboran Sea tended to be substantially higher than oxygenation near the Mauritanian coast during the D. period studied.

### ID: 3233c162 Answer

Correct Answer: B

#### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement about Rodrigo da Costa Portilho-Ramos and colleagues' conclusion. The graph shows the ratio of manganese to calcium in *L. pertusa* coral samples from the Alboran Sea and the Mauritanian coast. The graph reflects time in approximate years before present: in other words, the greater the number in years noted on the graph's horizontal axis, the farther that moment is in the past. The text indicates that the researchers tested the samples to determine whether oxygenation played a role in the decline of *L. pertusa*. The text goes on to note that a change in the ratio of manganese to calcium would signal an inverse, or opposite, change in oxygenation. According to the graph, the ratio of manganese to calcium in samples from the Alboran Sea increased from about 30 micromoles per mole 10,000 years ago to about 80 micromoles per mole 8,000 years ago, which means that oxygenation decreased between 10,000 and 8,000 years ago. Meanwhile, there was almost no discernible change in the ratio of manganese to calcium in samples from the Mauritanian coast between 12,000 and 10,000 years ago. According to the text, the population of *L. pertusa* declined significantly around 9,000 years ago in the Alboran Sea and around 11,000 years ago near the Mauritanian coast. Thus, the increase in the ratio of manganese to calcium around 9,000 years ago in the Alboran Sea coincides with the decline in the *L. pertusa* population, suggesting an association between the decrease in oxygenation and the decline in population of the coral. No such relationship is suggested around 11,000 years ago near the Mauritanian coast. So, oxygenation likely played a role in the *L. pertusa* decline in the Alboran Sea but not in the coral's decline near the Mauritanian coast.

Choice A is incorrect because it asserts the opposite of what the graph indicates regarding oxygenation in the Alboran Sea, and it misrepresents what the graph indicates about oxygenation near the Mauritanian coast. The graph indicates that at the time of the decline in *L. pertusa* (approximately 9,000 years ago), the samples from the Alboran Sea contained a ratio of manganese to calcium that was increasing. According to the text, this ratio inversely correlates with ocean oxygenation levels, so if the ratio was increasing, oxygenation was decreasing, not substantially increasing. Furthermore, the graph shows that the ratio of manganese to calcium remained relatively stable in coral samples from the Mauritanian coast during the period studied, which suggests that there was no discernible relationship between oxygenation and the coral's population decline in that location, not that there was a substantial decrease in oxygenation corresponding to the coral's decline. Choice C is incorrect. Although the graph suggests that the level of oxygenation in the Alboran Sea was higher before the decline in *L. pertusa* than after—because the ratio of manganese to calcium inversely correlates with ocean oxygenation levels and this ratio was lower before the decline than after—the graph doesn't support the claim that oxygenation near the Mauritanian coast was consistently low before and after the coral's decline there. Rather, the graph indicates that relative to coral samples from the Alboran Sea, the ratio of manganese to calcium in samples from near the Mauritanian coast was consistently low, which suggests that oxygenation levels were relatively high both before and after the decline of *L. pertusa*. Choice D is incorrect because it states the opposite of what the graph indicates: the graph shows that throughout the period studied, the ratio of manganese to calcium was higher in coral samples from the Alboran Sea than it was in samples from near the Mauritanian coast. Since the text indicates that the ratio of manganese to calcium inversely correlates with ocean oxygenation levels, oxygenation in the Alboran Sea was therefore lower than, not higher than, oxygenation near the Mauritanian coast during the period studied. Moreover, even if choice D did accurately represent the graph, it wouldn't effectively complete the statement since a comparison of the ocean oxygenation levels at the two locations is not relevant to the claim that a decline in oxygenation levels was associated with the decline of *L. pertusa* in the Alboran Sea but not near the Mauritanian coast.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 7f0be746

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 7f0be746

The following text is from Milan Kundera's 1984 novel *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* (translated by Michael Henry Heim in 1984). Karenin is a dog that belongs to Tomas and Tereza.

Karenin was not overjoyed by the move to Switzerland [from Prague]. Karenin hated change. Dog time cannot be plotted along a straight line; it does not move on and on, from one thing to the next. It moves in a circle like the hands of a clock, which—they, too, unwilling to dash madly ahead—turn round and round the face, day in and day out following the same path. In Prague, when Tomas and Tereza bought a new chair or moved a flower pot, Karenin would look on in displeasure. It disturbed his sense of time. It was as though they were trying to dupe the hands of the clock by changing the numbers on its face.

©1984 by Milan Kundera. Translation ©1984 by Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

As a dog, Karenin possesses a sense of time that involves a strong preference for predictability and an aversion to A. disruption.

B. After he's moved to a new home, Karenin's negative response to changes has become more pronounced.

C. Similar to Tomas and Tereza, Karenin comprehends time as circular rather than as a straightforward progression.

As is the case for other dogs, Karenin's sense of time seems to accelerate depending on the objects and places that D. surround him.

## ID: 7f0be746 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by stating that Tomas and Tereza's dog Karenin felt disrupted by a recent move because of his dislike of change. The text then goes on to suggest that this is because the way a dog experiences time differs from the way humans experience time: time for a dog doesn't move linearly, going "on and on, from one thing to the next," but instead moves circularly, "like the hands of a clock." That is, time for a dog is experienced as a cyclical pattern characterized by routine and predictability, with each day "following the same path." The text then concludes by providing examples of seemingly insignificant changes in routine that profoundly "disturbed [Karenin's] sense of time," causing him to feel displeasure. Thus, the main idea of the text is that Karenin's sense of time as a dog involves a strong preference for predictability and an aversion to disruption.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text emphasizes Karenin's displeasure with the recent move to a new home, it doesn't suggest that the move has made his negative responses more pronounced than they once were. Rather, in accounting for Karenin's displeasure with the move to Switzerland, the text explains that Karenin generally has a negative response to any kind of change. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that Karenin comprehends time similarly to how Tomas and Tereza comprehend it. On the contrary, the text strongly implies a contrast between dogs' circular experience of time with the way humans experience time as a straightforward progression that can be "plotted on a straight line." Choice D is incorrect because the text provides no indication that a change in the places and objects surrounding Karenin causes him to feel as though time is accelerating. Although the text does use the language of "dash[ing] madly ahead" in relation to time, the phrase appears in the context of a comparison illustrating how dogs experience time: time for a dog moves just as the hands of a clock do, in a circle and "unwilling to dash madly ahead"—that is, always in a regular and predictable way.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a44bbd6b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: a44bbd6b

Several studies of sediment (e.g., dirt, pieces of rock, etc.) in streams have shown an inverse correlation between sediment grain size and downstream distance from the primary sediment source, suggesting that stream length has a sorting effect on sediment. In a study of sediment sampled at more than a dozen sites in Alpine streams, however, geologists Camille Litty and Fritz Schlunegger found that cross-site variations in grain size were not associated with differences in downstream distance, though they did not conclude that downstream distance is irrelevant to grain size. Rather, they concluded that sediment influx in these streams may have been sufficiently spatially diffuse to prevent the typical sorting effect from being observed.

Which finding about the streams in the study, if true, would most directly support Litty and Schlunegger's conclusion?

The streams regularly experience portions of their banks collapsing into the water at multiple points upstream of the  
A. sampling sites.

The streams contain several types of sediment that are not typically found in streams where the sorting effect has been  
B. demonstrated.

The streams mostly originate from the same source, but their lengths vary considerably due to the different courses they  
C. take.

The streams are fed by multiple tributaries that carry significant volumes of sediment and that enter the streams  
D. downstream of the sampling sites.

## ID: a44bbd6b Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This finding would support the conclusion. If stream banks are collapsing into the water at multiple points, then sediment is getting into the water at those various points. This supports the conclusion that the inflow of sediment is very spread out.

Choice B is incorrect. This finding wouldn't support the conclusion. The conclusion is about the influx of sediment being "spatially diffuse," meaning spread out over a large area. The type of sediment wouldn't have an impact on the conclusions. Choice C is incorrect. This finding wouldn't support the conclusion. It doesn't say anything about the influx of sediment being "spatially diffuse" (spread out). Choice D is incorrect. This finding wouldn't support the conclusion. Any sediment that enters downstream of the sampling sites wouldn't end up in the samples, so it wouldn't affect the findings or the conclusion.

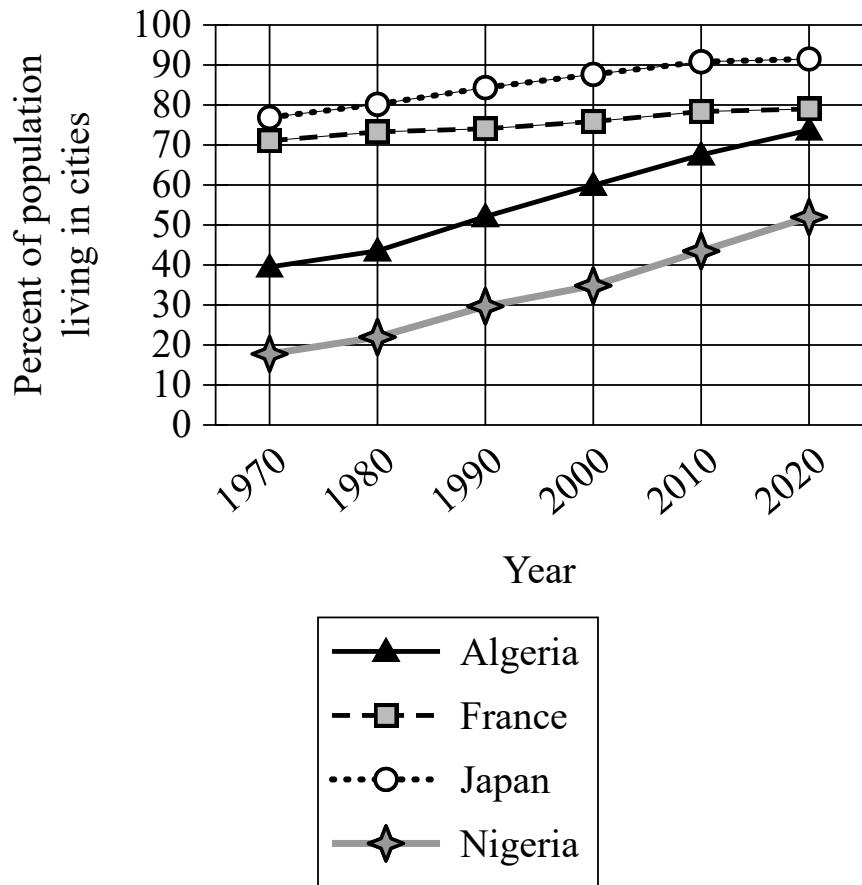
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a2b0fc3b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ □

ID: a2b0fc3b

Urban Population of  
Algeria, France, Japan, and Nigeria



The share of the world's population living in cities has increased dramatically since 1970, but this change has not been uniform. France and Japan, for example, were already heavily urbanized in 1970, with 70% or more of the population living in cities. The main contributors to the world's urbanization since 1970 have been countries like Algeria, whose population went from \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the assertion?

- A. around 50% urban in 1970 to around 90% urban in 2020.
- B. less than 40% urban in 1970 to around 90% urban in 2020.
- C. less than 20% urban in 1970 to more than 50% urban in 2020.
- D. around 40% urban in 1970 to more than 70% urban in 2020.

**Correct Answer:** D

**Rationale**

Choice D is the best answer. This choice effectively uses data from the graph to complete the example. The line representing the percent of Algeria's population living in cities is the black triangle line. According to the graph, it started at 40% in 1970 and reached 70% in 2020.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. The line representing the percent of Algeria's population living in cities is the black triangle line. According to the graph, it started at 40% in 1970 and reached 70% in 2020. Choice B is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. The line representing the percent of Algeria's population living in cities is the black triangle line. According to the graph, it started at 40% in 1970 and reached 70% in 2020. Choice C is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. The line representing the percent of Algeria's population living in cities is the black triangle line. According to the graph, it started at 40% in 1970 and reached 70% in 2020.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2584bcfb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 2584bcfb

Matthew D. Rocklage and team examined whether consumer ratings of movies can predict box office success. The team considered both numeric star ratings and written reviews in their research. To analyze the written reviews, the team measured the emotionality—the degree to which a written review expresses an emotional reaction—of user reviews on a movie rating website, assigning each review an emotionality score. After reviewing this research, a student argues that the emotionality of movie reviews is unrelated to a movie's success at the box office.

Which finding, if true, would most directly weaken the student's conclusion?

- Movies that had the highest average emotionality scores received the lowest average star ratings on the movie rating A. website.
- B. The average emotionality score of a movie's reviews was a positive predictor of that movie's box office earnings.
- C. More than half of the movies that the team examined received an average star rating of 3 out of 5 stars.
- D. The movies that were most successful at the box office tended to have high average star ratings.

## ID: 2584bcfb Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice weakens the student's conclusion by suggesting that the emotionality of movie reviews is related to box office success: the higher the emotionality score, the better the movie performs at the box office.

Choice A is incorrect. While this choice does mention emotionality scores, it only connects them to star ratings, not to box office success. Choice C is incorrect. The fact that many movies received an average star rating doesn't tell us anything about the relationship between emotionality and box office success. Choice D is incorrect. While this choice suggests that star ratings can predict box office success, it doesn't address the issue of emotionality in written reviews, which is the focus of the student's conclusion.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a59245a1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: a59245a1

The painter María Izquierdo played an important role in the development of twentieth-century Mexican art, but her work has never been well-known in the United States except among art historians. One reason for Izquierdo's relative obscurity is the enormous popularity of some of her peers. In particular, the painters Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera have so captivated the interest of US audiences that Izquierdo and other Mexican artists from the period often get overlooked, despite the high quality of their work.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

Izquierdo's work is not as well-known in the United States as it should be because Kahlo and Rivera draw so much of the  
A. public's attention.

During Izquierdo's lifetime, her paintings were displayed in galleries in the United States much more frequently than  
B. paintings by Kahlo and Rivera were.

Izquierdo painted some of the same subjects that Kahlo and Rivera painted but used different techniques than they  
C. used.

D. Few of Izquierdo's works are in galleries today because she produced only a small number of paintings.

## ID: a59245a1 Answer

Correct Answer: A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by stating that María Izquierdo was an important figure in the history of twentieth-century Mexican art, but despite her importance, her work hasn't received widespread recognition in the United States. According to the text, one reason for this is that Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera are so famous in the US that they overshadow other important Mexican artists, including Izquierdo. Thus, the main idea of the text is that Izquierdo's work is less well known in the US than it should be because Kahlo and Rivera draw most of the public's attention.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss the appearance of Izquierdo's paintings in galleries in the US during her lifetime, nor does it suggest that her paintings were displayed more frequently than paintings by Kahlo or Rivera were. Instead, the text focuses on the fact that Izquierdo has been overlooked in the US because of Kahlo's and Rivera's greater popularity. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss either the subject matter of Izquierdo's paintings or the techniques she used, nor does it compare these aspects of her paintings with those of Kahlo's and Rivera's paintings. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't mention how many of Izquierdo's paintings appear in galleries today, nor does it state that she produced only a small number of paintings.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 3f236877

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 3f236877

Ratified by more than 90 countries, the Nagoya Protocol is an international agreement ensuring that Indigenous communities are compensated when their agricultural resources and knowledge of wild plants and animals are utilized by agricultural corporations. However, the protocol has shortcomings. For example, it allows corporations to insist that their agreements with communities to conduct research on the commercial uses of the communities' resources and knowledge remain confidential. Therefore, some Indigenous advocates express concern that the protocol may have the unintended effect of \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. diminishing the monetary reward that corporations might derive from their agreements with Indigenous communities.
- B. signed agreements.
- C. Indigenous communities.
- D. discouraging Indigenous communities from learning new methods for harvesting plants and animals from their corporate partners.

## ID: 3f236877 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the argument about an unintended effect of the Nagoya Protocol. The text explains that the Nagoya Protocol is an agreement ensuring that Indigenous communities are compensated when their agricultural resources and knowledge are used by corporations. The text then states that the protocol allows corporations to keep their agreements with Indigenous communities confidential, about which some Indigenous advocates express concern. Choice C, when inserted into the blank, gives a good justification for the advocates' concern: such secrecy could mean that the public is unable to determine whether participating Indigenous communities were properly compensated under these agreements.

Choice A is incorrect. The text suggests that because corporations can keep their agreements with Indigenous communities confidential, Indigenous communities, not corporations, might not be compensated fairly. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the ability of corporations to keep their agreements with Indigenous communities confidential would place limits on how much research corporations can undertake. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that Indigenous communities aim to learn new harvesting methods from their corporate partners. Rather, the text suggests that corporations use the knowledge of Indigenous communities for their research.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5b74feb9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 5b74feb9

Political scientists who favor the traditional view of voter behavior claim that voting in an election does not change a voter's attitude toward the candidates in that election. Focusing on each US presidential election from 1976 to 1996, Ebony Washington and Sendhil Mullainathan tested this claim by distinguishing between subjects who had just become old enough to vote (around half of whom actually voted) and otherwise similar subjects who were slightly too young to vote (and thus none of whom voted). Washington and Mullainathan compared the attitudes of the groups of subjects toward the winning candidate two years after each election.

Which finding from Washington and Mullainathan's study, if true, would most directly weaken the claim made by people who favor the traditional view of voter behavior?

Subjects' attitudes toward the winning candidate two years after a given election were strongly predicted by subjects'  
A. general political orientation, regardless of whether subjects were old enough to vote at the time of the election.

Subjects who were not old enough to vote in a given election held significantly more positive attitudes towards the  
B. winning candidate two years later than they held at the time of the election.

Subjects who voted in a given election held significantly more polarized attitudes toward the winning candidate two years  
C. later than did subjects who were not old enough to vote in that election.

Two years after a given election, subjects who voted and subjects who were not old enough to vote were significantly  
D. more likely to express negative attitudes than positive attitudes toward the winning candidate in that election.

## ID: 5b74feb9 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would weaken the claim made by people who favor the traditional view of voter behavior. According to the text, people who favor that view believe that voting in an election doesn't change a voter's attitude toward the candidates in that election. If Washington and Mullainathan found that two years after an election, attitudes toward the winning candidate were significantly more polarized among subjects who had voted than among subjects who had been too young to vote, that would suggest that the act of voting did have an effect on the voters' attitudes toward the candidates, which would undermine the claim that voting doesn't change voters' attitudes.

Choice A is incorrect because a finding about links between subjects' attitudes and general political orientation, regardless of age and ability to vote, wouldn't address the presence or absence of changes in attitudes among those subjects who did actually vote. Therefore, the finding wouldn't have any bearing on the claim that voting in an election doesn't change a voter's attitude toward the candidates in that election. Choice B is incorrect because a finding that positive attitudes toward a winning candidate significantly increased in the two years after the election among subjects who had been too young to vote would involve only people who didn't vote; therefore, the finding wouldn't have any bearing on the claim that when people do vote, the act of voting doesn't change their attitudes toward the candidates. Choice D is incorrect because the finding that subjects in both groups were more likely to have negative attitudes than positive attitudes toward the winning candidate two years after an election would reflect all subjects' attitudes at one particular time whether they voted or not, rather than the presence or absence of a change in voters' attitudes after voting. Therefore, the finding would neither weaken nor strengthen the claim that voting in an election doesn't change a voter's attitude toward the candidates.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 0198240a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

**ID: 0198240a**

Under normal atmospheric pressure at Earth's surface, water molecules form a tetrahedral network stabilized by hydrogen bonds between adjacent molecules. Extreme high pressure, such as can be found in deep ocean waters, destabilizes these bonds and compresses water's structure, allowing water molecules within organisms to permeate proteins and impede crucial biological functions; yet deep-sea organisms known as piezophiles have adapted to extreme pressure. Studies have found a positive correlation between the depths that various piezophiles inhabit and concentrations of a compound called trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO) in their muscle tissues, which has led a team of researchers to hypothesize that TMAO reduces water's compressibility.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers' hypothesis?

Water molecules are found to be impervious to TMAO even when the water molecules' tetrahedral configuration has been  
A. distorted by high pressure.

B. Examination of TMAO's molecular structure shows that TMAO molecules retain their shape even as pressure increases.

A positive correlation is found between concentrations of TMAO and the rate at which water's molecular structure  
C. compresses as pressure increases.

Analysis of water's molecular structure under high pressure reveals that hydrogen bonds are more stable when TMAO is  
D. present than when it is not.

**ID: 0198240a Answer**

**Correct Answer: D**

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support the researchers' hypothesis that TMAO reduces water's compressibility. The text explains that at great depths in the ocean, extreme pressure compresses the molecular structure of water by destabilizing the hydrogen bonds between adjacent molecules, thereby allowing water to penetrate proteins and harm the associated organisms. However, deep-sea organisms called piezophiles have adapted to live at these depths and previous studies show a positive correlation between the depth at which a piezophile species lives and the species' level of the compound TMAO. Because this hypothesis links TMAO levels with reduced compressibility of water's tetrahedral molecular structure, a finding that TMAO helps maintain the hydrogen bonds between water molecules under high pressure would strongly support that hypothesis.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the researchers' hypothesis suggests a relationship between TMAO and water molecules' tetrahedral molecular structure, that relationship involves TMAO helping maintain water's tetrahedral molecular structure under high pressure; as presented in the text, the hypothesis doesn't contend that water molecules are impervious to, or incapable of being penetrated by, TMAO. Choice B is incorrect because the text discusses how the molecular structure of water, not TMAO, is compressed under extreme pressure and never addresses how TMAO might be affected by such pressure. Choice C is incorrect because the researchers' hypothesis holds that water under extreme pressure is more resistant, not less, to being compressed when TMAO concentrations are higher. Moreover, the positive correlation mentioned in the text is between TMAO concentrations and the depths at which piezophiles live, not between concentrations of TMAO and the rate at which water's molecular structure compresses as pressure increases.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c2c61e7d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: c2c61e7d

Researchers hypothesized that a decline in the population of dusky sharks near the mid-Atlantic coast of North America led to a decline in the population of eastern oysters in the region. Dusky sharks do not typically consume eastern oysters but do consume cownose rays, which are the main predators of the oysters.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers' hypothesis?

Declines in the regional abundance of dusky sharks' prey other than cownose rays are associated with regional declines  
A. in dusky shark abundance.

Eastern oyster abundance tends to be greater in areas with both dusky sharks and cownose rays than in areas with only  
B. dusky sharks.

Consumption of eastern oysters by cownose rays in the region substantially increased before the regional decline in  
C. dusky shark abundance began.

D. Cownose rays have increased in regional abundance as dusky sharks have decreased in regional abundance.

## ID: c2c61e7d Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support the researchers' hypothesis about the connection between the dusky shark population decline and the eastern oyster population decline. The text indicates that although dusky sharks don't usually eat eastern oysters, they do consume cownose rays, which are the main predators of eastern oysters. An increase in the abundance of cownose rays in the region in response to a decline in the abundance of dusky sharks would directly support the researchers' hypothesis: a higher number of cownose rays would consume more eastern oysters, driving down the oyster population.

Choice A is incorrect because a finding that there's an association between a decline in the regional abundance of some of dusky sharks' prey and the regional abundance of dusky sharks wouldn't directly support the researchers' hypothesis that a decline in dusky sharks has led to a decline in eastern oysters in the region. Although such a finding might help explain why shark abundance has declined, it would reveal nothing about whether the shark decline is related to the oyster decline. Choice B is incorrect because a finding that eastern oyster abundance tends to be greater when dusky sharks and cownose rays are present than when only dusky sharks are present wouldn't support the researchers' hypothesis that a decline in dusky sharks has led to a decline in eastern oysters in the region. The text indicates that the sharks prey on the rays, which are the main predators of the oysters; if oyster abundance is found to be greater when rays are present than when rays are absent, that would suggest that rays aren't keeping oyster abundance down, and thus that a decline in rays' predators, which would be expected to lead to an increase in the abundance of rays, wouldn't bring about a decline in oyster abundance as the researchers hypothesize. Choice C is incorrect because a finding that consumption of eastern oysters by cownose rays increased substantially before dusky sharks declined in regional abundance wouldn't support the researchers' hypothesis that the decline in dusky sharks has led to a decline in eastern oysters in the region. Such a finding would suggest that some factor other than shark abundance led to an increase in rays' consumption of oysters and thus to a decrease in oyster abundance, thereby weakening the researchers' hypothesis.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 825dc766

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 825dc766

*King Lear* is a circa 1606 play by William Shakespeare. In the play, the character of King Lear attempts to test his three daughters' devotion to him. He later expresses regret for his actions, as is evident when he \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses a quotation from *King Lear* to illustrate the claim?

- A. says of himself, "I am a man / more sinned against than sinning."
- B. says during a growing storm, "This tempest will not give me leave to ponder / On things would hurt me more."
- C. says to himself while striking his head, "Beat at this gate that let thy folly in / And thy dear judgement out!"
- D. says of himself, "I will do such things— / What they are yet, I know not; but they shall be / The terrors of the earth!"

## ID: 825dc766 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses a quotation from *King Lear* to illustrate the claim that King Lear expresses regret for his actions. In the quotation, Lear describes striking himself on the head—the same act he's engaged in as he speaks, and one that suggests he's deeply upset with himself. Referring to himself in the second person (with "thy"), the character exclaims "Beat at this gate that let thy folly in / And thy dear judgement out!" Lear refers metaphorically to his own mind as a gate that has allowed folly, or poor judgement, to enter and good judgement to escape. This suggests that Lear regrets his attempts to test his three daughters' devotion to him, regarding those attempts as examples of the folly that has entered the gate of his mind.

Choice A is incorrect because this quotation doesn't express King Lear's sense of regret over his own actions; instead, it expresses his belief that the harm that others have done to him (or the extent to which they have "sinned against" him) outweighs whatever harm he himself has caused by "sinning." Choice B is incorrect because this quotation doesn't express King Lear's sense of regret over his own actions; instead, it expresses his thoughts about an approaching storm ("this tempest"), which he believes "will not give [him] leave to ponder," or time to consider, the harm that he will continue to experience ("things" that "would hurt [him] more"). Choice D is incorrect because this quotation expresses King Lear's vow to commit terrible actions (or "things" that "shall be / The terrors of the earth") in the future, not his regret over actions that he's already taken.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 0240d11c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 0240d11c

In the twentieth century, ethnographers made a concerted effort to collect Mexican American folklore, but they did not always agree about that folklore's origins. Scholars such as Aurelio Espinosa claimed that Mexican American folklore derived largely from the folklore of Spain, which ruled Mexico and what is now the southwestern United States from the sixteenth to early nineteenth centuries. Scholars such as Américo Paredes, by contrast, argued that while some Spanish influence is undeniable, Mexican American folklore is mainly the product of the ongoing interactions of various cultures in Mexico and the United States.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Paredes's argument?

The folklore that the ethnographers collected included several songs written in the form of a *décima*, a type of poem

A. originating in late sixteenth-century Spain.

B. Much of the folklore that the ethnographers collected had similar elements from region to region.

C. Most of the folklore that the ethnographers collected was previously unknown to scholars.

Most of the folklore that the ethnographers collected consisted of *corridos*—ballads about history and social life—of a

D. clearly recent origin.

## ID: 0240d11c Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support Paredes's argument that Mexican-American folklore is mostly the result of cultural interactions in Mexico and the United States rather than an adaptation of Spanish folklore. The text describes a disagreement among scholars about whether Mexican-American folklore mostly derived from the folklore of Spain or originated in Mexico and the United States as cultures there have interacted. The latter view is the argument that Paredes puts forward. If Mexican-American folklore collected in the twentieth century mostly consists of ballads about history and social life that originated recently, then that would support Paredes's argument, since it would suggest that the folklore mostly arose after Spanish rule ended in the early nineteenth century and that the folklore reflects cultural interactions in Mexico and the United States rather than traditions from Spain.

Choice A is incorrect because the inclusion of songs influenced by sixteenth-century Spanish poetry among Mexican-American folklore collected in the twentieth century would not support Paredes's view that the folklore was the result of cultural interactions in Mexico and the United States rather than an offshoot of Spanish folklore. If anything, the presence of such songs among the folklore collected in the twentieth century would weaken Paredes's argument, since it would reflect the influence of Spanish culture on the folklore. Choice B is incorrect because the mere presence of similarities in Mexican-American folklore across regions would not be sufficient to draw a conclusion about where the folklore originated, let alone to support Paredes's argument that the folklore reflects cultural interactions in Mexico and the United States. In fact, since Paredes argued that Mexican-American folklore is the product of various cultures interacting in Mexico and the United States, he would likely expect there to be regional variations in folklore as different cultures have interacted in different places. Choice C is incorrect because scholars' previous ignorance of the folklore would have no bearing on Paredes's argument that Mexican-American folklore mostly reflects cultural interactions in Mexico and the United States. The folklore's origins are independent of scholars' knowledge of the folklore.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 25290c8d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 25290c8d

"On Virtue" is a 1766 poem by Phillis Wheatley. Wheatley addresses the poem directly to the quality of virtue, imploring it to assist her in reaching a future goal: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from "On Virtue" most effectively illustrates the claim?

"Attend me, *Virtue*, thro' my youthful years! / O leave me not to the false joys of time! / But guide my steps to endless life  
A. and bliss."

B. "I cease to wonder, and no more attempt / Thine height t'explore, or fathom thy profound."

"O thou bright jewel in my aim I strive / To comprehend thee. Thine own words declare / Wisdom is higher than a fool can  
C. reach."

"But, O my soul, sink not into despair, / *Virtue* is near thee, and with gentle hand / Would now embrace thee, hovers o'er  
D. thine head."

## ID: 25290c8d Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that Wheatley addresses her poem "On Virtue" to the quality of virtue, imploring it to assist her in reaching a future goal. In the quotation, Wheatley begs virtue to accompany her, or "attend [her]," through her youth and to "guide [her] steps to" the future goal of "endless life and bliss."

Choice B is incorrect because this quotation suggests the difficulty of fully comprehending virtue. Rather than asking virtue for help, Wheatley presents it as a quality that is impossible to entirely understand because it is so grand and deep. Choice C is incorrect because this quotation describes Wheatley's effort to comprehend virtue despite virtue itself declaring that such wisdom is beyond her grasp, or "higher than a fool can reach." Choice D is incorrect because rather than asking virtue for help in this quotation, Wheatley urges herself to "sink not into despair" because virtue is always nearby.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4d3e3c52

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 4d3e3c52

In a paper about p-i-n planar perovskite solar cells (one of several perovskite cell architectures designed to collect and store solar power), Lyndsey McMillon-Brown et al. describe a method for fabricating the cell's electronic transport layer (ETL) using a spray coating. Conventional ETL fabrication is accomplished using a solution of nanoparticles. The process can result in a loss of up to 80% of the solution, increasing the cost of manufacturing at scale—an issue that may be obviated by spray coating fabrication, which the researchers describe as "highly reproducible, concise, and practical."

What does the text most strongly suggest about conventional ETL fabrication?

It is less suitable for manufacturing large volumes of planar p-i-n perovskite solar cells than an alternative fabrication

A. method may be.

It is more expensive when manufacturing at scale than are processes for fabricating ETLs used in other perovskite solar

B. cell architectures.

C. It typically entails a greater loss of nanoparticle solution than do other established approaches for ETL fabrication.

It is somewhat imprecise and therefore limits the potential effectiveness of p-i-n planar perovskite solar cells at capturing

D. and storing solar power.

## ID: 4d3e3c52 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Conventional solar cell fabrication increases "the cost of manufacturing at scale," but spray coating might get rid of that problem.

Choice B is incorrect. This is not completely supported by the text. While it's true that conventional ETL fabrication is expensive at scale, there's nothing in the text that mentions other perovskite solar cell architectures. Choice C is incorrect. This choice does not match the text. Only one conventional method of ETL fabrication is described, so we can't compare the solution loss in this method to that of other conventional methods. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn't supported by the text. The text never suggests that the effectiveness of solar cells changes based on their method of fabrication.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d1b8a9ad

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: d1b8a9ad

Disco remains one of the most ridiculed popular music genres of the late twentieth century. But as scholars have argued, the genre is far less superficial than many people believe. Take the case of disco icon Donna Summer: she may have been associated with popular songs about love and heartbreak (subjects hardly unique to disco, by the way), but like many Black women singers before her, much of her music also reflects concerns about community and identity. These concerns are present in many of the genre's greatest songs, and they generally don't require much digging to reveal.

What does the text most strongly suggest about the disco genre?

A. It has been unjustly ignored by most scholars despite the importance of the themes addressed by many of the genre's songs.

B. It evolved over time from a superficial genre focused on romance to a genre focused on more serious concerns.

C. It has been unfairly dismissed for the inclusion of subject matter that is also found in other musical genres.

D. It gave rise to a Black women's musical tradition that has endured even though the genre itself faded in the late twentieth century.

## ID: d1b8a9ad Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text argues that disco is "far less superficial" than its popular perception might indicate, and that love and heartbreak are "subjects hardly unique to disco."

Choice A is incorrect. This choice conflicts with the text, which says that scholars argue that disco "is far less superficial than many people believe." Choice B is incorrect. This choice says the opposite of what the text suggests. The writer argues that the genre is not as superficial as commonly believed, but that it always reflected "concerns about community and identity." Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't support this choice. There's nothing in the text about disco giving rise to an enduring Black women's musical tradition.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 420b82e2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 420b82e2

In 2016 biological anthropologist Heather F. Smith and her team investigated the evolution of the appendix, an intestinal organ that is present in some mammals, including humans, but is generally thought to have no function. Studying 533 mammal species, the team found that the appendix has emerged independently across multiple lineages in separate instances and, significantly, hasn't disappeared after emerging in specific lineages. Moreover, the team determined that species with the organ tend to have higher concentrations of lymphoid tissue, which supports immune responses, in the cecum, the organ the appendix is attached to. Therefore, the team hypothesized that the appendix likely \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. was once present in many nonmammal species but has since disappeared from those lineages.
- B. has been preserved in certain mammal species because it benefits their immune systems.
- C. will emerge in a greater number of mammal species because it may serve a necessary function in the immune system.
- D. produced higher concentrations of lymphoid tissue in mammals in the past than it does currently.

## ID: 420b82e2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Smith and colleagues' investigation of the evolution and biological role of the appendix. The text indicates that the team found several instances of the appendix emerging and not disappearing in the lineages of various mammal species the team examined. Furthermore, the text states that species that possess an appendix also tend to have relatively high amounts of lymphoid tissue—a type of tissue that supports immune system function. Taken together, these details strongly support the hypothesis that the appendix has persisted in some species because it has a function that contributes to effective immune responses in those species.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't address any nonmammalian species. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't make predictions about the evolutionary future of the species Smith and colleagues examined, and although the implication of the text is that the appendix likely does serve a function for the immune system, nothing in the text indicates that the appendix will become more widespread in the future. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text does suggest an association between having an appendix and relatively high concentrations of lymphoid tissue, it doesn't claim that the appendix causes the tissue to grow, nor does it address the relative production of the tissue at different periods of time.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 64b6427a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 64b6427a

Since its completion in 2014, Bosco Verticale (Vertical Forest)—a pair of residential towers in Milan, Italy, covered by vegetation—has become a striking symbol of environmental sustainability in architecture. Stefano Boeri intended his design, which features balconies that are home to hundreds of trees, to serve as a model for promoting urban biodiversity. However, the concept has faced skepticism: critics note that although the trees used in Bosco Verticale were specifically cultivated for the project, it's too early to tell if they can thrive in this unusual setting.

According to the text, why are some critics skeptical of the concept behind Bosco Verticale?

- A. Some essential aspects of Bosco Verticale's design are difficult to adapt to locations other than Milan.
- B. The plant life on Bosco Verticale ended up being less varied than Boeri had envisioned it would be.
- C. buildings is.
- D. It is unclear whether Bosco Verticale can support the plant life included in its design.

## ID: 64b6427a Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about critics' skepticism of Bosco Verticale that is supported by the text. The text states that Boeri's design for Bosco Verticale features hundreds of trees on balconies and is intended to serve as a model for promoting urban biodiversity. But the text goes on to state that some critics believe that it is too early to determine if the trees planted on Bosco Verticale can thrive there. Therefore, according to the text, critics are skeptical of the concept behind Bosco Verticale because it is unclear whether Bosco Verticale can support the plant life included in its design.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text states that one of Boeri's goals was for Bosco Verticale to serve as a model for promoting biodiversity in architecture, which suggests that Boeri would likely support the idea of reproducing the same concept in other locations, the text does not discuss whether it is feasible to adapt the design to locations other than Milan. Instead, the text describes critics' concerns that the plant life that currently exists on Bosco Verticale might not thrive in its current setting. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text states that one of Boeri's goals in creating Bosco Verticale was to promote biodiversity, which implies a goal of including varied plant life in the design, it does not mention whether the hundreds of trees that were planted on its balconies failed to meet this goal. Rather, the text states that some critics are concerned that the trees on Bosco Verticale's balconies may not thrive in this setting. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not mention how Bosco Verticale was constructed, let alone how environmentally destructive its construction may have been relative to the construction of more conventional buildings.

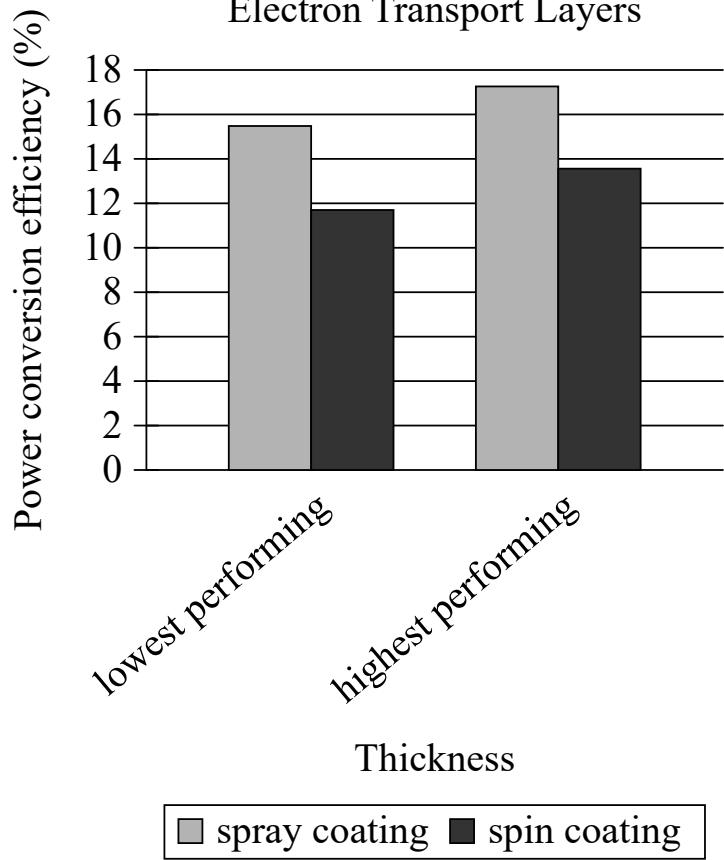
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 02848335

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 02848335

## Power Conversion Efficiency of Lowest and Highest Performing Spin-coated and Spray-coated Electron Transport Layers



Perovskite solar cells convert light into electricity more efficiently than earlier kinds of solar cells, and manufacturing advances have recently made them commercially attractive. One limitation of the cells, however, has to do with their electron transport layer (ETL), through which absorbed electrons must pass. Often the ETL is applied through a process called spin coating, but such ETLs are fairly inefficient at converting input power to output power. André Taylor and colleagues tested a novel spray coating method for applying the ETL. The team produced ETLs of various thicknesses and concluded that spray coating holds promise for improving the power conversion efficiency of ETLs in perovskite solar cells.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support Taylor and colleagues' conclusion?

- Both the ETL applied through spin coating and the ETL applied through spray coating showed a power conversion  
A. efficiency greater than 10% at their lowest performing thickness.

- The lowest performing ETL applied through spray coating had a higher power conversion efficiency than the highest  
B. performing ETL applied through spin coating.

The highest performing ETL applied through spray coating showed a power conversion efficiency of approximately 13%, while the highest performing ETL applied through spin coating showed a power conversion efficiency of approximately C. 11%.

There was a substantial difference in power conversion efficiency between the lowest and highest performing ETLs D. applied through spray coating.

### ID: 02848335 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

#### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that support Taylor and colleagues' conclusion that spray coating holds promise for improving the power conversion efficiency of ETLs in perovskite solar cells. The text explains that perovskite solar cells' efficiency at converting light into electricity is diminished by their electron transport layer (ETL), which is applied through spin coating, but that Taylor's team devised a new spray coating method for applying the ETL that improves its power conversion efficiency. The graph displays data on the power conversion efficiency of solar cells in tests conducted by Taylor's team, with bars for both the highest- and lowest-performing ETLs in two data categories: spray coating and spin coating. According to the graph, the lowest-performing ETL applied through spray coating had a power conversion efficiency of between 14% and 16%, while the highest-performing ETL applied through spin coating had a power conversion efficiency of less than 14%. These data confirm that ETLs applied through novel spray coating are more efficient than those applied though traditional spin coating. Thus, the data support Taylor and colleagues' conclusion about spray coating's potential value.

Choice A is incorrect. Although this claim correctly describes the data in the graph by stating that both the lowest-performing ETL applied through spin coating and the lowest-performing ETL applied through spray coating had a power conversion efficiency greater than 10%, this relationship in the data doesn't support or relate to Taylor and colleagues' conclusion that spray coating promises greater efficiency for solar cells than traditional spin coating does. Choice C is incorrect. This claim does address the greater power conversion efficiency of the highest-performing ETL applied through spray coating, compared with the highest-performing ETL applied through spin coating. However, it also incorrectly cites the value for the efficiency of the highest-performing ETL applied through spray coating as approximately 13%, instead of a value between 14% and 16%, and the value for the efficiency of the highest-performing ETL applied through spin coating as approximately 11%, instead of a value between 12% and 14%, as shown in the graph. Choice D is incorrect because Taylor and colleagues' conclusion is based on the difference in the power conversion efficiency of ETLs applied through spray coating and that of ETLs applied through spin coating, not on the difference between the highest- and lowest-performing ETLs applied through just spray coating.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 95dbdf51

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 95dbdf51

Laura Mulvey has theorized that in narrative film, shots issuing from a protagonist's point of view compel viewers to identify with the character. Such identification is heightened by "invisible editing," or editing so inconspicuous that it renders cuts between shots almost unnoticeable. Conversely, Mulvey proposes that conspicuous editing or an absence of point-of-view shots would induce a more critical stance toward a protagonist. Consider, for example, the attic scene in Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*, a conspicuously edited sequence of tens of shots, few of which correspond to the protagonist's point of view. According to Mulvey's logic, this scene should affect viewers by \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. obscuring their awareness of the high degree of artifice involved in constructing the montage.
- B. lessening their identification with the protagonist, if not alienating them from the character altogether.
- C. compelling them to identify with the film's director, whose proxy is the camera, and not with the protagonist.
- D. diverting their attention away from the film's content and toward its stylistic attributes.

## ID: 95dbdf51 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. We're told that point-of-view shots and "invisible editing" make audiences identify with a character. We're also told that obvious editing and a lack of point-of-view shots have the opposite effect. Since the sequence in *The Birds* falls into this second category, it should have the effect of reducing the audience's connection with the protagonist.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention viewers' awareness of artifice (i.e., camera trickery) in films, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention the director at all, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. The passage doesn't discuss whether a film's "stylistic attributes" may distract viewers from the film's story, so there's no basis for this inference.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 9e5ce27c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 9e5ce27c

"Lines Written in Early Spring" is a 1798 poem by William Wordsworth. In the poem, the speaker describes having contradictory feelings while experiencing the sights and sounds of a spring day: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from "Lines Written in Early Spring" most effectively illustrates the claim?

"Through primrose-tufts, in that sweet bower, / The periwinkle trail'd its wreathes; / And 'tis my faith that every flower / A. Enjoys the air it breathes."

"The budding twigs spread out their fan, / To catch the breezy air; / And I must think, do all I can, / That there was B. pleasure there."

"The birds around me hopp'd and play'd: / Their thoughts I cannot measure, / But the least motion which they made, / It C. seem'd a thrill of pleasure."

"I heard a thousand blended notes, / While in a grove I [sat] reclined, / In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts / Bring D. sad thoughts to the mind."

## ID: 9e5ce27c Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that the speaker has contradictory feelings while experiencing the sights and sounds of spring. This quotation indicates that the speaker is reclined in a grove listening to a thousand sounds. Even though the speaker is in a "sweet mood" and thinking "pleasant thoughts," those pleasant thoughts also bring to mind "sad thoughts." In other words, these lines illustrate the claim that the speaker is having contradictory thoughts while immersed in the sights and sounds of spring.

Choice A is incorrect. Although this quotation refers to several flowers (primroses and periwinkles) and indicates that the speaker is in a "bower," or shady spot among the trees—details which suggest that the speaker is experiencing the sights of spring—it doesn't suggest that the speaker is having contradictory feelings, only that the speaker believes that the flowers are experiencing enjoyment. Choice B is incorrect. Although this quotation focuses on the sights of spring—namely, new leaves on nearby trees appear to be opening up ("The budding twigs spread out their fan") to feel the breeze—the quotation doesn't suggest that the speaker feels conflicted about this: the statement "And I must think, do all I can" suggests the speaker's determination to attribute feelings of pleasure to the trees, not that the speaker is experiencing contradictory feelings. Choice C is incorrect. Although this quotation indicates that the speaker isn't certain what the birds are thinking ("Their thoughts I cannot measure"), there's nothing to suggest that the speaker is experiencing contradictory feelings. Rather, the quotation suggests that although the speaker is uncertain about the birds' feelings, the speaker believes that the birds' movements likely suggest their pleasure.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 28dfc05a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 28dfc05a

Even with the widespread adoption of personal computers, many authors still choose to write and revise their novels by hand and only then transcribe the final version on a computer. It may be tempting to speculate about how a novel written this way would be affected if it had been exclusively typed instead, but each novel is a unique entity resulting from a specific set of circumstances. Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. in order to increase their efficiency, authors who currently write their novels largely by hand should instead work only on a computer.

B. authors who do most of their drafting and revising by hand likely have more success than those who work entirely on a computer.

C. novels written by hand take less time to produce, on average, than novels written on a computer do.

D. there is no way to reasonably evaluate how a work would be different if it had been written by other means.

## ID: 28dfc05a Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of the means authors use to write and revise their novels. After stating that many authors still choose to draft novels by hand even though computers are now widely used, the text acknowledges the speculation that the opposite choice—using only a computer—would have had an effect on such novels. However, the text then points out that every novel is the singular result of a combination of the particular conditions surrounding its creation. This suggests that it isn't possible to determine the effect of any single condition (such as the means of writing) on its own; thus, there would be no way to reasonably evaluate how a novel would have turned out differently if it had been written by other means.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that it's more efficient to write a novel on a computer than to write it by hand; it doesn't address efficiency at all. Therefore, it isn't logical to conclude that authors who currently choose to write novels largely by hand should instead work only on a computer to increase their efficiency. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest anything about how successful authors are, regardless of the means by which they choose to write; therefore, it isn't logical to conclude that authors who write largely by hand are likely to be more successful than those who work only on a computer. Choice C is incorrect because the text makes no mention of the time it takes to produce a novel, regardless of the means by which it's written; therefore, it isn't logical to conclude that novels written by hand take less time on average to produce than those written on a computer do.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 55df0275

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 55df0275

Ablation Rates for Three Elements in Cosmic Dust, by Dust Source

Element	SPC	AST	HTC	OCC
iron	20%	28%	90%	98%
potassium	44%	74%	97%	100%
sodium	45%	75%	99%	100%

Earth's atmosphere is bombarded by cosmic dust originating from several sources: short-period comets (SPCs), particles from the asteroid belt (ASTs), Halley-type comets (HTCs), and Oort cloud comets (OCCs). Some of the dust's material vaporizes in the atmosphere in a process called ablation, and the faster the particles move, the higher the rate of ablation. Astrophysicist Juan Diego Carrillo-Sánchez led a team that calculated average ablation rates for elements in the dust (such as iron and potassium) and showed that material in slower-moving SPC or AST dust has a lower rate than the same material in faster-moving HTC or OCC dust. For example, whereas the average ablation rate for iron from AST dust is 28%, the average rate for \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the example?

- A. iron from SPC dust is 20%.
- B. sodium from OCC dust is 100%.
- C. iron from HTC dust is 90%.
- D. sodium from AST dust is 75%.

ID: 55df0275 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively completes the example regarding the ablation rate of iron. The table shows the ablation rates for three elements—iron, potassium, and sodium—found in cosmic dust that comes from one of four sources. The text says that the ablation rate for a given element in slower-moving SPC and AST dust was lower than the ablation rate for that same element in faster-moving HTC or OCC dust. The text then presents the first part of an example of this pattern, describing an ablation rate of 28% for iron in AST dust. The information that iron from HTC dust had an ablation rate of 90% is therefore the most effective way to complete this example—the comparison of a relatively low ablation rate for iron in slower-moving AST dust with a relatively high ablation rate for iron in faster-moving HTC dust illustrates the tendency of ablation rates for a given element to be lower in slower-moving dust than in faster-moving dust.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that SPC dust, like AST dust, moves relatively slowly; a comparison of the ablation rates of iron from two slower-moving dust sources could not be an example of the difference between ablation rates in slower-moving dust and faster-moving dust, which is the pattern that the example is supposed to illustrate. Choice B is incorrect because the example in the text is supposed to illustrate the difference in the ablation rates of the same element from slower-moving dust and faster-moving dust, and the first part of the example provides data about the ablation rate of iron, which means the second part of the example must also be about the ablation rate of iron, not the ablation rate of sodium. Choice D is incorrect because the example in the text is supposed to illustrate the difference in the ablation rates of the same element from slower-moving dust and faster-moving dust, and the first part of the example provides data about the ablation rate of iron, which means the second part of the example must also be about the ablation rate of iron, not the ablation rate of sodium. Additionally, any ablation rate from AST dust would be ineffective in this example since AST dust is referenced in the first part of the example and thus additional data focused on AST dust would not illustrate a variation across dust types.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 66bef967

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 66bef967

Choctaw/Cherokee artist Jeffrey Gibson turns punching bags used by boxers into art by decorating them with beadwork and elements of Native dressmaking. These elements include leather fringe and jingles, the metal cones that cover the dresses worn in the jingle dance, a women's dance of the Ojibwe people. Thus, Gibson combines an object commonly associated with masculinity (a punching bag) with art forms traditionally practiced by women in most Native communities (beadwork and dressmaking). In this way, he rejects the division of male and female gender roles.

Which choice best describes Gibson's approach to art, as presented in the text?

- A. He draws from traditional Native art forms to create his original works.
- B. He has been influenced by Native and non-Native artists equally.
- C. He finds inspiration from boxing in designing the dresses he makes.
- D. He rejects expectations about color and pattern when incorporating beadwork.

## ID: 66bef967 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes Gibson's approach to art. As the text explains, Gibson, who is Cherokee and Choctaw, transforms punching bags into art pieces by applying (or attaching) to them beadwork and elements of Native dressmaking, including leather fringe and the jingles of the jingle dress. The text goes on to say that in most Native communities, the art forms of beadwork and dressmaking are traditionally practiced by women. Therefore, Gibson's approach to art consists of creating original works by drawing from traditional Native art forms.

Choice B is incorrect. Because Gibson incorporates Native art forms into his own original artwork, it can be inferred that he has been influenced by other Native artists, but the text never suggests that non-Native artists have influenced him. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that Gibson designs dresses influenced by boxing but instead that he turns punching bags, which are used in boxing, into works of art by applying elements of Native dressmaking to them. Choice D is incorrect. Although Gibson does incorporate beadwork into his art, the text never mentions the colors or patterns that he uses or suggests that his art defies the expectations that people might have about color and pattern in beadwork.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 668f75cb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 668f75cb

The following text is from Ahmet Hamdi Tanpinar's 1961 novel *The Time Regulation Institute* (translated from the Turkish in 2014 by Maureen Freely and Alexander Dawe). The narrator was once involved with the Time Regulation Institute, a fictional bureaucracy that regulates the time of Turkey's clocks.

I may be the most humble and absurd man in the world and, as my wife says, the most slovenly creature you may ever meet—that is, before the founding of our institute—but I did come to know a truly great man who possessed a natural genius for invention. I spent years at his side. I watched the way he worked. I witnessed how an idea would suddenly catch fire in his mind and take shape, like a tree sprouting shoots and branches, before coming into being.

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Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. A person was fortunate enough to have found love despite his obvious shortcomings.
- B. An exceptionally talented person professes humility to avoid intimidating others.
- C. A person appreciates the extensive time he passed in the company of someone he deeply admired.
- D. A truly brilliant person lets ideas mature in his mind before expressing them aloud.

## ID: 668f75cb Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main idea of the text: a person appreciates the extensive time he passed in the company of a man he deeply admired. The speaker says that he spent "years" (a long period of time) in the company of a "truly great man" with "a natural genius for invention." These phrases indicate the speaker's feelings of admiration.

Choice A is incorrect because though the text indicates that the speaker feels professional admiration for the "truly great man," the text does not indicate that the speaker feels love for him; nor does the text indicate that the speaker's humility, absurdity, and slovenly nature proved to be an obstacle to this professional relationship. Choice B is incorrect because though the speaker describes himself as humble, the text does not indicate that he is exceptionally talented; nor does the text indicate that the "truly great man" professes humility or is concerned with whether he intimidates others. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not indicate how either the speaker or the "truly great man" express their ideas.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID cbecb873

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: cbecb873

Body Length, Filter Time, and Lunges per Dive for Four Whale Species

Whale species	Typical adult body length (meters)	Average time to filter all engulfed water (seconds)	Average number of lunges per dive deeper than 50 meters
fin	18–22	31.30	3.95
humpback	11–17	17.12	6.28
minke	7–10	8.88	7.48
blue	24–34	60.27	4.02

Some whale species practice lunge feeding, in which they lunge toward prey with their mouths open at wide angles, collect the prey and the surrounding water, and then filter out the water through baleen plates in their mouths. Although the volume of water engulfed increases with whales' body length, the surface area of whales' baleen plates, which influences the rate at which water can be filtered, does not increase with body length to the same degree, which helps explain why \_\_\_\_.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. minke whales and humpback whales show similar average filter times.
- B. humpback whales show an average of 6.28 lunges per dive.
- C. fin whales show a longer average filter time than minke whales do.
- D. blue whales show the longest average filter time and the highest average number of lunges per dive.

ID: cbecb873 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. To support the claim, we need to show that longer whales take more time to filter all the water they engulf than shorter whales do. This choice accurately reflects that a longer whale (the fin whale) takes more time to filter engulfed water (31.30 seconds on average) compared to a shorter whale (the minke whale, which only took 8.88 seconds on average).

Choice A is incorrect. The table shows that minke whales take an average of 8.88 seconds to filter engulfed water, while humpback whales take an average of 17.12 seconds to complete the same task. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't reflect the claim about baleen plates. The claim explains why whales of differing lengths take different amounts of time to filter engulfed water. This choice doesn't compare whales of different lengths, and it focuses on the number of lunges, which isn't shown to be relevant to filter time. Choice D is incorrect. The table shows that blue whales average 4.02 lunges per dive, which is not the highest average among the whales in the table.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 80fd9454

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 80fd9454

Percentage of Available Eggs Eaten by Cane Toad Tadpoles

Amphibian species (common name)	Percentage of eggs eaten	Native to Australia	Produces bufadienolide
Little red tree frog	1%	yes	no
Cane toad	90%	no	yes
Short-footed frog	7%	yes	no
Striped burrowing frog	10%	yes	no
Dainty green tree frog	1%	yes	no

Native to Latin America, the cane toad was introduced to Australia in the 1930s. In recent decades, tadpoles in the Australian population have been shown to consume eggs of their own species. A 2022 study showed that when presented with cane toad eggs as well as eggs of native Australian amphibians, cane toad tadpoles disproportionately consumed eggs of their own species. This behavior results from their attraction to bufadienolide, a chemical produced by the eggs of cane toads but not by the eggs of native amphibians. However, using data from this study, a student wishes to argue that the presence of bufadienolide doesn't entirely explain the cane toad tadpoles' preference for certain eggs over others.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the student's argument?

The tadpoles consumed a higher percentage of the striped burrowing frog eggs than they did of the eggs of the dainty A. green tree frog.

The tadpoles left a certain percentage of the eggs of each of the five species unharmed, thus ultimately allowing them to B. hatch.

C. The tadpoles consumed a lower percentage of the short-footed frog eggs than they did of the eggs of their own species.

The tadpoles consumed the same percentage of the dainty green tree frog eggs as they did of the little red tree frog D. eggs.

ID: 80fd9454 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to support the student's argument about the role of bufadienolide in the egg preferences of cane toad tadpoles. For each of five amphibian species included in the 2022 study, the table gives the percentage of available eggs that the cane toad tadpoles ate. According to the table, the tadpoles ate 10% of striped burrowing frog eggs and 1% of dainty green tree frog eggs, which suggests a preference for striped burrowing frog eggs over dainty green tree frog eggs. The table also indicates that neither of these species' eggs produces bufadienolide. Thus, these data suggest that something other than the presence or absence of bufadienolide is needed to adequately explain the tadpoles' egg preferences.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the table shows that for each of the five amphibian species, the cane toad tadpoles ate less than 100% of that species' eggs, which demonstrates that the tadpoles did indeed leave some eggs for each species unharmed, this fact alone is irrelevant to the tadpoles' preferences for some species' eggs over other species' eggs. Choice C is incorrect. Although the table indicates that the cane toad tadpoles ate 90% of the cane toad eggs and 7% of the short-footed frog eggs, which suggests that they prefer cane toad eggs over short-footed frog eggs, the table also indicates that cane toad eggs produce bufadienolide, whereas short-footed frog eggs do not. Therefore, these data are not sufficient to exclude that bufadienolide alone could explain the tadpoles' preference for some species' eggs over other species' eggs. Choice D is incorrect. Although the table shows that for both dainty green tree frog eggs and little red tree frog eggs, the cane toad tadpoles ate 1% of those species' eggs, it also indicates that neither produces bufadienolide. Thus, these data alone don't indicate bufadienolide's role in the tadpoles' egg preferences.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 63e7799d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 63e7799d

In vertical inheritance, parents pass genes to their offspring, but in horizontal transfer (HT), one species, often bacteria, passes genetic material to an unrelated species. In a 2022 study, herpetologist Atsushi Kurabayashi and his team investigated HT in multicellular organisms—namely, snakes and frogs in Madagascar. The team detected *BovB*—a gene transmitted vertically in snakes—in many frog species. The apparent direction of gene transfer seems counterintuitive because frogs usually don't survive encounters with snakes and so wouldn't be able to transmit the newly acquired gene to offspring, but the team concluded that *BovB* is indeed transmitted from snakes to frogs, either directly or indirectly, via HT.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the team's conclusion?

- A. *BovB* can be transmitted across frog species through HT.
- B. Parasites known to feed on species of snakes and frogs in which the *BovB* gene occurs also carry *BovB*.
- C. *BovB* cannot be reliably transmitted from a snake species to bacteria that are usually encountered by frog species.
- D. Frog species with *BovB* show few discernible advantages as compared with frog species that do not carry *BovB*.

## ID: 63e7799d Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. If there are parasites that feed on both snakes and frogs, they could carry *BovB* from snakes to frogs. HT could occur “indirectly” through those encounters, which frogs are more likely to survive than snake encounters.

Choice A is incorrect. The team's conclusion specifically argues that *BovB* is transmitted from snakes to frogs via HT, and this choice doesn't mention snakes. Choice C is incorrect. The team argues that *BovB* is transmitted from snakes to frogs via HT, and this answer choice discusses a scenario in which the gene is not transmitted. Choice D is incorrect. Whether or not frog species with *BovB* are advantaged isn't relevant to the team's conclusion about how the gene is transmitted.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID Odba14e6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: Odba14e6

The increased integration of digital technologies throughout the process of book creation in the late 20th and early 21st centuries lowered the costs of book production, but those decreased costs have been most significant in the manufacturing and distribution process, which occurs after the authoring, editing, and design of the book are complete. This suggests that in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

digital technologies made it easier than it had been previously for authors to write very long works and get them

A. published.

B. customers generally expected the cost of books to decline relative to the cost of other consumer goods.

publishers increased the variety of their offerings by printing more unique titles but also printed fewer copies of each

C. title.

the costs of writing, editing, and designing a book were less affected by the technologies used than were the costs of

D. manufacturing and distributing a book.

## ID: Odba14e6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of how digital technologies affected the process of book creation. The text explains that in the late 20th and early 21st centuries digital technologies lowered book production costs most significantly in manufacturing and distribution. The text goes on to point out that authoring, editing, and book design are distinct steps in the process that occur before manufacturing and distribution. Because the savings connected to digital technologies have been most significant in manufacturing and distribution, it's reasonable to infer that those technologies had less of an effect on writing, editing, and designing books.

Choice A is incorrect because the text focuses on lowered book production costs that occur after authoring has taken place; there's no indication in the text whether digital technologies made writing and publishing lengthy books easier. Choice B is incorrect. Although it's logical to conclude that customers would expect the cost of books to decline if production costs have declined, the text doesn't address customer expectations for the cost of books or any other consumer goods. Choice C is incorrect because the text focuses broadly on how digital technologies have affected the cost of the publishing process; it doesn't address the kinds of books being published or how many copies are printed.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 995d55fd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 995d55fd

A subject of much speculation, distinctive sets of parallel ridges mark the icy crust of Europa, Jupiter's smallest moon. Researchers now claim that the ridges' formation mechanism mirrors that of a strikingly similar pair on Greenland's ice sheet. There, surface water seeped through fissures in the sheet and formed a water pocket that subsequently disrupted the overlying ice, forcing fragments of it upward and outward into peaks, as the pocket froze and expanded. Although Europa lacks liquid surface water, the same process could be driven by the moon's subsurface ocean.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

Researchers think that the ridges on Europa and the ridges in Greenland may have been formed by the same process

- A. even though Europa, unlike Greenland, doesn't have liquid water on its surface.

The primary difference between the ridges on Europa and the ridges in Greenland is that unlike the Europa ridges, the

- B. Greenland ridges are parallel.

The pair of ridges found on Greenland's ice sheet appear to have formed long before the recently discovered sets of

- C. ridges on Europa formed.

Researchers don't understand why Europa is marked by so many sets of ridges when the moon doesn't have any liquid

- D. water on its surface that could have collected and expanded under the icy crust.

## ID: 995d55fd Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it accurately states the main idea of the text. The text focuses on formations of parallel ice ridges on Jupiter's moon Europa that are said to be formed by the same mechanism that formed a parallel set of ridges on Greenland's ice sheet. The text indicates that in Greenland, water on the surface seeps to the lower portion of the ice sheet, resulting in uplift that creates the ridges, and it states that although Europa lacks liquid water on its surface, the same process could be driven by an ocean below Europa's surface. In other words, the main idea of the text is that parallel ridges in the ice on Europa and Greenland are likely caused by similar processes even though in Greenland the process begins with liquid water on the surface while Europa lacks liquid water on the surface.

Choice B is incorrect because the text states outright that the ridges on Europa are parallel and furthermore refers to Greenland's ridges as "strikingly similar" to those on Europa. Choice C is incorrect because the text makes no mention of when any of the ice ridges formed, either separately or relative to one another. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not indicate any uncertainty about the reason for the ice ridges on Europa and, in fact, clearly states that researchers now claim to know the mechanism that created the ridges.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 860803dd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

**ID: 860803dd**

Biologist Valentina Gómez-Bahamón and her team have investigated two subspecies of the fork-tailed flycatcher bird that live in the same region in Colombia, but one subspecies migrates south for part of the year, and the other doesn't. The researchers found that, due to slight differences in feather shape, the feathers of migratory forked-tailed flycatcher males make a sound during flight that is higher pitched than that made by the feathers of nonmigratory males. The researchers hypothesize that fork-tailed flycatcher females are attracted to the specific sound made by the males of their own subspecies, and that over time the females' preference will drive further genetic and anatomical divergence between the subspecies.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Gómez-Bahamón and her team's hypothesis?

The feathers located on the wings of the migratory fork-tailed flycatchers have a narrower shape than those of the  
A. nonmigratory birds, which allows them to fly long distances.

Over several generations, the sound made by the feathers of migratory male fork-tailed flycatchers grows progressively  
B. higher pitched relative to that made by the feathers of nonmigratory males.

Fork-tailed flycatchers communicate different messages to each other depending on whether their feathers create high-  
C. pitched or low-pitched sounds.

The breeding habits of the migratory and nonmigratory fork-tailed flycatchers remained generally the same over several  
D. generations.

**ID: 860803dd Answer**

**Correct Answer: B**

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support Gómez-Bahamón and her team's hypothesis about fork-tailed flycatchers. The text indicates that although two subspecies of the birds live in the same region, the tail feathers of the migrating males make a higher-pitched sound than the tail feathers of the nonmigrating males do. Gómez-Bahamón and her team hypothesize that female fork-tailed flycatchers are attracted to the particular sound made by the tail feathers of males of their own subspecies, which will bring about additional "genetic and anatomical divergence" between the two subspecies. If it were found that the pitch generated by the tail feathers of migrating males is getting higher over successive generations, it would indicate that the shape of the migrating subspecies' tail feathers is diverging further from that of the nonmigrating subspecies. And if females continue to prefer the sounds of the males of their own subspecies, the females of the migrating subspecies will become acclimated to increasingly higher pitches over subsequent generations, causing further divergence between the subspecies. Thus, if it were found that migrating males' tail feathers were producing higher pitches over time, that would support the researchers' hypothesis.

Choice A is incorrect because the researchers' hypothesis is that female flycatchers prefer the sounds produced by the tail feathers of males of their own subspecies, which will lead to further divergence between the two subspecies. This finding is about the shape of wing feathers and how that affects long-distance flight, whereas the hypothesis is about the shape of tail feathers and how that relates to female mate preference. Choice C is incorrect because the researchers' hypothesis is that female flycatchers prefer the sounds produced by the tail feathers of males of their own subspecies, which will lead to further divergence between the two subspecies. This finding focuses on how the tail feather sounds communicate different messages, which doesn't address differences between the subspecies or female preferences. Choice D is incorrect because the researchers' hypothesis is that female flycatchers prefer the sounds produced by the tail feathers of males of their own subspecies, which will lead to further divergence between the two subspecies. The finding that breeding habits haven't changed for either subspecies does not, by itself, suggest anything about female preferences or divergence between the two subspecies.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 12030076

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 12030076

NASA's Aspera mission, led by Carlos Vargas, will investigate the circumgalactic medium (CGM), the huge swaths of low-density gas that fill and surround galaxies. Specifically, the team will focus on portions of the gas that exist in a "warm-hot" phase: these portions haven't previously been observable but are thought to fuel new star formation and hold most of the mass that makes up a galaxy. Using a telescope capable of revealing these parts of the CGM, the Aspera mission should help answer long-standing questions about how galaxies emerge, change, and even interact.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. As the leader of NASA's Aspera mission, Vargas will be the first person to investigate the makeup of the CGM.

Although galaxies that are surrounded by the CGM have been studied, researchers have been unable to directly observe  
B. low-density gas in the CGM in the "warm-hot" phase.

Researchers don't yet have a complete understanding of the process of galaxy evolution but have raised the possibility  
C. that galaxies interact with each other at times.

The Aspera mission is expected to produce the first direct observations of CGM gas in the "warm-hot" phase, which likely  
D. has an important role in the evolution of galaxies.

## ID: 12030076 Answer

Correct Answer: D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by mentioning NASA's Aspera mission, which will investigate the low-density gas that makes up the circumgalactic medium (CGM). According to the text, this mission will focus on a portion of the CGM's gas that exists in a "warm-hot" phase; this "warm-hot" gas has not been previously observed, but it is thought to make up most of the mass of galaxies and play a part in star formation. Finally, the text mentions a telescope capable of examining this previously unobservable "warm-hot" gas: the Aspera mission will use this telescope in the hope of answering questions about galaxy formation and change. Therefore, the main idea of the text is that the Aspera mission is likely to produce the first direct observations of CGM gas in the "warm-hot" phase, which likely has an important role in the evolution of galaxies.

Choice A is incorrect. Although this choice mentions the Aspera mission, names its leader, and generally states the mission's purpose, it does not reference the "warm-hot" gas or fully convey the reason why the Aspera mission is significant. Choice B is incorrect. Although this choice mentions the "warm-hot" gas that makes up a portion of the CGM, it does not reference the Aspera mission or describe its importance. The text also does not mention that galaxies surrounded by the CGM have been studied. Choice C is incorrect. Although this choice describes a problem related to the CGM that researchers have been attempting to solve and presents the speculation of those researchers, it does not mention the Aspera mission or describe its purpose.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 99fdf71c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 99fdf71c

"When Dawn Comes to the City" is a 1922 poem by Claude McKay, who immigrated to the United States from the island nation of Jamaica as an adult. The poem conveys McKay's contrasting feelings about New York City—his adopted home in the US—and his home country: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from "When Dawn Comes to the City" most effectively illustrates the claim?

"A lonely newsboy hurries by, / Humming a recent ditty; / Red streaks strike through the gray of the sky, / The dawn A. comes to the city [New York City]."

"Dark figures start for work; / I watch them sadly shuffle on, / 'Tis dawn, dawn in New York. / But I would be on the island B. of the sea, / In the heart of the island of the sea."

"And the shaggy Nannie goat is calling, calling, calling / From her little trampled corner of the long wide lea / That C. stretches to the waters of the hill-stream falling / Sheer upon the flat rocks joyously!"

"The tired cars go grumbling by, / The moaning, groaning cars, / And the old milk carts go rumbling by / Under the same D. dull stars."

## ID: 99fdf71c Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a quotation illustrating the claim that the poem conveys McKay's contrasting feelings about New York City and Jamaica. McKay first presents a somewhat negative view of New York City, describing watching "dark figures" who "sadly shuffle" to work at dawn, and then indicates that he would instead like to be "in the heart of the island of the sea."

Choice A is incorrect because the quotation focuses on a description of only one place (New York City, with its "lonely newsboy" and "red streaks" in the sky at dawn) rather than on different feelings about two places. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation focuses on a description of only one place (which isn't named) rather than on McKay's different feelings about two places. Choice D is incorrect because though McKay presents a negative image of an unnamed place with "tired cars" that grumble, moan, and groan, and "old milk carts" that rumble by under "dull stars," the quotation focuses on McKay's feelings about only one place rather than on different feelings about two places.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a44c7bd4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: a44c7bd4

Some ethicists hold that the moral goodness of an individual's actions depends solely on whether the actions themselves are good, irrespective of the context in which they are carried out. Philosopher L. Sebastian Purcell has shown that surviving works of Aztec (Nahua) philosophy express a very different view. Purcell reveals that these works posit an ethical system in which an individual's actions are judged in light of how well they accord with the individual's role in society and how well they contribute to the community. To the extent that these works are representative of Aztec thought, Purcell's analysis suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

the Aztecs would have disputed the idea that the morality of an individual's actions can be assessed by appealing to  
A. standards of behavior that are independent of the individual's social circumstances.

the Aztecs would not have accepted the notion that the morality of an individual's actions can be fairly evaluated by  
B. people who do not live in the same society as that individual.

actions by members of Aztec society who contributed a great deal to their community could be judged as morally good  
C. even if those actions were inconsistent with behaviors the Aztecs regarded as good in all contexts.

similar actions performed by people in different social roles in Aztec society would have been regarded as morally  
D. equivalent unless those actions led to different outcomes for the community.

## ID: a44c7bd4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion about Aztec (Nahua) ethics. The text indicates that, according to Purcell's interpretation of available Aztec philosophical works, the Aztec ethical system views an individual's actions in relation to that individual's societal role and how the actions affect the community. The text contrasts this view with another held by some ethicists, namely that actions are morally good or bad regardless of the context in which they occur. Thus, Purcell's analysis suggests that the Aztecs would have asserted that the morality of an individual's actions are rooted in that person's position in the community and the actions' effects and therefore cannot be determined in the absence of that context.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text indicates that morally judging an action according to Aztec ethics requires an understanding of the action's effects and the individual's social circumstances, it does not specify that only members of that society can acquire this information. Choice C is incorrect because it implies that the Aztecs considered some actions good or bad regardless of the surrounding context, which contradicts the text's claim that the Aztecs believed that the morality of an individual's action is dependent on the action's effects on the community and the person's specific circumstances. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text indicates that in Aztec ethics the morality of an action depends in part on how it affects the community, this is only one of the two factors—the other being the person's societal role—that need to be considered. Therefore, it is possible that two actions with the same effect on the community could be considered morally distinct if they are performed by individuals in different social roles.

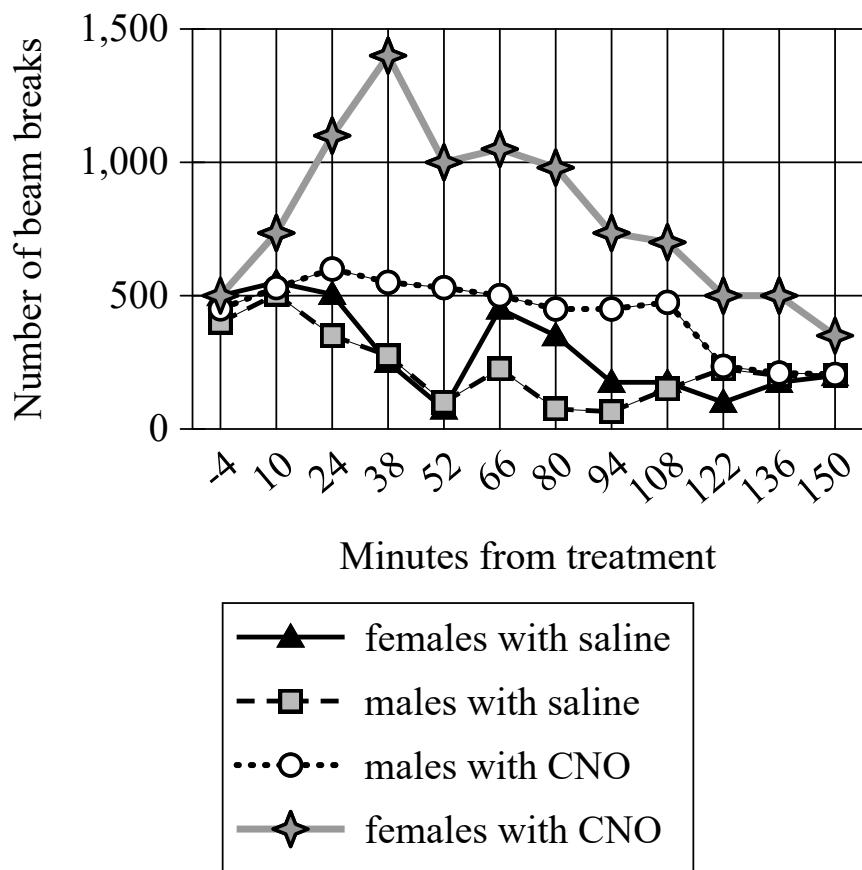
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID e2829dd7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ □

ID: e2829dd7

Number of Infrared Beam Breaks by Mice  
Treated with CNO or Saline, by Sex



To investigate the influence of certain estrogen-responsive neurons on energy expenditure, biologist Stephanie Correa et al. treated female and male mice with either saline solution or clozapine-N-oxide (CNO), which activates the neurons. Monitoring the activity levels of the mice by measuring how frequently the animals broke infrared beams crossing their enclosures, Correa et al. found that the mice in their study showed sex-specific differences in response to neuron activation:

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the assertion?

the four groups of mice differed greatly in their activity levels before treatment but showed identical activity levels at the A. end of the monitoring period.

saline-treated females showed substantially more activity at certain points in the monitoring period than saline-treated B. males did.

CNO-treated females showed more activity relative to saline-treated females than CNO-treated males showed relative to C. saline-treated males.

CNO-treated females showed a substantial increase and then decline in activity over the monitoring period, whereas D. CNO-treated males showed a substantial decline in activity followed by a steep increase.

### ID: e2829dd7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

#### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The graph shows that the CNO-treated females were way more active than the CNO-treated males, while the saline-treated males and females (the control groups) had very similar activity levels. This supports the claim that there were sex-specific differences in the mice's response to neuron activation.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. All four groups of mice started at nearly the same activity level before treatment (see how all four points are very close together at -4 minutes, meaning four minutes before treatment). Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't complete the assertion. The assertion is about the mice's response to neuron activation, so we need to include the data about the CNO-treated females and males. Choice D is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. The line for the CNO-treated males does not show a "substantial decline" until around 122 minutes, and there is no "steep increase" afterward.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 194dd448

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 194dd448

"John of God, the Water-Carrier" is a 1913 short story by María Cristina Mena. In the story, the narrator presents John as being a hard worker who is fully dedicated to his job as water carrier, or *aguador*: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from "John of God, the Water-Carrier" most effectively illustrates the claim?

"Very happy, he would jog home, the heavy silver pieces in his leather pockets making a discreet and dulcet '*trink-trak*'

- A. between his jugs and his body."

"He learned that the city *aguador* may not blow his whistle to halt the traffic while he gravely crosses the street, but must

- B. wait for the passing of many vehicles, some with horses and some outlandishly without."

"From early morn to the fall of the afternoon he would go from fountain to fountain and from portal to portal, his lean

- C. body so accustomed to bending that he never thought of straightening it, his head bowed as if in prayer."

"When his first jugs had worn out—the sweet-scented, porous red clay becomes perforated in time—he had buried them

- D. to their necks in the corner where he slept, and they were now his treasury."

## ID: 194dd448 Answer

Correct Answer: C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim in the text that John is hard-working and dedicated to his job. In the quotation, John is portrayed as spending "early morn to the fall of the afternoon" working hard as a water carrier. John is also described as "so accustomed to bending" while doing his work "that he never thought of straightening" his body, instead remaining deeply focused on his work. These details portray John as a dedicated worker.

Choice A is incorrect because this quotation portrays John as happy about heading home after being paid. It doesn't showcase John being hard at work. Choice B is incorrect because this quotation doesn't pertain to John's commitment to his work; it describes difficulties the traffic in the city causes John in the performance of his work. Choice D is incorrect because this quotation doesn't pertain to John's commitment to his work; it discusses what John does with his worn-out water jugs.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID a7c52fa4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: a7c52fa4

Mean Time (in Seconds) Spent per Flower for Four Pollinator Genera

Pollinator genus	Seconds per intact pin flower	Seconds per damaged pin flower	Seconds per intact thrum flower	Seconds per damaged thrum flower
<i>Habropoda</i>	2.7	5.4	4.1	9.5
<i>Osmia</i>	5.2	8.2	7.1	8.3
<i>Pierid</i>	2.6	4.0	2.4	1.9
<i>Xylocopa</i>	2.3	2.8	2.5	2.2

To study how floral damage affects the behavior of pollinators, such as bees, a team of researchers punched holes in the floral tissue of flowers from the vine yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), a plant that produces flowers that have either a long pistil and a short stamen (pin morphs) or a short pistil and a long stamen (thrum morphs). The researchers then compared the time different insect pollinators spent visiting intact pin and thrum flowers to the time such pollinators spent visiting the artificially damaged pin and thrum flowers. The researchers concluded that the effect of floral damage on time spent per flower varied by both floral morph and the genus of the pollinator.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the researchers' conclusion?

For pin flowers, damage led to longer times per flower in all pollinator genera, whereas for thrum flowers, damage led to  
A. longer times per flower only in *Habropoda* and *Osmia*.

Compared with pollinators belonging to the genus *Osmia*, pollinators belonging to the genus *Xylocopa* spent less time on  
B. damaged pin flowers but more time on damaged thrum flowers.

Damage led to shorter times per thrum flower in three pollinator genera (*Osmia*, *Pierid*, and *Xylocopa*), whereas it led to  
C. longer times per thrum flower in one pollinator genus (*Habropoda*).

Pollinators belonging to the genus *Habropoda* spent 2.7 seconds on intact pin flowers and 4.1 seconds on intact thrum  
D. flowers.

ID: a7c52fa4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it describes data from the table that support the researchers' conclusion that the effect of floral damage on time spent per flower varied by both floral morph and the genus of the pollinator. The table presents the average time pollinators spent per floral morph. The data in the table shows that for pin flowers, the average time spent per flower by all pollinator genera was higher for flowers that had been artificially damaged than for intact flowers. By contrast, for thrum flowers, the difference in time spent on intact and damaged flowers is seen for only some pollinator genera. This supports the researchers' conclusion that both floral morph and the genus of the pollinator are factors involved in the effect that floral damage has on time pollinators spend per flower.

Choice B is incorrect. The table shows that pollinators belonging to the genus *Xylocopa* spent less time on both damaged pin flowers and damaged thrum flowers than pollinators belonging to the genus *Osmia* did. Choice C is incorrect. The table shows that the artificial damage to the thrum flowers led to shorter average times spent by pollinators on those flowers for only two of the four pollinator genera represented in the table, not three. Furthermore, this choice doesn't address the effect the artificial damage had on pin flowers; thus, even if accurate, this evidence doesn't support the researchers' conclusion that both floral morph and pollinator genus affect time spent per flower when a flower has been damaged. Choice D is incorrect. While this statement is true based on the information in the table, it doesn't provide evidence that supports the researchers' conclusion that the effect of floral damage on time spent per flower varied by both floral morph and the genus of the pollinator because this choice provides information only about how much time one pollinator genus spent on intact flowers.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a13c1c66

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: a13c1c66

Many animals, including humans, must sleep, and sleep is known to have a role in everything from healing injuries to encoding information in long-term memory. But some scientists claim that, from an evolutionary standpoint, deep sleep for hours at a time leaves an animal so vulnerable that the known benefits of sleeping seem insufficient to explain why it became so widespread in the animal kingdom. These scientists therefore imply that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. prolonged deep sleep is likely advantageous in ways that have yet to be discovered.
- B. most traits perform functions that are hard to understand from an evolutionary standpoint.
- C. it is more important to understand how widespread prolonged deep sleep is than to understand its function.
- D. many traits that provide significant benefits for an animal also likely pose risks to that animal.

## ID: a13c1c66 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It most logically completes the text. The text says that some scientists can't explain why prolonged deep sleep is so widespread, given that the known benefits of sleep don't seem to make up for how vulnerable it leaves an animal. This suggests that prolonged deep sleep probably has unknown evolutionary benefits that make up for the vulnerability.

Choice B is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text only discusses the benefits and risks of one trait: sleep. So there's no basis for an inference about "most traits." Choice C is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text says that it is already known that prolonged deep sleep is widespread in the animal kingdom. Rather, what some scientists can't explain is WHY prolonged deep sleep is so widespread, given that the known benefits of sleep don't seem to make up for how vulnerable it leaves an animal. Choice D is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text only discusses the benefits and risks of one trait: sleep. So there's no basis for an inference about "many traits."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 350e2336

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 350e2336

The Haitian Declaration of Independence was issued in 1804, bringing to an end the revolution against colonial France that began in 1791. Written in French, which was not the first language of most Haitians but which was used throughout Europe as the language of international diplomacy, the declaration notes that Haiti will not bring rebellion to other Caribbean nations, promises to respect the sovereignty of its neighbors—widely understood as a reassurance to the United States—and sets up Haiti as an example for future struggles against colonizers (an implicit reference to the many colonies then found in the Americas). So even though the declaration is explicitly addressed to the Haitian people, it's reasonable to conclude that

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. aspects of the declaration were modeled on similar documents from other countries.
- B. the French government may have been surprised by the declaration.
- C. many Haitian people opposed the revolution and the declaration.
- D. the declaration actually had several intended audiences.

## ID: 350e2336 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The passage tells us that the declaration was written in a language important to European diplomacy but not most Haitians, states that the declaration included "a reassurance to the United States," and made implicit references to colonies in the Americas. Because of the messages within the declaration that were largely irrelevant to the Haitian people, we can assume that the Haitian people were not the only audience for this document.

Choice A is incorrect. There's no mention in the passage of similar documents in other countries, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice B is incorrect. Although there's an implicit reference to European governments when the passage discusses how the declaration was written in French, "which was used throughout Europe as the language of international diplomacy," there is no discussion of the French government's response to the declaration. Therefore, there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention the popularity of the revolution and declaration among the Haitian people, so there's no basis for this inference.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c6b470bb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: c6b470bb

"Odalie" is an 1899 short story by Alice Dunbar-Nelson. In the story, a young woman named Odalie attends the annual Mardi Gras carnival in New Orleans, where she lives with her guardian Tante Louise. Dunbar-Nelson portrays Odalie as eager to escape the monotony of her everyday life: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from "Odalie" most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "Mardi Gras was a tiresome day, after all, she sighed, and Tante Louise agreed with her for once."

"In the old French house on Royal Street, with its quaint windows and Spanish courtyard green and cool, and made musical by the plashing of the fountain and the trill of caged birds, lived Odalie in convent-like seclusion."

"When one is shut up in a great French house with a grim sleepy tante and no companions of one's own age, life becomes a dull thing, and one is ready for any new sensation."

"It was Mardi Gras day at last, and early through her window Odalie could hear the jingle of folly bells on the [participants'] costumes, the tinkle of music, and the echoing strains of songs."

## ID: c6b470bb Answer

Correct Answer: C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses a quotation from "Odalie" to illustrate the claim that Odalie is eager to escape the monotony, or tedious lack of variety, of her everyday life. In the quotation, Odalie describes feeling "shut up" and complains that she has "no companions" except for her "sleepy tante." Odalie goes on to say that, as a result, her life is "dull" and she is "ready for any new sensation," meaning she wants a change. This suggests that Odalie wishes to get away from her monotonous everyday life.

Choice A is incorrect. Although this quotation includes the word "tiresome," which means dull, it does so to suggest Odalie's negative feelings about Mardi Gras, which is a once-a-year celebration, not her feelings about her everyday life. This quotation therefore doesn't express that Odalie's everyday life is monotonous or that she wishes to escape. Choice B is incorrect. Although this quotation ends by saying that Odalie lives in seclusion, or isolation, it doesn't express that Odalie's everyday life is monotonous or that she wishes to escape. Instead, it describes the pleasant qualities of the house Odalie lives in, saying that it has "quaint windows" and a "green and cool" courtyard that is "made musical" by the sounds of a fountain and pet birds. Choice D is incorrect because this quotation describes the lively sounds of a Mardi Gras celebration that Odalie hears through her window, not the monotony of Odalie's everyday life or her wish to escape.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID f8bef75

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: f8bef75

Many intellectual histories of the Black Power movement of the 1960s and 1970s rely heavily on essays and other explicitly ideological works as primary sources, a tendency that can overrepresent the perspectives of a small number of thinkers, most of whom were male. Historian Ashley D. Farmer has shown that expanding the array of primary sources to encompass more types of print material—including political cartoons, advertisements, and artwork—leads to a much better understanding of the movement and the crucial and diverse roles that Black women played in shaping it.

Which choice best describes the main idea of the text?

Farmer's methods and research have enriched the historical understanding of the Black Power movement and Black

A. women's contributions to it.

B. Before Farmer's research, historians had largely ignored the intellectual dimensions of the Black Power movement.

C. Other historians of the Black Power movement have criticized Farmer's use of unconventional primary sources.

The figures in the Black Power movement whom historians tend to cite would have agreed with Farmer's conclusions

D. about women's roles in the movement.

## ID: f8bef75 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It best describes the main idea of the text. The text starts by saying that historians of the Black Power movement are too reliant on openly ideological works, which were written mostly by men, as sources. The text then describes Farmer's research: she has shown that including other kinds of sources leads to a better understanding of the Black Power movement and the role Black women played in it.

Choice B is incorrect. This doesn't describe the main idea of the text. In fact, it conflicts with the text. The text says that historians have relied on "essays and other explicitly ideological works," which suggests that they have studied at least some of the intellectual dimensions of the Black Power movement. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn't describe the main idea of the text. The text never mentions how other historians of the Black Power movement view Farmer's use of unconventional sources. In fact, the text itself argues in favor of Farmer's research, claiming that it has led to a "much better understanding of the movement." Choice D is incorrect. This doesn't describe the main idea of the text. The text never mentions what any figures in the Black Power movement thought about women's roles in the movement.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ccf414c9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: ccf414c9

E-book Sales as a Percentage of Total Unit Sales in All Book Formats for a Large US Trade Publisher, by Genre, 2006, 2011, 2016

Genre	2006	2011	2016
science fiction and fantasy	0.6	27.7	36.7
cookbooks	0	2.9	10.5
travel guides	0	5.5	24.6
romance	0.3	40.6	56.2

E-books became an increasingly popular means of reading in the United States in the 2000s and 2010s, though that popularity was concentrated in titles that, like those in most fiction genres, are meant to be read straight through from beginning to end. For books in nonfiction genres that do not tell stories and require the reader to flip back and forth through a volume, e-books were significantly less commercially successful. This can be seen by comparing \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to illustrate the claim?

- the percentage of 2016 cookbook sales that were e-books with the percentage of 2016 science fiction and fantasy sales A. that were e-books.
- B. the percentage of 2006 romance sales that were e-books with the percentage of 2016 romance sales that were e-books.
- the percentage of 2006 romance sales that were e-books with the 2006 science fiction and fantasy sales that were e-books.
- D. the percentage of 2011 travel guide sales that were e-books with the percentage of 2016 travel guide sales that were e-books.

ID: ccf414c9 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it uses data from the table to effectively support the claim that book genres that typically require the reader to start at the beginning of the story and read straight through are more commercially successful as e-books than other genres. For each of three years, the table presents four book genres and the percentage of total sales for each genre in e-book format. Cookbooks, a nonfiction genre, do not require the reader to read straight through. According to the table, 10.5 percent of total cookbook sales in 2016 were in the e-book format. The 2016 percentage of e-book sales was 36.7 percent in the science fiction and fantasy genre, which are typically stories read straight through from start to finish. The higher percentage of total sales of the story-based e-books in 2016 supports the claim in the text.

Choice B is incorrect because it compares the e-book sales of romance books in 2006 to those in 2016. Romance books are meant to be read straight through from start to finish. The text claims that books that are not stories and do not require reading straight through are not as commercially successful in e-book format as those that do. As this choice is only comparing e-book sales for one genre, it does not support the claim. Choice C is incorrect because both science fiction and fantasy and romance novels are fiction books meant to be read straight through from beginning to end. The text claims that books that are not stories and do not require reading straight through are less commercially successful in e-book format than those that do. As this choice does not compare e-book sales of story genres to e-book sales in genres that are not stories, it does not support the claim. Choice D is incorrect. Although the data in the table show that the travel guide e-books made up a greater percentage of total sales in 2016 than in 2011, this doesn't illustrate the claim in the text that e-books in nonfiction genres not meant to be read straight through are less commercially successful. The claim cannot be supported without comparing the percentage of e-book sales between fiction and nonfiction book genres from the table.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f942646f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: f942646f

Researchers Suchithra Rajendran and Maximilian Popfinger modeled varying levels of passenger redistribution from short-haul flights (flights of 50 to 210 minutes, from takeoff to landing) to high-speed rail trips. Planes travel faster than trains, but air travel typically requires 3 hours of lead time for security, baggage handling, and boarding that rail travel doesn't, so short-haul routes take similar amounts of time by air and by rail. However, the model suggests that as rail passenger volumes approach current capacity limits, long lead times emerge. Therefore, for rail to remain a viable alternative to short-haul flights, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. rail systems should offer fewer long-haul routes and airlines should offer more long-haul routes.
- B. rail systems may need to schedule additional trains for these routes.
- C. security, baggage handling, and boarding procedures used by airlines may need to be implemented for rail systems.
- D. passengers who travel by rail for these routes will need to accept that lead times will be similar to those for air travel.

## ID: f942646f Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Air travel usually requires much more “lead time” than train travel, so short flights end up taking the same amount of time as a train trip to the same destination. But train travel starts to need more “lead time” when the trains approach their capacity limits. This suggests that train companies should add more trains for these routes if they want to encourage travelers to take a train instead of a plane.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never discusses “long-haul routes” for either air travel or rail travel, so there is no basis to make this inference. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text only mentions these procedures to explain why the “lead time” is so long for air travel. It never suggests that trains need to start implementing these procedures too. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The goal is to make sure that trains “remain a viable alternative” to short flights, which suggests that anything that makes train travel take longer should be avoided.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3cc7d73b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 3cc7d73b

Using the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), a team of astronomers mapped out the magnetic field of G47, one of the Milky Way's galactic bones (dense clouds of gas and dust that run through the middle of the arm of a spiral galaxy). Surprisingly, the map revealed a magnetic field with no clear pattern or direction. The researchers had expected the magnetic field to be similar to the more uniform fields seen in galactic bones in other arms of the Milky Way.

According to the text, what was surprising about the researchers' mapping of the magnetic field of galactic bone G47?

- A. It showed a weaker magnetic field than expected.
- B. It implied that previous mappings of the magnetic field were inaccurate.
- C. It produced magnetic field measurements similar to those for other galactic bones.
- D. It revealed a magnetic field that wasn't uniform.

## ID: 3cc7d73b Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents the point about the magnetic field mapping that the text describes as surprising. The text indicates that a team of astronomers mapped the magnetic field of G47, a galactic bone in the Milky Way, and that the mapping "surprisingly" revealed "no clear pattern or direction" in the magnetic field. The text then adds that the researchers had thought the magnetic field would be as uniform as the magnetic fields of other galactic bones in the Milky Way are. In other words, the researchers were surprised that the mapping revealed a magnetic field that wasn't uniform.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that the mapping surprisingly showed a weaker magnetic field than the researchers had expected. The text makes no mention of the magnetic field's strength, only its lack of a clear pattern or direction. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that the magnetic field mapping suggested to researchers that previous mappings were inaccurate. Although the text states that the mapping didn't show what researchers had expected based on their knowledge of other magnetic fields, there's no indication that G47's magnetic field had ever been mapped before. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that the researchers were surprised that the magnetic field was different from, not similar to, the magnetic fields of other galactic bones; the text states that because other galactic bones in the Milky Way are more uniform, the researchers had expected the magnetic field of G47 to be more uniform than it turned out to be.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 3f05e40f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 3f05e40f

In many of his sculptures, artist Richard Hunt uses broad forms rather than extreme accuracy to hint at specific people or ideas. In his first major work, *Arachne* (1956), Hunt constructed the mythical character Arachne, a weaver who was changed into a spider, by welding bits of steel together into something that, although vaguely human, is strange and machine-like. And his large bronze sculpture *The Light of Truth* (2021) commemorates activist and journalist Ida B. Wells using mainly flowing, curved pieces of metal that create stylized flame.

Which choice best states the text's main idea about Hunt?

- A. He often depicts the subjects of his sculptures using an unrealistic style.
- B. He uses different kinds of materials depending on what kind of sculpture he plans to create.
- C. He tends to base his art on important historical figures rather than on fictional characters.
- D. He has altered his approach to sculpture over time, and his works have become increasingly abstract.

## ID: 3f05e40f Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. According to the text, many of Richard Hunt's sculptures "use broad forms rather than extreme accuracy"—in other words, they are more abstract than realistic. To illustrate Hunt's abstract approach, the text characterizes his sculpture of Arachne as "vaguely human" and his work in honor of Ida B. Wells as "using mainly flowing, curved pieces of metal that create stylized flame." Thus, the main idea is that Hunt often depicts the subjects of his sculptures using an unrealistic style.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text indicates that one of Hunt's sculptures is made of steel and another of bronze, there is no mention of why he chose these materials. Choice C is incorrect because the text says nothing about how Hunt chose the subjects for his sculptures. Furthermore, of the two examples provided in the text, only Ida B. Wells is an important historical figure; Arachne is a "mythical character." Choice D is incorrect because the text says nothing about how Hunt's style changed over time. In fact, although the two examples of Hunt's work discussed in the text were created 65 years apart, they are both described as heavily stylized rather than realistic, which may suggest that some aspects of Hunt's style haven't changed over that time.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4a85fea6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 4a85fea6

*Euphorbia esula* (leafy spurge) is a Eurasian plant that has become invasive in North America, where it displaces native vegetation and sickens cattle. *E. esula* can be controlled with chemical herbicides, but that approach can also kill harmless plants nearby. Recent research on introducing engineered DNA into plant species to inhibit their reproduction may offer a path toward exclusively targeting *E. esula*, consequently \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. making individual *E. esula* plants more susceptible to existing chemical herbicides.
- B. enhancing the ecological benefits of *E. esula* in North America.
- C. enabling cattle to consume *E. esula* without becoming sick.
- D. reducing invasive *E. esula* numbers without harming other organisms.

## ID: 4a85fea6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of leafy spurge and engineered DNA. The text establishes that using chemical herbicides to control leafy spurge in North America can also harm other plants nearby. The text then indicates that it might be possible to use engineered DNA to prevent plants from reproducing, which would be useful for "exclusively targeting" leafy spurge. If it's possible to exclusively target leafy spurge with engineered DNA—meaning that only leafy spurge is affected by the engineered DNA—and prevent the plant from reproducing, then leafy spurge numbers could be reduced "without harming other organisms."

Choice A is incorrect because the text raises the possibility of using engineered DNA to prevent leafy spurge from reproducing, not to make individual leafy spurge plants more vulnerable to chemical herbicides that already exist. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't describe any ecological benefits of leafy spurge in North America; instead, the text is focused on using engineered DNA to prevent leafy spurge from reproducing and thereby reduce its numbers. The only ecological effects of leafy spurge in North America that are described in the text are harmful. Choice C is incorrect because the text describes the possibility of using engineered DNA to prevent leafy spurge from reproducing; it doesn't offer a way to enable cattle to eat leafy spurge without becoming sick.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a0203977

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: a0203977

Annual Spending by International Tourists in Four Countries (in billions of US dollars)

Country	2016	2017	2018
South Korea	\$21.0	\$17.2	\$23.1
Japan	\$33.5	\$37.0	\$45.3
Thailand	\$48.5	\$57.1	\$61.4
Malaysia	\$19.7	\$20.3	\$21.8

One measure of international tourism is how much money visitors from abroad spend in a country. A student writing a report about tourism in several Asian countries notes that among the countries in the table, most had annual increases in international tourism revenue in 2017 and 2018, but that trend wasn't universal. For example, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the example?

- in each year shown, the revenue from tourism by residents of those countries was greater than the revenue from A. international tourism.
- B. Japan's international tourism revenue was higher in 2016 than it was in 2018.
- C. South Korea's annual international tourism revenue decreased from 2016 to 2017.
- D. in each year shown, Thailand had higher international tourism income than any of the other countries.

ID: a0203977 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text, providing an example that illustrates that the annual increases in international tourism revenue in 2017 and 2018 weren't universal. The table shows the annual spending by international tourists (which indicates annual international tourism revenue) in 2016–2018 in four Asian countries. According to the table, annual spending by international tourists in South Korea was \$21.0 billion in 2016 and then decreased to \$17.2 billion in 2017. This decrease shows that not all of the countries included in the table saw increases in annual international tourism revenue in 2017.

Choice A is incorrect because the table doesn't provide any data regarding revenue from tourism by residents of those countries. Even if that data were provided, it wouldn't be relevant to the claim that the trend of annual increases in international tourism revenue in 2017 and 2018 was not universal. Choice B is incorrect because the data in the table do not support the statement that Japan's international tourism revenue was higher in 2016 than it was in 2018: the table indicates that Japan's annual international tourism revenue was \$33.5 billion in 2016, which is less than Japan's annual international tourism revenue of \$45.3 billion in 2018. Choice D is incorrect. Although the table does indicate that Thailand's revenue from international tourism was higher than that of the other three Asian countries in 2016, 2017, and 2018, this information has no direct bearing on the text's claim that not all the Asian countries represented in the table saw an increase in revenue from international tourism.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1ffd60ce

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 1ffd60ce

An analysis by Alain Elayi and colleagues of coins minted in Sidon in the fifth and fourth centuries BCE reveals a change in their composition over time: while a coin from circa 450 BCE contains about 98% silver and 1% copper, a coin from 367 BCE (the end of Ba'alšillem II's reign) contains 74.2% silver and 24.7% copper, giving it a relatively yellowish appearance that traders would have noticed. Because coins with a silver content below 80% were widely considered unsuitable for trade, Elayi et al. speculate that a crisis in confidence in the currency occurred in Sidon around 367 BCE, which was likely relieved—despite Sidon's persistent oppressive financial obligations—as a result of Ba'alšillem II's successor Abd'aštart I's decision to

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. proclaim that the percentage of silver in coins suitable for trade would be raised to a threshold higher than 80%.
- B. keep the amount of silver in Sidonian coins consistent with that in coins minted in 367 BCE but decrease their weight.
- C. begin minting heavier coins with a proportion of silver to copper similar to that in coins minted in 367 BCE.
- D. fund the mining of some copper deposits that were not available to Ba'alšillem II.

## ID: 1ffd60ce Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Sidonian coins. As the text explains, researchers determined that Sidonian coins were made of silver and copper and that from 450 BCE to 367 BCE, the percentage of silver in each coin decreased from 98% to 74.2% while the percentage of copper increased from 1% to 24.7%. The text indicates that because the coins containing less than 80% silver weren't considered suitable for trade (suggesting that copper was less valuable than silver) and looked different from coins containing more silver, the researchers suspect there was a serious loss in confidence in the currency in Sidon in 367 BCE when the copper content was high. It's reasonable to assume that it wasn't possible to boost confidence simply by devoting a greater amount of valuable silver to the currency, since Sidon was under significant and ongoing financial pressure; however, keeping the total amount of silver the same and reducing the amount of copper in the coins would have resulted in smaller coins with a higher percentage of silver. Therefore, it makes sense to suggest that Abd'aštar I (the ruler after 367 BCE) likely restored confidence in the currency by deciding to keep the amount of silver in Sidonian coins consistent with that in coins minted in 367 BCE but to decrease the coins' weight.

Choice A is incorrect because the text conveys that a crisis in confidence in the currency of Sidon likely occurred around 367 BCE because the percentage of silver in coins had fallen below 80% (presumably because Sidon's financial pressures meant that less silver was available for currency), making the coins unsuitable for trade. Thus, announcing that the threshold for the percentage of silver in coins would be raised—that is, that coins would need to contain even more than 80% silver to be suitable for trade—likely would have worsened the crisis rather than relieved it. Choice C is incorrect because the text strongly suggests that a crisis in confidence in the currency of Sidon was caused by the proportion of silver to copper in the coins in 367 BCE, with 74.2% being too little silver for the coins to be considered suitable for trade; therefore, it's unlikely that minting coins with a similar proportion of silver to copper (that is, still around 74.2% silver) would have restored confidence, even if the coins were heavier. Choice D is incorrect because the text gives no indication that funding the mining of more copper would have relieved a crisis in confidence in the currency of Sidon. The text establishes that Sidonian coins that visibly contained copper weren't considered suitable for trade, so Abd'aštar I wouldn't have wanted to add even more copper to them, and it's unclear how else copper mining would affect views of the currency.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 0ec15b5a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 0ec15b5a

Incorporated and Unincorporated Self-Employment Rates in Four Occupational Fields, 2015

Occupational field	Incorporated self-employment rate	Unincorporated self-employment rate
Construction and resource extraction	4.4%	14.8%
Installation, maintenance, and repair	2.7%	6.2%
Management, business, and financial services	8.9%	9.7%
Sales and related	5.8%	7.8%

Self-employed workers—individuals who are not employees of other individuals or businesses but instead earn their income as business owners, independent contractors, or freelance workers—make up an important part of the US labor force. In order to receive legal and tax benefits enjoyed by corporations, self-employed individuals may choose to incorporate their business. A 2015 survey of incorporated and unincorporated self-employment rates in four occupational fields showed that the highest incorporated self-employment rate occurred among people working in \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text?

- A. sales and related occupations.
- B. installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.
- C. construction and resource extraction occupations.
- D. management, business, and financial services occupations.

ID: 0ec15b5a Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text. The text discusses self-employed workers in the US, and the table shows the US incorporated and unincorporated self-employment rates in four occupational fields in 2015. According to the table, the incorporated self-employment rate was 8.9% for the management, business, and financial services occupational field, which is higher than the incorporated self-employment rate shown for any other occupational field.

Choice A is incorrect because according to the table, the incorporated self-employment rate was 5.8% for the sales and related occupational field, which is lower than the 8.9% for the management, business, and financial services occupational field. Choice B is incorrect because according to the table, the incorporated self-employment rate was 2.7% for the installation, maintenance, and repair occupational field, which is lower than the 8.9% for the management, business, and financial services occupational field. Choice C is incorrect because according to the table, the incorporated self-employment rate was 4.4% for the construction and resource extraction occupational field, which is lower than the 8.9% for the management, business, and financial services occupational field.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a9390104

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: a9390104

East Australian humpback whales migrate up to 10,000 kilometers each year to reach their breeding grounds. Researchers long believed that migrating whales live only on the extra energy they stored up during the feeding season. But marine biologist Vanessa Pirotta and her team aren't so sure. They analyzed 20 years of observations of the migrating whales made by citizen scientists (members of the public who help collect data for scientific research). The team claims that the whales may not live only on their stored energy during migration.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the team's claim?

- A. Citizen scientists have observed many different types of marine animals feeding alongside the whales.
- B. Citizen scientists have made many observations of the whales feeding as they migrate to their breeding grounds.
- C. Citizen scientists have made more observations of the whales migrating to their breeding grounds than of the whales returning to their feeding grounds.
- D. Citizen scientists have recently begun to observe the whales migrating to their breeding grounds earlier in the year.

## ID: a9390104 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support Pirotta and her team's claim that East Australian humpback whales may not live only on stored energy during migration. The text explains that it has long been thought that East Australian humpback whales store extra energy during the feeding season and then use that energy to survive while traveling to their breeding grounds. If it were true that citizen scientists have often seen the whales feeding as they migrate to the breeding grounds, that would indicate that the whales sometimes feed and take in additional energy during the journey, meaning that they may not rely only on energy they stored before migrating.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that citizen scientists have observed many different types of marine animals feeding alongside the whales would have no bearing on the team's claim; the behavior of other animals is irrelevant, and without indicating the timing of the observed feeding, the finding wouldn't reveal whether the whales rely only on previously stored energy or ever take in additional energy during migration. Choice C is incorrect because finding that citizen scientists have more often observed whales on the way to their breeding grounds than returning to their feeding grounds would have no bearing on the team's claim. Since it would provide information about the timing of observations but not about the whales' observed activities, the finding wouldn't reveal whether the whales rely only on previously stored energy or ever take in additional energy during migration. Choice D is incorrect because finding that citizen scientists have recently started seeing the whales migrate to their breeding grounds earlier in the year would have no bearing on the team's claim. Since it would provide information about a change in the timing of migration but not about the whales' observed activities while migrating, the finding wouldn't reveal whether the whales rely only on previously stored energy or ever take in additional energy during migration.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 16025337

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 16025337

The following text is adapted from William Shakespeare's 1609 poem "Sonnet 27." The poem is addressed to a close friend as if he were physically present.

Weary with toil, I [hurry] to my bed, The dear repose for limbs with travel tired; But then begins a journey in my head  
To work my mind, when body's work's expired: For then my thoughts—from far where I abide—  
[Begin] a zealous pilgrimage to thee, And keep my drooping eyelids open wide,

What is the main idea of the text?

- A. The speaker is asleep and dreaming about traveling to see the friend.
- B. The speaker is planning an upcoming trip to the friend's house.
- C. The speaker is too fatigued to continue a discussion with the friend.
- D. The speaker is thinking about the friend instead of immediately falling asleep.

## ID: 16025337 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The speaker describes going to bed for "repose" (rest) but finding that his thoughts are focused on the friend the speaker is addressing, and the thoughts are keeping the speaker awake.

Choice A is incorrect because the speaker isn't asleep; the thoughts about the friend are keeping the speaker awake. Choice B is incorrect because the speaker isn't talking about taking a literal trip; rather, the speaker uses the metaphor of a journey to describe internal thoughts. Choice C is incorrect because the speaker isn't having a discussion with the friend.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 20583752

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 20583752

"The Poet Walt Whitman" is an 1887 essay by José Martí, a Cuban author and political activist, originally written in Spanish. In the essay, Martí explores the value of literature, arguing that a society's spiritual well-being depends on the character of its literary culture: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from a translation of "The Poet Walt Whitman" most effectively illustrates the claim?

"Poetry, which brings together or separates, which fortifies or brings anguish, which shores up or demolishes souls, which gives or robs men of faith and vigor, is more necessary to a people than industry itself, for industry provides them A. with a means of subsistence, while literature gives them the desire and strength for life."

"Every society brings to literature its own form of expression, and the history of the nations can be told with greater truth B. by the stages of literature than by chronicles and decades."

"Where will a race of men go when they have lost the habit of thinking with faith about the scope and meaning of their actions? The best among them, those who consecrate Nature with their sacred desire for the future, will lose, in a sordid C. and painful annihilation, all stimulus to alleviate the ugliness of humanity."

"Listen to the song of this hardworking and satisfied nation; listen to Walt Whitman. The exercise of himself exalts him to D. majesty, tolerance exalts him to justice, and order to joy."

## ID: 20583752 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that Martí argues that a society's spiritual well-being depends on the character of its literary culture. In the quotation, Martí asserts that poetry is "more necessary to a people than industry itself" and that it has the power to provide people with "faith and vigor." He also adds that literature gives people "the desire and strength for life." Therefore, this quotation shows that Martí believes that literature is a societal necessity because it uplifts people and nourishes their spiritual well-being.

Choice B is incorrect. Although this quotation emphasizes the importance of literature, it focuses on how the nature of a society is reflected in that society's literature rather than on literature's value for people's spiritual well-being. Choice C is incorrect. Although this quotation involves an element of spirituality, it doesn't discuss literature. The quotation instead focuses on humanity's actions. Choice D is incorrect because this quotation mainly focuses on the importance of Walt Whitman rather than on the value of literature in general.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b28dc26d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: b28dc26d

The linguistic niche hypothesis (LNH) posits that the exotericity of languages (how prevalent non-native speakers are) and grammatical complexity are inversely related, which the LNH ascribes to attrition of complex grammatical rules as more non-native speakers adopt the language but fail to acquire those rules. Focusing on two characteristics that are positive indices of grammatical complexity, fusion (when new phonemes arise from the merger of previously distinct ones) and informativity (languages' capacity for meaningful variation), Olena Shcherbakova and colleagues conducted a quantitative analysis for more than 1,300 languages and claim the outcome is inconsistent with the LNH.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Shcherbakova and colleagues' claim?

Shcherbakova and colleagues' analysis showed a slightly negative correlation between grammatical complexity and  
A. fusion and between grammatical complexity and informativity.

Shcherbakova and colleagues' analysis showed a slightly negative correlation between grammatical complexity and  
B. exotericity.

Shcherbakova and colleagues' analysis showed a slightly positive correlation between grammatical complexity and  
C. fusion.

Shcherbakova and colleagues' analysis showed a slightly positive correlation between fusion and exotericity and  
D. between informativity and exotericity.

## ID: b28dc26d Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support Shcherbakova and colleagues' claim that the outcome of their study is inconsistent with the linguistic niche hypothesis (LNH). The text explains that the LNH holds that there is an inverse relationship between the prevalence of non-native speakers of a language (exotericity) and the grammatical complexity of that language—that is, that as the number of non-native speakers increases, grammatical complexity decreases, and vice versa. According to the text, Shcherbakova and colleagues focused on two positive indications of grammatical complexity—fusion and informativity—and analyzed their occurrence in over 1,300 languages. If the researchers found a slightly positive correlation between fusion and exotericity and between informativity and exotericity—meaning that to some extent, grammatical complexity increases as the number of non-native speakers of a language increases—their outcome would not be consistent with the assumption that exotericity and grammatical complexity are inversely related (the LNH).

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't be possible to say that a finding of a slightly negative correlation between grammatical complexity and both fusion and informativity is inconsistent or consistent with the LNH, since the finding would address only grammatical complexity (given that fusion and informativity are aspects of grammatical complexity) and wouldn't move beyond that factor to address its relationship to the prevalence of non-native speakers of a language (exotericity), which is the relationship the LNH focuses on. Choice B is incorrect because a finding of a slightly negative correlation between grammatical complexity and the prevalence of non-native speakers of a language (exotericity)—meaning that as the number of non-native speakers increases, grammatical complexity somewhat decreases, and vice versa—would be consistent, not inconsistent, with the LNH, since the text indicates that according to the LNH, there is an inverse relationship between grammatical complexity and exotericity; a negative correlation reflects an inverse relationship. Choice C is incorrect because it wouldn't be possible to say that a finding of a slightly positive correlation between grammatical complexity and fusion is inconsistent or consistent with the LNH, since the finding would address only grammatical complexity (given that fusion is a positive indication of grammatical complexity) and wouldn't move beyond that factor to address its relationship to the prevalence of non-native speakers of a language (exotericity), which is the relationship the LNH focuses on.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 659c6c1d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 659c6c1d

The following text is adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson's 1883 novel *Treasure Island*. Bill is a sailor staying at the Admiral Benbow, an inn run by the narrator's parents.

Every day when [Bill] came back from his stroll he would ask if any seafaring men had gone by along the road. At first we thought it was the want of company of his own kind that made him ask this question, but at last we began to see he was desirous to avoid them. When a seaman did [stay] at the Admiral Benbow (as now and then some did) he would look in at him through the curtained door before he entered the parlour; and he was always sure to be as silent as a mouse when any such was present.

According to the text, why does Bill regularly ask about "seafaring men"?

- A. He's hoping to find an old friend and fellow sailor.
- B. He's trying to secure a job as part of the crew on a new ship.
- C. He isn't sure that other guests at the inn will be welcoming of sailors.
- D. He doesn't want to encounter any other sailor unexpectedly.

## ID: 659c6c1d Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The narrator says that, at first, they thought Bill asked regularly about other seafarers because he wanted their company, but eventually they realized that Bill actually wanted to avoid them.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn't the reason the text gives for why Bill regularly asks about "seafaring men." The narrator says that, at first, they thought Bill asked regularly about other seafarers because he wanted their company, but eventually they realized that Bill wanted to avoid them. Choice B is incorrect. This isn't the reason the text gives for why Bill regularly asks about "seafaring men." The narrator says that, at first, they thought Bill asked regularly about other seafarers because he wanted their company, but eventually they realized that Bill wanted to avoid them. Choice C is incorrect. This isn't the reason the text gives for why Bill regularly asks about "seafaring men." The narrator says that, at first, they thought Bill asked regularly about other seafarers because he wanted their company, but eventually they realized that Bill wanted to avoid them.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 8f3a200e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 8f3a200e

Some astronomers searching for extraterrestrial life have proposed that atmospheric NH<sub>3</sub> (ammonia) can serve as a biosignature gas—an indication that a planet harbors life. Jingcheng Huang, Sara Seager, and colleagues evaluated this possibility, finding that on rocky planets, atmospheric NH<sub>3</sub> likely couldn't reach detectably high levels in the absence of biological activity. But the team also found that on so-called mini-Neptunes—gas planets smaller than Neptune but with atmospheres similar to Neptune's—atmospheric pressure and temperature can be high enough to produce atmospheric NH<sub>3</sub>.

Based on the text, Huang, Seager, and colleagues would most likely agree with which statement about atmospheric NH<sub>3</sub>?

- Its presence is more likely to indicate that a planet is a mini-Neptune than that the planet is a rocky planet that could
  - A. support life.
  - B. Its absence from a planet that's not a mini-Neptune indicates that the planet probably doesn't have life.
- It should be treated as a biosignature gas if detected in the atmosphere of a rocky planet but not if detected in the
  - C. atmosphere of a mini-Neptune.
- It doesn't reliably reach high enough concentrations in the atmospheres of rocky planets or mini-Neptunes to be treated
  - D. as a biosignature gas.

## ID: 8f3a200e Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it states a conclusion the researchers likely agree with, given the details in the text. The text explains that a biosignature gas is a gas that can be used as an indicator that a planet harbors some form of life and some astronomers have proposed that NH<sub>3</sub> could serve as a biosignature gas. The researchers evaluating this claim found that the atmosphere of rocky planets would be unlikely to reach "detectably high levels" of NH<sub>3</sub> without biological activity, which would support the proposal of NH<sub>3</sub> serving as a biosignature gas. However, the text also states that mini-Neptune planets can produce NH<sub>3</sub> in the absence of biological activity. Thus, the text is structured to lead to the conclusion that detectable levels of NH<sub>3</sub> in the atmospheres of rocky planets could constitute a biosignature, but that is not the case for detectable levels of the gas in the atmospheres of mini-Neptune planets.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that biological activity likely accounts for detectable levels of NH<sub>3</sub> in the atmospheres of rocky planets but mini-Neptune planets can have detectable levels of NH<sub>3</sub> in their atmospheres in the absence of biological activity. Therefore, both rocky planets and mini-Neptune planets can have detectable levels of atmospheric NH<sub>3</sub>. Choice B is incorrect because the text states that for NH<sub>3</sub> to reach detectable levels in the atmospheres of rocky planets likely means they harbor biological activity, meaning that rocky planets with detectable NH<sub>3</sub> usually harbor biological activity. However, that does not entail that every rocky planet with biological activity will have detectable levels of NH<sub>3</sub> in their atmospheres. Choice D is incorrect because the text claims only that some astronomers have proposed using NH<sub>3</sub> as a biosignature gas without mentioning a minimum concentration of atmospheric NH<sub>3</sub> that must be met for it to function as a biosignature gas.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID db2da2bf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: db2da2bf

In 2019, 20 previously unknown moons were confirmed to be orbiting Saturn. Three of the moons have prograde orbits (orbiting in the direction the planet spins), and the other 17 have retrograde orbits (orbiting in the opposite direction of the planet's spin). All but one of the 20 moons are thought to be remnants of bodies that orbited Saturn until they broke apart in collisions. Although the one exceptional moon orbits in the same direction as the planet's spin, its orbit is highly eccentric compared to the rest, which may suggest that it has a different origin than the other 19 moons.

Based on the text, which choice best describes the moon with the eccentric orbit?

- A. It doesn't have a retrograde orbit, but it likely has the same origin as the moons with retrograde orbits.
- B. Its orbit is so tilted with respect to the other moons' orbits that it's neither prograde nor retrograde.
- C. It has a prograde orbit that is likely the result of having collided with another body orbiting Saturn.
- D. It has a prograde orbit and may not be a remnant of an earlier body that orbited Saturn.

## ID: db2da2bf Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the moon with the eccentric orbit. The text indicates that three of the 20 newly discovered moons have prograde orbits, meaning that they orbit Saturn in the same direction as the planet's spin, while the other 17 moons have retrograde orbits, meaning that they orbit Saturn in the opposite direction of the planet's spin. The text then states that 19 of the 20 moons appear to be the remains of earlier bodies that orbited Saturn but were broken apart in collisions. The one exception is a moon that orbits Saturn in the same direction as the planet's spin, meaning that the exceptional moon's orbit is prograde. The text goes on to state that the exceptional moon's orbit is so eccentric that the moon may have formed through a different process than the other 19 moons. The moon with the eccentric orbit, therefore, has a prograde orbit and may not be a remnant of an earlier body that orbited Saturn.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text supports the idea that the moon with the eccentric orbit likely has the same origin as the moons with retrograde orbits. Although it's true that the moon has a prograde orbit (and thus doesn't have a retrograde orbit), the only information the text provides about the moon's origin is that it may be different than the origin of the other 19 moons. Choice B is incorrect because the text states that the moon in question orbits Saturn in the same direction as the planet's spin, meaning that the moon's orbit is prograde, not that its orbit is neither prograde nor retrograde. Choice C is incorrect because the text merely notes that the moon in question has a prograde orbit without giving any indication of what likely caused that orbit.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 39de2206

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 39de2206

*The Post Office* is a 1912 play by Rabindranath Tagore, originally written in Bengali. The character Amal is a young boy who imagines that the people he sees passing the window of his home are carefree even when engaged in work or chores, as is evident when he says to the daughter of a flower seller, \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from *The Post Office* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "I see, you don't wish to stop; I don't care to stay on here either."
- B. "Oh, flower gathering? That is why your feet seem so glad and your anklets jingle so merrily as you walk."
- C. "I'll pay when I grow up—before I leave to look for work out on the other side of that stream there."
- D. "Wish I could be out too. Then I would pick some flowers for you from the very topmost branches right out of sight."

## ID: 39de2206 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that Amal imagines the people he sees are carefree even when engaged in work. In the quotation, Amal observes that the flower seller's daughter is "flower gathering," or working, as the text indicates. Moreover, Amal notes that the daughter's feet "seem so glad" and her "anklets jingle so merrily," suggesting that Amal believes that the flower seller's daughter is cheerful.

Choice A is incorrect because the quotation makes no observation about the cheerful mood of the flower seller's daughter. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation discusses how Amal envisions his future, not the feelings of the flower seller's daughter. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation discusses Amal's wishes, not the feelings of the flower seller's daughter.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d5c2a4d4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: d5c2a4d4

The following text is adapted from Guy de Maupassant's nineteenth-century short story "The Trip of Le Horla" (translated by Albert M. C. McMaster, A. E. Henderson, Mme. Quesada, et al.). The narrator is part of a group traveling in a hot-air balloon at night.

The earth no longer seems to exist, it is buried in milky vapors that resemble a sea. We are now alone in space with the moon, which looks like another balloon travelling opposite us; and our balloon, which shines in the air, appears like another, larger moon, a world wandering in the sky amid the stars, through infinity. We no longer speak, think nor live; we float along through space in delicious inertia. The air which is bearing us up has made of us all beings which resemble itself, silent, joyous, irresponsible beings, peculiarly alert, although motionless.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

A. The narrator feels a growing sense of isolation even though his companions are nearby during the balloon ride.

B. The narrator and his companions are completely absorbed in the change in perspective they gain while riding in the balloon.

C. The narrator and his companions are troubled by the disorienting effects of the altitude while riding in the balloon.

D. The narrator is pleasantly surprised by his companions' unrestrained enthusiasm about the sensation of riding in the balloon.

## ID: d5c2a4d4 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The narrator describes the view he and his companions have from the balloon: the earth lies beneath "milky vapors," and the balloon itself looks like another moon. The narrator goes on to explain how the people riding in the balloon are affected by the ride, explaining that they are immersed in the experience: floating along in "delicious inertia," or inactivity, like "silent, joyous, irresponsible beings." Thus, the main idea is that the narrator and his companions are completely absorbed in the change in perspective they gain while riding in the balloon.

Choice A is incorrect because the narrator never describes himself as feeling isolated from his companions; instead, he characterizes riding in the balloon as an experience he is sharing with them. And although he does imply a sense of isolation, it is isolation from those on the ground, as when he says of himself and his companions, "We are now alone." Choice C is incorrect because the narrator doesn't suggest that he or his companions are troubled by the effects of the balloon ride. Instead, he describes himself and his companions as "joyous" and the experience of floating in the balloon as "delicious." Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the narrator is surprised by his companions' response to the balloon ride. In fact, the text indicates that the narrator and his companions are having the same experience: they're described as "silent" and "motionless," rather than as having unrestrained enthusiasm.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID cf7491c1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: cf7491c1

Characteristics of Five Recently Discovered Gas Exoplanets

Exoplanet designation	Mass (Jupiters)	Radius (Jupiters)	Orbital period (days)	Distance from the Sun (parsecs)
TOI-640 b	0.88	1.771	5.003	340
TOI-1601 b	0.99	1.239	5.331	336
TOI-628 b	6.33	1.060	3.409	178
TOI-1478 b	0.85	1.060	10.180	153
TOI-1333 b	2.37	1.396	4.720	200

"Hot Jupiters" are gas planets that have a mass of at least 0.25 Jupiters (meaning that their mass is at least 25% of that of Jupiter) and an orbital period of less than 10 days (meaning that they complete one orbit around their star in less than 10 days), while "warm Jupiters" are gas planets that meet the same mass criterion but have orbital periods of more than 10 days. In 2021, Michigan State University astronomer Joseph Rodriguez and colleagues announced the discovery of five new gas exoplanets and asserted that four are hot Jupiters and one is a warm Jupiter.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support Rodriguez and colleagues' assertion?

- A. None of the planets have an orbital period of more than 10 days, and TOI-628 b has a mass of 6.33 Jupiters.
- B. TOI-1478 b has an orbital period of 153 days, and the masses of all the planets range from 0.85 to 6.33 Jupiters.

All the planets have a radius between 1.060 and 1.771 Jupiters, and only TOI-1333 b has an orbital period of more than 10 days.

Each of the planets has a mass greater than 0.25 Jupiters, and all except for TOI-1478 b have an orbital period of less than 10 days.

ID: cf7491c1 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it accurately describes data from the table that support Rodriguez and colleagues' assertion about the classifications of the five new gas exoplanets. The text describes two categories of gas planets: hot Jupiters, which have a mass of at least 0.25 Jupiters and an orbital period of less than 10 days, and warm Jupiters, which have the same mass characteristic but have orbital periods of more than 10 days. According to the table, four of the gas exoplanets discovered by Rodriguez and colleagues have a mass of at least 0.25 Jupiters and an orbital period of less than 10 days, while one of the planets has a mass of at least 0.25 Jupiters and an orbital period of more than 10 days. These data therefore support Rodriguez and colleagues' assertion that four of the new exoplanets are hot Jupiters and one is a warm Jupiter.

Choice A is incorrect because it doesn't accurately describe the data from the table. Although the table shows that TOI-628 b has a mass equivalent to 6.33 Jupiters, the table also shows that one of the planets—TOI-1478 b—does indeed have an orbital period of more than 10 days. Choice B is incorrect because it doesn't accurately describe the data from the table. Although the table does show that the masses of the five planets range from 0.85 to 6.33 Jupiters, the table also shows that TOI-1478 b has an orbital period of 10.180 days, not 153 days. Choice C is incorrect. According to the table, TOI-1333 b has an orbital period of only 4.720 days, not more than 10 days. Additionally, although the table does show that all the planets have a radius between 1.060 and 1.771 Jupiters, the text indicates that a planet may be classified as a hot Jupiter or a warm Jupiter based on its mass and orbital period, not on its radius, making the information about the range of the five planets' radius values irrelevant.

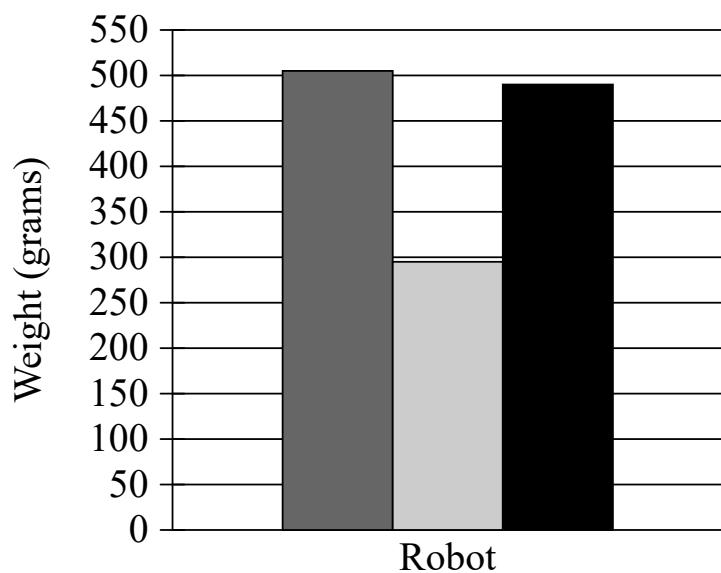
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID df37c087

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ ■

ID: df37c087

Weight of Three Aerial Robots



- Ultra-Fast Robot Hand
- Permanent Magnet Hand
- Yale Model T

Aerial robots vary considerably in their holding force; the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand, for example, has a holding force of 56 newtons, more than twice that of the Permanent Magnet Hand and more than four times that of the Yale Model T. Since an aerial robot must lift its own weight along with its cargo, engineer Jiawei Meng and colleagues used a ratio of each robot's holding force to the robot's weight to calculate payload capacity, with higher ratios corresponding to greater capacity, concluding that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a higher payload capacity than the Yale Model T.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support Meng and colleagues' conclusion?

- A. The Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T each weigh more than 450 grams.
- B. The Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T each weigh more than the Permanent Magnet Hand does.
- C. The Yale Model T has a lower holding force than the Permanent Magnet Hand despite weighing more.
- D. The Ultra-Fast Robot Hand weighs only slightly more than the Yale Model T does.

ID: df37c087 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

**Rationale**

Choice D is the best answer because it describes data in the graph that support Meng and colleagues' conclusion that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a higher payload capacity than the Yale Model T. According to the text, payload capacity is calculated by using a ratio of a robot's holding force to the robot's weight, and higher ratios indicate a greater payload capacity. The Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a holding force of 56 newtons, four times greater than that of the Yale Model T. Additionally, the graph shows that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a weight of approximately 500 grams, slightly more than the Yale Model T's weight of approximately 480 grams. Therefore, the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a higher ratio of holding force to weight than the Yale Model T. Since higher ratios correspond to greater payload capacity, the information from the graph indicating that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand weighs only slightly more than the Yale Model T combined with the information in the text ultimately supports the conclusion that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a higher payload capacity than the Yale Model T.

Choice A is incorrect. Although, according to the graph, it's true that both the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T weigh more than 450 grams, this statement doesn't support Meng and colleagues' conclusion that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a higher payload capacity than the Yale Model T. This statement emphasizes a similarity, not a distinction, between the two robots. Choice B is incorrect. Although, according to the graph, it's true that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T both weigh more than the Permanent Magnet Hand does, this statement doesn't support Meng and colleagues' conclusion that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a higher payload capacity than the Yale Model T. This statement emphasizes a similarity, not a distinction, between the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T. Furthermore, the comparison to the Permanent Magnet Hand is irrelevant to the claim about the relative ratios and payload capacities of the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text states that the Yale Model T has a lower holding force than the Permanent Magnet Hand, the graph provides no information about holding force. Moreover, information about the Permanent Magnet Hand is irrelevant to the conclusion by Meng and colleagues, which only concerns the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5d6ab069

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 5d6ab069

Jan Gimsa, Robert Sleigh, and Ulrike Gimsa have hypothesized that the sail-like structure running down the back of the dinosaur *Spinosaurus aegyptiacus* improved the animal's success in underwater pursuits of prey species capable of making quick, evasive movements. To evaluate their hypothesis, a second team of researchers constructed two battery-powered mechanical models of *S. aegyptiacus*, one with a sail and one without, and subjected the models to a series of identical tests in a water-filled tank.

Which finding from the model tests, if true, would most strongly support Gimsa and colleagues' hypothesis?

The model with a sail took significantly less time to complete a sharp turn while submerged than the model without a sail.

A. did.

B. The model with a sail displaced significantly more water while submerged than the model without a sail did.

The model with a sail had significantly less battery power remaining after completing the tests than the model without a sail did.

The model with a sail took significantly longer to travel a specified distance while submerged than the model without a sail did.

## ID: 5d6ab069 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This finding would most strongly support the hypothesis. The hypothesis is that the sail improved the dinosaur's ability to chase quick, evasive prey. This finding suggests that the sail helped the dinosaur make sharp turns more quickly, which supports that hypothesis.

Choice B is incorrect. This finding wouldn't necessarily support the hypothesis. The hypothesis is that the sail improved the dinosaur's ability to chase quick, evasive prey. It's unclear how the sail displacing more water would relate to that hypothesis—it doesn't seem to be relevant. Choice C is incorrect. This finding wouldn't necessarily support the hypothesis. The hypothesis is that the sail improved the dinosaur's ability to chase quick, evasive prey. It's unclear how the difference in battery power between the models would relate to that hypothesis—it doesn't seem to be relevant. Choice D is incorrect. This finding would actually weaken the hypothesis. The hypothesis is that the sail improved the dinosaur's ability to chase quick, evasive prey. This finding suggests that the sail slowed the dinosaur down—which would probably make it worse at catching quick, evasive prey.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e6e6be2d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: e6e6be2d

Overgrazing by purple sea urchins has caused many kelp forests along North America's west coast to be replaced by urchin barrens—areas stripped of vegetation and covered in purple sea urchins. Urchins in barrens persist in a state of starvation that lessens their nutritional value—and thus their appeal—to many predators. Sarah Gravem and colleagues placed sunflower sea stars, a once-abundant predator species suffering massive population declines in recent years, in aquariums that each contained a nutritionally poor and a nutritionally rich purple sea urchin. The researchers found that the sea stars selected the nutritionally rich urchin in 42.7% of trials and the nutritionally poor urchin in 37.5% of trials, suggesting that

Which choice most logically completes the text?

sunflower sea stars are willing to hunt sea urchins, but if given a choice, they will prey on other more nutritious marine  
A. animals instead.

sunflower sea stars are reluctant to feed on both nutritionally poor and nutritionally rich sea urchins and are therefore  
B. unlikely to thrive in kelp forests.

sunflower sea stars are less likely to consume sea urchins in barrens than other species of sea stars are, putting  
C. sunflower sea stars at a high risk of extinction.

sunflower sea stars do not always avoid foraging on nutritionally poor sea urchins, making sunflower sea star population  
D. recovery a potentially important tool for controlling urchin barrens.

## ID: e6e6be2d Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of the researchers' findings about purple sea urchins and sunflower sea stars. The text explains that urchin barrens are areas that used to be kelp forests but are now covered by purple sea urchins. The text suggests that because there is no more vegetation to be consumed in those areas, the urchins exist in a state of starvation that makes them less nutritional for many predators. The text goes on to explain that in a study with a choice between two purple sea urchins, sunflower sea stars (a predator species that has been substantially declining) consumed a nutritionally rich urchin 42.7% of the time and a nutritionally poor urchin 37.5% of the time. Because the sunflower sea stars didn't always avoid consuming nutritionally poor urchins, even when nutritionally rich ones were available, it follows that helping sunflower sea star populations to grow could help control urchin barrens by increasing the number of sea stars that may consume and thus remove nutritionally poor purple sea urchins from barrens.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates only that when presented with purple sea urchins, the sunflower sea stars in the study consumed both nutritionally rich and nutritionally poor ones. It doesn't suggest that sunflower sea stars generally prefer other marine animals that are more nutritious; there's no mention of other marine animals. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that sunflower sea stars are generally reluctant to feed on sea urchins. In fact, the text indicates that the sunflower sea stars in the study did consume sea urchins, feeding on both nutritionally poor and nutritionally rich ones. Choice C is incorrect because the text addresses only the willingness of sunflower sea stars to consume the type of sea urchins found in barrens (nutritionally poor sea urchins), not how likely other species of sea stars are to consume them.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID Odccbf17

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: Odccbf17

Henry Ossawa Tanner's 1893 painting *The Banjo Lesson*, which depicts an elderly man teaching a boy to play the banjo, is regarded as a landmark in the history of works by Black artists in the United States. Scholars should be cautious when ascribing political or ideological values to the painting, however: beliefs and assumptions that are commonly held now may have been unfamiliar to Tanner and his contemporaries, and vice versa. Scholars who forget this fact when discussing *The Banjo Lesson* therefore \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. risk judging Tanner's painting by standards that may not be historically appropriate.
- B. tend to conflate Tanner's political views with those of his contemporaries.
- C. forgo analyzing Tanner's painting in favor of analyzing his political activity.
- D. wrongly assume that Tanner's painting was intended as a critique of his fellow artists.

## ID: Odccbf17 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It most logically completes the text. The text argues that Tanner and his contemporaries may have been unfamiliar with modern beliefs and values. This suggests that scholars who attribute those modern values to Tanner's painting are risking judging the painting by standards that are not historically accurate.

Choice B is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text argues that Tanner AND his contemporaries may have been unfamiliar with modern views. It never suggests that Tanner's views were different from his contemporaries' views.

Choice C is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text never suggests that scholars should analyze Tanner's political activity instead of his painting. Rather, the text argues that Tanner and his contemporaries may have been unfamiliar with modern beliefs and values. Choice D is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text never suggests that Tanner wanted to critique his contemporaries with his painting. Rather, the text argues that Tanner AND his contemporaries may have been unfamiliar with modern beliefs and values.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 37e15265

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 37e15265

"The Young Girl" is a 1920 short story by Katherine Mansfield. In the story, the narrator takes an unnamed seventeen-year-old girl and her younger brother out for a meal. In describing the teenager, Mansfield frequently contrasts the character's pleasant appearance with her unpleasant attitude, as when Mansfield writes of the teenager, \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from "The Young Girl" most effectively illustrates the claim?

"I heard her murmur, 'I can't bear flowers on a table.' They had evidently been giving her intense pain, for she positively  
A. closed her eyes as I moved them away."

"While we waited she took out a little, gold powder-box with a mirror in the lid, shook the poor little puff as though she  
B. loathed it, and dabbed her lovely nose."

"I saw, after that, she couldn't stand this place a moment longer, and, indeed, she jumped up and turned away while I went  
C. through the vulgar act of paying for the tea."

"She didn't even take her gloves off. She lowered her eyes and drummed on the table. When a faint violin sounded she  
D. winced and bit her lip again. Silence."

## ID: 37e15265 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim in the text that in describing the teenaged girl, Mansfield contrasts the character's pleasant appearance with her unpleasant attitude. In the quotation, Mansfield describes the teenager as having a "lovely nose" (a compliment about her appearance) but also as treating her makeup puff "as though she loathed it" (a judgment suggesting her unpleasant attitude).

Choice A is incorrect because the teenager's reaction to the flowers doesn't make it clear that she has an unpleasant attitude, and nothing in the quotation indicates that any part of her appearance is pleasant. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation suggests that the teenager has an unpleasant attitude (being upset with the location and leaving the table before the narrator has paid for the meal) but doesn't give any indication that she has a pleasant appearance. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation suggests that the teenager may have an unpleasant attitude (lowering her eyes, wincing, and sitting in silence) but doesn't give any indication that any part of her appearance is pleasant.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f9c4bdab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: f9c4bdab

A student is writing a paper about *One Night in Miami...*, a 2020 film directed by Regina King and written by Kemp Powers. Powers adapted the film's screenplay from his 2013 play, which he wrote after learning about a 1964 meeting that took place in Miami, Florida, between four prominent figures of the Civil Rights movement: Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, Jim Brown, and Sam Cooke. The student claims that although Powers was inspired by this meeting, the film is best understood not as a precise retelling of historical events but rather as a largely imagined but informed representation of them.

Which quotation from an article about *One Night in Miami...* would be the most effective evidence for the student to include in support of this claim?

"When Powers learned of the meeting, he initially planned to write a much longer work about its four famous participants A. rather than focusing on the meeting itself."

"*One Night in Miami...* received numerous awards and nominations, including an Academy Award nomination for Powers B. for Best Adapted Screenplay."

"Powers has described *One Night in Miami...* as the story of four friends encouraging and supporting one another while C. engaged in a crucial political debate about how best to achieve equality for Black people in the United States."

"Powers could find only the most superficial historical details about the meeting, so he read extensively about the four D. individuals and their thinking at the time in an effort to portray what might have happened between them."

## ID: f9c4bdab Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it provides a quotation that effectively supports the student's claim about the film *One Night in Miami*.... The quotation states that in researching the play on which the film was based, Kemp Powers only found superficial details about what actually happened during the 1964 meeting in Miami between four leading Civil Rights leaders, meaning that there is very little information about the meeting in the historical record. In the absence of greater details, it wouldn't have been possible for the film to be a precise retelling of the historical events it depicts. The quotation explains that to compensate for this lack of information about the meeting, Powers did extensive research into the four figures and how they thought at the time in order to speculate in an informed way about what they might have said or what might have occurred between them. Therefore, the quotation effectively supports the claim that the film is best understood not as a precise retelling of a historical event but as a deeply informed imaginative rendering of that event.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the quotation discusses how on learning about the 1964 meeting in Miami, Powers was inspired to write a play and, later, to adapt it into a screenplay, it doesn't discuss Powers's approach to representing what had occurred in the meeting. Instead, it states that Powers didn't initially plan to write a story only "focusing on the meeting itself" but rather had considered writing a "much longer" and more expansive work about the meeting's four participants. Choice B is incorrect because the quotation doesn't discuss Powers's approach to representing historical events in his play and in the film; instead, the quotation focuses on the film's positive critical reception by mentioning that it received numerous awards and nominations. Choice C is incorrect. Although the quotation references historical events that are discussed directly in the play and film by explaining how the four historical figures featured in the story engage in political debates about contemporary issues, it doesn't specify to what extent Powers's representation of what occurred during the 1964 meeting in Miami is a factual retelling of what happened and how much is an imaginative rendering of what might have happened. Rather, the quotation focuses on Powers's description of the film's basic premise and how the characters engage with the historical context of its setting.

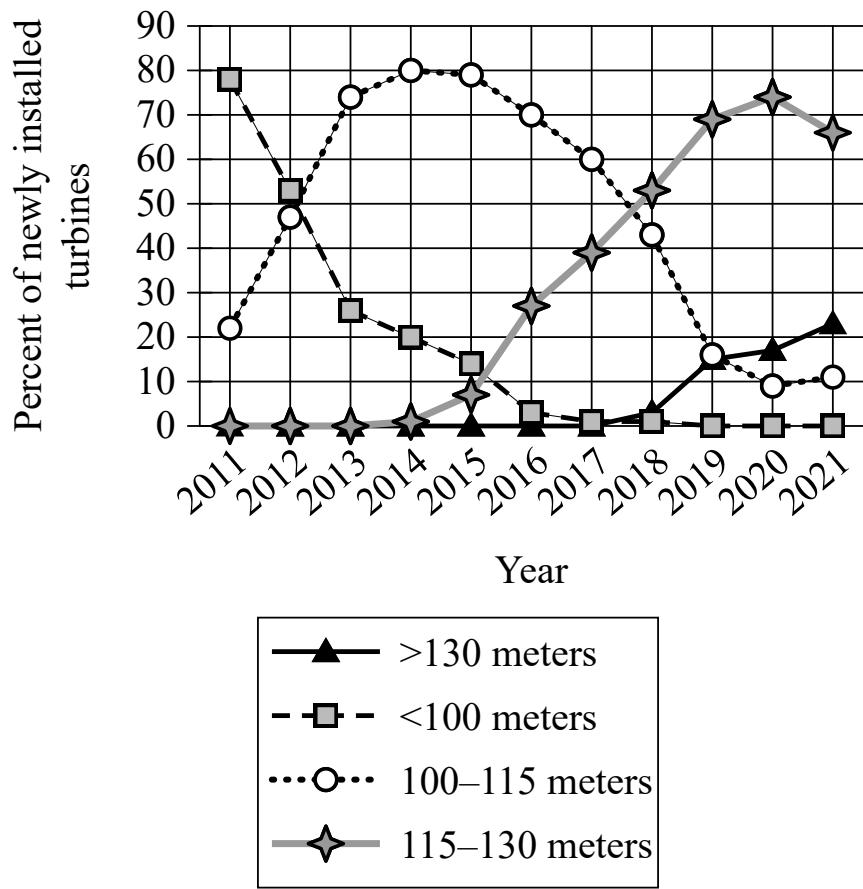
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2df730d0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ □

ID: 2df730d0

## Rotor Diameters of Newly Installed Wind Turbines in the United States, 2011–2021



All other things being equal, the larger a wind turbine's rotor diameter (the diameter of the imaginary circle swept by the turbine's rotating blades), the greater amount of energy the turbine can generate. In a research paper on wind power, a student claims that in the United States, the amount of energy generated per newly installed turbine increased substantially between 2011 and 2021.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support the student's claim?

The percentage of newly installed turbines with rotor diameters greater than 130 meters increased every year between A. 2011 and 2021.

In 2011, nearly 80% of turbines installed had rotor diameters of less than 100 meters, whereas only a little more than 20% B. of turbines installed that year had rotor diameters of 100–115 meters.

No turbines installed in 2011 had rotor diameters greater than 115 meters, whereas the majority of turbines installed in C. 2021 had rotor diameters greater than 130 meters.

Most turbines installed in 2011 had rotor diameters of less than 100 meters, whereas most turbines installed in 2021 had D. rotor diameters of at least 115 meters.

### ID: 2df730d0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

#### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text tells us that turbines with larger rotor diameters produce more energy, so if rotor diameters have generally gotten larger between 2011 and 2021, then turbines created in 2021 should produce more energy than those created in 2011.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. The percentage of newly installed turbines with rotor diameters greater than 130 meters didn't show any visible increase until 2018. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't justify the claim. The claim is about increasing energy output from 2011 to 2021, but this choice only discusses 2011, so it can't show evidence of change over time. Choice C is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. In 2021, only about 25% of turbines installed in 2021 had rotor diameters greater than 130 meters.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5632ffb4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 5632ffb4

In a study of the cognitive abilities of white-faced capuchin monkeys (*Cebus imitator*), researchers neglected to control for the physical difficulty of the tasks they used to evaluate the monkeys. The cognitive abilities of monkeys given problems requiring little dexterity, such as sliding a panel to retrieve food, were judged by the same criteria as were those of monkeys given physically demanding problems, such as unscrewing a bottle and inserting a straw. The results of the study, therefore,

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- could suggest that there are differences in cognitive ability among the monkeys even though such differences may not  
A. actually exist.
- are useful for identifying tasks that the monkeys lack the cognitive capacity to perform but not for identifying tasks that  
B. the monkeys can perform.
- C. should not be taken as indicative of the cognitive abilities of any monkey species other than *C. imitator*.
- reveal more about the monkeys' cognitive abilities when solving artificial problems than when solving problems  
D. encountered in the wild.

## ID: 5632ffb4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of the study of capuchin monkeys' cognitive abilities. The text explains that the study failed to distinguish between outcomes for the tasks performed by the capuchin monkeys, such that simpler tasks requiring less dexterity, or skill, were judged by the same criteria as tasks that demanded more dexterity. Because the study didn't account for this discrepancy, the researchers might have assumed that observed differences in performance were due to the abilities of the monkeys rather than the complexity of the tasks. In other words, the results may suggest cognitive differences among the monkeys even though such differences may not really exist.

Choice B is incorrect because the text focuses on the fact that the tasks assigned to the capuchin monkeys in the study varied in difficulty and that the variety wasn't taken into consideration. The text doesn't suggest that the capuchin monkeys couldn't perform certain tasks, just that some tasks were more difficult to do. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the study's results are indicative of the abilities of capuchin monkeys but not of other monkey species; in fact, the text suggests that the results may not even be an accurate reflection of capuchin monkeys' abilities. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that the researchers compared results for artificial tasks with those for tasks encountered in the wild, although the tasks described in the text—sliding a panel and putting a straw in a bottle—are presumably artificial.

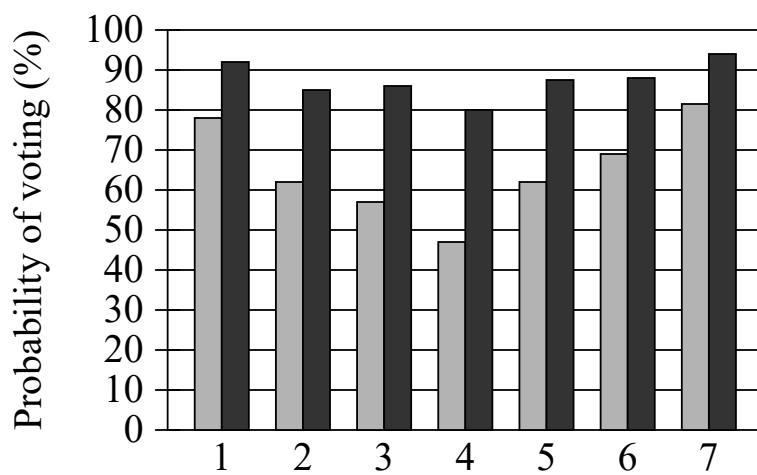
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5d453dcc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 5d453dcc

Voters' Political Orientation, Level of Political Information, and Probability of Voting



Voters' political orientation  
(1 = strong Democrat/liberal;  
4 = independent;  
7 = strong Republican/conservative)

- low information
- high information

Economists Kerwin Kofi Charles and Melvin Stephens Jr. investigated a variety of factors that influence voter turnout in the United States. Using survey data that revealed whether respondents voted in national elections and how knowledgeable respondents are about politics, Charles and Stephens claim that the likelihood of voting is driven in part by potential voters' confidence in their assessments of candidates—essentially, the more informed voters are about politics, the more confident they are at evaluating whether candidates share their views, and thus the more likely they are to vote.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support Charles and Stephens's claim?

- At each point on the political orientation scale, high-information voters were more likely than low-information voters to A. vote.
- B. Only low-information voters who identify as independents had a voting probability below 50%.
- C. The closer that low-information voters are to the ends of the political orientation scale, the more likely they were to vote.

High-information voters were more likely to identify as strong Democrats or strong Republicans than low-information D. voters were.

### ID: 5d453dcc Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

#### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it uses data from the graph to effectively support Charles and Stephens's claim about how level of information affects voters. The graph shows the probability of voting for both high- and low-information voters in seven categories of political orientation. Charles and Stephens claim that "the more informed voters are about politics... the more likely they are to vote." This statement correctly asserts that the graph shows a higher probability of voting for high-information voters than for low-information voters at each of the seven political orientations. Thus, this statement accurately cites data from the graph that support Charles and Stephens's claim about how level of information affects voters.

Choice B is incorrect. Although this statement is correct that the only probability in the graph below 50% is for low-information voters categorized as independent (orientation 4), the claim in question is about the relative likelihood that low- and high-information voters will vote, and without some reference to high-information voters, this statement cannot help support such a comparison. Choice C is incorrect. Although this statement is correct that the highest probabilities of voting for low-information voters are at the ends of the orientation scale (1 and 7), the claim in question is about the relative likelihood that low- and high-information voters will vote, and without some reference to high-information voters, this statement cannot help support such a comparison. Choice D is incorrect because the graph does not give any information about how many people are represented in any of the categories, so this statement is not based on data from the graph. Furthermore, even if we did have this information, the claim is about how level of information affects voters' probability of voting, not whether they're likely to strongly identify with a particular political party.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID b32c4b3a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: b32c4b3a

The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), a band of clouds that encircles Earth in the tropics and is a major rainfall source, shifts position in response to temperature variations across Earth's hemispheres. Data from Huagapo Cave in Peru suggest the ITCZ shifted south during the Little Ice Age (circa 1300–1850), but a shift as far into South America as Huagapo should have led to dry conditions in Central America, which is inconsistent with climate models. To resolve the issue, geologist Yemane Asmerom and colleagues collected data from Yok Balum Cave in Central America and compared them with the Huagapo data. They concluded that during the Little Ice Age, the ITCZ may have expanded northward and southward rather than simply shifted.

Which finding from Asmerom and colleagues' study, if true, would most directly support their conclusion?

Neither the Yok Balum data nor the Huagapo data show significant local variations in temperature during the Little Ice A. Age.

Both the Yok Balum data and the Huagapo data show increased temperatures and prolonged dry conditions during the B. Little Ice Age.

The Yok Balum data show prolonged dry conditions during the same portions of the Little Ice Age in which the Huagapo C. data show heightened levels of rainfall.

D. The Yok Balum data and the Huagapo data show strongly correlated patterns of high rainfall during the Little Ice Age.

## ID: b32c4b3a Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support Asmerom and colleagues' conclusion that the ITCZ may have expanded northward and southward rather than shifting south during the Little Ice Age. The text indicates that the ITCZ, a band of clouds in the tropics that is a significant rainfall source, can change position. Data from Peru's Huagapo Cave suggest that the ITCZ shifted south during the Little Ice Age. But according to the text, if the ITCZ moved into South America in that way, then Central America should have been drier than climate models suggest it was. In other words, rainfall should have been reduced in Central America because the ITCZ, a significant rainfall source, had shifted into South America, but climate models do not show such a reduction in Central America. The text goes on to say that Asmerom and colleagues tried to resolve this apparent conflict by collecting data from Yok Balum cave in Central America and comparing them with data from Huagapo, which led the researchers to conclude that the ITCZ may have expanded both northward and southward rather than simply shifting south. If it is true that Yok Balum in Central America and Huagapo in South America show strongly correlated patterns of high rainfall during the Little Ice Age, such a finding would support Asmerom and colleagues' conclusion by suggesting that the two areas were affected by the same rainfall source, and thus that the ITCZ may have expanded rather than shifted.

Choice A is incorrect because there is no information in the text about how, if at all, the ITCZ affects temperature in areas where it is located. Rather, the text states that temperature variations across Earth's hemispheres can shift the position of the ITCZ. Finding that neither Yok Balum nor Huagapo data show evidence of significant local variations in temperature during the Little Ice Age would have no clear bearing on Asmerom and colleagues' claim. Choice B is incorrect because finding that both Yok Balum and Huagapo experienced prolonged dry conditions during the Little Ice Age would not support Asmerom and colleagues' conclusion that the ITCZ, a major source of rainfall, may have expanded northward and southward rather than simply shifting south. Dry conditions in both locations would suggest that the ITCZ did not cover either location. Additionally, finding that temperatures were elevated in both locations would have no clear bearing on Asmerom and colleagues' conclusion, since there is no information in the text that indicates how, if at all, the ITCZ affects temperature. Choice C is incorrect because finding that Yok Balum experienced prolonged dry conditions at the same time that Huagapo experienced high rainfall would weaken Asmerom and colleagues' conclusion, not strengthen it. Such a finding would suggest that the ITCZ shifted south and left Central America dry rather than expanding both northward and southward.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d102706f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: d102706f

## Estimates of Tyrannosaurid Bite Force

Study	Year	Estimation method	Approximate bite force (newtons)
Cost et al.	2019	muscular and skeletal modeling	35,000–63,000
Gignac and Erickson	2017	tooth-bone interaction analysis	8,000–34,000
Meers	2002	body-mass scaling	183,000–235,000
Bates and Falkingham	2012	muscular and skeletal modeling	35,000–57,000

The largest tyrannosaurids—the family of carnivorous dinosaurs that includes *Tarbosaurus*, *Albertosaurus*, and, most famously, *Tyrannosaurus rex*—are thought to have had the strongest bites of any land animals in Earth’s history. Determining the bite force of extinct animals can be difficult, however, and paleontologists Paul Barrett and Emily Rayfield have suggested that an estimate of dinosaur bite force may be significantly influenced by the methodology used in generating that estimate.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support Barrett and Rayfield’s suggestion?

The study by Meers used body-mass scaling and produced the lowest estimated maximum bite force, while the study by A. Cost et al. used muscular and skeletal modeling and produced the highest estimated maximum.

In their study, Gignac and Erickson used tooth-bone interaction analysis to produce an estimated bite force range with a B. minimum of 8,000 newtons and a maximum of 34,000 newtons.

The bite force estimates produced by Bates and Falkingham and by Cost et al. were similar to each other, while the C. estimates produced by Meers and by Gignac and Erickson each differed substantially from any other estimate.

The estimated maximum bite force produced by Cost et al. exceeded the estimated maximum produced by Bates and D. Falkingham, even though both groups of researchers used the same method to generate their estimates.

ID: d102706f Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it accurately describes data from the table that support Barrett and Rayfield's suggestion about bite force estimates. According to the text, Barrett and Rayfield believe that estimates of dinosaur bite force may be strongly influenced by the methods used to produce them—that is, that different methods may produce significantly different results. The table shows that the studies by Bates and Falkingham and by Cost et al. used the same estimation method (muscular and skeletal modeling) and produced similar bite force estimates (approximately 35,000–57,000 newtons and 35,000–63,000 newtons, respectively). The study by Meers, however, used body-mass scaling and produced a much higher bite force estimate (183,000–235,000 newtons), while the study by Gignac and Erickson used tooth-bone interaction analysis and produced a much lower bite force estimate (8,000–34,000 newtons). The fact that one method produced similar estimates in two different studies and that two different methods used in other studies produced substantially different estimates supports the idea that dinosaur bite force estimates are significantly influenced by the methodology used to produce them.

Choice A is incorrect because it inaccurately describes data from the table. The table does show that the studies by Meers and by Cost et al. used different estimation methods and produced very different ranges of estimated dinosaur bite force, which would support Barrett and Rayfield's suggestion that different methodologies may produce significantly different estimates. However, the table doesn't show that the study by Meers produced the lowest estimated maximum bite force while the study by Cost et al. produced the highest. In fact, the study by Meers estimated a maximum bite force of approximately 235,000 newtons, which is the highest of all the estimated maximums. Choice B is incorrect. Although the data from Gignac and Ericson's study are accurately described, a single set of findings from one study using only one methodology can't show that different methodologies may produce significantly different dinosaur bite force estimates, as Barrett and Rayfield suggest. Choice D is incorrect. Although the table shows that the maximum bite force estimated by Cost et al. was higher than that estimated by Bates and Falkingham, the difference is relatively small; in fact, both teams estimated a minimum bite force of approximately 35,000 newtons and a maximum bite force close to approximately 60,000 newtons. Because these findings demonstrate that a single methodology (muscular and skeletal modeling) produced similar overall results in two studies, the findings don't support Barrett and Rayfield's suggestion that different methodologies may produce significantly different dinosaur bite force estimates.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3d505895

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 3d505895

Parthenogenesis is a form of reproduction in which a female reproduces without mating. She produces an egg containing a single offspring whose DNA, or genetic material, comes entirely from its mother. Among birds, parthenogenesis has been found in a handful of species, including pigeons and turkeys. When scientists at the San Diego Zoo analyzed the DNA of the zoo's California condors (a species of vulture), they discovered that two individuals weren't genetically similar enough to any of the males in the condor enclosure to be their offspring. However, both had hatched from eggs laid by females in the enclosure. Thus, the scientists concluded that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. at least one of those individuals' mothers was born as a result of parthenogenesis.
- B. California condors may reproduce through parthenogenesis in zoos but not in the wild.
- C. the mothers of the two individuals probably reproduced through parthenogenesis.
- D. California condors reproduce through parthenogenesis only if females lack sufficient access to males.

## ID: 3d505895 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of parthenogenesis as it relates to two California condors at the San Diego Zoo. The text explains that parthenogenesis is a form of reproduction in which a female reproduces without mating, producing an egg containing an offspring with DNA that comes entirely from its mother. After noting examples of parthenogenesis among birds, the text then reports on a discovery at the San Diego Zoo. According to the text, scientists at the zoo found that two of the zoo's California condors weren't similar enough to any of the zoo's male condors to be their offspring. Given that parthenogenesis occurs without mating and results in an offspring with DNA entirely from its mother, it can reasonably be inferred that the scientists concluded that the mothers of the two condors probably didn't mate with any of the male condors at the zoo, reproducing through parthenogenesis instead.

Choice A is incorrect because the text never suggests that at least one of the condors' mothers was born as a result of parthenogenesis. Rather, the text suggests that the two condors were themselves both probably born as a result of parthenogenesis, which would account for their lack of strong genetic resemblance to any of the male condors in the zoo's condor enclosure. Choice B is incorrect because the text never discusses wild California condors, only California condors living at the San Diego Zoo. For this reason, the text doesn't support a conclusion that distinguishes between how California condors reproduce in zoos and how they reproduce in the wild. Choice D is incorrect because the text never suggests that the zoo's female condors lacked sufficient access to males or that this would be a cause of parthenogenesis, indicating only that the condor enclosure included males.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2ef8e367

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 2ef8e367

"To You" is an 1856 poem by Walt Whitman. In the poem, Whitman suggests that he deeply understands the reader, whom he addresses directly, writing, \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from "To You" most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "Your true soul and body appear before me."
- B. "Whoever you are, now I place my hand upon you, that you be my poem."
- C. "I should have made my way straight to you long ago."
- D. "Whoever you are, I fear you are walking the walks of dreams."

## ID: 2ef8e367 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most directly illustrates the text's claim about Whitman's poem, "To You." The text says that in this poem, Whitman suggests that he deeply understands the poem's reader. This quotation says that the reader's "true soul and body appear before" Whitman, thereby asserting that he can see the reader as the reader truly is, suggesting that he deeply understands the reader.

Choice B is incorrect because this quotation describes Whitman making the reader the subject of the poem ("you be my poem"), not Whitman deeply understanding the reader. Choice C is incorrect because instead of suggesting that Whitman deeply understands the reader, it emphasizes Whitman's regret at not having addressed the reader sooner. Choice D is incorrect. Although this quotation shows Whitman directly addressing the reader and expressing concern about the reader, it doesn't illustrate the idea that Whitman suggests that he deeply understands the reader. The quotation is simply expressing concern about the reader, which doesn't necessarily imply deep understanding of the reader.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1b9b29f1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 1b9b29f1

A team of biologists led by Jae-Hoon Jung, Antonio D. Barbosa, and Stephanie Hulin investigated the mechanism that allows *Arabidopsis thaliana* (thale cress) plants to accelerate flowering at high temperatures. They replaced the protein ELF3 in the plants with a similar protein found in another species (stiff brome) that, unlike *A. thaliana*, displays no acceleration in flowering with increased temperature. A comparison of unmodified *A. thaliana* plants with the altered plants showed no difference in flowering at 22° Celsius, but at 27° Celsius, the unmodified plants exhibited accelerated flowering while the altered ones did not, which suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. temperature-sensitive accelerated flowering is unique to *A. thaliana*.
- B. *A. thaliana* increases ELF3 production as temperatures rise.
- C. ELF3 enables *A. thaliana* to respond to increased temperatures.
- D. temperatures of at least 22° Celsius are required for *A. thaliana* to flower.

## ID: 1b9b29f1 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of accelerated flowering in *A. thaliana* plants. The text indicates that *A. thaliana* plants show accelerated flowering at high temperatures. To investigate the mechanism for this accelerated flowering, biologists replaced the ELF3 protein in one group of *A. thaliana* plants with a similar protein found in another plant species that doesn't show accelerated flowering. The team then compared these modified plants to *A. thaliana* plants that retained their original ELF3 protein. The text states that the two samples of plants showed no difference in flowering at 22° Celsius, but at 27° Celsius the unaltered plants with ELF3 showed accelerated flowering while the plants without ELF3 didn't. If accelerated flowering at the higher temperature occurred in the *A. thaliana* plants with ELF3 but not in the plants without the protein, then ELF3 likely enables *A. thaliana* to respond to increased temperatures.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't mention whether any plants other than *A. thaliana* and stiff brome show temperature-sensitive flowering, so there is no support for the idea that this type of flowering is unique to *A. thaliana*. Choice B is incorrect because the text discusses the effects of ELF3 and not the production of it. There's nothing in the text to suggest that the amount of ELF3 in *A. thaliana* varies with temperature. Choice D is incorrect. While the text states that there was no difference in the flowering of modified and unmodified *A. thaliana* plants at 22° Celsius, there's no suggestion that *A. thaliana* only begins to flower at 22° Celsius; the text doesn't mention a specific temperature threshold required for *A. thaliana* flowering.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 61228830

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 61228830

A heliograph is a semaphore device used for sending optical communications—usually in the form of Morse code—by reflecting flashes of sunlight off a mirror. Heliographs were used for rapid communication across expansive distances for military, surveying, and forestry purposes during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but they were largely effective only during the daytime, and the range of the device depended on factors such as the opacity of the air and line of sight. Therefore, heliographs were eventually replaced by technology that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. worked on similar principles but was easier to produce and maintain.
- B. was not so constrained by environmental circumstances.
- C. could be used for more than military, surveying, or forestry purposes.
- D. enabled communication that didn't require knowledge of Morse code.

## ID: 61228830 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The passage explains that heliographs “were largely effective only during the daytime” and that “the range of the device depended on factors such as the opacity of the air and line of sight.” These constraints would have greatly limited the use of the heliograph, so we can infer that this would have been a reason to replace it with new technology.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage doesn’t discuss the production and maintenance of heliographs, so there’s no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn’t mention any “other purposes” that a heliograph wouldn’t work for, so there’s no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. The passage doesn’t mention knowledge of Morse code as a particular problem with the use of heliographs, so there’s no basis for this inference.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID ad680167

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: ad680167

The recovery of a 1,000-year-old Chinese shipwreck in the Java Sea near present-day Indonesia has yielded a treasure trove of artifacts, including thousands of small ceramic bowls. Using a portable X-ray fluorescence analyzer tool, Lisa Nizolek and her team were able to detect the chemical composition of these bowls without damaging them. By comparing the chemical signatures of the bowls with those of the materials still at old Chinese kiln sites, Nizolek and her team can pinpoint which Chinese kilns likely produced the ceramic bowls.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Because of a new technology, researchers can locate and recover more shipwrecks than they could in the past.
- B. Researchers have been able to identify the location of a number of Chinese kilns in operation 1,000 years ago.
- C. With the help of a special tool, researchers have determined the likely origin of bowls recovered from a shipwreck.

Before the invention of portable X-ray fluorescence, researchers needed to take a small piece out of an artifact to analyze its components.

## ID: ad680167 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. According to the text, thousands of ceramic bowls were found in a recovered Chinese shipwreck. The text goes on to say that Nizolek and her team used a special tool, a portable X-ray fluorescence analyzer, to determine the bowls' chemical signatures. Comparing these chemical signatures with the chemical signatures of materials they had collected from old Chinese kiln sites, the text says, allowed the researchers to identify which kilns had produced the bowls. In other words, the researchers determined the bowls' origin.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text indicates that the researchers used technology in the form of a portable X-ray fluorescence analyzer, it doesn't specifically state that this technology is new. In addition, the text says that Nizolek and her team used the tool to determine the chemical composition of bowls that were found in a Chinese shipwreck, not to locate and recover the shipwreck itself. There's no indication in the text that a new technology can help researchers locate and recover shipwrecks. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that the researchers collected materials from old kiln sites for chemical comparison with the ceramic bowls, which means that the researchers must have already known the location of those kiln sites. Rather than identifying the location of the kilns, the researchers determined which kilns in operation 1,000 years ago had likely produced the bowls that were found in the shipwreck. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text says that using a portable X-ray fluorescence analyzer tool enabled Nizolek and her team to analyze artifacts in the form of ceramic bowls without damaging them, the text doesn't discuss how researchers analyzed artifacts before this tool was invented. Moreover, the point that the bowls were left undamaged isn't the text's main idea. Rather, it's a detail that's provided to develop the main idea, which is that the researchers used a special tool to determine where the bowls had been produced.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2df56712

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 2df56712

Electronic music pioneer Wendy Carlos is credited with the music for three feature films: *A Clockwork Orange* (1971), *The Shining* (1980), and *Tron* (1982). However, her musical score for *A Clockwork Orange* is mostly made up of her arrangements of Ludwig van Beethoven's work. Also, almost all the music that she and Rachel Elkind composed for *The Shining* was unused by director Stanley Kubrick. It did not appear in the film. Of the three films, *Tron* is the one in which audiences can hear the most of Carlos's original compositions.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Of the three films for which Carlos is credited, *Tron* features the most original music from her.
- B. The director of *The Shining* used most of the music that Carlos composed for it.
- C. Beethoven is widely considered to be a more important composer than Carlos.
- D. Carlos is a notable innovator among film composers in the 1970s and 1980s.

## ID: 2df56712 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it best states the main idea of the text. The text indicates that Wendy Carlos scored three feature films: *A Clockwork Orange*, *The Shining*, and *Tron*. It also indicates that Carlos's work on *A Clockwork Orange* consisted primarily of electronic arrangements of Beethoven compositions and that very little of what she and Rachel Elkind composed for *The Shining* was used in the film. But the soundtrack for *Tron* consists largely of music composed by Carlos, so it contains more of her original music than do the soundtracks for the other two films. Thus, the main idea of the text is that of the three films for which Carlos is credited, *Tron* features the most original music from her.

Choice B is incorrect because it directly contradicts the text's claim that "very little of what she and Rachel Elkind composed for *The Shining* was used in the film." Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't address the perceived quality of different composers, instead, it discusses how much of Carlos's original work was used in each of the three films she scored. Choice D is incorrect because it doesn't relate to any of the major themes of the text: the work Wendy Carlos did for three feature films, how much of that work was composed by Carlos, and how much of her original work was ultimately used in the film.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID cefbf2c6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: cefbf2c6

Dated Ages of Lunar Samples from Select Missions

Mission name	Year	Landing site	Approximate age of lunar samples (billions of years)
Apollo 11	1969	Mare Tranquillitatis	3.6
Apollo 15	1971	Mare Imbrium	3.3
Apollo 17	1972	Mare Serenitatis	3.8
Chang'e 5	2020	Oceanus Procellarum	2.0

The Apollo program missions were spaceflights to the moon led by the United States during the 1960s and 1970s during which astronauts collected some samples of the moon's surface. More recently, China launched the Chang'e 5 mission, which returned additional lunar surface samples. Researchers have analyzed and dated each of the samples, concluding that the lunar samples collected during the Chang'e 5 mission are significant because \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the claim?

- A. they are much younger than the samples brought back from any of the Apollo missions.
- B. they were collected from the same landing site as the Apollo 11 mission.
- C. they are closest in age to the samples brought back by the Apollo 17 mission.
- D. they helped confirm the predicted ages of the lunar samples from the Apollo missions.

ID: cefbf2c6 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it effectively uses data from the table to complete the claim about the significance of the Chang'e 5 lunar samples. The table shows the approximate ages of lunar samples from four different missions: three Apollo missions and the Chang'e 5 mission. The Chang'e 5 samples are said to be approximately 2 billion years old, while the Apollo samples are each said to be more than 3 billion years old. In other words, based on the data in the table, the Chang'e 5 samples are much younger than those from the Apollo missions.

Choice B is incorrect because the table shows that the Chang'e 5 samples were taken from a landing site at Oceanus Procellarum, which none of the Apollo missions are shown to have visited. Choice C is incorrect because the table shows the Apollo 17 samples as approximately 3.8 billion years old, the Apollo 15 samples as approximately 3.3 billion years old, and the Chang'e 5 samples as approximately 2 billion years old, and therefore, the Chang'e samples are closer in age to the Apollo 15 samples than they are to the Apollo 17 samples. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text or table suggests that the Chang'e 5 samples were used to confirm the ages of the Apollo samples.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID af9e3240

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: af9e3240

*Electra* is a circa 420–410 BCE play by Sophocles, translated in 1870 by R.C. Jebb. Electra, who is in mourning for her dead father and her long-absent brother, is aware of the intensity of her grief but believes it to be justified: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from *Electra* most effectively illustrates the claim?

“O thou pure sunlight, and thou air, earth’s canopy, how often have ye heard the strains of my lament, the wild blows dealt A. against this bleeding breast, when dark night fails!”

B. “Send to me my brother; for I have no more the strength to bear up alone against the load of grief that weighs me down.”

“I know my own passion, it escapes me not; but, seeing that the causes are so dire, will never curb these frenzied plaints, C. while life is in me.”

“But never will I cease from dirge and sore lament, while I look on the trembling rays of the bright stars, or on this light of D. day.”

## ID: af9e3240 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. Electra states that she “knows her own passion,” which shows that she’s aware of the intensity of her grief. But she also claims that the “causes are so dire”—meaning the reasons for her grief are so awful—that she can’t let it go, which shows that she believes her grief is justified.

Choice A is incorrect. This quotation doesn’t show that Electra believes her grief is justified. It shows that Electra is aware of its intensity, but it doesn’t suggest that she believes she has a legitimate reason for feeling that way. Choice B is incorrect. This quotation doesn’t show that Electra believes her grief is justified. It shows that Electra is aware of its intensity, but it doesn’t suggest that she believes she has a legitimate reason for feeling that way. Choice D is incorrect. This quotation doesn’t show that Electra believes her grief is justified. It shows that Electra is aware of the intensity of her grief, but it doesn’t suggest that she has a legitimate reason for feeling that way.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 75208874

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: 75208874

The widespread use of social media enables linguists to study changes in language usage in real time. A notable recent example is the proliferation of the affix *meng-* among speakers of Bahasa Indonesia, the official language of Indonesia. Linguists observed *meng-* originate as an onomatopoeic tag that social-media users applied to images of cats they posted; over time, users increasingly applied it as a prefix to existing words (e.g., *mengsedih* affixes *meng-* to the word for sad) in text that they posted. From there, it has begun to move into spoken Bahasa Indonesia. Linguists have noted many similar examples of this phenomenon occurring in other languages, suggesting that social media \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. is more useful for studying informal language than for studying formal or official language.
- B. appears to be exerting an exceptionally strong influence on the evolution of Bahasa Indonesia.
- C. may give linguists a somewhat misleading sense of how languages are changing.
- D. does not merely register changes in language usage but can facilitate such changes.

ID: 75208874 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of linguists using social media to study changes in language usage in real time, providing the specific example of the affix *meng-* in Bahasa Indonesia. The text states that linguists first observed *meng-* being used as an onomatopoeic tag on social media, which then spread to being affixed to existing words in text posted on social media; from there, it has begun to move into spoken Bahasa Indonesia. As presented in the text, this progression from online usage to spoken language suggests that social media does more than just register or reflect changes in language—it can actively drive such changes. In the case of *meng-*, the text suggests, social media facilitated the movement of the affix from an online tag to part of spoken Bahasa Indonesia.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't differentiate between social media's usefulness for studying informal versus formal or official language; it merely notes that Bahasa Indonesia is an official language. Choice B is incorrect because while the example given in the text focuses on changes in Bahasa Indonesia, the text doesn't provide any evidence that social media is exerting an exceptionally strong influence on the evolution of this particular language compared to others. In fact, the text states that "linguists have noted many similar examples of this phenomenon occurring in other languages," suggesting that social media's influence is evident across multiple languages and not unique to Bahasa Indonesia. Choice C is incorrect because the text never suggests that social media provides a somewhat misleading sense of how languages are changing. Rather, the text suggests that by allowing linguists to directly observe linguistic changes, social media offers a clear window into language evolution.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 575e67df

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 575e67df

By running computer simulations of the development of our solar system, André Izidoro, Rajdeep Dasgupta, and colleagues concluded that the Sun may have been surrounded by three giant dust rings before the planets started to form. The researchers suggest that the materials in the innermost ring became the four planets closest to the Sun, the materials in the middle ring produced the rest of the planets, and the materials in the outermost ring created the asteroids and other small bodies in the region beyond Neptune. In one simulation, the researchers delayed the initial formation of the middle ring, causing oversized super-Earths to begin developing from the innermost ring. The researchers therefore hypothesize that

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the middle ring formed earlier in the solar system's development than the initial simulations suggested.
- B. the timing of the initial formation of the middle ring played an important role in determining the eventual size of Earth.
  - if the formation of the outermost ring had occurred earlier in a simulation, all the planets would have become super-Earths.
- D. the innermost ring actually formed into all the planets in our solar system, not just the four closest to the Sun.

## ID: 575e67df Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically follows from the text's discussion of André Izidoro, Rajdeep Dasgupta, and colleagues' computer simulations of our solar system's development. The text begins by stating that the simulations led the researchers to conclude that the solar system likely formed from three giant dust rings that encircled the Sun. The text explains that the four inner planets, including Earth, formed from the innermost ring and that the remaining planets formed from the middle ring. It then explains that in one simulation, the researchers delayed the formation of the middle ring—that is, they tested to see what would happen if the middle ring had formed later than it actually did. They found that doing so affected the size of the innermost planets, resulting in oversized super-Earths, planets that are much larger than Earth. Since the delayed timing had the effect of changing the size of Earth in the simulation relative to Earth's real size, it's reasonable to conclude that the timing of the middle ring's formation was important in determining Earth's eventual size.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text explains that when the researchers delayed the formation of the middle ring in one simulation, the size of the innermost planets was affected (which suggests that the middle ring likely formed earlier than it did in this simulation), the text doesn't indicate that this was an initial simulation—that is, a simulation that was conducted before other simulations. Moreover, the text makes no reference to the specific results of any other simulations; therefore, there is no basis for comparing any conclusions based on the simulation in which the middle ring's formation was delayed with conclusions based on other simulations. Choice C is incorrect because the text discusses how altering the timing of the formation of the middle ring, not the outermost ring, affected the four innermost planets' eventual size in the researchers' simulation; therefore, the simulation offers no basis for a conclusion about how the outermost ring's formation affected the size of the planets. Choice D is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to suggest that the innermost ring produced all the solar system's planets. Rather, the text states that the simulations showed that the innermost planets formed from the innermost ring and that the remaining planets formed from the middle ring.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1d08c7ee

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 1d08c7ee

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Héctor Tobar has built a multifaceted career as both a journalist and an author of short stories and novels. In an essay about Tobar's work, a student claims that Tobar blends his areas of expertise by applying journalism techniques to his creation of works of fiction.

Which quotation from a literary critic best supports the student's claim?

"For one novel, an imagined account of a real person's global travels, Tobar approached his subject like a reporter,  
A. interviewing people the man had met along the way and researching the man's own writings."

"Tobar got his start as a volunteer for *El Tecolote*, a community newspaper in San Francisco, and wrote for newspapers  
B. for years before earning a degree in creative writing and starting to publish works of fiction."

"Many of Tobar's notable nonfiction articles are marked by the writer's use of techniques usually associated with fiction,  
C. such as complex narrative structures and the incorporation of symbolism."

"The protagonist of Tobar's third novel is a man who wants to be a novelist and keeps notes about interesting people he  
D. encounters so he can use them when developing characters for his stories."

## ID: 1d08c7ee Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The example of Tobar approaching his subject "like a reporter," including conducting "interviews" and "research," shows Tobar applying journalism techniques to his fiction-writing.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the claim. It tells us about Tobar's initial career as a journalist, but it doesn't say anything about him "applying journalism techniques" to his fiction-writing. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the claim. It tells us that Tobar applied fiction techniques to his nonfiction writing, but we're looking for evidence of the other way around: that Tobar applied journalism techniques to his fiction-writing. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the claim. It tells us that a character in one of Tobar's novels applied a journalism technique to his fiction-writing, but it doesn't tell us that Tobar did that himself.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID adbcbce0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: adbcbce0

The following text is adapted from Christina Rossetti's 1881 poem "Monna Innominate 2."

I wish I could remember that first day, First hour, first moment of your meeting me, If bright or dim the season, it might be Summer or Winter for [all] I can say; So unrecorded did it slip away, So blind was I to see and to foresee, So dull to mark the budding of my tree That would not blossom yet for many a May.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The speaker celebrates how the passage of time has strengthened a relationship that once seemed unimportant.

Because the speaker did not anticipate how important a relationship would become, she cannot recall how the  
B. relationship began, which she regrets.

As the anniversary of the beginning of an important relationship approaches, the speaker feels conflicted about how best  
C. to commemorate it.

After years of neglecting a once valuable relationship, the speaker worries it may be too late for her to salvage the  
D. relationship.

## ID: adbcbce0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The speaker says that they wish they could remember when they first met someone, but they can't remember the meeting at all, because they didn't know at the time that the relationship would "blossom" later on.

Choice A is incorrect. The speaker does say that the relationship has "blossomed" over time, but only briefly at the end—and they don't really "celebrate" that fact. Rather, the text has a more regretful tone: it's about how the speaker can't remember first meeting this person, and they wish they could. Choice C is incorrect. The speaker doesn't mention an anniversary—in fact, the speaker can't remember when they met the person they're talking about. Choice D is incorrect. The speaker doesn't say that they neglected the relationship. In fact, the speaker suggests that the relationship has become very important to them—that's why the speaker wishes that they could remember their first meeting.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e9521fd1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: e9521fd1

The Uto-Aztec language family is divided into a northern branch, which includes the Shoshone language of present-day Idaho and Utah, and a southern one, whose best-known representative is Nahuatl, the language of the Aztec Empire in Mexico. Lexical similarities across the family, including of botanical terms, confirm descent from a single language spoken millennia ago, and the family's geographical distribution suggests an origin in what is now the US Southwest. However, vocabulary pertaining to maize isn't shared between northern and southern branches, despite the crop's universal cultivation among Uto-Aztec tribes. Given archaeological evidence that maize originated in Mexico and diffused northward into what became the US Southwest, some linguists reason that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

northern Uto-Aztec tribes likely obtained the crop directly from a southern Uto-Aztec tribe rather than from a non-

A. Uto-Aztec tribe.

variation in maize-related vocabulary within each branch of the Uto-Aztec family likely reflects regionally specific

B. methods for cultivating the crop.

southern Uto-Aztec tribes likely acquired maize at roughly the same time as northern Uto-Aztec tribes did, though

C. from different sources.

the family's division into northern and southern branches likely preceded the acquisition of the crop by the Uto-Aztec

D. tribes.

## ID: e9521fd1 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the discussion of Uto-Aztec language families. The text explains that the northern and southern branches of the Uto-Aztec language family descended from a single language (believed to have originated in what is now the US Southwest), resulting in similarities across the family's languages; however, the branches don't have similar vocabulary for maize, even though maize has been cultivated by all Uto-Aztec tribes. The text also indicates that maize originated in Mexico and spread northward into what is now the US Southwest—the area where the Uto-Aztec language family originated. It follows, then, that the language family had already divided into northern and southern branches before maize reached that area; if maize had been present before the division occurred, the family's origin language would have had terminology for it that likely would have been reflected in the branches, meaning they would have had similar vocabulary for maize. If maize arrived after the division occurred, however, the tribes in the two regions likely would have developed vocabulary pertaining to maize separately, at the times when they acquired the crop.

Choice A is incorrect because the text focuses on vocabulary pertaining to maize in the branches of the Uto-Aztec language family, and referring only to how some Uto-Aztec tribes obtained maize wouldn't directly address the role of language. Moreover, if northern Uto-Aztec tribes had acquired maize from a southern Uto-Aztec tribe, it's reasonable to assume that the northern tribes might have also picked up southern Uto-Aztec terminology for maize in that exchange. Choice B is incorrect because the text discusses the fact that the northern and southern branches of the Uto-Aztec language family don't have shared vocabulary pertaining to maize, not the idea that there are variations in such vocabulary within each branch—that is, the text focuses on differences between the two branches, not on differences between languages within a branch. Choice C is incorrect because the text focuses on vocabulary pertaining to maize in the branches of the Uto-Aztec language family, and referring only to the timing and source of maize acquisition wouldn't directly address the role of language. Furthermore, the text implies that southern Uto-Aztec tribes probably acquired maize before the northern tribes did, given the evidence that maize originated in Mexico—the location of the best-known representative of the southern branch of the Uto-Aztec language family—before spreading to the north.

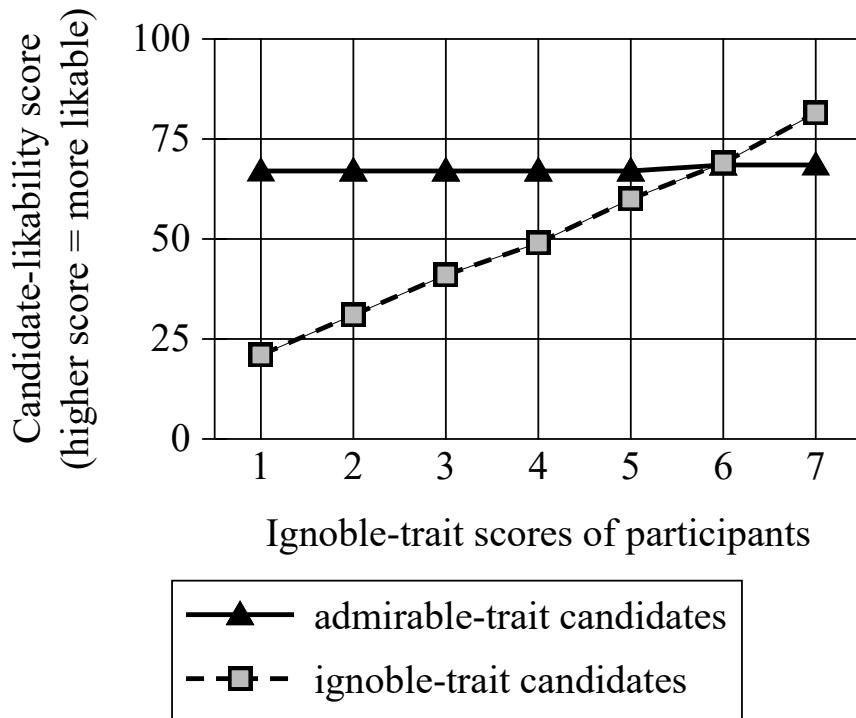
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 82bdf676

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 82bdf676

Participants' Likability Ratings for Candidates by Candidates' Traits and Participants' Ignoble-Trait Scores



Alessandro Nai et al. presented study participants with vignettes about fictive political candidates, portraying them as embodying a personality trait widely considered admirable (e.g., agreeableness) or one considered ignoble (e.g., cynicism). A survey recorded participants' ratings of the candidates' likability and showed that across participants, ignoble-trait candidates were less likable than admirable-trait candidates. However, when the researchers factored in the participants' own personality-trait scores, on a scale of 1 (least ignoble) to 7 (most ignoble), they concluded that this relative ranking of candidates persisted except among the participants with high ignobility scores.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support the researchers' conclusion?

There was a strong positive correlation between participants' ignobility scores and admirable-trait candidates' likability ratings, but there was no correlation between ignobility scores and ignoble-trait candidates' likability ratings.

Participants with an ignobility score of 5 or less rated admirable-trait candidates as more likable than ignoble-trait candidates, whereas participants with an ignobility score of 6 or more rated ignoble-trait candidates as equally likable as or even more likable than admirable-trait candidates.

Overall, participants rated admirable-trait candidates as quite likable, and that rating was not significantly affected by the participants' ignobility scores.

Unlike participants with an ignobility score of 6, participants with an ignobility score either greater or less than 6 gave D. admirable-trait candidates and ignoble-trait candidates different likability ratings.

## ID: 82bdf676 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that support the researchers' conclusion that the trend of admirable-trait candidates being rated as more likable than ignoble-trait candidates held true when participants' own personality-trait scores were factored in, except among participants with high ignobility scores. The values on the x-axis represent survey participants grouped by their own ignobility scores, from low ignobility (1) to high ignobility (7), while the values on the y-axis represent the likability scores given to the political candidates. The graph shows that the full range of participants (from least to most ignoble) gave the admirable-trait candidates (represented by the line with triangles) a likability rating of approximately 70 out of 100; that is, regardless of their own level of ignobility, participants generally found admirable-trait candidates quite likable. However, the graph shows that participants varied in their views of ignoble-trait candidates (represented by the line with squares); likability ratings increased as the participants' own ignobility scores increased. Participants with low to medium-high ignobility scores (1 to 5) still rated the ignoble-trait candidates as less likable than the admirable-trait candidates, with all ratings falling below approximately 70, but participants with high ignobility scores (6 and 7) gave ratings equal to or higher than approximately 70. In other words, the previously observed trend of ranking admirable-trait candidates as more likable than ignoble-trait candidates persisted for participants with low to medium-high ignobility but not for participants with high ignobility.

Choice A is incorrect because it describes the opposite of what the graph shows. The graph shows a positive correlation between participants' ignobility scores and ignoble-trait candidates' likability ratings (as participants' ignobility scores increased, so did their ratings for ignoble-trait candidates' likability) and no correlation between ignobility scores and admirable-trait candidates' likability ratings (all participants gave admirable-trait candidates a rating of approximately 70 out of 100). Choice C is incorrect. The graph does show that regardless of their own ignobility scores, participants rated admirable-trait candidates as quite likable (a rating of approximately 70 out of 100). However, this doesn't support the researchers' conclusion because the conclusion has to do with how participants rated both types of candidates, not just the admirable-trait ones; moreover, the conclusion is that relative ratings were actually affected by the participants' ignobility scores. Choice D is incorrect. The graph does show that only participants with an ignobility score of 6 gave the same likability score to both admirable- and ignoble-trait candidates while participants with other ignobility scores gave a different rating for each candidate, but this doesn't support the researchers' conclusion. The conclusion isn't just that participants gave different ratings to the two types of candidates—it's that participants with low to medium-high ignobility scores specifically gave higher likability ratings to admirable-trait candidates than to ignoble-trait candidates and that participants with high ignobility scores didn't.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 881ba6f1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 881ba6f1

Eighteenth-century economist Adam Smith is famed for his metaphor of the invisible hand, which he putatively used to illustrate a robust model of how individuals produce aggregate benefits by pursuing their own economic interests. Note “putatively”: as Gavin Kennedy has shown, Smith deploys this metaphor only once in his economic writings—to make a narrow point about the then-dominant economic theory of mercantilism—and it was largely ignored until some twentieth-century economists eager to secure an intellectual pedigree for their views elevated it to a fully-fledged paradigm.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

Although Smith is famed for his metaphor of the invisible hand, the metaphor was largely ignored until economists in the  
A. twentieth century came to realize that the metaphor was a robust model that anticipated their own views.

Some twentieth-century economists gave Smith’s metaphor of the invisible hand a significance it does not have in  
Smith’s work, but it is nevertheless a useful model of how individuals produce aggregate benefits by pursuing their own  
B. economic interests.

Smith’s metaphor of the invisible hand has been interpreted as a model of how individuals acting in their own interest  
C. produce aggregate benefits, but it was intended as a subtle critique of the economic theory of mercantilism.

The reputation of Smith’s metaphor of the invisible hand is not due to the importance of the metaphor in Smith’s work but  
D. rather to the promotion of the metaphor by some later economists for their own ends.

## ID: 881ba6f1 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text explains that economist Adam Smith's famous metaphor of the invisible hand was putatively (that is, widely assumed but not proven) intended to illustrate a robust model (a consistently accurate generalization) of how individuals pursuing their own economic interests can create broader benefits for the population. The text then emphasizes the lack of affirmative evidence for this idea by calling out the term "putatively," and explaining that, according to Gavin Kennedy, Smith used the metaphor only once in his works, in reference to specific circumstances related to the now-outdated economic view known as mercantilism, and that the metaphor didn't garner much attention until economists in the twentieth century held it up as a paradigm (a theoretical framework in the field) and thereby implied that Smith shared some of their views on economics. By emphasizing "putatively," the text implies that there is no independent reason to believe that Smith would agree with the metaphor's use outside of the specific context for which he wrote it and that, therefore, the twentieth-century economists who used it did so to support their own views without regard for the metaphor's importance to Smith's work.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text indicates that Smith's metaphor was largely ignored until some twentieth-century economists revived it and bolstered its status, the text suggests that the later economists used Smith's metaphor to self-servingly boost their own work while ignoring the original context in which Smith wrote it. Moreover, the statement in this choice fails to reflect the text's emphasis on Smith's limited use of the metaphor in his work. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text indicates that some twentieth-century economists altered the significance of Smith's metaphor, the text doesn't suggest that the metaphor is a "useful model" of how aggregate benefits arise from individuals' selfish actions, let alone that this usefulness is unaffected by taking the metaphor out of its original context. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text indicates that Smith's metaphor was intended as a model of how individuals acting in their own interest produce aggregate benefits and it was written within the context of the now-outdated economic theory of mercantilism, these points are subordinate to the primary idea in the text, which is that Smith's use of the metaphor was tightly constrained but twentieth-century economists ignored the original context so that they could use the metaphor to suggest, without support, that Smith would agree with their economic views.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6536183b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 6536183b

In the mountains of Brazil, *Barbacenia tomentosa* and *Barbacenia macrantha*—two plants in the Velloziaceae family—establish themselves on soilless, nutrient-poor patches of quartzite rock. Plant ecologists Anna Abrahão and Patricia de Britto Costa used microscopic analysis to determine that the roots of *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha*, which grow directly into the quartzite, have clusters of fine hairs near the root tip; further analysis indicated that these hairs secrete both malic and citric acids. The researchers hypothesize that the plants depend on dissolving underlying rock with these acids, as the process not only creates channels for continued growth but also releases phosphates that provide the vital nutrient phosphorus.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers' hypothesis?

Other species in the Velloziaceae family are found in terrains with more soil but have root structures similar to those of *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha*.

Though *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha* both secrete citric and malic acids, each species produces the acids in different proportions.

The roots of *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha* carve new entry points into rocks even when cracks in the surface are readily available.

*D. B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha* thrive even when transferred to the surfaces of rocks that do not contain phosphates.

## ID: 6536183b Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support the researchers' hypothesis about the plants' dependence on dissolving rock. The text indicates that the roots of the two plant species grow directly into quartzite rock, where hairs on the roots secrete acids that dissolve the rock. The researchers hypothesize that the plants depend on this process because dissolving rock opens spaces for the roots to grow and releases phosphates that provide the plants with phosphorus, a vital nutrient. If the plants carry out this process of dissolving rock even when the rock already has spaces into which the roots could grow, that would support the researchers' hypothesis because it suggests that the plants are getting some advantage—such as access to phosphorus—from the action of dissolving rock. If the plants don't benefit from dissolving rock, they would be expected to grow in the cracks that already exist, as doing so would mean that the plants don't have to spend energy creating and secreting acids; if, however, the plants create new entry points by dissolving rock even when cracks already exist, that would support the hypothesis that they depend on dissolving rock for some benefit.

Choice A is incorrect because the existence of soil-inhabiting members of the Velloziaceae family with similar root structures to those of the two species discussed in the text wouldn't support the researchers' hypothesis that the species discussed in the text depend on dissolving rock. If other such members exist, that might suggest that the root structures can serve more functions than secreting acids to dissolve rock (since dissolving rock may not be necessary for plants living in soil), but that wouldn't suggest anything about whether the species discussed in the text benefit from dissolving rock. Choice B is incorrect because differences in the proportions of citric and malic acid secreted by the two species would be irrelevant to the hypothesis that the plants depend on dissolving rock. There's no information in the text to suggest that the proportion of each acid has any bearing on the process of dissolving rock or on any benefits the plants might receive from that process. Choice D is incorrect because if the two species thrive on rocks without phosphates, that would weaken the researchers' hypothesis that the plants depend on dissolving rock partly because dissolving rock gives them access to phosphates. If the plants can survive on rocks without getting a vital nutrient by dissolving those rocks, then either the nutrient isn't actually vital for those plants or they can get the nutrient in some way other than by dissolving rocks.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 96d1c1fe

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 96d1c1fe

Tatiana R. Feuerborn and colleagues analyzed the genomes of more than a hundred domesticated dogs from sites in Siberia dating from 11,000 years ago to the present. They found that the dogs constituted a genetically isolated population of Arctic breeds until approximately 2,000 years ago, at which point there was substantial interbreeding with Near Eastern dog breeds. Furthermore, beginning around 2,000 years ago, some sites contain artifacts consistent with a Near East origin, like glass beads, but the people show no evidence of having traveled extensively outside Siberia. From this, Feuerborn and colleagues concluded that around 2,000 years ago \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. dogs and artifacts like glass beads began to be transported from the Near East to Siberia.
- B. people from Siberia began to reach the Near East, where they acquired dogs and artifacts such as glass beads.
- C. glass beads and other artifacts from the Near East began to be exchanged for dogs from Siberia.
- D. dogs from the Near East began to be exchanged for glass beads and other artifacts from Siberia.

## ID: 96d1c1fe Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of Feuerborn and colleagues' findings about sites in Siberia. The text states that genomic analysis of many domesticated dogs from Siberian sites dating from the last 11,000 years revealed that the dogs represented a genetically isolated population of breeds (that is, they didn't reproduce with dogs of any outside breeds) until about 2,000 years ago, when there is evidence that the dogs began interbreeding with breeds from the Near East. The text also indicates that around the same time, the sites began to contain glass beads and other artifacts seeming to be from the Near East, even though there is no evidence that the people of those sites traveled widely outside Siberia. Because there is evidence of Near East dog breeds and Near East artifacts at Siberian sites beginning about 2,000 years ago but no evidence of the people's travel to the Near East around that time, it's reasonable to infer that Feuerborn and colleagues concluded that dogs and artifacts like glass beads were transported to Siberia from the Near East, starting around 2,000 years ago.

Choice B is incorrect because the text explicitly states that there is no evidence that the people of the Siberian sites 2,000 years ago traveled extensively beyond Siberia, which they would've had to do to reach the Near East; therefore, it wouldn't make sense to conclude that the presence of Near East dog breeds and artifacts like glass beads suggests that people from Siberia began arriving in the Near East around 2,000 years ago. Choice C is incorrect because the text addresses the presence of Near East dog breeds (and evidence of interbreeding with Siberian dogs) and artifacts like glass beads at Siberian sites starting about 2,000 years ago, suggesting only that the dogs and artifacts started to arrive in Siberia around that time. The text doesn't suggest the purpose of the arrival of the Near East dogs and artifacts or give any indication of Siberian dog breeds being transported elsewhere through trade. Choice D is incorrect because the text addresses the presence of Near East dog breeds and artifacts like glass beads at Siberian sites starting about 2,000 years ago, suggesting only that the dogs and artifacts started to arrive in Siberia around that time; it doesn't suggest the purpose of this arrival and makes no mention of Siberian glass beads or other artifacts of Siberian origin.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2644644a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 2644644a

In countries with right-hand traffic, drivers who want to make a left turn at a traffic intersection with stoplights have to wait for either a gap in oncoming traffic or a designated left-turn signal to turn green. At busy intersections, this often causes a backup of vehicles waiting to turn left or being prevented from proceeding by left-turning vehicles in front of them.

Transportation researcher Vikash V. Gayah claims that in urban areas eliminating the option to turn left at busy intersections—both with and without dedicated left-turn signals—would improve traffic flow and, as a result, reduce overall travel times even if such a restriction would require drivers to sometimes travel a slightly longer distance.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researcher's claim?

- In a town that installed left-turn signals at all busy intersections, seven out of ten survey respondents agreed with the
- A. statement "the streets in my community are easier to navigate by motor vehicle than before."

- B. statement "the streets in my community are easier to navigate by motor vehicle than before."
- A traffic study of intersections in a large city shows that on average drivers wait longer to make a left turn at intersections
- C. without left-turn signals than at intersections with such signals.

- After a city eliminated left turns at busy intersections, a package-delivery company reports that its drivers have been able
- D. to reach more addresses in the city daily, on average, and therefore deliver more packages there annually.

- Statistics reveal that school buses in a city that eliminated left turns at most intersections took on average two minutes
- C. longer to complete their routes after the restriction took effect than they did before.

## ID: 2644644a Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support Vikash V. Gayah's claim that eliminating the option to turn left at busy intersections would improve traffic flow and reduce overall travel times. The text begins by describing a problem encountered by drivers in countries with right-hand traffic—namely that drivers wanting to make a left turn must wait for either gaps in oncoming traffic or for designated left-turn signals before proceeding. The resulting backup of vehicles causes increased traffic congestion at busy intersections that slows overall travel times. According to Gayah, eliminating left turns from busy intersections in urban areas would ease the congestion caused by vehicles waiting to turn left. If vehicles spend less time waiting at intersections for left turns, faster overall travel times would result even if some drivers would have to drive slightly longer distances to make the desired left turn. Drivers for package-delivery companies, who presumably spend most of the day driving to destinations across the city in which they are based, would likely provide a good indication of overall traffic patterns across the city. A finding that after a city had eliminated left turns at busy intersections, package-delivery companies were able to complete more daily deliveries on average—which implies faster travel times between package destinations—would therefore support the claim that overall travel times would decrease if left turns were eliminated at busy intersections.

Choice A is incorrect because a finding that a majority of survey respondents agreed with the statement that implementing left-turn signals at all busy intersections made navigating streets in their communities easier wouldn't support the claim that eliminating the option to turn left altogether at some busy intersections—both with and without dedicated left-turn signals—would improve the flow of traffic and overall traffic times. In fact, the text emphasizes that designated left-turn signals contribute to increased congestion because they require drivers to wait to turn left, which results in a backup of vehicles. Installing such signals at all busy intersections would thus potentially compound the problem of congestion, not improve it. Moreover, although making streets easier for drivers to navigate might indicate that left-turn signals are beneficial to drivers, it doesn't indicate that overall travel times would necessarily be reduced. Choice B is incorrect because a study concluding that drivers wait longer to make left turns at intersections without dedicated left-turn signals than at intersections with such signals wouldn't support the claim that eliminating the option to turn left altogether would reduce overall travel times. In fact, the finding would merely support the idea that installing left-turn signals would likely reduce the time drivers spend waiting at busy intersections that didn't previously have left-turn signals, not that overall travel times would be reduced. Choice D is incorrect because the finding that after a restriction eliminating left turns at most intersections took effect, school buses took longer to complete their routes than they did before the restriction was implemented would contradict rather than support the researcher's claim that eliminating left turns would reduce overall travel times.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID dd349efc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: dd349efc

Participants' Evaluation of the Likelihood That Robots Can Work Effectively in Different Occupations

Occupation	Somewhat or very unlikely (%)	Neutral (%)	Somewhat or very likely (%)
television news anchor	24	9	67
teacher	37	16	47
firefighter	62	9	30
surgeon	74	9	16
tour guide	10	8	82

Rows in table may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Georgia Tech roboticists De'Aira Bryant and Ayanna Howard, along with ethicist Jason Borenstein, were interested in people's perceptions of robots' competence. They recruited participants and asked them how likely they think it is that a robot could do the work required in various occupations. Participants' evaluations varied widely depending on which occupation was being considered; for example, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the example?

47% of participants believe that it is somewhat or very likely that a robot could work effectively as a teacher, but 37% of A. respondents believe that it is somewhat or very unlikely that a robot could do so.

9% of participants were neutral about whether a robot could work effectively as a television news anchor, which is the B. same percent of participants who were neutral when asked about a robot working as a surgeon.

82% of participants believe that it is somewhat or very likely that a robot could work effectively as a tour guide, but only C. 16% believe that it is somewhat or very likely that a robot could work as a surgeon.

D. 62% of participants believe that it is somewhat or very unlikely that a robot could work effectively as a firefighter.

ID: dd349efc Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it effectively uses data from the table to complete the example of variations in participants' evaluations. The table shows participants' evaluations of the likelihood that robots could work effectively in different occupations. The text asserts that participants' evaluations varied widely depending on the occupation being considered and introduces an example supporting that assertion. The data from the table showing that 82% of participants believe that it is somewhat or very likely that a robot could work effectively as a tour guide but only 16% of participants believe that it is somewhat or very likely that a robot could work effectively as a surgeon illustrate this assertion: those data show participants' views changing substantially with the occupation being considered.

Choice A is incorrect because it does not describe data that illustrate the assertion that participants' evaluations varied widely depending on which occupation was being considered. Although this choice accurately describes data in the table, data about participants' responses when considering a single occupation—teaching—could not be an example of people's views changing substantially depending on the occupation being considered. Choice B is incorrect because it identifies a similarity in participants' responses when considering two different occupations, but the assertion that the example is intended to illustrate is that participants' evaluations varied widely depending on the occupation being considered. Although this choice accurately describes data in the table, those data do not illustrate the assertion in the text. Choice D is incorrect because it does not describe data that illustrate the assertion that participants' evaluations varied widely depending on which occupation was being considered. Although this choice accurately describes data in the table, data showing participants' evaluation of just one occupation could not be an example of participants' evaluations changing depending on the occupation under evaluation.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID b7f79059

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: b7f79059

The following text is from Ezra Pound's 1909 poem "Hymn III," based on the work of Marcantonio Flaminio.

As a fragile and lovely flower unfolds its gleaming  
foliage on the breast of the fostering earth, if  
the dew and the rain draw it forth;  
So doth my tender mind flourish, if it be fed with the  
sweet dew of the fostering spirit,  
Lacking this, it beginneth straightway to languish,  
even as a floweret born upon dry earth, if the  
dew and the rain tend it not.

Based on the text, in what way is the human mind like a flower?

- A. It becomes increasingly vigorous with the passage of time.
- B. It draws strength from changes in the weather.
- C. It requires proper nourishment in order to thrive.
- D. It perseveres despite challenging circumstances.

## ID: b7f79059 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a description of how the human mind is like a flower that is directly supported by the text. The text compares the needs of a "fragile and lovely flower" to those of the speaker's "tender mind": both need to be fed if they're going to survive. Without such feeding, they'll "beginneth straightway to languish," or weaken. Thus, the text suggests that the human mind is like a flower in that they both need proper nourishment in order to thrive.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't address the passage of time or describe either the human mind or a flower as becoming increasingly vigorous. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that human minds or flowers draw strength from changes in weather. The references to rain in the text pertain to a flower's need for water rather than the general effects of changing weather. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the human mind or a flower will persist regardless of challenging circumstances. In fact, the text indicates that they'll both languish right away if not given what they need.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID b5e9f3c2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: b5e9f3c2

Ancestral Puebloans, the civilization from which present-day Pueblo tribes descended, emerged as early as 1500 B.C.E. in an area of what is now the southwestern United States and dispersed suddenly in the late 1200s C.E., abandoning established villages with systems for farming crops and turkeys. Recent analysis comparing turkey remains at Mesa Verde, one such village in southern Colorado, to samples from modern turkey populations in the Rio Grande Valley of north central New Mexico determined that the latter birds descended in part from turkeys cultivated at Mesa Verde, with shared genetic markers appearing only after 1280. Thus, researchers concluded that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. conditions of the terrains in the Rio Grande Valley and Mesa Verde had greater similarities in the past than they do today.
- B. some Ancestral Puebloans migrated to the Rio Grande Valley in the late 1200s and carried farming practices with them.
- C. Indigenous peoples living in the Rio Grande Valley primarily planted crops and did not cultivate turkeys before 1280.
- D. the Ancestral Puebloans of Mesa Verde likely adopted the farming practices of Indigenous peoples living in other regions.

## ID: b5e9f3c2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of Ancestral Puebloans' migration to the Rio Grande Valley. The text states that in the late 1200s C.E., the Ancestral Puebloan civilization abandoned villages in its original homeland, which included the Mesa Verde site. The text goes on to say that recent genetic analysis has demonstrated that the modern turkey population in the Rio Grande Valley descends partly from the ancient turkeys raised at Mesa Verde, and that the genetic markers shared by the two turkey populations first appeared at Mesa Verde only after 1280 C.E. Therefore, it can reasonably be concluded that some Ancestral Puebloans migrated to the Rio Grande Valley in the late 1200s and carried their agricultural practices—including the farming of turkeys—to their new home.

Choice A is incorrect because the text never compares the condition of the Rio Grande Valley's terrain to that of Mesa Verde's terrain, either in the present or in the past. Choice C is incorrect. Although genetic analysis has demonstrated that the modern turkey population in the Rio Grande valley descended in part from the turkey population raised by the Ancestral Puebloans of Mesa Verde before their migration to the valley in 1280, this finding doesn't eliminate the possibility that Indigenous peoples living in the valley before 1280 might also have farmed turkeys. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't consider the possibility that before their migration to the Rio Grande Valley after 1280, the Ancestral Puebloans of Mesa Verde might have adopted turkey farming from an outside Indigenous civilization in another region; instead, the text provides evidence suggesting that the Ancestral Puebloans brought turkey farming to another region—the Rio Grande Valley—after 1280.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5eda42a3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 5eda42a3

The following text is from Maggie Pogue Johnson's 1910 poem "Poet of Our Race." In this poem, the speaker is addressing Paul Laurence Dunbar, a Black author.

Thou, with stroke of mighty pen,	The language of the flowers,
Hast told of joy and mirth,	Thou hast read them all,
And read the hearts and souls of men	And e'en the little brook
As cradled from their birth.	Responded to thy call.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To praise a certain writer for being especially perceptive regarding people and nature
- B. To establish that a certain writer has read extensively about a variety of topics
- C. To call attention to a certain writer's careful and elaborately detailed writing process
- D. To recount fond memories of an afternoon spent in nature with a certain writer

## ID: 5eda42a3 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main purpose of the text. In the first part of the text, the speaker addresses Paul Laurence Dunbar's ability to understand people (he has "read the hearts and souls of men" and written of their "joy and mirth"). In the second part of the text, the speaker describes Dunbar's thorough understanding of the natural world (he has read "the language of the flowers" and engaged with "the little brook"). Thus, the text mainly praises Dunbar for being especially perceptive about people and nature.

Choice B is incorrect because the speaker describes Dunbar as having read the "hearts and souls of men" and the "language of flowers" to convey Dunbar's ability to comprehend people and nature, not to suggest that Dunbar has literally read any of these things or has read a great deal about them. Choice C is incorrect because the text notes how well Dunbar has made sense of the topics he's written about but doesn't address any specific parts of Dunbar's writing process beyond the suggestion that he used a pen. Choice D is incorrect because the text focuses on Dunbar's understanding of people and nature as expressed in his writing. Nothing in the text suggests that the speaker is recalling a particular afternoon actually spent in nature with Dunbar; even if there had been a shared experience, the text isn't focused on reminiscing.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 010fa3f0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 010fa3f0

Simulated Change in Annual Aquifer Input and Irrigation Output if Precipitation Concentration Increases as Climate Models Predict

Baseline concentration of annual precipitation	% change in water entering aquifers	% change in surface water used for irrigation	% change in groundwater used for irrigation
Precipitation is currently somewhat concentrated	4.9	0.4	0.9
Precipitation is currently evenly distributed	11.0	9.0	7.9

Some climate models for the western United States predict that while total annual precipitation may remain unchanged from the present level, precipitation will become concentrated into fewer but more intense rain and snow events. University of Texas climate scientist Geeta Persad and her colleagues simulated how the amount of water entering aquifers and the amount being used for irrigation purposes would change if this were to occur. Persad and her colleagues concluded that concentration of precipitation into fewer events would result in a higher number of dry days, triggering more irrigation, but that this change in irrigation output is highly sensitive to the baseline concentration of precipitation that currently exists in an area.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support Persad and her colleagues' conclusion?

If baseline precipitation is somewhat concentrated, the amount of water being used for irrigation will increase 0.4% for surface water and 0.9% for groundwater, whereas the amount of water entering aquifers will increase 11.0% if baseline A. precipitation is evenly distributed.

If baseline precipitation is somewhat concentrated, water use for irrigation will increase only slightly, whereas it will B. increase 9.0% for surface water and 7.9% for groundwater if baseline precipitation is evenly distributed.

If baseline precipitation is somewhat concentrated, the amount of water entering aquifers will increase 4.9%, while the C. amount being used for irrigation will increase 0.4% for surface water and 0.9% for groundwater.

If baseline precipitation is somewhat concentrated, water use for irrigation will decline by a small amount, whereas it will D. increase 11.0% for surface water and 9.0% for groundwater if baseline precipitation is evenly distributed.

ID: 010fa3f0 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it describes data from the table that support Persad and her colleagues' conclusion. The text explains that, according to some climate models, precipitation in the western United States will become concentrated into fewer, more intense rain and snow events. According to the text, Persad and her colleagues concluded that more irrigation will consequently be needed but that the change in irrigation output will be highly sensitive to, or greatly affected by, the baseline concentration of precipitation in an area. This conclusion is supported by data from the researchers' simulations of changes in annual irrigation output in two different scenarios—one in which an area's annual precipitation is already somewhat concentrated and one in which its annual precipitation is evenly distributed. The table shows that if baseline precipitation is somewhat concentrated, water use for irrigation will increase only slightly, whereas if baseline precipitation is evenly distributed, water use for irrigation will increase much more—9.0% for surface water and 7.9% for groundwater. This difference illustrates the researchers' conclusion that the amount of additional water needed for irrigation will vary greatly depending on how concentrated or spread out the annual precipitation in an area already is.

Choice A is incorrect because it compares changes in the amount of water being used for irrigation to changes in the amount of water entering aquifers. Persad and her colleagues' conclusion doesn't focus on changes to the amount of water entering aquifers; rather, the researchers' conclusion focuses on changes to irrigation output relative to how concentrated or spread out the annual precipitation in an area is. Choice C is incorrect because it supports only part of Persad and her colleagues' conclusion. According to the text, the researchers concluded that the concentration of precipitation into fewer events will trigger more irrigation but that this change in irrigation output will be highly sensitive to an area's baseline concentration of annual precipitation. The data in this choice support the idea that more irrigation will be needed, but to support the rest of the researchers' conclusion, additional data from the table are required to show that the increases in water use for irrigation will vary depending on how concentrated or spread out the annual precipitation in an area already is. Choice D is incorrect because data in the table indicate no declines in water use for irrigation, showing only increases in the form of positive values.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8fb67890

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 8fb67890

Archaeologists have discovered a runestone in Norway that may contain the earliest example of written words in Scandinavia. Carbon dating at the discovery site revealed that the stone was likely carved between 1 and 250 CE. Runologist Kristel Zilmer believes the stone will be helpful in learning more about the use of runic alphabets in early Iron Age Scandinavia.

Which choice best states the main topic of the text?

- A. Battles of the Iron Age
- B. A runestone found in Norway
- C. A new method for dating rock samples
- D. The research interests of Kristel Zilmer

## ID: 8fb67890 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately states the main topic of the text. The text begins by stating that archaeologists in Norway have discovered what may be the oldest known runestone (a stone with an inscription in the runic alphabets used in the region in ancient times). According to the text, the object was created between 1 and 250 CE. The text then mentions a researcher who comments on the runestone's significance to the study of runic alphabets. Thus, the main focus throughout the text is a runestone found in Norway.

Choice A is incorrect because the text mentions the Iron Age only to indicate the era when the runestone was created and when runic alphabets were in use; there's no discussion of battles during this era. Choice C is incorrect because the text mentions the carbon dating method just once and does so only to indicate the age of the runestone; moreover, the text doesn't suggest that this method is new. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text indicates that Zilmer is a runologist, or a scholar of runestones, it does so in a single sentence, so Zilmer's scholarly interests are therefore not a primary focus of the text.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 6540a976

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 6540a976

To understand how Paleolithic artists navigated dark caves, archaeologist M<sup>a</sup> Ángeles Medina-Alcaide and her team tested different lighting methods in a cave in Spain using replicas of artifacts found in European caves with art. They used three different Paleolithic light sources—torches, animal-fat lamps, and fireplaces—determining that each likely had a specific purpose. For instance, the team learned that the animal-fat lamps were less useful than torches while walking because the lamps didn't illuminate the cave floor.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Medina-Alcaide and her team's study demonstrated that fireplaces were essential to the creators of Paleolithic cave art.

Medina-Alcaide and her team discovered that Paleolithic cave artists in Spain used animal-fat lamps more often than  
B. they used torches.

Medina-Alcaide and her team were reluctant to draw many conclusions from their study because of the difficulty they had  
C. replicating light sources based on known artifacts.

Medina-Alcaide and her team tested Paleolithic light sources and learned some details about how Paleolithic artists  
D. traveled within dark caves.

## ID: 6540a976 Answer

Correct Answer: D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text indicates that archaeologist M<sup>a</sup> Ángeles Medina-Alcaide and her team used replicas of Paleolithic light sources to understand how Paleolithic artists moved through dark caves. The researchers learned, for example, that torches were more helpful for moving through caves than animal-fat lamps were. Thus, the main idea of the text is that Medina-Alcaide and her team tested Paleolithic light sources and learned some details about how Paleolithic artists traveled within dark caves.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't address the usefulness of fireplaces for Paleolithic cave artists; it only mentions fireplaces briefly as one of the three lighting methods the researchers tested. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss how often Paleolithic cave artists used each kind of light source tested. Although the text does compare animal-fat lamps with another lighting method, the point of that comparison is that animal-fat lamps were less useful than torches when walking, not that one method was used more often than another. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss either how difficult it was for Medina-Alcaide and her team to replicate light sources or how the team felt about drawing conclusions from their study. Instead, the text reveals that the team was able to conclude that each light source likely had a distinct purpose.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 4f9f8ea6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 4f9f8ea6

Birds of many species ingest foods containing carotenoids, pigmented molecules that are converted into feather coloration. Coloration tends to be especially saturated in male birds' feathers, and because carotenoids also confer health benefits, the deeply saturated colors generally serve to communicate what is known as an honest signal of a bird's overall fitness to potential mates. However, ornithologist Allison J. Shultz and others have found that males in several species of the tanager genus *Ramphocelus* use microstructures in their feathers to manipulate light, creating the appearance of deeper saturation without the birds necessarily having to maintain a carotenoid-rich diet. These findings suggest that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. individual male tanagers can engage in honest signaling without relying on carotenoid consumption.
- B. feather microstructures may be less effective than deeply saturated feathers for signaling overall fitness.
- C. scientists have yet to determine why tanagers have a preference for mates with colorful appearances.
- D. a male tanager's appearance may function as a dishonest signal of the individual's overall fitness.

## ID: 4f9f8ea6 Answer

Correct Answer: D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Shultz's finding about male tanagers. The text explains that because carotenoids both contribute to deeply saturated feathers and offer health benefits, having deeply saturated feathers is usually "an honest signal" (a true indication) that a bird is generally fit. However, Shultz and others have found that certain male tanagers can appear to have deeply saturated feathers even if they haven't consumed a diet rich in carotenoids, thanks to microstructures in their feathers that manipulate light. If those birds aren't necessarily eating carotenoid-rich diets, they may actually be less fit than other birds that appear to have similarly saturated feathers; this suggests that a male tanager's appearance may function as a dishonest signal, or a false indication, of the bird's overall fitness.

Choice A is incorrect because Shultz's finding suggests that some tanagers can signal fitness without consuming the carotenoids that contribute to fitness, thereby making those signals dishonest, not that tanagers can give honest signals of their fitness without consuming carotenoids. Choice B is incorrect because Shultz's finding suggests that the microstructures in certain tanagers' feathers can give a dishonest signal of fitness, not that the microstructures are less effective than actual pigmentation for signaling fitness. Whether the signal of fitness is honest or dishonest has no bearing on how effective the signal is: a signal is effective if potential mates behave as though it's true, regardless of whether it's actually true. Since there's no information in the text about how potential mates respond to the dishonest signals of some tanagers, there's no support for the idea that the dishonest signals are less effective than the honest signals. Choice C is incorrect because Shultz's finding suggests that certain male tanagers may appear to be fitter than they actually are, not that scientists haven't determined why tanagers prefer mates with colorful appearances.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2c06139b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 2c06139b

Tadpole Body Mass and Toxin Production after Three Weeks in Ponds

Population density	Average tadpole body mass (milligrams)	Average number of distinct bufadienolide toxins per tadpole	Average amount of bufadienolide per tadpole (nanograms)	Average bufadienolide concentration (nanograms per milligram of tadpole body mass)
High	193.87	22.69	5,815.51	374.22
Medium	254.56	21.65	5,525.72	230.10
Low	258.97	22.08	4,664.99	171.43

Ecologist Veronika Bókony and colleagues investigated within-species competition among common toads (*Bufo bufo*), a species that secretes various unpleasant-tasting toxins called bufadienolides in response to threats. The researchers tested *B. bufo* tadpoles' responses to different levels of competition by creating ponds with different tadpole population densities but a fixed amount of food. Based on analysis of the tadpoles after three weeks, the researchers concluded that increased competition drove bufadienolide production at the expense of growth.

Which choice uses data from the table to most effectively support the researchers' conclusion?

The difference in average tadpole body mass was small between the low and medium population density conditions and A. substantially larger between the low and high population density conditions.

Tadpoles in the low and medium population density conditions had substantially lower average bufadienolide concentrations but had greater average body masses than those in the high population density condition.

Tadpoles in the high population density condition displayed a relatively modest increase in the average amount of bufadienolide but roughly double the average bufadienolide concentration compared to those in the low population C. density condition.

Tadpoles produced approximately the same number of different bufadienolide toxins per individual across the population D. density conditions, but average tadpole body mass decreased as population density increased.

ID: 2c06139b Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This data shows that the tadpoles in the high-density pond (meaning those with the most competition) didn't grow as big as the other two groups but produced more bufadienolide.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn't fully support the conclusion. It doesn't include any data about bufadienolide production.  
Choice C is incorrect. This doesn't fully support the conclusion. It doesn't include any data about growth. Choice D is incorrect. This doesn't fully support the conclusion. It doesn't demonstrate that the tadpoles in the high-density pond produced more bufadienolide overall. The fact that they didn't produce more kinds of bufadienolide isn't relevant to the conclusion.

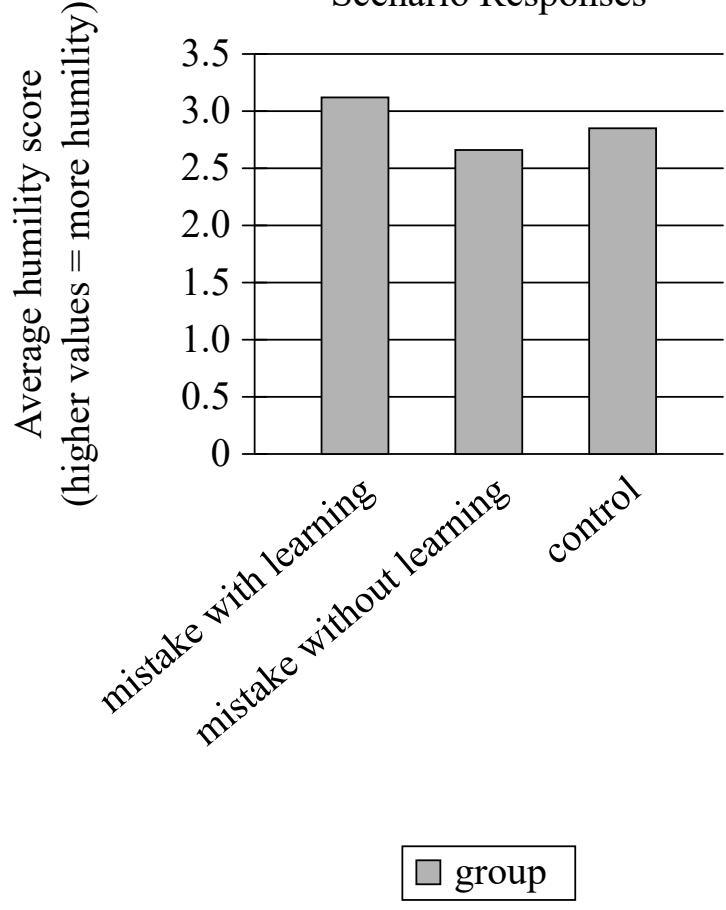
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID e99a38ec

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	<span style="color: blue;">■ ■ □</span>

ID: e99a38ec

Humility Scores for Participants' Scenario Responses



Jia Hu and colleagues hypothesized that workplace leaders who reflect on lessons learned from past mistakes are likely to exhibit more humility than leaders who don't engage in such reflection. To test this, the team placed 301 managers in one of three groups. Participants in two experimental groups were asked to reflect on a mistake, one group focusing on a mistake that resulted in learning and the other group focusing on a mistake that didn't result in learning. Participants in a control group were asked to reflect on their daily routine. All the participants then described how they would respond to a workplace scenario. After evaluating the responses for evidence of humility, the researchers concluded that their hypothesis was correct.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support the researchers' conclusion?

- A. None of the three groups' average humility scores exceeded 3.5.

- B. The managers in the control group exhibited only slightly less humility on average than the managers in the two experimental groups did.

The managers who reflected on a past mistake that resulted in learning exhibited more humility on average than the C. managers in the other two groups did.

D. All three groups exhibited less humility on average than the researchers expected.

### ID: e99a38ec Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

#### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it describes data in the graph that support the researchers' conclusion that their hypothesis about workplace leaders and humility was correct. According to the text, Jia Hu and colleagues "hypothesized that workplace leaders who reflect on lessons learned from past mistakes are likely to exhibit more humility than leaders who don't engage in such reflection." The bar graph shows the humility scores for managers who participated in Jia Hu and colleagues' study. It shows average humility scores for managers who reflected on a past mistake that they learned from, managers who reflected on a past mistake that they didn't learn from, and managers who were in the control group that, according to the text, simply reflected on their daily routines. The graph shows that managers who reflected on a past mistake they learned from received an average humility score between 3.0 and 3.5. Both the control group and managers who reflected on a mistake they didn't learn from received a lower average humility score of between 2.5 and 3.0. Thus, the managers who reflected on a past mistake that resulted in learning exhibited more humility on average than the managers in the other two groups did. This supports the researchers' conclusion that their initial hypothesis that workplace leaders who reflect on past mistakes they learned from exercise greater humility was correct.

Choice A is incorrect. Although according to the graph it's true that none of the group's humility scores exceeded 3.5, this idea does not support the researchers' conclusion that their initial hypothesis was correct. The statement that none of the three groups' average humility scores exceeded 3.5 does not distinguish between those leaders who reflected on lessons learned from past mistakes and those who didn't, so it would not support Hu and colleagues' hypothesis that workplace leaders who reflect on past mistakes they learned from exercise greater humility. Choice B is incorrect. While the graph shows that managers in the control group did exhibit less humility than the experimental group of managers who reflected on a mistake they learned from, the graph also shows that the control group exhibited more (not less) humility than the experimental group that reflected on a mistake they didn't learn from. Furthermore, the idea that the managers in the control group exhibited only slightly less humility on average than the managers in the two experimental groups did would not support the researchers' conclusion that their initial hypothesis that workplace leaders who reflect on past mistakes they learned from exercise greater humility was correct. Choice D is incorrect because there is no indication in the graph that all three groups of participants exhibited less humility on average than the researchers expected. The graph and text don't cite any specific expectations that the researchers had with regard to the humility scores for each group.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 01c1d9ee

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 01c1d9ee

Swahili Speakers in Three African Countries

Country	Approximate number of speakers (in millions)	Estimated % of population
Democratic Republic of the Congo	22	25
Kenya	55	100
Tanzania	61	100

Swahili is estimated to be the first language of up to 15 million people worldwide. It's also an officially recognized language in Tanzania, Kenya, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which means these countries use Swahili in government documents and proceedings. But even in countries where almost everyone speaks Swahili, for many it isn't their first language but is instead their second, third, or even fourth language.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to support the underlined claim?

Tanzania has approximately 61 million Swahili speakers, which is much more than the estimated total number of people worldwide for whom Swahili is their first language.

Tanzania is estimated to have at most 15 million Swahili speakers, while the country's total population is approximately 61 million people.

Approximately 100 percent of the people who speak Swahili as their first language live in Kenya, which has a total population of approximately 55 million people.

Approximately 100 percent of Kenya's population speaks Swahili, while only about 25 percent of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's population speaks Swahili.

ID: 01c1d9ee Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to support the underlined claim. The text indicates that Swahili is the first language of up to 15 million people worldwide. The text goes on to claim, in the underlined portion, that even in countries where nearly everyone speaks Swahili, many of the language's speakers don't have Swahili as their first language. The table indicates that 61 million people in Tanzania, which amounts to 100 percent of the population, speak Swahili. If 61 million people in Tanzania speak Swahili, but only 15 million people worldwide have Swahili as their first language, that means there are many people in Tanzania who speak Swahili as a language other than their first language. This information about Swahili speakers in Tanzania therefore supports the claim that many Swahili speakers in countries where nearly everyone speaks Swahili speak it as a language other than their first language (such as their second, third, or fourth language).

Choice B is incorrect because it doesn't accurately describe information in the table. According to the table, Tanzania has 61 million Swahili speakers, not at most 15 million Swahili speakers. Additionally, the table indicates that 100 percent of Tanzania's population speak Swahili, which means that the number of Swahili speakers in the country and the country's total population should be the same, not that they should differ by such a large amount. Choice C is incorrect because there's no information in the table or the text that indicates where people who speak Swahili as their first language live. Although Kenya's total population can be inferred from the table—if Kenya has 55 million Swahili speakers and 100% of Kenya's population speak Swahili, then Kenya must have a population of 55 million people—nothing suggests that all the people who speak Swahili as their first language live in a single country, let alone that they all live in Kenya. Choice D is incorrect. Although the table does indicate that 100 percent of Kenya's population and 25 percent of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's population speak Swahili, this comparison is irrelevant to the claim that Swahili isn't the first language of many of its speakers even in countries where almost everyone speaks Swahili. On its own, a difference in the proportions of the population who speak Swahili cannot reveal whether those Swahili speakers have Swahili as their first language or a subsequent language.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID e47d2524

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: e47d2524

Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic waste. Areas of the ocean with higher concentrations of microplastic particles also have smaller and fewer waves. A study by Yukun Sun and colleagues found that the concentration of microplastic particles cannot be the only reason for this reduced wave activity because the concentration of particles that would have the observed effect is much higher than that found in these areas of the ocean. However, they found that surfactants, chemicals often used to manufacture plastics, are released into the water from microplastics and have a much stronger wave-reducing effect.

According to the text, what did Sun and colleagues discover about surfactants?

- A. They have a much stronger effect on wave activity than microplastics alone do.
- B. They are mainly composed of water.
- C. They are helpful for removing microplastics from the ocean.
- D. They can be used to contain microplastics within certain areas of the ocean.

## ID: e47d2524 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a statement about surfactants that is supported by the text. The text indicates that higher concentrations of microplastics have been associated with waves that are relatively small and few. According to the text, however, a study by Sun and colleagues found that concentrations of microplastic particles can't be the only reason for the reduced wave activity because a much higher concentration of particles is needed to produce that observed effect. Instead, the text indicates that Sun and colleagues found that surfactants are released from microplastics into the ocean and have a much stronger wave-reducing effect than microplastics alone do.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss what surfactants are made of. Instead, it indicates that surfactants are frequently used to manufacture microplastics and that Sun and colleagues discovered that surfactants are released from microplastics into the ocean. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss how microplastics can be removed from the ocean. Instead, the text indicates that Sun and colleagues discovered that surfactants are released into the ocean from microplastics and have a much stronger wave-reducing effect than microplastics alone do. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that surfactants can be used to contain microplastics within certain areas of the ocean. Instead, the text indicates that Sun and colleagues discovered that surfactants are released from microplastics into the ocean and have a much stronger wave-reducing effect than microplastics alone do.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f2250478

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

**ID: f2250478**

Among social animals that care for their young, such as chickens, macaque monkeys, and humans, newborns appear to show an innate attraction to faces and face-like stimuli. Elisabetta Versace and her colleagues used an image of three black dots arranged in the shape of eyes and a nose or mouth to test whether this trait also occurs in *Testudo* tortoises, which live alone and do not engage in parental care. They found that tortoise hatchlings showed a significant preference for the image, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

face-like stimuli are likely perceived as harmless by newborns of social species that practice parental care but as

- A. threatening by newborns of solitary species without parental care.

researchers should not assume that an innate attraction to face-like stimuli is necessarily an adaptation related to social

- B. interaction or parental care.

researchers can assume that the attraction to face-like stimuli that is seen in social species that practice parental care is

- C. learned rather than innate.

- D. newly hatched *Testudo* tortoises show a stronger preference for face-like stimuli than adult *Testudo* tortoises do.

**ID: f2250478 Answer**

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of the study by Versace and colleagues. The text indicates that newborn animals of some species are attracted to faces and to stimuli that resemble faces. These species, the text says, share two characteristics: they're social and they practice parental care, meaning that parents care for their young. The text goes on to describe Versace and colleagues' experiment, which showed that *Testudo* tortoises, which aren't social and don't practice parental care, were attracted to a stimulus that resembles a face. Since Versace and colleagues have shown that a species that isn't social and doesn't practice parental care nevertheless has the innate characteristic of being attracted to face-like stimuli, it follows that this characteristic shouldn't be assumed to be an adaptation related to social interaction or parental care.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that the tortoise hatchlings, which are solitary and don't practice parental care, were attracted to the face-like stimuli, not that they perceived the stimuli as threatening. Choice C is incorrect because the phenomenon discussed in the text is an attraction to faces and face-like stimuli on the part of newborn animals, which can't show any learned characteristics since they were just born. Additionally, the text tells us that the tortoises Versace and colleagues studied aren't social and don't practice parental care, so any findings about those tortoises wouldn't be relevant to the question of whether an attraction to faces in social species that practice parental care is innate or learned. Choice D is incorrect because the text gives no indication that adult tortoises were tested on face-like stimuli and, if adults were in fact tested, no information about how they responded is provided. Since no information about adult tortoises' responses is provided, no conclusion comparing those responses to the responses of newly hatched tortoises can be supported.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d5d3ea31

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: d5d3ea31

"The Yellow Wallpaper" is an 1892 short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. In the story, the narrator expresses mixed feelings about her surroundings: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from "The Yellow Wallpaper" most effectively illustrates the claim?

- "This wallpaper has a kind of sub-pattern in a different shade, a particularly irritating one, for you can only see it in certain A. lights, and not clearly then."
- B. "By moonlight—the moon shines in all night when there is a moon—I wouldn't know it was the same paper."
- C. "I'm really getting quite fond of the big room, all but that horrid [wall]paper."
- D. "The color is repellent, almost revolting; a smouldering, unclean yellow, strangely faded by the slow-turning sunlight."

## ID: d5d3ea31 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that the narrator of "The Yellow Wallpaper" has mixed feelings about her surroundings. She says she is "really getting quite fond of the big room," a positive sentiment, but also describes the room's wallpaper as "horrid," a negative sentiment. Since some of her feelings about her surroundings are positive and others are negative, they are best described as mixed.

Choice A is incorrect because though the narrator describes the room's wallpaper as "irritating," a negative sentiment, she does not mention a positive sentiment. Thus, the quotation does not effectively illustrate the claim that the narrator has mixed feelings about her surroundings. Choice B is incorrect because it describes how the appearance of the room's wallpaper changes at night but does not mention the narrator's feelings about her surroundings. Choice D is incorrect because though the narrator describes the room's wallpaper as "repellent," a negative sentiment, she does not mention a positive sentiment. Thus, the quotation does not effectively illustrate the claim that the narrator has mixed feelings about her surroundings.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 6e0e0de1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 6e0e0de1

Aerogels are highly porous foams consisting mainly of tiny air pockets within a solidified gel. These lightweight materials are often applied to spacecraft and other equipment required to withstand extreme conditions, as they provide excellent insulation despite typically being brittle and eventually fracturing due to degradation from repeated exposure to high heat. Now, Xiangfeng Duan of the University of California, Los Angeles, and colleagues have developed an aerogel with uniquely flexible properties. Unlike earlier aerogels, Duan's team's material contracts rather than expands when heated and fully recovers after compressing to just 5% of its original volume, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- the aerogel's remarkable flexibility results from its higher proportion of air pockets to solidified gel as compared to other A. aerogels.
- the aerogel's overall strength is greater than that of other insulators but its ability to withstand exposure to intense heat is B. lower.
- the aerogel will be more effective as an insulator for uses that involve gradual temperature shifts than for those that C. involve rapid heat increases.
- the aerogel will be less prone to the structural weakness that ultimately causes most other aerogels to break down with D. use.

## ID: 6e0e0de1 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of aerogels. The text states that aerogels—highly porous foams—offer "excellent insulation" but typically break down after prolonged exposure to high heat. However, according to the text, Duan and colleagues developed an aerogel that "contracts rather than expands when heated" and recovers its original volume after this contraction. Thus, it is logical to conclude that Duan's team's aerogel material will be less prone to the structural weakness that caused earlier aerogels to break down.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text indicates that aerogels consist "mainly of tiny air pockets within a solidified gel," it doesn't mention the number or proportion of air pockets to solidified gel in typical aerogels or in the aerogel developed by Duan's team. Choice B is incorrect because the text suggests that the aerogel developed by Duan's team has a higher, not a lower, ability to withstand exposure to intense heat due to its contraction and subsequent recovery. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text discusses temperature tolerances of aerogels and says that they offer "excellent insulation despite typically being brittle and eventually fracturing," it doesn't discuss how different rates of temperature change can affect aerogels.

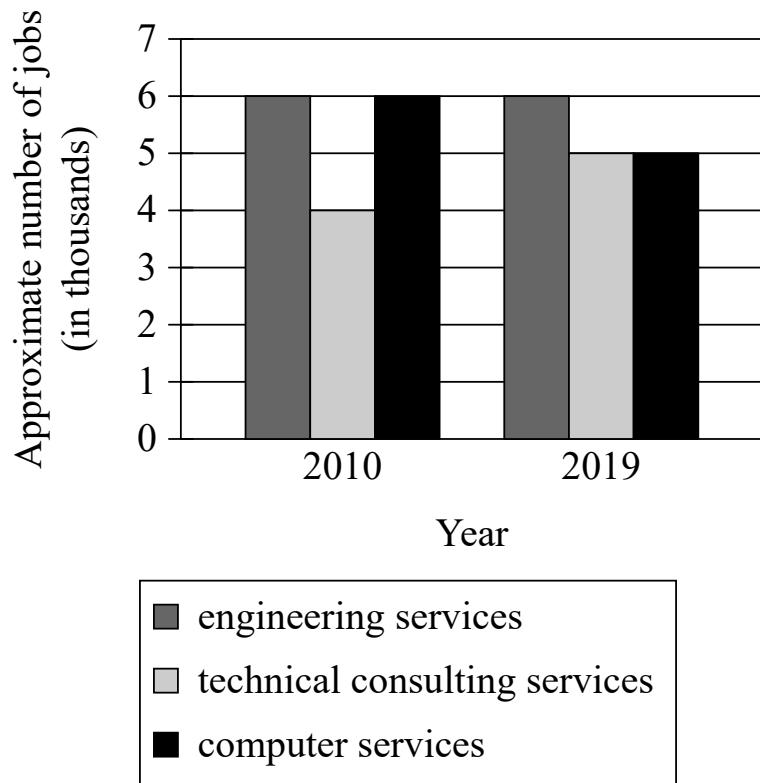
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b074cc05

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: b074cc05

Employment in Technology in Hawaii in 2010 and 2019



A student in Hawaii is interested in pursuing a career in technology and decides to do some research on local trends. The student notices that the number of jobs in computer services in 2010 was \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement?

higher than the number of jobs in technical consulting services, and in 2019 was about the same as the number of jobs  
A. in engineering services.

about the same as the number of jobs in engineering services, and in 2019 was about the same as the number of jobs in  
B. technical consulting services.

lower than the number of jobs in engineering services, but in 2019 was higher than the number of jobs in engineering  
C. services.

about the same as the number of jobs in technical consulting services, but in 2019 was lower than the number of jobs in  
D. technical consulting services.

ID: b074cc05 Answer

**Correct Answer: B****Rationale**

Choice B is the best answer because it uses data from the graph to effectively complete the statement regarding what the student notices about the number of jobs in computer services in 2010. The graph shows that in 2010, the number of computer services jobs was approximately 6,000, which is the same approximate number of jobs in engineering services. Additionally, the graph shows that in 2019, the number of jobs in technical consulting services and the number of jobs in computer services were about the same, at approximately 5,000.

Choice A is incorrect. While the graph shows that in 2010 the number of computer services jobs (about 6,000) was higher than the number of technical consulting services jobs (about 4,000), in 2019 the number of computer services jobs (about 5,000) was not about the same as the number of engineering services jobs (about 6,000). Choice C is incorrect because according to the graph, the number of jobs in computer services was lower than the number of jobs in engineering services in 2019, not 2010. Additionally, the graph shows that in 2019, the number of computer services jobs (about 5,000) was not higher than the number of jobs in engineering services (about 6,000). Choice D is incorrect because the graph shows that the number of computer services jobs was about the same as the number of technical consulting services jobs in 2019, not 2010. This also means the number of computer services jobs could not have been lower than the technical consulting services jobs in 2019 if they were about the same.

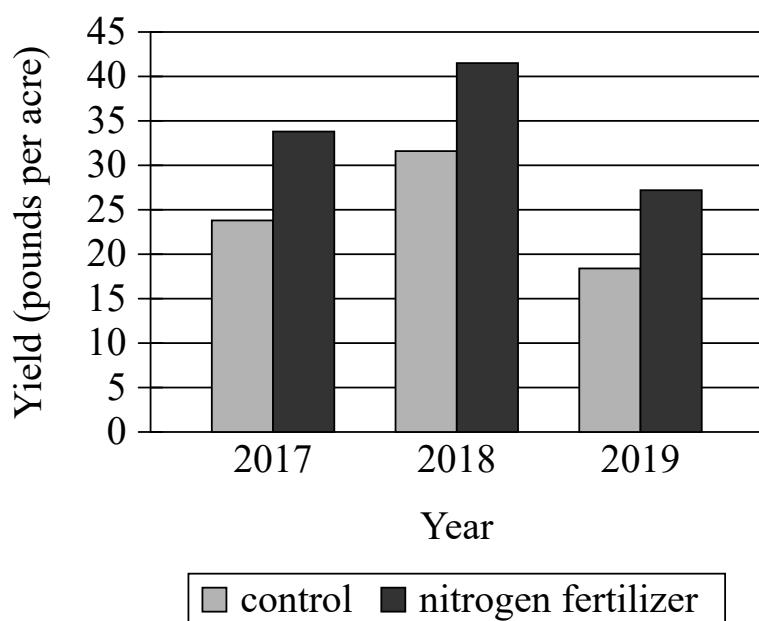
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1db1a9a6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 1db1a9a6

Cantaloupe Yield



To test the effects of a nitrogen fertilizer on cantaloupe production, researchers grew cantaloupe plants and harvested their fruit over three years. In each year, half the plants were grown using a nitrogen fertilizer, and the other half were grown using a control fertilizer that contained no nitrogen. The researchers concluded that the nitrogen fertilizer increases cantaloupe yield.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support the researchers' conclusion?

- A. In every year of the experiment, plants treated with the nitrogen fertilizer had a yield of at least 30 pounds per acre.
- B. In every year of the experiment, plants treated with the nitrogen fertilizer had a greater yield than did plants treated with the control fertilizer.

The 2018 yield for plants treated with the control fertilizer was greater than was the 2019 yield for plants treated with the nitrogen fertilizer.

- D. The yield for plants treated with the nitrogen fertilizer increased from 2017 to 2018.

ID: 1db1a9a6 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that support the researchers' conclusion that using nitrogen fertilizer increases cantaloupe production. The bar graph shows the cantaloupe yield for plants grown with nitrogen fertilizer and for those grown with a control fertilizer (without nitrogen) for three consecutive years (2017–2019). For each year in the graph, the yield for the nitrogen group is greater than the yield for the control group. In pounds per acre, the value in 2017 for the nitrogen-group yield is greater than 30 while the control-group yield is less than 25; in 2018 the nitrogen-group yield is greater than 40 while the control-group yield is less than 35; and in 2019 the nitrogen-group yield is greater than 25 while the control-group yield is less than 20. Thus, these data from the graph strongly support the conclusion that using nitrogen fertilizer increases cantaloupe yield.

Choice A is incorrect because the bar graph shows that in 2019 the nitrogen group had a yield below 30 pounds per acre. Choice C is incorrect. Although this choice accurately describes data in the bar graph—in 2018, the control-group yield is greater than 30 pounds per acre, and in 2019 the nitrogen-group yield is less than 30 pounds per acre—a claim that the control-group yield exceeds that of the nitrogen group strongly conflicts with the researchers' conclusion that nitrogen fertilizer produces larger yields. Choice D is incorrect. Although it is true that the bar graph shows a higher yield for the nitrogen group in 2018 than in 2017, without the control to compare against, it is impossible to know whether the increase is due to the fertilizer and not, for example, more favorable weather in 2018 than in 2017.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 16a4a83b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 16a4a83b

An *Ideal Husband* is an 1895 play by Oscar Wilde. In the play, which is a satire, Wilde suggests that a character named Lady Gertrude Chiltern is perceived as both extremely virtuous and unforgiving, as is evident when another character says \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from *An Ideal Husband* most effectively illustrates the claim?

“Lady Chiltern is a woman of the very highest principles, I am glad to say. I am a little too old now, myself, to trouble A. about setting a good example, but I always admire people who do.”

“Do you know, [Lady Chiltern], I don’t mind your talking morality a bit. Morality is simply the attitude we adopt towards B. people whom we personally dislike.”

“[Lady Chiltern] does not know what weakness or temptation is. I am of clay like other men. She stands apart as good C. women do—pitiless in her perfection—cold and stern and without mercy.”

D. “Lady Chiltern, you are a sensible woman, the most sensible woman in London, the most sensible woman I know.”

## ID: 16a4a83b Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses a quotation to illustrate the claim that Lady Gertrude Chiltern is perceived as “both extremely virtuous and unforgiving.” In the quotation, a man describes Lady Chiltern as someone who “does not know what weakness or temptation is.” In other words, the man regards her as someone who is strong and adheres to a strict definition of moral perfection. However, he ironically suggests that this definition excludes mercy and forgiveness—qualities that are also thought of as virtues; according to him, Lady Chiltern is “pitiless in her perfection—cold and stern and without mercy.” This description supports the idea that Lady Chiltern is perceived by others as virtuous as well as unforgiving.

Choice A is incorrect. The quotation supports the claim that Lady Chiltern is perceived as virtuous, in that it describes her as “a woman of the very highest principles.” However, it doesn’t characterize her as unforgiving or being perceived as such. Choice B is incorrect. The quotation suggests that Lady Chiltern is concerned with morality, but it suggests that her interest in discussing it is fundamentally hypocritical and functions as a means by which to judge others. However, the quotation doesn’t address the question of whether Lady Chiltern is unmerciful to those who seek forgiveness for harm they have caused. Choice D is incorrect because it doesn’t address either Lady Chiltern’s perceived virtuousness or her perceived lack of forgiveness; instead, it expresses the belief that she is sensible.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a0b58ef0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: a0b58ef0

The Younger Dryas was a period of extreme cooling from 11,700 to 12,900 years ago in the Northern Hemisphere. Some scientists argue that a comet fragment hitting Earth brought about the cooling. Others disagree, partly because there is no known crater from such an impact that dates to the beginning of the period. In 2015, a team led by Kurt Kjær detected a 19-mile-wide crater beneath a glacier in Greenland. The scientists who believe an impact caused the Younger Dryas claim that this discovery supports their view. However, Kjær's team hasn't yet been able to determine the age of the crater. Therefore, the team suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. it can't be concluded that the impact that made the crater was connected to the beginning of the Younger Dryas.
- B. it can't be determined whether a comet fragment could make a crater as large as 19 miles wide.
- C. scientists have ignored the possibility that something other than a comet fragment could have made the crater.

the scientists who believe an impact caused the Younger Dryas have made incorrect assumptions about when the period D. began.

## ID: a0b58ef0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of a crater's connection to the start of the Younger Dryas. According to the text, some scientists believe that a comet fragment hitting Earth caused the cooling of the Younger Dryas period to come about. The text then indicates that a team of scientists found a crater in Greenland, which some believe supports the theory of a comet fragment hitting Earth to initiate the Younger Dryas. However, the text also notes that the team was unable to determine the age of the crater. If the age of the crater can't be determined, then its connection to the Younger Dryas period of time can't be confirmed either. Thus, it can't be concluded that the impact that made the crater was connected to the beginning of the Younger Dryas.

Choice B is incorrect because though the text suggests that the age of the comet crater found by a team of scientists is uncertain, it doesn't address whether a comet fragment can make a crater as large as 19 miles wide. The text doesn't consider the size of comet fragments and how they relate to the size of craters they might make. Choice C is incorrect because the debate in the text centers on the age of the crater found, not the cause of the crater. The text doesn't indicate uncertainty about what caused the discovered crater. Choice D is incorrect because the text suggests that the age of the crater found by the team of scientists is uncertain, not that the dates of the Younger Dryas are uncertain or incorrect. The text states that "the Younger Dryas was a period of extreme cooling from 11,700 to 12,900 years ago" but doesn't indicate any debate about the timing of the period.

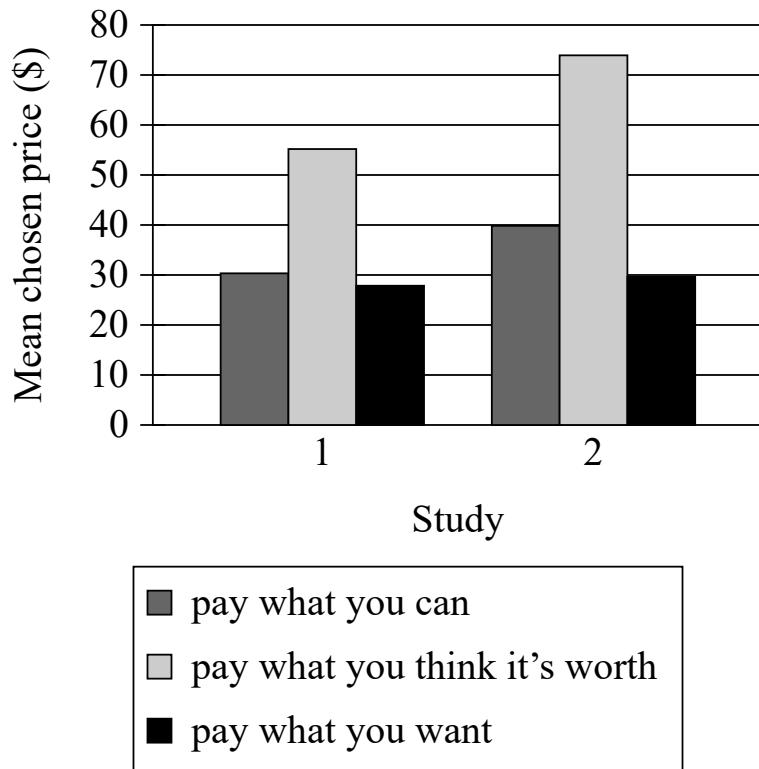
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 3430be35

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 3430be35

Mean Ticket Prices Chosen in Two Studies  
of Participative Pricing Messaging



Participative pricing, in which purchasers choose the prices they pay for products, can enable sellers to capitalize on the heterogeneous values consumers assign to the same goods and services, but doing so requires careful messaging. Annie Peng Cui and Jennifer Wiggins recruited 171 participants (ages 18–60) online for an initial study and 83 students (ages 18–31) at a state university for a second study to test the effect of three different messages—“pay what you can,” “pay what you think it’s worth,” and “pay what you want”—on how much participants would pay for concert tickets. Their results illustrate both the heterogeneity of consumer valuations and how sellers can benefit by prompting consumers to consider their own valuations: \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the text?

- the students tended to value the concert tickets more highly than did the more age-diverse group recruited online, but  
A. when considering what they could afford to pay, the students tended to choose a lower price than did the other group.

- in all three messaging conditions, the group of participants recruited online tended to choose lower prices than did the students, but both groups tended to choose prices closest to the actual cost of the tickets when prompted to consider  
B. the tickets’ value.

the students tended to value the concert tickets more highly than did the more age-diverse group recruited online, but both groups tended to choose a higher price when considering the value of the tickets than when considering what they C. could afford or wanted to pay.

within each group of participants, there was wide variation in the value that individuals assigned to the concert tickets, D. but the students tended to assign a higher value to the tickets than did the more age-diverse group recruited online.

### ID: 3430be35 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

#### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the text about the effect of messaging on participative pricing. The graph shows mean ticket prices chosen by participants in response to three messages across two studies: Study 1, which the text indicates was conducted with an age-diverse group recruited online, and Study 2, which was conducted with student participants. The graph indicates that in the "pay what you think it's worth" condition, the mean price of the concert tickets in Study 2 was about \$74, which is greater than the mean price of about \$55 in Study 1. In other words, when participants were asked to consider their valuation of the tickets, the response was heterogeneous, or mixed. Moreover, according to the graph, both Study 1 and Study 2 show higher prices for the tickets under the "pay what you think it's worth" condition than they do under both the "pay what you can" and the "pay what you want" conditions. That is, the data suggest that both groups of participants named higher prices when considering the value of the tickets than when considering either what they could afford or wanted to pay, a finding that supports the idea that sellers can benefit when prompting consumers to consider their own valuations when they choose prices.

Choice A is incorrect because it contradicts information in the graph. Although the graph shows that students in Study 2 assigned a higher value to the tickets than did the age-diverse group in Study 1, which would support the idea that consumer valuations were heterogeneous, the graph shows that in the "pay what you can" (i.e., what you can afford) condition, the students in Study 2 assigned a higher price (about \$40), not a lower price, than the age-diverse group in Study 1 did (about \$30). Moreover, even if it were true that the students had assigned a lower price in this condition, it wouldn't support the result described in the text, only that the participants across the two studies had different ideas of what they can afford to pay. Choice B is incorrect. Although a finding that participants tended to choose prices that were closest to the actual ticket costs in the "pay what you think it's worth" condition would support the idea that sellers benefit by prompting consumers to think about their own valuations (since it's implied that sellers would lose money in the other conditions, where chosen prices were lower than the participants' valuations), neither the text nor the graph addresses how any of the prices chosen by the study participants relate to the tickets' actual market price. Choice D is incorrect. Although the wide variation in participant valuations would support the idea that consumer valuations tend to be heterogeneous, neither the text nor the graph provides any information from which to discern the relative levels of variance among the responses from participants in either study.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 7f293254

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 7f293254

Art collectives, like the United States- and Vietnam-based collective The Propeller Group or Cuba's Los Carpinteros, are groups of artists who agree to work together: perhaps for stylistic reasons, or to advance certain shared political ideals, or to help mitigate the costs of supplies and studio space. Regardless of the reasons, art collectives usually involve some collaboration among the artists. Based on a recent series of interviews with various art collectives, an arts journalist claims that this can be difficult for artists who are often used to having sole control over their work.

Which quotation from the interviews best illustrates the journalist's claim?

"The first collective I joined included many amazingly talented artists, and we enjoyed each other's company, but because A. we had a hard time sharing credit and responsibility for our work, the collective didn't last."

"We work together, but that doesn't mean that individual projects are equally the work of all of us. Many of our projects B. are primarily the responsibility of whoever originally proposed the work to the group."

"Having worked as a member of a collective for several years, it's sometimes hard to recall what it was like to work alone C. without the collective's support. But that support encourages my individual expression rather than limits it."

"Sometimes an artist from outside the collective will choose to collaborate with us on a project, but all of those projects D. fit within the larger themes of the work the collective does on its own."

## ID: 7f293254 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the quotation that best illustrates the journalist's claim. By indicating that a collective didn't continue because it was hard to share credit and responsibilities within the group even though the company was enjoyable, the quotation shows that working collaboratively can be difficult for artists who are used to having complete control over their work.

Choice B is incorrect because the quotation indicates that members of a collective are able to collaborate together and have agreed on a fair way to manage their responsibilities; this doesn't demonstrate the challenge of sharing control among members of a collective. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation highlights the support and encouragement of individual expression an artist experiences due to working in a collective; these positive aspects don't demonstrate the challenge of sharing control among members of a collective. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation doesn't address any challenges of sharing control among members of a collective; it simply indicates that artists sometimes choose to work with collectives without having to be a member. Therefore, the quotation doesn't illustrate the journalist's claim.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3ae2638c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 3ae2638c

In documents called judicial opinions, judges explain the reasoning behind their legal rulings, and in those explanations they sometimes cite and discuss historical and contemporary philosophers. Legal scholar and philosopher Anita L. Allen argues that while judges are naturally inclined to mention philosophers whose views align with their own positions, the strongest judicial opinions consider and rebut potential objections; discussing philosophers whose views conflict with judges' views could therefore \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. allow judges to craft judicial opinions without needing to consult philosophical works.
- B. help judges improve the arguments they put forward in their judicial opinions.
- C. make judicial opinions more comprehensible to readers without legal or philosophical training.
- D. bring judicial opinions in line with views that are broadly held among philosophers.

## ID: 3ae2638c Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Anita Allen's argument about judges citing philosophers in their judicial opinions. The text indicates that judges sometimes cite philosophers when writing their judicial opinions and that, according to Allen, judges tend to cite philosophers whose views are in agreement with those of the judges themselves. Allen claims, however, that the best judicial opinions consider potential objections and rebut them, which suggests that judges may be able to strengthen their opinions by including discussions of philosophers with views contrary to their own.

Choice A is incorrect because Allen's claim is that judges could improve their judicial opinions by citing philosophers who disagree with the views expressed in the opinions, which would necessarily require judges to consult philosophical works. Choice C is incorrect because there's no discussion in the text about making judicial opinions more easily understood by any particular group of readers. The focus of the text is on Allen's claim that judicial opinions could be strengthened by the inclusion of discussions of philosophers whose views disagree with those of the judges authoring the opinions. Choice D is incorrect because the text presents Allen's argument that discussing philosophers whose views judges disagree with could strengthen judicial opinions, not that doing so could bring those opinions into line with views that are popular among philosophers.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4d38c2ea

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 4d38c2ea

Gorgets, or necklaces with large pendants, have been part of the ceremonial attire of tribes from the US Southeast for centuries. One of the oldest examples, the Fairfield Gorget, was found in Fairfield, Missouri, in 1958. Its overall design resembles that of other art from the region during the Mississippian period (900–1600 CE). Yet the image on the gorget is of a jaguar—a species whose range doesn't extend to Missouri. Jaguar images are common in ancient Mexican art, and Mexico lies squarely in the species' range. Therefore, some scholars argue that long-distance trade in Mexican art objects brought the imagery to Missouri, where a local artist could have adopted it and incorporated it into the Fairfield Gorget.

Which finding, if true, would most strongly support the underlined explanation?

The Fairfield Gorget is dated not to the Mississippian period but instead to the earlier Woodland period, which ended  
A. around 900 CE.

The range of the jaguar is shown to have expanded dramatically after the Mississippian period came to a close around  
B. 1600 CE.

An ancient Mexican art object is found at a site that dates to the Mississippian period and is close to where the Fairfield  
C. Gorget was found.

Certain works by present-day artists from Southeastern tribes reflect outside cultural influences, including contemporary  
D. Mexican art.

## ID: 4d38c2ea Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most strongly support the underlined explanation that the jaguar imagery on the Fairfield Gorget could have been inspired by art objects brought to Missouri from Mexico. The text describes the Fairfield Gorget as one of the oldest examples of these necklaces, noting that it's similar to other art from the Mississippian period except for its image of a jaguar. The text goes on to explain that this is unusual because the jaguar's range didn't include Missouri. The Fairfield Gorget's artist likely wouldn't have encountered a live jaguar, but since such jaguar images were common in ancient Mexican art (and the jaguar's range did include Mexico), perhaps some of that art inspired the gorget's artist. Therefore, evidence that an ancient Mexican art object had been found at a site that was close to the Fairfield Gorget in both location and time period would strongly support the explanation that long-distance trade from Mexico took place during the Mississippian period and that jaguar imagery could have reached Missouri by those means.

Choice A is incorrect. The underlined explanation indicates that Mexican artistic influence preceded the creation of the Fairfield Gorget. An artifact from Mexico that appeared in Missouri only after the gorget was created cannot support such a claim. Choice B is incorrect. The underlined explanation pertains to whether the jaguar image on the Fairfield Gorget was suggested to the Mississippian artist who made it by encounters with depictions of jaguars in Mexican art. The appearance of jaguars in Missouri after the Mississippian period cannot provide evidence for such a claim. Choice D is incorrect. The underlined explanation pertains to influence that Mexican art might have had on Mississippian art, restricted to the period from 900 CE to 1600 CE. The actions of contemporary artists cannot provide evidence for centuries-old networks of artistic influence and exchange.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5cf5c0d3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 5cf5c0d3

Credited Film Output of James Young Deer, Dark Cloud, Edwin Carewe, and Lillian St. Cyr

Individual	Years active	Number of films known and commonly credited
James Young Deer	1909–1924	33 (actor), 35 (director), 10 (writer)
Dark Cloud	1910–1920	35 (actor), 1 (writer)
Edwin Carewe	1912–1934	47 (actor), 58 (director), 20 (producer), 4 (writer)
Lillian St. Cyr (Red Wing)	1908–1921	66 (actor)

Some researchers studying Indigenous actors and filmmakers in the United States have turned their attention to the early days of cinema, particularly the 1910s and 1920s, when people like James Young Deer, Dark Cloud, Edwin Carewe, and Lillian St. Cyr (known professionally as Red Wing) were involved in one way or another with numerous films. In fact, so many films and associated records for this era have been lost that counts of those four figures' output should be taken as bare minimums rather than totals; it's entirely possible, for example, that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the example?

- A. Dark Cloud acted in significantly fewer films than did Lillian St. Cyr, who is credited with 66 performances.
- B. Edwin Carewe's 47 credited acting roles includes only films made after 1934.
- C. Lillian St. Cyr acted in far more than 66 films and Edwin Carewe directed more than 58.
- D. James Young Deer actually directed 33 films and acted in only 10.

ID: 5cf5c0d3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it uses data from the table to effectively exemplify the idea that the film outputs of the four individuals included in the table should be considered bare minimums—that is, that we should assume that the individuals actually had higher outputs than those recorded. The table presents the years during which the individuals were active and the number of known films the individuals are credited in. The table indicates that Lillian St. Cyr has 66 film credits as an actor and that Edwin Carewe has 58 film credits as a director; it follows that if some films and records for the era were lost, it's possible that Lillian St. Cyr acted in far more than 66 films and that Edwin Carewe directed more than 58 films.

Choice A is incorrect because it doesn't effectively exemplify the idea that the film outputs of the four individuals included in the table should be considered bare minimums. Rather than addressing the idea that the individuals likely had higher outputs than those presented in the table, this choice simply compares data from the table to make the point that Dark Cloud has fewer credited acting roles than Lillian St. Cyr (35 and 66, respectively). Choice B is incorrect because it misrepresents data from the table, even though it may exemplify the idea that the film outputs of the four individuals included in the table should be considered bare minimums by implying that Edwin Carewe acted in more than 47 films. The table indicates that Edwin Carewe was active from 1912 to 1934, meaning that his 47 credited acting roles were in films made before or during 1934, not after that time. Choice D is incorrect because it doesn't effectively exemplify the idea that the film outputs of the four individuals included in the table should be considered bare minimums. Instead of addressing the idea that the individuals likely had higher outputs than those recorded, this choice suggests that James Young Deer actually acted in and directed fewer films than presented in the table (only 33 known films as a director instead of 35, and only 10 known films as an actor instead of 33).

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f3f444bc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: f3f444bc

Many mosquito repellents contain natural components that work by activating multiple odor receptors on mosquitoes' antennae. As the insects develop resistance, new repellents are needed. Ke Dong and her team found that EBF, a molecular component of a chrysanthemum-flower extract, can repel mosquitoes by activating just one odor receptor—and this receptor, Or31, is present in all mosquito species known to carry diseases. Therefore, the researchers suggest that in developing new repellents, it would be most useful to \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. identify molecular components similar to EBF that target the activation of Or31 receptors.
- B. investigate alternative methods for extracting EBF molecules from chrysanthemums.
- C. verify the precise locations of Or31 and other odor receptors on mosquitoes' antennae.
- D. determine the maximum number of different odor receptors that can be activated by a single molecule.

## ID: f3f444bc Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of mosquito repellents. The text begins by explaining that many repellents work by using natural components to activate multiple odor receptors on mosquitoes' antennae, and that new repellents must be created whenever mosquitoes become resistant to older ones. The text then highlights a research team's discovery that EBF, a molecular component of a chrysanthemum-flower extract, can repel mosquitoes by activating a single odor receptor, Or31, that is shared by all species of mosquitoes known to carry diseases. The text suggests that compared to the repellents mentioned earlier, a repellent that acts on the Or31 receptor would be more effective: by noting that all mosquito species known to carry diseases share the Or31 receptor, the text suggests that the Or31 receptor may be unique in this respect, meaning that a repellent such as EBF that acts on it would be more effective since it works on a single receptor shared by all mosquito species that carry diseases, rather than a combination of receptors that is not shared by all species. Once mosquitoes become resistant to EBF, it would therefore make sense for researchers to look for other molecular components similar to EBF that target the activation of Or31 receptors, since a single such component could also repel all disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that EBF molecules are difficult to extract from chrysanthemums and that investigating alternative extraction methods would therefore be useful for developing efficient and effective mosquito repellents. Rather, the text suggests that researchers developing new mosquito repellents should aim to identify molecular components similar to EBF, since that component targets the Or31 odor receptor shared by all species of mosquitoes known to carry diseases. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that researchers are unaware of the precise location of Or31 and other odor receptors in mosquitoes' antennae or that knowing this information would be useful for developing efficient and effective mosquito repellents. Rather, the text suggests that researchers developing new mosquito repellents should aim to identify molecular components similar to EBF, which targets the Or31 odor receptor. Choice D is incorrect because it doesn't logically follow that the discovery of one odor receptor shared by all disease-bearing mosquitoes should lead to further research into which repellents might activate the greatest number of odor receptors. Rather, the text suggests that researchers developing new mosquito repellents should instead search for additional molecular components that, like EBF, activate the one odor receptor that is known to be shared by all disease-bearing mosquitoes.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a12a83ce

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: a12a83ce

The following text is from William Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*, first performed in 1611. Miranda has lived on an island with her father, Prospero, since she was three years old. Prospero has stated that Miranda likely does not remember anything other than her life on the island.

MIRANDA: 'Tis far off, And rather like a dream than an assurance That my remembrance warrants. Had I not  
Four or five women once that tended me? PROSPERO: Thou hadst, and more, Miranda. But how is it  
That this lives in thy mind? What seest thou else In the dark backward and abysm of time?  
If thou remember'st ought ere thou camest here, How thou camest here thou mayst.

In the text, which point does Prospero most directly make about Miranda and her memories?

Miranda's reminiscences about her early childhood have a melancholy quality that betrays her discontented view of her  
A. current circumstances.

Miranda's doubts about the accuracy of one recollection of a place other than the island are clouding her judgment and  
B. seem to be making her reluctant to explore her recollection of traveling to the island.

Miranda's ability to summon details of an experience she had before arriving on the island suggests that she may also be  
C. able to summon details of her arrival on the island.

Miranda's impression of a scene is vague because she is remembering a scenario she had daydreamed about as a child  
D. rather than a scenario that had occurred in reality.

## ID: a12a83ce Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a point that Prospero makes about Miranda. The text begins with Miranda responding to Prospero's claim that she probably doesn't remember her life before the island. She describes a distant memory, asking if she had "four or five women" caring for her. Prospero confirms this ("thou hadst") and then asks what else she can recall, stating that because she remembers one thing from the time before she lived on the island ("ought ere thou camest here"), she might also remember arriving on the island ("how thou camest here"). That is, Prospero indicates that Miranda's ability to summon details of an experience from before her arrival on the island suggests that she may also be able to summon details of her arrival.

Choice A is incorrect because Prospero doesn't say anything about how Miranda presents her early childhood memory of having several people care for her—he indicates only his surprise that she remembers something from so long ago ("the dark backward and abysm of time") and his thought that she may also be able to recall another childhood event: her arrival on the island. Further, Prospero doesn't suggest that he believes Miranda is discontent in her current circumstances. Choice B is incorrect. Although Miranda suggests some doubt about her recollection of a place other than the island, in that she describes it as "like a dream" she can't be certain of, Prospero doesn't mention her uncertainty—though he himself wonders how it is possible that she correctly recalls something from so long ago ("abysm of time"). Rather than indicating that doubt is making Miranda reluctant, Prospero simply states that Miranda may have the ability to remember traveling to the island. Choice D is incorrect. Although Miranda describes a vague impression of several people who cared for her as a young child and states that it is "rather like a dream" instead of something she is certain is real, Prospero doesn't indicate that Miranda is remembering a childhood daydream. Instead, he confirms that what Miranda remembers actually happened, answering her question about having had caregivers with "thou hadst," and asks her what else she can remember from long ago.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5cd55c77

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 5cd55c77

During their larval phase, numerous species of coral reef fish are drawn toward areas where light is present. To better understand how artificial light at night (ALAN) might affect some coral reef fish, researchers explored the effect of exposure to low levels of ALAN on the reproductive success of the common clownfish (*Amphiprion ocellaris*). While exposure to low levels of ALAN had no significant effect on spawning frequency and egg fertilization in *A. ocellaris*, incubation in the presence of ALAN completely inhibited hatching. These findings suggest that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. *ocellaris* that settle in areas with low levels of ALAN have significantly higher rates of successful egg fertilization than A. *ocellaris* that settle in areas without ALAN do.
- B. the reproductive success of *A. ocellaris* would be at risk if they were to selectively settle in regions that are regularly exposed to low levels of ALAN.
- C. the reproductive success of *A. ocellaris* is more greatly affected by the presence of low levels of ALAN during incubation than the reproductive success of other species of coral reef fish is.
- D. the spawning frequency of *A. ocellaris* was more strongly affected by the presence of low levels of ALAN than egg fertilization was, though both were less affected than incubation.

## ID: 5cd55c77 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of artificial light at night (ALAN) and the common clownfish (*A. ocellaris*). The text indicates that researchers found that when *A. ocellaris* is exposed to low levels of ALAN, spawning frequency and egg fertilization aren't significantly affected but hatching is completely inhibited—that is, the eggs never hatch. Therefore, if *A. ocellaris* were to settle only in regions where the fish would be regularly exposed to low levels of ALAN, their eggs would stop hatching and their reproductive success would be at risk.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that exposure to low levels of ALAN had no significant effect on egg fertilization for *A. ocellaris*, so there's no reason to expect there would be any significant difference in rates of successful egg fertilization between areas with low levels of ALAN and areas without ALAN. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss the particular effects of low levels of ALAN on any species of coral reef fish besides *A. ocellaris*. For this reason, there's no support in the text for the idea that the reproductive success of *A. ocellaris* is more greatly affected by the presence of low levels of ALAN than the reproductive success of other species of coral reef fish is. Choice D is incorrect. The text does indicate that *A. ocellaris* incubation was most strongly affected by low levels of ALAN, but it doesn't indicate that there was a greater effect on spawning frequency than on egg fertilization; in fact, the text states that there was no significant effect on either.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 9aa5efc4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 9aa5efc4

Born in 1891 to a Quechua-speaking family in the Andes Mountains of Peru, Martín Chambi is today considered to be one of the most renowned figures of Latin American photography. In a paper for an art history class, a student claims that Chambi's photographs have considerable ethnographic value—in his work, Chambi was able to capture diverse elements of Peruvian society, representing his subjects with both dignity and authenticity.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the student's claim?

Chambi took many commissioned portraits of wealthy Peruvians, but he also produced hundreds of images carefully documenting the peoples, sites, and customs of Indigenous communities of the Andes.

Chambi's photographs demonstrate a high level of technical skill, as seen in his strategic use of illumination to create dramatic light and shadow contrasts.

During his lifetime, Chambi was known and celebrated both within and outside his native Peru, as his work was published in places like Argentina, Spain, and Mexico.

Some of the peoples and places Chambi photographed had long been popular subjects for Peruvian photographers.

## ID: 9aa5efc4 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support the claim about Chambi's photographs. The text describes a student advancing the claim that Chambi's photographs "have considerable ethnographic value"—meaning that they are valuable as records of cultures—and that they "capture diverse elements of Peruvian society" in a respectful way. If it's true that Chambi carefully photographed people from a range of different communities in Peru as well as photographed the customs and sites of different communities, that would lend support to the claim that the photographs have ethnographic value as depictions of diverse elements of society in Peru.

Choice B is incorrect because the student's claim is that Chambi's photographs have considerable ethnographic value because they depict diverse elements of Peruvian society; the student doesn't claim anything about the technical skill demonstrated in the photographs. Choice C is incorrect because neither Chambi's reputation nor the locations where his photographs may have been published would be relevant to the student's claim that his photographs are valuable as an ethnographic record of Peru's diverse society. Choice D is incorrect because the popularity among other photographers of the people and places that Chambi photographed would be irrelevant to the student's claim that Chambi's photographs are valuable as an ethnographic record of Peru's diverse society.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID b2e54b50

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: b2e54b50

Correlations Between Congestion Ratings and Features of the Crowd in Raters' Immediate Vicinity

Crowd feature	Before obstacle	After obstacle	Overall
Density	0.8592	0.7308	0.7447
Velocity	-0.9357	-0.9518	-0.8587

Researcher Xiaolu Jia and colleagues monitored individuals' velocity and the surrounding crowd density as a group of study participants walked through a space and navigated around an obstacle. Participants rated how congested it seemed before the obstacle, after the obstacle, and overall, and the researchers correlated those ratings with velocity and density. (Correlations range from -1 to 1, with greater distance from 0 indicating greater strength). The researchers concluded that the correlations with velocity are stronger than those with density.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the researchers' conclusion?

The correlation between congestion ratings before the obstacle and density is further from 0 than the correlation A. between overall congestion rating and velocity is.

The correlation between congestion ratings before the obstacle and velocity is further from 0 than the correlation B. between congestion overall and velocity is.

C. For each of the three ratings, the correlation with velocity is negative while the correlation with density is positive.

D. For each of the three ratings, correlations with velocity are further from 0 than the corresponding correlations with density are.

ID: b2e54b50 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text tells us that the farther the correlation is from 0, the “stronger” it is (doesn’t matter if it’s negative or positive). The table shows that the correlations with velocity are farther from zero than the correlations with density, which supports the conclusion that the correlations with velocity are stronger.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn’t support the conclusion. It makes an “apples to oranges” comparison by comparing density and velocity correlations across features instead of comparing them for each feature. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t support the conclusion. It doesn’t include the density correlations for comparison. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn’t support the conclusion. The text tells us that the farther the correlation is from 0, the “stronger” it is: it doesn’t matter for “strength” whether it’s negative or positive.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f495b554

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: f495b554

Silicon-based photovoltaic cells account for 95% of the cells used in solar panels worldwide despite converting an average of only 18–22% of the sunlight that reaches them. In a study addressing this relative inefficiency, a team led by Laura Miranda-Pérez demonstrated that the addition of a thin layer of the mineral perovskite—which captures the blue range of light in the solar spectrum, whereas silicon captures the red range—allows the cells to convert 29.5% or more of the Sun's energy into usable electricity. Cells made with only perovskite, however, are no more efficient than silicon-based ones. It's reasonable to conclude, then, that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- photovoltaic cells with both silicon and perovskite are more efficient because they make use of more of the solar A. spectrum.
- B. photovoltaic cells with only perovskite and no silicon would likely convert more than 29.5% of the Sun's energy.
- C. solar power will remain elusive until photovoltaic cells are replaced with a more practical technology.
- D. researchers need to evaluate whether other minerals like perovskite are as effective as perovskite seems to be.

## ID: f495b554 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically completes the text's discussion of the efficiency of various photovoltaic cells. The text indicates that Miranda-Pérez and her team found that adding a layer of perovskite to silicon-based cells increased the percentage of sunlight converted to usable electricity relative to the percentage converted to electricity by silicon-based cells. Using cells with only perovskite and no silicon, however, resulted in no improvement in efficiency over silicon-based cells. The text also states that perovskite captures light in the blue range of the solar spectrum and silicon captures light in the red range of the spectrum. If perovskite and silicon capture different parts of the solar spectrum and the combination of perovskite and silicon results in greater efficiency than the use of either perovskite or silicon alone does, then it is reasonable to infer that the improved efficiency of perovskite-silicon cells could be attributable to their making use of more of the solar spectrum than perovskite-based or silicon-based cells do.

Choice B is incorrect because it is directly contradicted by the text, which says that silicon-based cells convert 18%–22% of the sunlight that reaches them to electricity and that cells with only perovskite are no more efficient than silicon-based cells are. Perovskite-only cells thus must convert 22% or less—not more than 29.5%—of the sunlight that reaches them to electricity. Choice C is incorrect because the text focuses on a possible improvement to photovoltaic cells and makes no mention of any alternatives to those cells, so there is no reason to conclude that photovoltaic cells must be replaced with some other technology. Additionally, the text presents solar power as something that currently exists, so it wouldn't make sense to conclude that solar power will remain elusive. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that there is a need to evaluate the effectiveness of other minerals than perovskite. In fact, the text gives no indication that it is even possible to use other minerals than silicon and perovskite in photovoltaic cells. Instead, the text is focused on the effect of combining perovskite and silicon and the different parts of the solar spectrum that perovskite and silicon capture.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 16ce90d9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 16ce90d9

In 2018, scientists discovered an immense aggregation of *Muusoctopus robustus* (pearl octopuses) along a hydrothermal vent 3,200 meters beneath the ocean's surface. Water temperatures at this site—named the Octopus Garden—climb as high as 11°C, much warmer than the ambient 1.6°C typical at this depth. Based on observations made over three years, scientists concluded that temperatures at the site likely confer reproductive benefits and that the site is used exclusively for reproduction—6,000 *M. robustus* adults, hatchlings, and eggs were observed at the garden, but no juveniles were present.

Which statement about *M. robustus* and the Octopus Garden is best supported by the text?

- A. *M. robustus* leave the Octopus Garden upon reaching an intermediary stage of development.
- B. The *M. robustus* population at the Octopus Garden remains stable despite variations in water temperature.
- C. *M. robustus* nests in the Octopus Garden contain on average fewer but larger eggs than nests at similar ocean depths.
- D. The Octopus Garden provides an ideal feeding ground for *M. robustus* hatchlings.

## ID: 16ce90d9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the *M. robustus* population at the Octopus Garden. The text states that the scientists concluded that the site is likely used only for reproduction because over three years they saw many adults, freshly hatched octopuses, and eggs but didn't see any juveniles. This suggests that the *M. robustus* octopuses that hatch at the Octopus Garden leave the site when they reach an intermediary state of development, returning only as adults for reproductive purposes.

Choice B is incorrect because the text never discusses the stability of the *M. robustus* population at the site, only that the scientists observed 6,000 adults, hatchlings, and eggs there. Further, the text presents the site's temperatures as likely beneficial. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't provide any details about the eggs at the site and makes no mention of nests; it indicates only that eggs are present along with hatchlings and adults. Choice D is incorrect because the text makes no mention of the hatchlings feeding at the Octopus Garden, indicating only that the temperatures at the site are probably beneficial and that the site is likely used for reproduction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 25fc2534

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 25fc2534

Marine archaeologists have found much of the wooden hull of a sixteenth-century ship in a flooded quarry in southeast England. When it is exposed to air and water, wood rots quickly unless it is protected by sediment that shields it from oxygen. Therefore, the discovered ship was likely \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. covered by a protective sediment layer in the quarry.
- B. one of several other ships buried in the same quarry.
- C. a confirmation of previous theories about the type of wood that was used in sixteenth-century ships.
- D. first constructed much earlier than previously thought.

## ID: 25fc2534 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the discovered ship. The text states that much of the ship's wooden hull was found in a quarry. The text also states that wood rots quickly unless it is protected by sediment, which shields the wood from exposure to oxygen. It is therefore reasonable to infer that the surviving portion of the ship's hull was covered by an oxygen-shielding layer of sediment.

Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests other ships have been or are likely to be found in the same quarry. The fact that much of this ship's wood survived for centuries in the quarry does raise the possibility that there might be other preserved ships, but the text provides no support for such a conclusion. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not address the type of wood used in sixteenth-century ships or any theories pertaining to wood choice in ships. Choice D is incorrect because the text states only that the ship is from the sixteenth century, with no other dates offered for its construction, and thus there is no basis to consider alternative ages for the ship. Additionally, even if the ship was constructed earlier, it is not logically connected to the text's discussion of how it was preserved.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2d2983b3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 2d2983b3

Pigments give paints and dyes their color. Ocher is a mineral-based pigment used to make several colors, including red. Red ocher gets its color from iron oxide. Pigments can also be plant-based; plant-based pigments contain a high level of carbon. In a 2023 study, archaeologists tested the red pigment on decorated beads made by members of the Natufian culture approximately 15,000 years ago. The test showed that the pigment found on several beads contained no iron but had a high level of carbon. This finding led the researchers to conclude that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- the Natufian beads examined in the study are the oldest surviving examples of the use of plant-based pigments for A. decorating beads.
- the Natufian beadmakers used plant-based pigments rather than ocher to decorate some of the beads examined in the B. study.
- the Natufian beadmakers preferred to use plant-based pigments because they are much brighter than mineral-based C. pigments are.
- D. the pigments used by the Natufian beadmakers likely came from plants because ocher was difficult to find.

## ID: 2d2983b3 Answer

Correct Answer: B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of the chemical content of pigments. The text begins by differentiating between two kinds of pigments: mineral-based pigments such as red ocher, which get their color from iron oxide, and plant-based pigments, which have a high level of carbon. The text then goes on to describe an analysis by archaeologists of the pigment of decorated beads made by members of the Natufian culture around 15,000 years ago. The archaeologists found that the red pigment on some of the beads contained no iron but had a high level of carbon. Since red ocher gets its color from iron oxide, while plant-based pigments have a high level of carbon, the researchers concluded that the Natufian beadmakers used plant-based pigments to decorate some of the beads examined in the study.

Choice A is incorrect because the text does not indicate that the Natufians were the first to use plant-based pigments, so it cannot be concluded that the beads in the study were the oldest surviving examples of the use of plant-based pigments for decorating beads. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not compare the brightness of plant-based and mineral-based pigments. Choice D is incorrect. While it can be concluded that the Natufian beadmakers used plant-based pigments because the pigment found on several beads had a high level of carbon, the text offers no evidence that ocher was difficult to find.

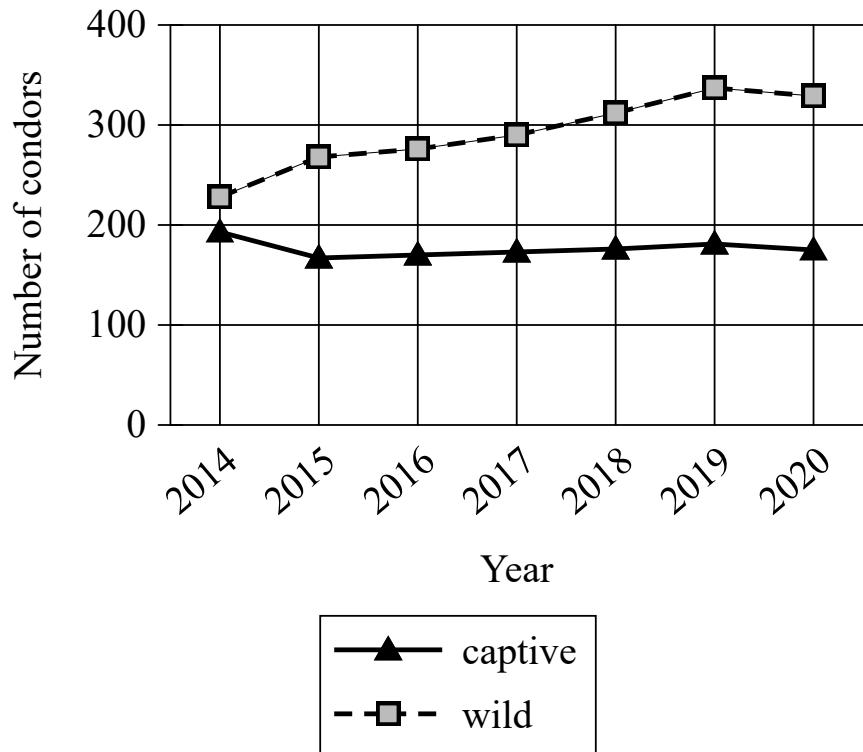
Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 224428ac

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ □

ID: 224428ac

California Condor Populations  
2014–2020



The California Condor Recovery Program is working to protect this large, rare American vulture from extinction. The program captured 27 wild condors in 1987 in order to protect and breed them. Captive birds have been reintroduced into the wild since 1992. Although the California condor is still a rare species, many biologists claim that the program has been reasonably successful.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support the biologists' claim?

- A. The number of captive California condors steadily decreased between 2014 and 2020.
- B. The numbers of California condors living both in captivity and in the wild decreased only slightly from 2019 to 2020.

The difference between the number of captive and wild California condors remained relatively steady between 2014 and C. 2017.

The number of wild California condors increased overall from 2014 to 2020 and exceeded the number of those living in D. captivity.

ID: 224428ac Answer

**Correct Answer: D****Rationale**

Choice D is the best answer because it best describes data from the graph that support the biologists' claim. The text accompanying the graph describes the efforts of the California Condor Recovery Program, which is working to protect the condor from extinction. The program captured some condors in 1987 in order to breed them and has been reintroducing captive birds into the wild since 1992. Many biologists claim the program has been a success, as the text explains, and it is reasonable to infer that an indication of the program's success would be an increase in the wild condor population compared to the captive condor population. The graph shows the wild and captive condor populations in California between 2014 and 2020. In 2014 there were slightly more than 200 wild condors in California, but by 2020 there were more than 300. Meanwhile, over the same period the captive condor population remained under 200. Thus, the biologists' claim about the program's success is supported by data from the graph showing that the number of wild California condors increased overall from 2014 to 2020 and exceeded the number of those living in captivity.

Choice A is incorrect because it does not accurately describe data from the graph. The number of captive California condors did not steadily decrease between 2014 and 2020; rather, it increased slightly during some years and decreased slightly during others, generally remaining at slightly less than 200. Choice B is incorrect. Even though the graph does show a slight decrease in both the captive and wild condor populations from 2019 to 2020, such a decrease during a particular year would not demonstrate the program's success. Choice C is incorrect because it does not accurately describe data from the graph. The difference between the number of captive and wild California condors did not remain relatively steady between 2014 and 2017. While the number of captive condors remained roughly the same during that period, the number of wild condors increased, so the difference between the number of captive and wild condors increased as well.

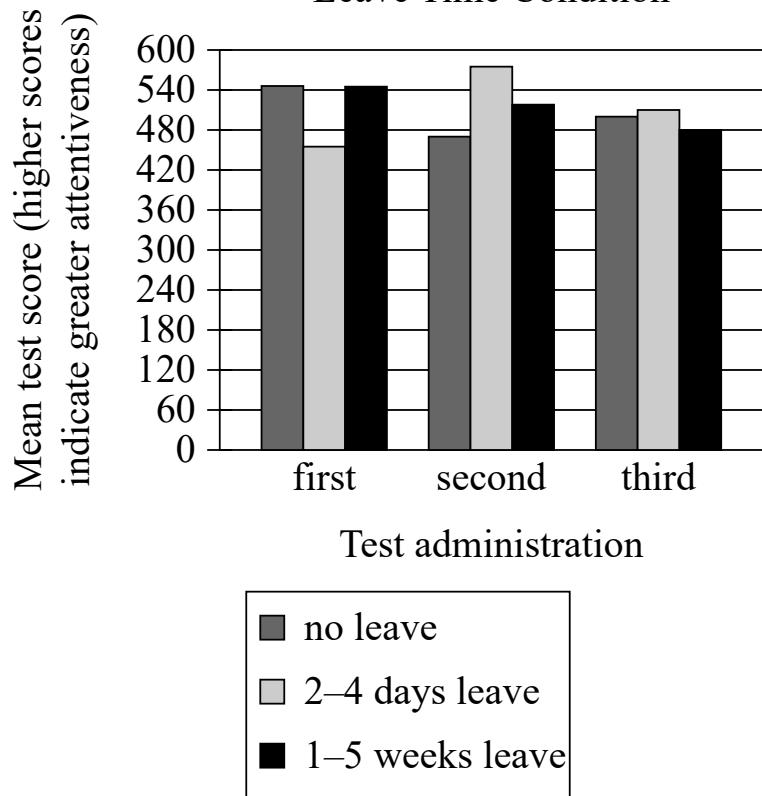
**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7dab4d5d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 7dab4d5d

Mean Attentiveness Scores by Leave Time Condition



To investigate potential cognitive benefits of taking leave from work, psychologist Jan Packer and colleagues conducted a six-month study of Australian university staff members who took no leave from work during the study, took 2–4 days of leave, or took 1–5 weeks of leave. Tests of attentiveness were administered to participants three times during the study: at random for the no-leave staff, and for the rest, one week before their leave, one week following their return to work, and one week after the second test administration. After analyzing the results, the researchers concluded that longer leave times might not confer a greater cognitive benefit than shorter leave times do.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support the researchers' conclusion?

In the second test administration, participants who took 2–4 days of leave had higher average attentiveness scores than did those who took no leave, but in the third test administration, those who took no leave had higher average scores than A. those who took 1–5 weeks of leave.

In the first test administration, participants who took 2–4 days of leave had lower average attentiveness scores than did B. those who took 1–5 weeks of leave and those who took no leave.

In both the second and third test administrations, participants who took 2–4 days of leave had higher average C. attentiveness scores than did participants who took 1–5 weeks of leave.

In the second and third test administrations, participants who took 2–4 days of leave had higher average attentiveness D. scores than did those who took no leave.

### ID: 7dab4d5d Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

#### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that support Jan Packer and colleagues' conclusion about the effect of leave time on the attentiveness of university employees. According to the text, the researchers' study design included a group of employees who took no leave, a group who took 2–4 days of leave, and a group who took 1–5 weeks of leave. The participants who took leave were tested for attentiveness one week before their leave (the first test administration), one week after their return to work (the second test administration), and two weeks after their return (the third test administration). The participants who took no leave were tested three times at random. The graph shows that at one week after their return to work, participants who took only 2–4 days of leave had an average attentiveness score of between 540 and 600, while participants who took 1–5 weeks of leave had an average score of between 480 and 540. At two weeks after their return to work, those who took only 2–4 days of leave had an average score of between 480 and 540, while those who took 1–5 weeks of leave had an average score of approximately 480. In other words, the graph shows that on both post-leave testing dates, participants with longer leave times had lower average attentiveness scores than those with shorter leave times. Since attentiveness is an indicator of cognitive functioning, these data confirm Packer and colleagues' conclusion that longer leave times might not confer a greater cognitive benefit than shorter leave times do.

Choice A is incorrect. The graph does show that in the second test administration, participants who took 2–4 days of leave had higher average attentiveness scores than did those who took no leave and also shows that in the third test administration, those who took no leave had higher average scores than those who took 1–5 weeks of leave. But neither of these findings has a direct bearing on the researchers' conclusion, which concerns a comparison of participants who took 2–4 days of leave with those who took 1–5 weeks, rather than a comparison of either group with participants who took no leave. Choice B is incorrect. Although the graph does show that in the first test administration, participants who took 2–4 days of leave had lower average attentiveness scores than did those who took 1–5 weeks of leave and those who took no leave, this test administration occurred before any participants went on leave; therefore, these results have no bearing on the researchers' conclusion about how the amount of leave taken by participants affected their cognitive functioning. Choice D is incorrect. Although the graph does show that in the second and third test administrations, participants who took 2–4 days of leave had higher average attentiveness scores than did those who took no leave, the researchers' conclusion is about the effects of short leave compared with the effects of long leave, not the effects of short leave compared with the effects of no leave. These results are therefore irrelevant to the conclusion.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 014b3394

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 014b3394

Average Number and Duration of Torpor Bouts and Arousal Episodes for Alaska Marmots and Arctic Ground Squirrels, 2008–2011

Feature	Alaska marmots	Arctic ground squirrels
torpor bouts	12	10.5
duration per bout	13.81 days	16.77 days
arousal episodes	11	9.5
duration per episode	21.2 hours	14.2 hours

When hibernating, Alaska marmots and Arctic ground squirrels enter a state called torpor, which minimizes the energy their bodies need to function. Often a hibernating animal will temporarily come out of torpor (called an arousal episode) and its metabolic rate will rise, burning more of the precious energy the animal needs to survive the winter. Alaska marmots hibernate in groups and therefore burn less energy keeping warm during these episodes than they would if they were alone. A researcher hypothesized that because Arctic ground squirrels hibernate alone, they would likely exhibit longer bouts of torpor and shorter arousal episodes than Alaska marmots.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the researcher's hypothesis?

The Alaska marmots' arousal episodes lasted for days, while the Arctic ground squirrels' arousal episodes lasted less than a day.

The Alaska marmots and the Arctic ground squirrels both maintained torpor for several consecutive days per bout, on average.

C. The Alaska marmots had shorter torpor bouts and longer arousal episodes than the Arctic ground squirrels did.

D. The Alaska marmots had more torpor bouts than arousal episodes, but their arousal episodes were much shorter than their torpor bouts.

ID: 014b3394 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it describes data from the table that support the researcher's hypothesis. According to the text, the researcher hypothesized that Arctic ground squirrels would exhibit longer torpor bouts and shorter arousal episodes than Alaska marmots do—or, put the other way, that the marmots would show shorter torpor bouts and longer arousal episodes than the ground squirrels do. The table shows data about torpor bouts and arousal episodes for the two species from 2008 to 2011. According to the table, the average duration of torpor bouts was 13.81 days for Alaska marmots, shorter than the average of 16.77 days for Arctic ground squirrels, and the average duration of arousal episodes was 21.2 hours for Alaska marmots, longer than the average of 14.2 hours for Arctic ground squirrels. Thus, the table supports the researcher's hypothesis by showing that Alaska marmots had shorter bouts of torpor and longer arousal episodes than Arctic ground squirrels did.

Choice A is incorrect because it inaccurately describes data from the table and doesn't support the researcher's hypothesis. The table shows that the average duration of arousal episodes was less than a day for both Alaska marmots (21.2 hours) and Arctic ground squirrels (14.2 hours). Additionally, information about arousal episodes for Alaska marmots and Arctic ground squirrels isn't sufficient to support a hypothesis involving comparisons of both arousal episodes and torpor bouts for those animals. Choice B is incorrect because it doesn't support the researcher's hypothesis, which involves comparisons of arousal episodes as well as torpor bouts for Alaska marmots and Arctic ground squirrels. Noting that both animals had torpor bouts lasting several days, on average, doesn't address arousal episodes at all, nor does it reveal how the animals' torpor bouts compared. Choice D is incorrect because it doesn't support the researcher's hypothesis. Although the table does show that Alaska marmots had more torpor bouts (12) than arousal episodes (11) and that their arousal episodes were much shorter than their torpor bouts (21.2 hours and 13.81 days, respectively), comparing data across only Alaska marmot behaviors isn't sufficient to support a hypothesis about torpor and arousal behaviors of both Alaska marmots and Arctic ground squirrels.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d76ea360

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

**ID: d76ea360**

Puerto Rico is an island in the Caribbean Sea. Indigenous people there started raising guinea pigs about 1,700 years ago. Guinea pigs had originally been domesticated much earlier in both Colombia and Peru. So were guinea pigs brought to Puerto Rico from Colombia or from Peru? Ancient Caribbean trade routes connected Puerto Rico with Colombia but not with Peru. Ancient Caribbean trade routes connected Puerto Rico with Colombia but not with Peru. Therefore, guinea pigs in Puerto Rico probably came from Colombia and descended from Colombian guinea pigs.

Which finding, if true, would most directly weaken the underlined claim?

- Ancient guinea pigs in Puerto Rico were genetically less similar to ancient guinea pigs in Colombia than to ancient guinea pigs in Peru.
- B. Guinea pigs are common in ancient Puerto Rican art, especially in pottery.
- C. Modern breeds of guinea pigs don't look like images of guinea pigs in ancient art from Puerto Rico, Colombia, and Peru.
- D. The guinea pig population of ancient Colombia was much larger than the guinea pig population of ancient Peru.

**ID: d76ea360 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly weaken the underlined claim that guinea pigs in Puerto Rico probably came from Colombia and descended from Colombian guinea pigs. The text makes this claim based on the fact that ancient trade routes connected Puerto Rico with Colombia but not with Peru. However, if it's true that ancient guinea pigs in Puerto Rico were genetically less similar to ancient guinea pigs in Colombia than to ancient guinea pigs in Peru, this would suggest that the Puerto Rican guinea pigs didn't descend from Colombian guinea pigs. Instead, Puerto Rican guinea pigs' greater genetic similarity to Peruvian guinea pigs implies that ancient guinea pigs in Puerto Rico were likely brought to the island from Peru, despite the lack of direct ancient trade routes between the two regions.

Choice B is incorrect. While a finding about how common guinea pig imagery is in ancient Puerto Rican art would indicate the cultural significance of guinea pigs, it wouldn't be relevant to a claim about the geographical origin or descent of the guinea pig population on the island. The guinea pigs depicted in the artwork could have descended from guinea pigs in either Colombia or Peru; therefore, the finding would neither weaken nor strengthen the claim that guinea pigs in Puerto Rico probably came from Colombia and descended from Colombian guinea pigs. Choice C is incorrect because the finding that modern breeds of guinea pigs don't look like images of guinea pigs in ancient art from Puerto Rico, Colombia, and Peru wouldn't address the ancestral relationships between ancient guinea pig populations in these three regions. Therefore, the finding would neither weaken nor strengthen the claim that guinea pigs in Puerto Rico probably came from Colombia and descended from Colombian guinea pigs. Choice D is incorrect because a finding about the population sizes of guinea pigs in ancient Colombia and ancient Peru wouldn't be relevant to a claim about which population the Puerto Rican guinea pigs likely descended from. The smaller guinea pig population of Peru could still have been the source for the Puerto Rican guinea pig population.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 66fd248a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 66fd248a

"Poetry" is a 1919 poem by Marianne Moore. The poem highlights an ambivalence toward poetry as the speaker acknowledges its merits while also expressing a sense of displeasure, writing \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from "Poetry" most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "nor is it valid / to discriminate against 'business documents and / school-books'; all these phenomena are important."
- B. "One must make a distinction / however: when dragged into prominence by half poets, the result is not / poetry"

"when [poems] become so derivative as to become unintelligible, the / same thing may be said for all of us—that we / do  
C. not admire what / we cannot understand."

"Reading [poetry], however, with a perfect contempt for it, one discovers that there is in / it after all, a place for the  
D. genuine."

## ID: 66fd248a Answer

Correct Answer: D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively uses a quotation from "Poetry" to illustrate the claim that the poem highlights an ambivalence, or a conflicted attitude, toward poetry. In the quotation, the speaker suggests that one might read poetry with "contempt," or disdain, for it, but even with this negative attitude one will find "a place for the genuine." Because the quotation expresses conflicting attitudes toward poetry, it effectively illustrates the speaker's ambivalence in discussing the merits and displeasure of reading poetry.

Choice A is incorrect because it doesn't mention poetry or show ambivalence. Choice B is incorrect. Although the idea of "half poets" may seem to relate to ambivalence, the speaker mentions only negative attitudes toward certain works and the quotation therefore lacks a contrasting positive or neutral attitude that would be needed to indicate ambivalence. Choice C is incorrect because the speaker mentions only negative attitudes toward certain works and the quotation therefore lacks a contrasting positive or neutral attitude that would be needed to indicate ambivalence.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 9c407117

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

**ID: 9c407117**

A student performs an experiment testing her hypothesis that a slightly acidic soil environment is more beneficial for the growth of the plant *Brassica rapa parachinensis* (a vegetable commonly known as choy sum) than a neutral soil environment. She plants sixteen seeds of choy sum in a mixture of equal amounts of coffee grounds (which are highly acidic) and potting soil and another sixteen seeds in potting soil without coffee grounds as the control for the experiment. The two groups of seeds were exposed to the same growing conditions and monitored for three weeks.

Which finding, if true, would most directly weaken the student's hypothesis?

The choy sum planted in the soil without coffee grounds were significantly taller at the end of the experiment than the  
A. choy sum planted in the mixture of soil and coffee grounds.

The choy sum grown in the soil without coffee grounds weighed significantly less at the end of the experiment than the  
B. choy sum grown in the mixture of soil and coffee grounds.

The choy sum seeds planted in the soil without coffee grounds sprouted significantly later in the experiment than did the  
C. seeds planted in the mixture of soil and coffee grounds.

Significantly fewer of the choy sum seeds planted in the soil without coffee grounds sprouted plants than did the seeds  
D. planted in the mixture of soil and coffee grounds.

**ID: 9c407117 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it describes an experimental outcome that would most directly weaken the student's hypothesis. According to the text, the student hypothesizes that *Brassica rapa parachinensis* (choy sum) will benefit more from acidic soil than it will from neutral soil. The text then explains that the student planted 16 choy sum seeds in potting soil with coffee grounds added to increase acidity and another 16 seeds in soil without coffee grounds as a control (a group identical to the experimental group except for the experimental modification being tested). If the hypothesis were correct, the plants in the more acidic soil-and-coffee-grounds mixture would grow faster than those in the control group. However, choice A proposes a scenario in which the plants in soil without coffee grounds were "significantly taller" than those in the more acidic mixture—an outcome that weakens the hypothesis that higher acidity is beneficial to the plants' growth.

Choice B is incorrect. If the choy sum planted in the neutral soil produced less plant matter and therefore weighed less than the choy sum planted in the acidic soil-and-coffee-grounds mixture, this finding would strengthen the student's hypothesis, not weaken it. Choice C is incorrect. If seeds planted in neutral soil (without coffee grounds) sprouted significantly later than seeds planted in the acidic soil-and-coffee-grounds mixture, this finding would strengthen, not weaken, the student's hypothesis that acidic soil benefits choy sum. Choice D is incorrect. If seeds planted in the neutral soil (without coffee grounds) sprouted significantly fewer plants than seeds planted in the acidic soil-and-coffee-grounds mixture did, this finding would strengthen, not weaken, the student's hypothesis that choy sum benefits from acidic soil.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6d69ab93

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 6d69ab93

Initially observed in 2017, the interstellar object 'Oumuamua is the first object of its kind to be seen in our solar system. Researchers have been puzzled because its acceleration cannot be entirely explained by the gravitational pull of nearby bodies: there must be a nongravitational influence on its velocity and trajectory. Some previously suggested explanations for this nongravitational acceleration involve mechanisms that are unlikely or unrealistic, such as geometric effects from 'Oumuamua being potentially composed of several spatially separated bodies. Now, Jennifer Bergner and colleagues propose that the nongravitational acceleration is due to the gaseous expulsion of entrapped hydrogen from 'Oumuamua's water-rich icy body.

Which statement, if true, would most strongly support the claim made by Bergner and colleagues about the cause of 'Oumuamua's acceleration?

Existing proposed models of outgassing from 'Oumuamua include the direct conversion of nitrogen or carbon monoxide from a solid to a gaseous state without becoming liquid, but these models have theoretical or observational  
A. inconsistencies.

'Oumuamua's trajectory is inconsistent with a nongravitational acceleration that would be caused by the release of hydrogen gas resulting from the processing of water ice ( $H_2O$ ), but the interstellar object's observable properties can be  
B. explained if it has a significant component of molecular hydrogen ice ( $H_2$ ).

Since nongravitational accelerations of interstellar objects are several orders of magnitude weaker than gravitational accelerations, deviation from behavior that could be fully attributed to gravitational pull has been detected on a limited  
C. number of objects similar to 'Oumuamua.

Exposure to interstellar cosmic radiation can result in the formation of embedded pockets of hydrogen gas in water ice; moreover, when traveling through the solar system, 'Oumuamua experienced warming sufficient to alter its icy structure  
D. and allow for outgassing.

## ID: 6d69ab93 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents findings that, if true, would support the claim made by Bergner and colleagues that the nongravitational acceleration of 'Oumuamua is due to the expulsion of entrapped hydrogen. The text first introduces the observation of a unique interstellar object named 'Oumuamua and goes on to explain that the object exhibited nongravitational acceleration that could not be fully attributed to the expected cause: gravitational pull of nearby celestial bodies. The text concludes by stating that Bergner and colleagues claim that the nongravitational acceleration is caused by expulsion of hydrogen gas from 'Oumuamua's water-rich icy body. To support this claim requires evidence that hydrogen gas could be present within 'Oumuamua at all, which this answer choice presents: cosmic radiation can result in embedded pockets of hydrogen gas in water ice. Additionally, evidence that this gas can be released from such a body is required to fully support the claim, which this answer choice goes on to provide: 'Oumuamua experienced sufficient warming as it traveled through the solar system to alter its icy structure and release the hydrogen gas. Thus, this answer choice provides the best evidence to support Bergner and colleagues' claim.

Choice A is incorrect because this answer choice concerns faults with previous models of outgassing from 'Oumuamua of carbon monoxide and nitrogen, which would not support a claim regarding hydrogen outgassing. Furthermore, inconsistencies in other models would not provide evidence in support of a different model or explanation. Choice B is incorrect. The evidence presented in this answer choice would weaken the claim proposed by Bergner and colleagues that the nongravitational acceleration of 'Oumuamua is caused by the expulsion of hydrogen gas because this answer choice suggests that there is evidence that refutes this claim: 'Oumuamua's trajectory is inconsistent with a nongravitational acceleration caused by the release of hydrogen gas. Furthermore, the remaining portion of this answer choice is unrelated to the claim. Choice C is incorrect because the claim being made by Bergner and colleagues concerns the expulsion of entrapped hydrogen gas, but this answer choice is concerned solely with the differences in magnitude of gravitational and nongravitational acceleration, which would not support Bergner's claim. Furthermore, this answer choice discusses interstellar objects similar to 'Oumuamua, but the text states that 'Oumuamua is the first observed object of its kind in our solar system, so evidence from other, similar bodies would not be available.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 84136d69

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 84136d69

Five of the Responses to Survey about Actions to Conserve Energy

Action	Action category	Percentage of respondents selecting action (%)
Use efficient cars/hybrids	efficiency	2.8
Change thermostat setting	curtailment	6.3
Use bike or public transportation instead of car	curtailment	12.9
Use efficient light bulbs	efficiency	3.6
Turn off lights	curtailment	19.6

In a survey of public perceptions of energy use, researcher Shahzeen Attari and her team asked respondents to name the most effective action ordinary people can take to conserve energy. The team categorized each action as either an efficiency or a curtailment and found that respondents tended to name curtailments more often than they did efficiencies. For example, 19.6% of respondents stated that the most effective way to conserve energy is to turn off the lights, while only

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text?

- A. 6.3% of respondents said it was most effective to use efficient cars or hybrids.
- B. 2.8% of respondents said it was most effective to change the thermostat setting.
- C. 12.9% of respondents said it was most effective to use a bike or public transportation.
- D. 3.6% of respondents said it was most effective to use efficient light bulbs.

ID: 84136d69 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text's discussion of Attari and her team's survey results. The text states that the team asked respondents to identify the most effective action people can take to save energy, with the team classifying each action as either an efficiency or a curtailment. According to the text, respondents named curtailments more often than they did efficiencies. The text then offers an example that begins by citing a curtailment, turning off the lights, that was selected by a relatively high percentage of respondents (19.6%). Given that the example is presented in support of the idea that more respondents selected curtailments than efficiencies, the most effective way to complete the example is by citing an efficiency, using efficient light bulbs, that was selected by a relatively low percentage of respondents (only 3.6%).

Choice A is incorrect because it inaccurately describes data in the table. The data indicate that 6.3% of respondents said the most effective action was to change the thermostat setting, not to use efficient cars or hybrids. Choice B is incorrect because it inaccurately describes data in the table. The data indicate that 2.8% of respondents said the most effective action was to use efficient cars/hybrids, not to change the thermostat setting. Choice C is incorrect because it mentions a curtailment (using a bike or public transportation) and not an efficiency. The text states that a research team asked respondents to identify the most effective action people can take to save energy, with the team classifying each action as either an efficiency or a curtailment. According to the text, respondents named curtailments more often than they did efficiencies. The text then offers an example that begins by citing a curtailment, turning off the lights, that was selected by a relatively high percentage of respondents (19.6%). Given that the example is presented in support of the idea that more people selected curtailments than efficiencies, the most effective way to complete the example is not by referring to another curtailment but rather by referring to an efficiency that was selected by a relatively low percentage of respondents.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 95146ebb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 95146ebb

The ice melted on a Norwegian mountain during a particularly warm summer in 2019, revealing a 1,700-year-old sandal to a mountaineer looking for artifacts. The sandal would normally have degraded quickly, but it was instead well preserved for centuries by the surrounding ice. According to archaeologist Espen Finstad and his team, the sandal, like those worn by imperial Romans, wouldn't have offered any protection from the cold in the mountains, so some kind of insulation, like fabric or animal skin, would have needed to be worn on the feet with the sandal.

What does the text indicate about the discovery of the sandal?

- A. Temperatures contributed to both protecting and revealing the sandal.
- B. The discovery revealed that the Roman Empire had more influence on Norway than archaeologists previously assumed.
- C. Archaeologists would have found the sandal eventually without help from the general public.
- D. The sandal would have degraded if it hadn't been removed from the ice.

## ID: 95146ebb Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. A "particularly warm summer" revealed the sandal, and centuries of ice kept it "well preserved."

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't reflect the information in the text. The sandal is similar to Roman sandals, but there is no indication that it was a result of Roman influence. Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn't support this choice. We don't have enough information to know whether or not archaeologists would have found the sandal without people like the treasure-hunting mountaineer. Choice D is incorrect. The text says the opposite of this choice. The sandal was preserved by the ice for centuries.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f27559d4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: f27559d4

Volunteering, or giving time for a community service for free, is a valuable form of civic engagement because helping in a community is also good for society as a whole. In a survey of youths in the United States, most young people said that they believe volunteering is a way to help people on an individual level. Meanwhile, only 6% of the youths said that they think volunteering is a way to help fix problems in society overall. These replies suggest that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. many young people think they can volunteer only within their own communities.
- B. volunteering may be even more helpful than many young people think it is.
- C. volunteering can help society overall more than it can help individual people.
- D. many young people may not know how to find ways to volunteer their time.

## ID: f27559d4 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of volunteering. The text asserts that volunteering benefits both the community in which one volunteers and society as a whole. It then states that in a survey of young people, a majority of respondents said that volunteering helps individuals, but only 6% of respondents said that volunteering helps society as a whole. If volunteering does in fact help society as a whole, as the text says, but only 6% of young people believe it does, then it's reasonable to conclude that volunteering is more helpful than many young people think it is.

Choice A is incorrect because the text discusses young people's beliefs about the benefits of volunteering, not where young people believe they are able to volunteer. Nothing in the text suggests that many young people believe they are only able to volunteer in their own communities. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text indicates that volunteering is beneficial for society as a whole, nothing in the text suggests that volunteering can benefit society more than it can benefit individual people. The text doesn't compare the benefits to society with the benefits to individuals. Choice D is incorrect because the text discusses young people's beliefs about the benefits of volunteering, not how to find volunteering opportunities. There's nothing in the text to suggest that many young people don't know how to volunteer.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID eaf22802

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: eaf22802

A student in a political science course is writing a paper on Aristotle's *The Politics*, in which Aristotle offers his opinion on political instability and gives advice on how constitutions can be preserved. Aristotle observes that different forms of government can fall in different ways—for example, oligarchies might grant power to military leaders during wartime who refuse to relinquish that power during peacetime—but some methods of preserving order apply across all forms of government. The student claims that in particular Aristotle asserts that in a healthy state obedience to law must be as close to absolute as possible and that even minor infractions should not be ignored.

Which quotation from a philosopher's analysis of *The Politics* would best support the student's claim?

"When constructing his argument regarding the characteristics of a well-functioning government, Aristotle asserts that 'Transgression creeps in unperceived and at last ruins the state,' illustrating this idea with a comparison to frequent small A. expenditures slowly and almost imperceptibly chipping away at a fortune until it is ultimately depleted."

"When Aristotle writes on the necessity of avoiding corruption in government, he proposes that 'every state should be so administered and so regulated by law that its magistrates cannot possibly make money.' In particular, he thinks B. oligarchies are particularly susceptible to corruption through bribery."

"When Aristotle considers the health of constitutions, he states that 'Constitutions are preserved when their destroyers are at a distance, and sometimes also because they are near, for the fear of them makes the government keep in hand the constitution.' He holds that rulers who wish to see constitutions preserved must continually remind the populace of C. the dangers that would result from a constitutional collapse."

"When contrasting different forms of government, Aristotle holds that 'oligarchies may last, not from any inherent stability in such forms of government, but because the rulers are on good terms both with the unenfranchised and with the governing classes.' That is, oligarchic leaders who wish to hold on to power will introduce members of D. disenfranchised classes into government in a participatory role."

## ID: eaf22802 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the quotation that best supports the student's claim that in *The Politics*, Aristotle gives advice on preserving constitutions—preventing governments from falling and maintaining order—and specifically asserts that in a healthy state, laws must be followed as strictly as possible and infractions should not be overlooked even if they are minor. The philosopher states that when Aristotle builds his argument about the characteristics of a well-functioning government, Aristotle asserts that transgression, or violation of law, will ruin the state if it "creeps in unperceived," or goes unnoticed. The philosopher then adds that Aristotle illustrates this point by comparing the situation to one in which small but frequent expenses diminish a fortune almost unnoticeably until, eventually, the fortune is entirely gone. In other words, the philosopher indicates that Aristotle makes the point that total obedience to law preserves a healthy state while even small violations, if ignored, will undermine the health of the state.

Choice B is incorrect because the philosopher addresses Aristotle's observation about corruption within the government (in particular, preventing the possibility that members of the government can take bribes), and although corruption can involve infractions, the observation is about a subset of people within the state and isn't directly connected to the importance of upholding total obedience to the law throughout the state. Choice C is incorrect because the philosopher discusses Aristotle's point about those who would intentionally destroy a constitution altogether and the need for rulers to remind the populace that it would be dangerous for a constitution to collapse, but neither idea is directly connected to the importance of upholding total obedience to the law. Choice D is incorrect because the philosopher explains that Aristotle makes the point that oligarchic leaders may retain power by having members of disenfranchised classes participate in government alongside governing classes, and this point doesn't address the importance of ensuring obedience to the law and addressing even minor violations.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d1539546

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: d1539546

Tides can deposit large quantities of dead vegetation within a salt marsh, smothering healthy plants and leaving a salt panne—a depression devoid of plants that tends to trap standing water—in the marsh's interior. Ecologist Kathryn Beheshti and colleagues found that burrowing crabs living within these pannes improve drainage by loosening the soil, leading the pannes to shrink as marsh plants move back in. At salt marsh edges, however, crab-induced soil loosening can promote marsh loss by accelerating erosion, suggesting that the burrowing action of crabs \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. can be beneficial to marshes with small pannes but can be harmful to marshes with large pannes.
- B. may promote increases in marsh plants or decreases in marsh plants, depending on the crabs' location.
- C. tends to be more heavily concentrated in areas of marsh interiors with standing water than at marsh edges.
- D. varies in intensity depending on the size of the panne relative to the size of the surrounding marsh.

## ID: d1539546 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text says that crab burrowing in the pannes enables plants to grow there again. It also says that crab burrowing at the edges of the marsh speeds up marsh loss. This suggests that burrowing crabs can either help or hurt marshes, depending on where they're located.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never discusses pannes of different sizes. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never suggests that crabs do more burrowing in the pannes (the areas with standing water) than they do at the edges. Rather, the text says that the burrowing that happens in the pannes is beneficial, while the burrowing that happens at the edges is harmful. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never discusses the intensity of crab burrowing, nor does it discuss the size of the panne relative to the size of the marsh.

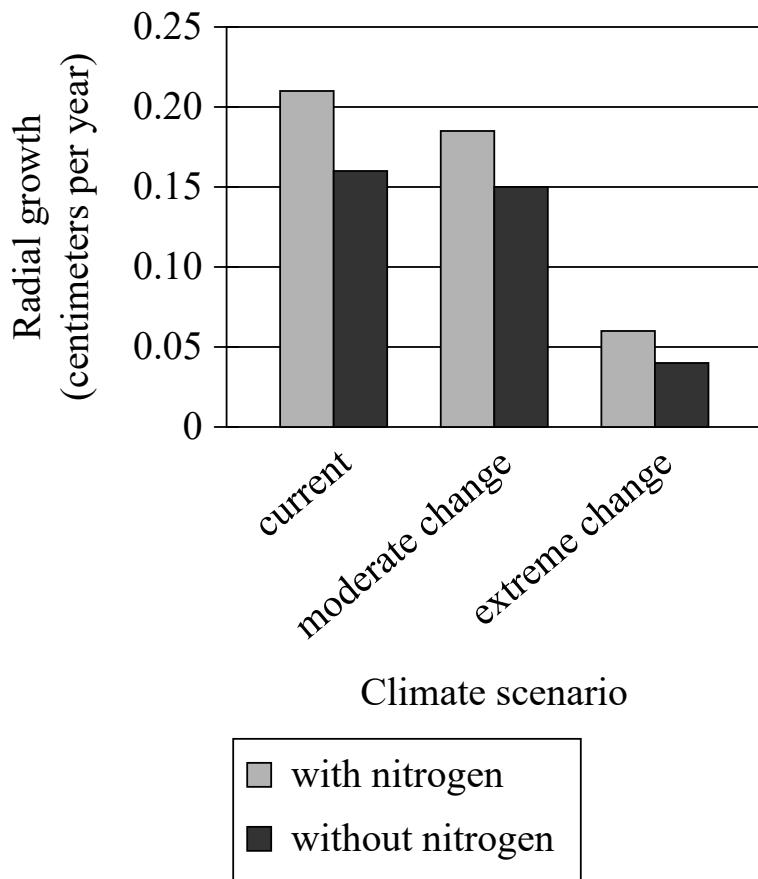
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 627d93e3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 627d93e3

Modeled Radial Growth of Sugar Maple Trees



Inés Ibáñez and colleagues studied a forest site in which some sugar maple trees receive periodic fertilization with nitrogen to mimic the broader trend of increasing anthropogenic nitrogen deposition in soil. Ibáñez and colleagues modeled the radial growth of the trees with and without nitrogen fertilization under three different climate scenarios (the current climate, moderate change, and extreme change). Although they found that climate change would negatively affect growth, they concluded that anthropogenic nitrogen deposition could more than offset that effect provided that change is moderate rather than extreme.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support Ibáñez and colleagues' conclusion?

- Growth with nitrogen under the current climate exceeded growth with nitrogen under moderate change, but the latter  
A. exceeded growth without nitrogen under extreme change.

- Growth without nitrogen under the current climate exceeded growth without nitrogen under moderate change, but the  
B. latter exceeded growth with nitrogen under extreme change.

Growth with nitrogen under moderate change exceeded growth without nitrogen under moderate change, but the latter C. exceeded growth without nitrogen under extreme change.

Growth with nitrogen under moderate change exceeded growth without nitrogen under the current climate, but the latter D. exceeded growth with nitrogen under extreme change.

### ID: 627d93e3 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

#### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that support Ibáñez and colleagues' conclusion that increasing anthropogenic nitrogen deposition can compensate for the negative effect of climate change on tree growth if that change is moderate but not if it's extreme. The bar graph shows the growth of sugar maple trees with and without nitrogen fertilization under three different climate-change scenarios: current conditions, a moderate change, and an extreme change. According to the graph, radial growth without nitrogen fertilization is projected to be about 0.16 centimeters (cm) under current conditions, 0.15 cm under a moderate change, and 0.04 cm under an extreme change. The graph also shows that with nitrogen fertilization, growth is projected to be about 0.18 centimeters under a moderate change but only about 0.06 centimeters under an extreme change. Thus, the data in the graph support the researchers' conclusion by showing greater growth for a moderate change using nitrogen fertilization than they do either under current conditions without nitrogen fertilization or under an extreme change with nitrogen fertilization.

Choice A is incorrect. Although it accurately represents the data in the graph, this fact pattern doesn't support Ibáñez and colleagues' conclusion that the decline in radial growth due to climate change will be partly offset by higher levels of anthropogenic nitrogen, but only if change to the climate is moderate and not if it's extreme. To support this would require comparing radial growth without nitrogen fertilization under current climate conditions to the growth with nitrogen fertilization under both moderate and extreme changes. This choice mentions only growth with nitrogen fertilization under current climate conditions and moderate change and growth without nitrogen fertilization under an extreme change, which don't provide a basis to determine whether higher nitrogen in the future will be able to offset reduced growth due to climate change. Choice B is incorrect. Although it accurately represents the data in the graph, this fact pattern doesn't support Ibáñez and colleagues' conclusion that the decline in radial growth due to climate change will be partly offset by higher levels of atmospheric nitrogen, but only if change to the climate is moderate and not if it's extreme. The support needed would compare radial growth under current climate conditions without nitrogen fertilization to the growth with nitrogen fertilization under moderate and extreme changes. This choice mentions only growth without nitrogen fertilization under current conditions and moderate change and growth with nitrogen fertilization under extreme change, which don't provide a basis to determine whether higher nitrogen in the future will be able to offset reduced growth due to climate change. Choice C is incorrect. Although it accurately represents the data in the graph, this fact pattern doesn't support Ibáñez and colleagues' conclusion that the decline in radial growth due to climate change will be partly offset by higher levels of atmospheric nitrogen, but only if change to the climate is moderate and not if it's extreme. The support needed would compare radial growth without adding nitrogen under current climate conditions to the growth with nitrogen fertilization under moderate and extreme changes. This choice mentions only the growth with and without nitrogen fertilization under moderate climate change and growth without nitrogen fertilization under extreme change, which don't provide a basis to determine whether higher nitrogen in the future will be able to offset reduced growth due to climate change.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID df9c5a1d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: df9c5a1d

Juvenile Plants Found Growing on Bare Ground and in Patches of Vegetation for Five Species

Species	Bare ground	Patches of vegetation	Total	Percent found in patches of vegetation
<i>T. moroderi</i>	9	13	22	59.1%
<i>T. libanitis</i>	83	120	203	59.1%
<i>H. syriacim</i>	95	106	201	52.7%
<i>H. squatum</i>	218	321	539	59.6%
<i>H. stoechas</i>	11	12	23	52.2%

Alicia Montesinos-Navarro, Isabelle Storer, and Rocío Pérez-Barrales recently examined several plots within a diverse plant community in southeast Spain. The researchers calculated that if individual plants were randomly distributed on this particular landscape, only about 15% would be with other plants in patches of vegetation. They counted the number of juvenile plants of five species growing in patches of vegetation and the number growing alone on bare ground and compared those numbers to what would be expected if the plants were randomly distributed. Based on these results, they claim that plants of these species that grow in close proximity to other plants gain an advantage at an early developmental stage.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the researchers' claim?

- A. For all five species, less than 75% of juvenile plants were growing in patches of vegetation.
- B. The species with the greatest number of juvenile plants growing in patches of vegetation was *H. stoechas*.

For *T. libanitis* and *T. moroderi*, the percentage of juvenile plants growing in patches of vegetation was less than what C. would be expected if plants were randomly distributed.

For each species, the percentage of juvenile plants growing in patches of vegetation was substantially higher than what D. would be expected if plants were randomly distributed.

ID: df9c5a1d Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it provides the most direct support from the table for the claim that the plants growing in close proximity to other plants gained an advantage at an early developmental stage. The table shows the total number of juvenile plants from five species that were found growing on bare ground and in patches of vegetation as well as the percentage of the total number of each species that were growing in patches of vegetation. For each of the five species, more than 50% of the juvenile plants were growing in patches of vegetation. The text notes, however, that a random distribution of plants across the landscape should result in only about 15% of the plants being found in patches of vegetation. In other words, for each of the five species, the percentage of juvenile plants found growing in patches of vegetation was substantially higher than could be explained by chance alone. This finding supports the claim in the text: if plants growing in patches are overrepresented among plants that have survived to the juvenile stage, as the data show they are, then it suggests that it's advantageous for plants at an early stage of development to grow in patches of vegetation.

Choice A is incorrect because the statement that less than 75% of juvenile plants were found growing in patches of vegetation, while true, doesn't clearly support the claim that the plants growing in close proximity to other plants gained an advantage at an early developmental stage. Saying that less than 75% of plants were found in patches doesn't indicate how the percentage growing in patches compares with the percentage that would be expected to grow in patches on the basis of chance alone, which is the information necessary to evaluate whether the claim in the text has support in the table. Put another way, if the percentage of plants found growing in patches was 15% or less, it would be true that less than 75% were found in patches, but the data would in fact weaken the claim in the text, not strengthen it, since the data would show that growing in patches wasn't advantageous. Choice B is incorrect because only 12 plants of this species were found growing in patches, which was the lowest number of any species, not the greatest number. Additionally, even if it were true that this species had the greatest number of plants growing in patches, the finding would be irrelevant to the claim that plants of all five species gained an advantage by growing in close proximity to other plants. Choice C is incorrect because 59.1% of the plants of these species were found growing in patches, which is a far greater percentage, not a lower percentage, than what would be expected if plants were randomly distributed (around 15%). Additionally, if it were true that the percentage of plants growing in patches was lower for these species than what would be expected from chance alone, that finding would weaken, not strengthen, the claim that growing in patches is advantageous.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID df654a2b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: df654a2b

Zines are small-scale, self-printed magazines. They have been around since the Black literary zine *Fire!!* was created in the 1920s. Since then, zines have appealed to creators looking for an inexpensive form of expression to share with a select audience. Zine creators often mix art with social commentary and challenge mainstream culture. At first, the internet appeared to replace the zine, but this old form persists. Today, there are enough zines in the United States to support annual zine festivals. This suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. creators can reach a larger audience by posting online.
- B. zines are still a meaningful form of expression.
- C. creators can continue to explore new art forms.
- D. zines are good sources of mainstream culture.

## ID: df654a2b Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically follows from the text's point about zines today. The text describes zines as a form of expression that goes back to the 1920s and asserts that "this old form persists." The text then indicates that multiple zines exist in the US today and that they are popular enough to support annual festivals, a point that suggests that people continue to view zines as a meaningful form of expression.

Choice A is incorrect because the text's point about current interest in zines in the US doesn't logically suggest that zine creators can reach a larger audience by posting online. The text indicates that zines have long had an audience, and there's no indication that online posts have caused that audience to grow; there's no mention of zine creators' use of the internet at all. Choice C is incorrect because the idea that zine creators can explore new art forms—while objectively true—isn't logically connected to the text's discussion of zines as an existing form of expression (one that often includes art) or the point that zines are still popular enough in the US to support annual festivals. Choice D is incorrect because the point that zines are popular enough in the US today to support annual festivals doesn't logically suggest that zines present mainstream culture (or are themselves mainstream); moreover, the text states that zine creators often "challenge mainstream culture."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID dc47c2ac

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: dc47c2ac

Although most songbirds build open, cupped nests, some species build domed nests with roofs that provide much more protection. Many ecologists have assumed that domed nests would provide protection from weather conditions and thus would allow species that build them to have larger geographic ranges than species that build open nests do. To evaluate this assumption, a research team led by evolutionary biologist Iliana Medina analyzed data for over 3,000 species of songbirds.

Which finding from Medina and her colleagues' study, if true, would most directly challenge the assumption in the underlined sentence?

- A. Species that build open nests tend to have higher extinction rates than species that build domed nests.
- B. Species that build open nests tend to be smaller in size than species that build domed nests.
- C. Species that build open nests tend to use fewer materials to build their nests than species that build domed nests do.
- D. Species that build open nests tend to have larger ranges than species that build domed nests.

## ID: dc47c2ac Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would challenge the assumption that many ecologists have made about the connection between the building of domed nests and geographic range in songbirds. The text says that many ecologists have assumed that since domed nests provide protection from weather conditions, songbird species that build such nests should be able to have larger geographic ranges than songbird species that build open nests do. If Medina and her colleagues found that species that build open nests tend to have larger geographic ranges than species that build domed nests do, their finding would show the opposite of what the ecologists have assumed. It would therefore challenge the ecologists' assumption.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that there's a relationship between songbird species' extinction rates and their geographic ranges. The finding that species that build open nests tend to have higher extinction rates than species that build domed nests do would therefore have no clear bearing on the ecologists' assumption that domed nests allow species that build them to have larger geographic ranges than those of species that build open nests. Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that there's a relationship between songbird species' sizes and their geographic ranges. The finding that species that build open nests tend to be smaller in size than species that build domed nests are would therefore have no clear bearing on the ecologists' assumption that domed nests allow species that build them to have larger geographic ranges than those of species that build open nests. Choice C is incorrect because although the text indicates that many ecologists have assumed that there's a connection between how songbird species build their nests and the species' geographic ranges, the text says that this assumption is based on the shape of the nests—that is, whether the nests are domed or open—not the number of materials used. The finding that species that build open nests tend to use fewer materials to build their nests than species that build domed nests do would therefore have no clear bearing on the ecologists' assumption that domed nests allow species that build them to have larger geographic ranges than those of species that build open nests.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 485962a6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 485962a6

Astronomers investigated the Arabia Terra region of Mars because it appears to contain irregularly shaped craters that may have been caused by massive volcanic explosions. In their investigations of Arabia Terra, the researchers found remnants of ash deposits in an amount and thickness that would result from a massive volcanic eruption. However, erosion and past resurfacing events could have modified the surface of the planet. Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the current makeup of the Arabia Terra region might not accurately reflect the volcanic activity of Mars's past.
- B. eruptions from Mars's volcanoes were likely not as massive as astronomers previously believed.
- C. ash was most likely expelled from multiple different volcanoes on Mars's surface.
- D. the craters found in the Arabia Terra region were necessarily created by events other than volcanic eruptions.

## ID: 485962a6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of the Arabia Terra region of Mars. According to the text, there are craters in Arabia Terra that could be the result of volcanic activity, and researchers have found evidence of ash deposits consistent with a large eruption. The text goes on to note, however, that erosion and other events could have altered the surface of Mars. This observation suggests that current conditions on Mars's surface are not necessarily a reliable guide to past events—some signs of past events could have been transformed or erased entirely—and thus the current makeup of Arabia Terra may not accurately reflect past volcanic activity.

Choice B is incorrect because the text suggests only that past events could have changed Mars's surface such that its current appearance isn't a reliable guide to past activity, not that it's likely that past eruptions were not as massive as astronomers previously believed. Nothing in the text supports a conclusion about the likely size of past eruptions. Choice C is incorrect because the observation that resurfacing events could have changed the appearance of Mars doesn't imply that the ash discussed in the text likely came from multiple volcanoes. Although it's possible that the ash came from different volcanoes, there's no information in the text supporting a conclusion about how likely that possibility is. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the Arabia Terra craters had to have been created by something other than volcanic eruptions. Although the text does suggest that the evidence consistent with volcanic eruptions shouldn't be taken as definitive proof of past eruptions, that doesn't mean that the craters couldn't have been created by eruptions, only that we can't be certain they were.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d2e0cba5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: d2e0cba5

In a study of new technology adoption, Davit Marikyan et al. examined negative disconfirmation (which occurs when experiences fall short of one's expectations) to determine whether it could lead to positive outcomes for users. The team focused on established users of "smart home" technology, which presents inherent utilization challenges but tends to attract users with high expectations, often leading to feelings of dissonance. The researchers found that many users employed cognitive mechanisms to mitigate those feelings, ultimately reversing their initial sense of disappointment.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

Research suggests that most users of smart home technology will not achieve a feeling of satisfaction given the  
A. utilization challenges of such technology.

Although most smart home technology is aimed at meeting or exceeding users' high expectations, those expectations in  
B. general remain poorly understood.

Research suggests that users with high expectations for a new technology can feel content with that technology even  
C. after experiencing negative disconfirmation.

Although negative disconfirmation has often been studied, little is known about the cognitive mechanisms shaping users'  
D. reactions to it in the context of new technology adoption.

## ID: d2e0cba5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The passage begins by describing the study, and concludes with its results: "many users employed cognitive mechanisms to mitigate those feelings [of negative disconfirmation]."

Choice A is incorrect. This is the opposite of what the text claims. Rather, the researchers found that "many users" reversed "their initial sense of disappointment." Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't reflect the text. What the expectations of smart home tech users are is not discussed. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't reflect the text. How often these topics have been studied is not mentioned.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID bcbcc43f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: bcbcc43f

The ancient Sumerian civilization formed around 4000 BCE between two large rivers in an area that is now Iraq and Syria. The extremely hot and sunny weather in that area helped crops grow very quickly, but it also made it hard to keep the crops from drying up and dying. So, the Sumerians used water from the rivers in their farming. That method worked so well that they often could harvest even more crops than they needed in a season. As a result, the Sumerians \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. harvested crops only on the hottest days of each season.
- B. found ways to shield their crops from the sun.
- C. did not begin farming until long after 4000 BCE.
- D. were able to store extra crops for later use.

## ID: bcbcc43f Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically completes the text's discussion of Sumerian civilization and crop growth. The text mentions the hot, sunny weather in the area where the Sumerians lived, which made crops grow quickly but also made it difficult to keep them alive. The Sumerians solved this problem by using river water for their farming—as a result, they often harvested more crops than were needed in a season. It follows that the Sumerians must have needed to find something to do with the surplus crops—that is, they stored the extra crops for later use.

Choice A is incorrect because it doesn't logically follow that a surplus in crops would lead the Sumerians to choose only certain days of the season to harvest. Nor is there any indication in the text that the Sumerians improved their farming methods with the goal of reducing the time spent farming. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the Sumerians tried to shield their crops from the sun: in fact, the text indicates that the sunny weather helped crops grow very quickly and that the Sumerians used river water to allow crops to be exposed to the sun without dying. Choice C is incorrect. Having a surplus of crops wouldn't have caused the Sumerians to begin farming until long after 4000 BCE: in fact, since the text indicates that the Sumerian civilization formed around 4000 BCE and farming was a part of that civilization, the statement that Sumerians only began farming long after 4000 BCE isn't supported by the text.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID cf3acc50

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: cf3acc50

Compiled in the late 1500s largely through the efforts of Indigenous scribes, *Cantares Mexicanos* is the most important collection of poetry in Classical Nahuatl, the principal language of the Aztec Empire. The poems portray Aztec society before the occupation of the empire by the army of Spain, and marginal notes in *Cantares Mexicanos* indicate that much of the collection's content predates the initial invasion. Nonetheless, some of the poems contain inarguable references to beliefs and customs common in Spain during this era. Thus, some scholars have concluded that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. while its content largely predates the invasion, *Cantares Mexicanos* also contains additions made after the invasion.  
although those who compiled *Cantares Mexicanos* were fluent in Nahuatl, they had limited knowledge of the Spanish language.
- B. language.
- C. before the invasion by Spain, the poets of the Aztec Empire borrowed from the literary traditions of other societies.  
the references to beliefs and customs in Spain should be attributed to a coincidental resemblance between the societies
- D. of Spain and the Aztec Empire.

## ID: cf3acc50 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text. The text explains that the *Cantares Mexicanos* contains poems about the Aztec Empire from before the Spanish invasion. Furthermore, it indicates that notes in the collection attest that some of these poems predate the Spanish invasion, while some customs depicted are likely Spanish in origin. The implication is that some poems were composed before the invasion but the references to Spanish customs could have come about only after the invasion, and thus that the collection includes content that predates the invasion and also content from after the invasion.

Choice B is incorrect because the text clearly indicates that the collection is in Nahuatl, not Spanish, so the compilers' unfamiliarity with Spanish is irrelevant to whether the collection contains material composed after the Spanish invasion. Choice C is incorrect because the text mentions only the Aztec Empire and Spain: there is no information about the relationship of Aztec literature to any traditions other than its own or Spain's. Choice D is incorrect because the text states that some of the poems make "inarguable references" to common Spanish customs, which conflicts with the idea that these references can reasonably be attributed to mere coincidence.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 4802f6a5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 4802f6a5

Aptamers—synthetic DNA or RNA molecules that bind to target molecules—can be used to test for foodborne bacterial pathogens, though their specificity (the probability of returning a negative result in the absence of the focal pathogen) in real-world foods has been unclear. Sandeep Somvanshi et al. fabricated test paper incorporating aptamers targeting strain O157:H7 of the bacteria *Escherichia coli*; the paper shifts from pink to purple as the aptamers bind to target molecules. Somvanshi et al. tested the paper in store-bought pear juice they treated with *E. coli* O157:H7, other strains of *E. coli*, or other bacteria species. Following exposure, the paper from the O157:H7 test was purple while papers from the other tests were pink, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- aptamer-based tests in real-world foods are more likely to show a high degree of specificity if the focal pathogen is *E. coli* A. O157:H7 than if the focal pathogen is another strain of *E. coli* or another species.
- uncertainty about the specificity of aptamer-based tests for pathogens in real-world foods may be due to the similarity B. between *E. coli* O157:H7 and other *E. coli* strains.
- the specificity of the tests in a real-world food was unaffected by the aptamers' tendency to bind to different strains of *E. coli*. C.
- the aptamers successfully bound to *E. coli* O157:H7 and the tests displayed a high degree of specificity in a real-world D. food.

## ID: 4802f6a5 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of aptamers' capacity to test for pathogens in food. The text explains that although synthetic aptamer molecules can be used to test for foodborne bacterial pathogens because they bind to target molecules, it hasn't been clear how likely it is that they will indicate a negative result when a target pathogen is absent in real-world foods. The text then indicates that Somvanshi et al. created test paper that changes from pink to purple when aptamers in it bind to a particular strain of *E. coli* bacteria, O157:H7, and tested it with store-bought pear juice (that is, a real-world food); the paper changed to purple when exposed to juice to which the target pathogen *E. coli* O157:H7 had been added, but it remained pink when exposed to juice treated with other *E. coli* strains or other bacteria species. Based on this result, it seems the aptamers in the paper successfully bound to the target (O157:H7) and the tests had a high degree of specificity (providing negative results for samples where the target was absent even though other bacteria were present) when applied to a real-world food.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that *E. coli* O157:H7 differs from other pathogens in a way that makes it more suitable for aptamer-based testing of any kind and that specificity is likely to be lower when aptamer-based tests target other bacteria; the text simply indicates that Somvanshi et al. used O157:H7 as the target for aptamer-based test paper in their study and suggests that the paper had a high degree of specificity. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that the specificity of aptamer-based tests in real-world foods is uncertain for pathogens broadly, not just for *E. coli*, and similarity between strains (of *E. coli* or of other pathogens) isn't mentioned. Moreover, the results presented in the text suggest that aptamers are actually capable of distinguishing between strains of *E. coli*, since Somvanshi et al.'s paper turned purple when exposed to *E. coli* O157:H7 and remained pink when exposed to other strains. Choice C is incorrect because the text suggests that the aptamers in the test papers didn't bind to different strains of *E. coli*. The text explains that the test papers turn purple when the aptamers bind to the targeted pathogen and that in the pear juice tests, the test papers turned purple when exposed to samples with the targeted strain of *E. coli* (O157:H7) but remained pink when exposed to samples with other strains of *E. coli*. In other words, the aptamers bound only to the targeted strain, not to the other strains. Further, specificity would be affected if the aptamers had bound to multiple strains and not just the targeted one; that result would cause the specificity to be low.

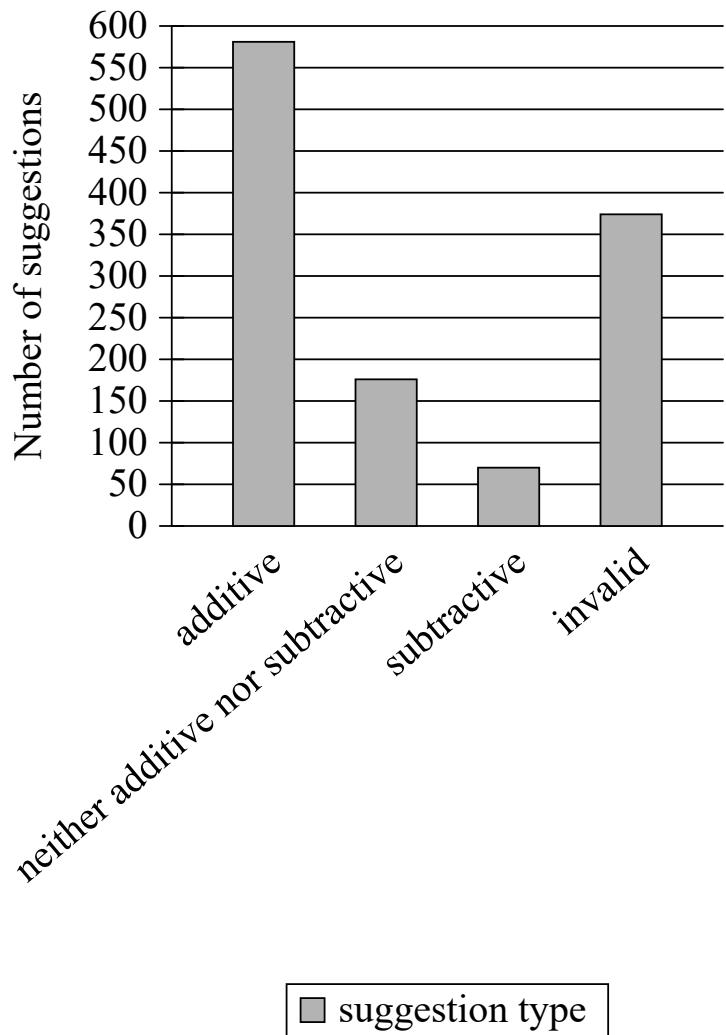
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 23e2421a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 23e2421a

## Suggestions for Improving a University



Gabrielle Adams and colleagues reviewed suggestions for improving a university that had been submitted to the university's president. They coded each suggestion as additive (the idea suggested adding something new to the university), subtractive (the idea suggested removing something from the university), neither additive nor subtractive, or invalid (the idea was not comprehensible). The data illustrated people's tendency to overlook the possibility of removing things to achieve improvements: \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data in the graph to complete the statement?

- around 175 suggestions were coded as neither additive nor subtractive, whereas around 575 suggestions were coded as  
A. additive.

- B. more than 350 suggestions were coded as invalid, whereas fewer than 100 suggestions were coded as subtractive.
- C. fewer than 100 suggestions were coded as subtractive, whereas more than 550 suggestions were coded as additive.
- D. around 575 suggestions were coded as additive, whereas around 175 suggestions were coded as subtractive.

### ID: 23e2421a Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

#### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This choice shows that people suggested removing things to achieve improvements a lot less often than they suggested adding things, which supports the claim that people tend not to think of removing things as a likely way to improve the university.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the claim. We are looking to prove that people suggested subtractive means of achieving improvements less often than other means, but this choice doesn't address how often people made subtractive suggestions. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the claim. Invalid responses were incomprehensible, so we can't compare what they were suggesting to what was being suggested in subtractive responses. Choice D is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. Fewer than 100 suggestions were coded as subtractive. 175 is the approximate number of suggestions coded as "neither additive or subtractive."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d047abca

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: d047abca

Narwhals are shy whales that live in the remote Arctic Ocean. Some of them have a long tusk, like a unicorn horn, with sensitive nerves. Narwhals are known for this tusk, but many actually don't have one and its purpose is unknown. One group of scientists came up with a possible purpose in 2014. The scientists suggested that the tusk may help narwhals determine when water around them is likely to start freezing and become dangerous for them. Marine biologist Kristin Laidre disagrees with that idea, though. She reasons that if the narwhal's tusk serves such an important purpose, then it's most likely that

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. some narwhals would seek a new habitat.
- B. fewer marine animals would also have tusks.
- C. more narwhals would have a tusk.
- D. narwhals would become less shy over time.

## ID: d047abca Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Kristin Laidre's reasoning about the purpose of the tusk that many, but not all, narwhals have. The text explains that one group of scientists thinks the tusk may help narwhals detect the threat of freezing water and that Laidre disagrees with that idea, given the importance of avoiding a dangerous situation. It's logical to suggest that if the tusk serves such an important purpose for narwhals, the trait would be more common among them—specifically, that more narwhals would have a tusk.

Choice A is incorrect because there's no reason to think Laidre would say that if the tusk has the important function of helping narwhals detect when the water around them is about to freeze (meaning that it isn't always freezing), some narwhals would choose a different habitat altogether. Indeed, if it's true that the tusk helps narwhals avoid areas with dangerous conditions when they occur in their Arctic Ocean habitat, the tusk would likely enable the narwhals to continue living in that habitat rather than drive them elsewhere entirely. Choice B is incorrect because the text focuses only on narwhals and makes no mention of other marine animals or how having a tusk might affect them. And if anything, it would be more logical to expect a very important trait to be more widespread, not less common, among other similar types of animals. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text describes narwhals as shy, it doesn't indicate that the scientists' conclusion has anything to do with shyness. And because shyness and detection of the threat of freezing water aren't logically connected, there's no reason to think that Laidre would expect narwhals to become less shy over time if the tusk serves that important purpose.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID df8caadd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: df8caadd

Partial List of Candidate Species for De-extinction

Common name	Scientific name	Became extinct
Huia	<i>Heteralocha acutirostris</i>	1907
Caribbean monk seal	<i>Monachus tropicalis</i>	1952
Passenger pigeon	<i>Ectopistes migratorius</i>	1914
Saber-toothed cat	<i>Smilodon</i>	11,000 years before present
Woolly mammoth	<i>Mammuthus primigenius</i>	6,400 years before present

The passage of time is among the many obstacles faced by scientists who are pursuing de-extinction efforts—that is, efforts to use breeding or a mixture of cloning and genetic engineering to bring back extinct species. Specifically, researchers are concerned that the longer a species has been extinct, the less likely it is that a suitable habitat still exists for that species. Among candidate species for de-extinction, this problem would be especially concerning for the \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

A. passenger pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*), which became extinct only a few years after the huia (*Heteralocha A. acutirostris*).

B. saber-toothed cat (*Smilodon*), which became extinct 11,000 years ago.

C. woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*), which became extinct several thousand years before the saber-toothed cat (*Smilodon*).

D. Caribbean monk seal (*Monachus tropicalis*), which became extinct in 1952.

ID: df8caadd Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it uses data from the table to complete the statement regarding a species for which the problem of finding a suitable habitat would be especially concerning. For each candidate species, the table lists its common name, scientific name, and when the species became extinct. The text explains that scientists pursuing de-extinction for the candidate species also consider the length of time that has passed since the species' extinction, noting that the longer the animal has been extinct, the less likely it is that a suitable habitat would exist for the species today. The possibility of not having a suitable habitat would be especially concerning for the candidate species for which the most time has passed since its extinction. According to the table this species would be the saber-toothed cat, which became extinct 11,000 years before present.

Choice A is incorrect because it compares the time since the extinction of the passenger pigeon to the time since the extinction of the huia instead of citing the species listed in the table that has been extinct the longest (the saber-toothed cat). The text indicates that the longer a species has been extinct, the lower the chances are that a suitable habitat exists for it today. Neither the table nor the text supports the claim that the passenger pigeon is especially vulnerable to this problem. Choice C is incorrect because the text states that the longer a species has been extinct, the less likely it is that there would be a suitable habitat available for the species today. So, the problem would be especially concerning for the saber-toothed cat, which became extinct several thousand years before the woolly mammoth did—not the other way around. Choice D is incorrect because the text states that the longer a species has been extinct, the lower the chances are that a suitable habitat would be available for that species today. According to the table, the Caribbean monk seal became extinct in 1952, which is the most recent extinction listed for a candidate species in the table.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9abc3ba5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 9abc3ba5

“Gestures” in painting are typically thought of as bold, expressive brushstrokes. In the 1970s, American painter Jack Whitten built a 12-foot (3.7-meter) tool he named the “developer” to apply paint to an entire canvas in one motion, resulting in his series of “slab” paintings from that decade. Whitten described this process as making an entire painting in “one gesture,” signaling a clear departure from the prevalence of gestures in his work from the 1960s. Some art historians claim this shift represents “removing gesture” from the process. Therefore, regardless of whether using the developer constitutes a gesture, both Whitten and these art historians likely agree that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. any tool that a painter uses to create an artwork is capable of creating gestures.
- B. Whitten’s work from the 1960s exhibits many more gestures than his work from the 1970s does.
- C. Whitten became less interested in exploring the role of gesture in his work as his career progressed.
- D. Whitten’s work from the 1960s is much more realistic than his work from the 1970s is.

## ID: 9abc3ba5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Whitten thinks the tool made “one gesture” paintings, while historians think the tool “removed gesture” from the process completely. But putting that debate aside, both Whitten and the historians would agree that the paintings he made with the tool in the ’70s have way fewer gestures than his paintings from the ’60s, in which gestures are “prevalent,” meaning widely and extensively present.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text only discusses the “developer”—it never mentions other tools. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. If anything, the text suggests the opposite: that Whitten became more interested in exploring the role of gesture in his work as his career progressed, as his earlier paintings had many gestures, and his ’70s paintings only had “one gesture.” Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never discusses the “realism” of Whitten’s art.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID fc57d569

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: fc57d569

In dialects of English spoken in Scotland, the “r” sound is strongly emphasized when it appears at the end of syllables (as in “car”) or before other consonant sounds (as in “bird”). English dialects of the Upland South, a region stretching from Oklahoma to western Virginia, place similar emphasis on “r” at the ends of syllables and before other consonant sounds. Historical records show that the Upland South was colonized largely by people whose ancestors came from Scotland. Thus, linguists have concluded that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- the English dialects spoken in the Upland South acquired their emphasis on the “r” sound from dialects spoken in A. Scotland.
- emphasis on the “r” sound will eventually spread from English dialects spoken in the Upland South to dialects spoken B. elsewhere.
- C. the English dialects spoken in Scotland were influenced by dialects spoken in the Upland South.
- D. people from Scotland abandoned their emphasis on the “r” sound after relocating to the Upland South.

## ID: fc57d569 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of English dialects spoken in Scotland and the Upland South. The text indicates that these dialects share a feature: putting emphasis on the “r” sound when it appears in certain positions in words. The text goes on to state that records indicate the Upland South was colonized largely by people of Scottish ancestry. It is reasonable to assume that the English dialects spoken by these colonizers were influenced by the English dialects spoken by their ancestors in Scotland. It follows, then, that the emphasis on the “r” sound in the dialects in Scotland carried over into the Upland South dialects as they developed—that is, that the Upland South dialects likely acquired it from dialects spoken in Scotland.

Choice B is incorrect because the text suggests that Scottish ancestry explains the origin of the emphasis on the “r” sound in English dialects spoken in the Upland South, since that linguistic feature is also found in dialects spoken in Scotland; the text doesn’t address any other dialects or suggest that the feature will spread elsewhere. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that many Upland South colonizers were the descendants of Scottish people, suggesting that the English dialects spoken by these colonizers had been influenced by the English dialects spoken by the colonizers’ ancestors in Scotland and had acquired their emphasis on the “r” sound from those ancestors’ dialects—not the other way around. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that the emphasis on the “r” sound is part of English dialects spoken in the Upland South today, which almost certainly wouldn’t be the case if people from Scotland, who were the main colonizers of the Upland South, had eliminated that linguistic feature from their dialects.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 94978129

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 94978129

Approximate Rates of Speech and Information Conveyed for Five Languages

Language	Rate of speech (syllables per second)	Rate of information conveyed (bits per second)
Serbian	7.2	39.1
Spanish	7.7	42.0
Vietnamese	5.3	42.5
Thai	4.7	33.8
Hungarian	5.9	34.6

A group of researchers working in Europe, Asia, and Oceania conducted a study to determine how quickly different Eurasian languages are typically spoken (in syllables per second) and how much information they can effectively convey (in bits per second). They found that, although languages vary widely in the speed at which they are spoken, the amount of information languages can effectively convey tends to vary much less. Thus, they claim that two languages with very different spoken rates can nonetheless convey the same amount of information in a given amount of time.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the researchers' claim?

Among the five languages in the table, Thai and Hungarian have the lowest rates of speech and the lowest rates of  
A. information conveyed.

B. Vietnamese conveys information at approximately the same rate as Spanish despite being spoken at a slower rate.

Among the five languages in the table, the language that is spoken the fastest is also the language that conveys  
C. information the fastest.

Serbian and Spanish are spoken at approximately the same rate, but Serbian conveys information faster than Spanish  
D. does.

ID: 94978129 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it provides the most direct support from the table for the claim that two languages can convey similar amounts of information even if they're spoken at different rates. The table shows the approximate rates at which five languages are spoken and the rates at which those five languages convey information. Vietnamese is spoken at around 5.3 syllables per second, whereas Spanish is spoken at around 7.7 syllables per second, but the two languages convey information at very similar rates: Vietnamese at a rate of around 42.5 bits per second and Spanish at a rate of around 42.0 bits per second. Thus, the description of Vietnamese conveying information at around the same rate that Spanish does despite being spoken more slowly supports the claim in the text that languages can convey the same amount of information even if spoken at different rates.

Choice A is incorrect because it isn't true that Thai and Hungarian have the lowest rates of speech of the five languages shown. According to the table, Hungarian is spoken at around 5.9 syllables per second, which is faster than Vietnamese (5.3 syllables per second). Additionally, even if this statement were true, the assertion that two languages are spoken the slowest and convey information the slowest wouldn't support the claim that languages can convey the same amount of information even if they're spoken at different rates. Choice C is incorrect because it isn't true that the fastest-spoken language (Spanish, at 7.7 syllables per second) also conveys information the fastest: Spanish conveys information at 42.0 bits per second, which is slower than the 42.5 bits-per-second rate at which Vietnamese conveys information. Additionally, even if this statement were true, the assertion that the language spoken the fastest also conveys information the fastest has no bearing on the claim that languages can convey the same amount of information even if they're spoken at different rates. Choice D is incorrect because it isn't true that Serbian conveys information faster than Spanish does. According to the table, Serbian conveys information at a rate of around 39.1 bits per second, which is slower than the 42.0 bits-per-second rate at which Spanish conveys information.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID b4cda84d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: b4cda84d

In 1967 the US Congress created the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which in turn created National Public Radio (NPR). NPR began producing and distributing high-quality news and cultural programming to affiliate stations across the United States in 1971. In a research paper, a student claims that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and NPR were inspired by the British Broadcasting System (BBC), which had been established in the 1920s.

Which quotation from a work by a historian would be the most effective evidence for the student to include in support of this claim?

"Although the BBC had begun as a private corporation, politicians successfully argued to make it a public company

- A. because they believed a public broadcaster could help build national unity in the aftermath of World War I."

"For many decades, the BBC had no competition since it held Britain's only broadcasting license, whereas in the United

- B. States, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting launched NPR in a broadcasting market already filled with competitors."

"Congress's embrace of publicly funded broadcasting reflected a common belief among US politicians that the role of

- C. government was not only to ensure people's safety and liberty but also to enrich people's lives in other ways."

"The goal of the BBC was to support British democracy by promoting an informed citizenry, and US legislators believed

- D. that ensuring access to high-quality programming could do the same for democracy in the United States."

## ID: b4cda84d Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because this quotation would be the most effective evidence to include in support of the claim that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and NPR were inspired by the British Broadcasting System (BBC). The quotation states that the goal of the BBC was to support British democracy and that US legislators believed high-quality programming could accomplish the same goal for democracy in the United States. In other words, US legislators looked to the BBC as a model, taking direct inspiration from it when they created the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which in turn created NPR.

Choice A is incorrect because this quotation provides historical information about the BBC, not information about the inspiration for the creation of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and NPR. This quotation, therefore, is irrelevant to the student's claim that the BBC inspired the creation of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which in turn created NPR. Choice B is incorrect because this quotation contrasts the lack of competition faced by the BBC with the substantial competition faced by NPR, which has no bearing on the student's claim that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and NPR were inspired by the BBC. Choice C is incorrect because this quotation focuses on a common belief among US politicians that inspired Congress's embrace of publicly funded broadcasting. The quotation doesn't say anything about the BBC and therefore doesn't support the claim that the BBC inspired Congress to create the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which in turn created NPR.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7ffae38a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 7ffae38a

The following text is adapted from Jack London's 1903 novel *The Call of the Wild*. Buck is a sled dog living with John Thornton in Yukon, Canada.

Thornton alone held [Buck]. The rest of mankind was as nothing. Chance travellers might praise or pet him; but he was cold under it all, and from a too demonstrative man he would get up and walk away. When Thornton's partners, Hans and Pete, arrived on the long-expected raft, Buck refused to notice them till he learned they were close to Thornton; after that he tolerated them in a passive sort of way, accepting favors from them as though he favored them by accepting.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Buck has become less social since he began living with Thornton.
- B. Buck mistrusts humans and does his best to avoid them.
- C. Buck has been especially well liked by most of Thornton's friends.
- D. Buck holds Thornton in higher regard than any other person.

## ID: 7ffae38a Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. After establishing that Buck views most people "as nothing," the text explains that Buck won't acknowledge people other than Thornton unless they appear friendly toward Thornton, and even then he's only reluctantly accepting. Thus, the text focuses on the idea that Thornton has a special status in Buck's mind, with Buck holding him in higher regard than other people.

Choice A is incorrect because the text conveys that Buck isn't social with people other than Thornton but doesn't address Buck's life or temperament before he lived with Thornton. Choice B is incorrect because the text conveys that Buck doesn't really care about people other than Thornton and is aloof toward them. However, there's no indication that Buck mistrusts and avoids people generally; indeed, he accepts Thornton, who is a human. Choice C is incorrect because the text refers to random travelers praising and petting Buck and Thornton's partners giving Buck favors, but there's no indication that any of these people are Thornton's friends or that they have a particular fondness for Buck.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 409058ee

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 409058ee

To protect themselves when being attacked, hagfish—jawless marine animals that resemble eels—will release large quantities of slimy, mucus-like threads. Because these threads are unusually strong and elastic, scientist Atsuko Negishi and her colleagues have been trying to recreate them in a lab as an eco-friendly alternative to petroleum-based fibers that are often used in fabrics. The researchers want to reproduce the threads in the lab because farming hagfish for their slime would be expensive and potentially harmful to the hagfish.

Which choice best states the text's main idea?

- A. The slimy threads that hagfish release might help researchers create a new kind of fabric.
- B. Hagfish have inspired researchers to develop a new petroleum-based fabric.
- C. Hagfish are not well suited to being raised in captivity.
- D. The ability of hagfish to slime their attackers compensates for their being jawless.

## ID: 409058ee Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text first describes hagfish slime and its properties, then it transitions to talking about the possibilities of using lab-made equivalents to use in eco-friendly fabrics.

Choice B is incorrect. The text says the opposite of this choice. The researchers are developing an alternative to petroleum-based fabric. Choice C is incorrect. This choice is too narrow to be the main point of the text. Only one line describes how farming would be “potentially harmful” to the hagfish. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn’t supported by the text. We don’t know from the text whether being jawless makes the hagfish more vulnerable.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7c9a65bb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 7c9a65bb

Optical tweezers are specialized scientific tools—particularly useful in biology and medicine—that use high-powered beams of light to trap and manipulate minuscule particles for study. Use of the tool has led to several scientific and medical breakthroughs over the last few decades, but the particles are often under prolonged exposure to the intense heat of the light beams. To overcome the risk of overheating, and thereby damage, researchers sometimes attach nano-sized glass beads to particles, allowing the light to focus on the beads instead of the particles.

Based on the text, what is one advantage of attaching glass beads to particles when using optical tweezers?

- A. It decreases the time it takes for the optical tweezers to locate and capture the particles.
- B. It facilitates the maneuvering of particles without directly heating the particles themselves.
- C. It allows researchers to use weaker light beams to manipulate particles.
- D. It adds a material to which particles can transfer any heat absorbed from the optical tweezers' light beam.

## ID: 7c9a65bb Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text says that the glass beads get the "focus" of the light beams so that the particles don't overheat. From this, we can infer that the beads allow the particles to be manipulated without being directly heated by the light beams.

Choice A is incorrect. The text never says that attaching the glass beads saves time in any way. Choice C is incorrect. The text never says that attaching the glass beads allows researchers to use weaker light beams. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't say that the particles can transfer heat to the glass beads—rather, it says the heat from the light focuses on the glass beads instead of the particles.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 299c5303

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

**ID: 299c5303**

As the name suggests, dramaturges originated in theater, where they continue to serve a variety of functions: conducting historical research for directors, compiling character biographies for actors, and perhaps most importantly, helping writers of plays and musicals to hone the works' stories and characters. Performance scholar Susan Manning observes that many choreographers, like playwrights and musical theater writers, are concerned with storytelling and characterization. In fact, some choreographers describe the dances they create as expressions of narrative through movement; it is therefore unsurprising that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. dramaturges can have a profound impact on the artistic direction of plays and musicals.
- B. choreographers developing dances with narrative elements frequently engage dramaturges to assist in refining those elements.
- C. choreographers who do not.
- D. some directors and actors rely too heavily on dramaturges to complete certain research tasks.

**ID: 299c5303 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Dramaturges help playwrights with storytelling and characterization. Choreographers often tell stories through dance, so they are also concerned with storytelling and characterization. This suggests that the fact that choreographers seek the help of dramaturges with the storytelling aspects of their dances should be “unsurprising.”

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The beginning of the text does imply that this is true, but the end is leading to a conclusion about how choreographers use dramaturges. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never mentions dances by choreographers who don’t incorporate narrative elements. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text mentions in passing that directors use dramaturges to conduct research, but it never suggests that directors and actors are too reliant on them. Also, the text is leading to a conclusion about how choreographers use dramaturges.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 378c66d5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 378c66d5

A member of the Otomi, an Indigenous people in Central Mexico, Octavio Medellín immigrated to the United States as a child, and his sculpture bears the impress of traditions on both sides of the border: US-based modernist sculpture, Mexican modernist painting, Otomi art, and the ancient sculpture of other Mexican Indigenous peoples, including the Maya. In his 1950 masterpiece *History of Mexico*, Medellín fuses these influences into a style so idiosyncratic that it resists efforts to view his work through the lens of nationality or cultural identity. Artists, he insisted, should strive for individual expression, even as they draw inspiration from their heritage and the communities where they live and work.

Which quotation from an art critic most directly challenges the underlined claim in the text?

"Although a number of ancient Indigenous artistic traditions pictured human forms in profile, the forms populating the A. surface of *A History of Mexico* suggest a specifically Maya influence."

"In *A History of Mexico*, the synthesis of ancient and modernist traditions functions as a stylistic parallel to the work's B. subject matter: a survey of centuries of Mexican history."

"Many critics focus on Indigenous influences in *A History of Mexico* and other key works by Medellín to the exclusion of C. influences from non-Indigenous art."

"While *A History of Mexico* features modernist motifs, it relies primarily on angular human forms in profile—a staple of D. Maya sculpture—and thus invites classification as Indigenous art."

## ID: 378c66d5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This critic challenges the claim by arguing that *A History of Mexico* is not so idiosyncratic (unique) as to resist classification because its use of Maya-style human profiles actually "invites classification as Indigenous art." Therefore, according to this critic, the work can be viewed, at least partially, through a lens of national or cultural identity.

Choice A is incorrect. While it describes the Maya influence on a particular aspect of *A History of Mexico*, this quotation doesn't push back on Medellín's "idiosyncratic" (unique) style, nor does it try to categorize the entire work into a single cultural tradition. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't directly challenge the underlined claim, but rather supports it. It suggests that the work effectively blends a variety of artistic products to create a single work that can't be defined by any one tradition. Instead, the work recalls many centuries of history and culture all at once. Choice C is incorrect. This choice supports rather than challenges the underlined claim. The quotation argues that other critics focus too much on Indigenous influences on the artwork instead of viewing all of the influences equally—that they should instead be viewing the work as an idiosyncratic whole instead of through one or two narrow cultural lenses.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6762772f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

**ID: 6762772f**

Artificial leaves are a developing renewable energy technology that mimics the process of photosynthesis in plants. These devices are silicon-based solar cells coated in chemical catalysts that activate reactions that split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen gas. The technology, while generating lots of interest, is not yet commercially viable as a large-scale energy source. To meet this challenge, scientists from many fields are researching ways to store, transport, and distribute the energy the devices produce while other scientists are working to improve the cost and efficiency of the devices.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

Continued research and development in artificial-leaf technology is needed before the devices can be widely used as an  
A. energy source.

The recent increase in the commercial use of artificial leaves as an energy source has encouraged many scientists to  
B. research ways to improve the technology.

Artificial leaves split water molecules into oxygen and hydrogen gas using catalysts more efficiently than plants do using  
C. the process of photosynthesis.

Artificial leaves were developed to mimic the natural process of photosynthesis in plants in order to store energy for long-  
D. term commercial use.

**ID: 6762772f Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. According to the text, artificial leaves are a renewable energy technology that's in development and generating interest. The text goes on to state that artificial-leaf technology "is not yet commercially viable as a large-scale energy source" and that scientists from several fields are doing additional research to refine the technology. Thus, the main idea is that continued research and development in artificial-leaf technology is needed before the devices can be widely used as an energy source.

Choice B is incorrect. While the text does state that scientists from many fields are researching artificial leaves, they're doing so to address the fact that the leaves are not yet commercially viable, rather than in response to an increase in commercial use. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text does explain that artificial leaves help split water molecules into oxygen and hydrogen gas using catalysts, it doesn't argue that this process is more efficient than photosynthesis. This is merely a detail of the text and not the main idea, which is about the additional research needed to improve the cost and efficiency of these artificial leaves. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text indicates that artificial leaves mimic photosynthesis in plants, this is an incidental detail in support of the main idea that additional research is needed to make artificial leaves commercially viable.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b62cb782

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: b62cb782

Culinary anthropologist Vertamae Smart-Grosvenor may be known for her decades of work in national public television and radio, but her book *Vibration Cooking: or, the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl* is likely her most influential project. The 1970 book, whose title refers to Smart-Grosvenor's roots in the Low Country of South Carolina, was unusual for its time. It combined memoir, recipes, travel writing, and social commentary and challenged notions about conventions of food and cooking. Long admired by many, the book and its author have shaped contemporary approaches to writing about cuisine.

Which choice best describes the main idea of the text?

Smart-Grosvenor's unconventional book *Vibration Cooking: or, the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl* is an important

A. contribution to food writing.

B. Smart-Grosvenor held many different positions over her life, including reporter and food writer.

Smart-Grosvenor's groundbreaking book *Vibration Cooking: or, the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl* didn't receive the praise

C. it deserved when it was first published in 1970.

D. Smart-Grosvenor was a talented chef whose work inspired many people to start cooking for themselves.

## ID: b62cb782 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text describes the book *Vibration Cooking: or, the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl* as Smart-Grosvenor's "most influential project" and as "unusual for its time." The text also notes that the book and author have influenced contemporary approaches to writing about food and cooking. Therefore, the text mainly conveys that *Vibration Cooking: or, the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl* is an unconventional and important contribution to food writing.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text mentions that Smart-Grosvenor worked in national public television and radio and was a food writer, these details aren't the main focus. Rather than focusing on Smart-Grosvenor's various jobs, the text focuses specifically on one specific book she wrote. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text suggests that *Vibration Cooking: or, the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl* was groundbreaking, it doesn't suggest that the book didn't receive praise when it was published. In fact, the text states that the book is "long admired." Choice D is incorrect because the text states that Smart-Grosvenor was a culinary anthropologist and that her book influenced later approaches to food writing but doesn't indicate that Smart-Grosvenor or her book influenced people to begin cooking for themselves.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5105ca38

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 5105ca38

Several artworks found among the ruins of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii depict a female figure fishing with a cupid nearby. Some scholars have asserted that the figure is the goddess Venus, since she is known to have been linked with cupids in Roman culture, but University of Leicester archaeologist Carla Brain suggests that cupids may have also been associated with fishing generally. The fact that a cupid is shown near the female figure, therefore, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. is not conclusive evidence that the figure is Venus.
- B. suggests that Venus was often depicted fishing.
- C. eliminates the possibility that the figure is Venus.
- D. would be difficult to account for if the figure is not Venus.

## ID: 5105ca38 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically completes the text's discussion about the significance of the cupid found at Pompeii. The text indicates that the cupid is near a statue of a female figure who is fishing, and it goes on to indicate that because Venus is associated with cupids, some scholars believe the female figure to be the goddess Venus. But the text then says that, according to archaeologist Carla Brain, cupids may have also been associated with the activity of fishing, which, if true, would suggest that the mere appearance of a cupid near a female figure engaged in fishing does not indicate with certainty that the figure is Venus (that is, the cupid might be associated with fishing, and the figure might be anyone at all).

Choice B is incorrect because the text says nothing about how often Venus was depicted fishing in Roman art: it only implies that in certain instances a female figure may or may not be Venus. Choice C is incorrect because Carla Brain's proposed explanation for the presence of the cupids makes no reference to the female figure, and so the possibility that the figure in the artworks is in fact Venus cannot be definitively eliminated. Choice D is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to suggest that the only reasonable way to interpret the figure is as Venus.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 22b3da87

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 22b3da87

During the Bourbon Restoration in France (1814–1830), the right to vote required in part that a person paid at least 300 francs in direct taxes to the government. The four most common taxes (the *quatre vieilles*) were levied on real estate (both land and buildings); the doors and windows in taxpayer homes; the rental values of homes; and the businesses of artisans and merchants. (Foreign investments were either exempt from taxation or taxed lightly.) Although relatively few people paid the tax on real estate, it was the main means of voter qualification and accounted for over two-thirds of government receipts during this period, suggesting that during the Bourbon Restoration \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. those people who had the right to vote most likely had substantial holdings of French real estate.
- B. the voting habits of French artisans and merchants were effective in reducing tax burdens on businesses.
- C. the number of doors and windows in French residences was kept to a minimum but increased after 1830.
- D. French people with significant foreign investments were unlikely to have the right to vote.

## ID: 22b3da87 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. We're told that people needed to pay "at least 300 francs in direct taxes" to be able to vote. We're also told that, while "relatively few people paid the tax on real estate," real estate taxes were both the main way people qualified to vote and the main source of revenue for the government. Based on this, we can infer that those who did qualify to vote likely had significant French real estate holdings.

Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention the voting habits of artisans and merchants nor any reduction in tax burdens on businesses, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. Although we know that doors and windows were taxed during the Bourbon Restoration, we don't have enough information to infer if doors and windows increased after this time. Choice D is incorrect. Although we know that foreign investments were only minimally taxed, we don't have enough information to determine if those with significant foreign investments were unlikely to have voting rights. For example, it's possible that those with significant foreign investments were likely to also be people with significant domestic investments which they did pay taxes on, so we don't have the information necessary to make this inference.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 303537cf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: 303537cf

The following text is adapted from Lewis Carroll's 1889 satirical novel *Sylvie and Bruno*. A crowd has gathered outside a room belonging to the Warden, an official who reports to the Lord Chancellor.

One man, who was more excited than the rest, flung his hat high into the air, and shouted (as well as I could make out) "Who roar for the Sub-Warden?" Everybody roared, but whether it was for the Sub-Warden, or not, did not clearly appear: some were shouting "Bread!" and some "Taxes!", but no one seemed to know what it was they really wanted.

All this I saw from the open window of the Warden's breakfast-saloon, looking across the shoulder of the Lord Chancellor. "What can it all mean?" he kept repeating to himself. "I never heard such shouting before—and at this time of the morning, too! And with such unanimity!"

Based on the text, how does the Lord Chancellor respond to the crowd?

- A. He asks about the meaning of the crowd's shouting, even though he claims to know what the crowd wants.
- B. He indicates a desire to speak to the crowd, even though the crowd has asked to speak to the Sub-Warden.
- C. He expresses sympathy for the crowd's demands, even though the crowd's shouting annoys him.
- D. He describes the crowd as being united, even though the crowd clearly appears otherwise.

## ID: 303537cf Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about how the Lord Chancellor responds to the crowd that is supported by the text. The text indicates that the people in the crowd are roaring and shouting "Bread!" or "Taxes!" and presents them as not knowing what they really want. The Lord Chancellor's response is to ask what their shouting means but also to observe that they're shouting with "unanimity," or total agreement. Clearly, this isn't the case, which supports the statement that the Lord Chancellor describes the crowd as being united even though it's not.

Choice A is incorrect because it isn't supported by the text. Although the text indicates that the Lord Chancellor asks about the meaning of the crowd's shouting, it doesn't suggest that he knows what the crowd really wants. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the Lord Chancellor wants to speak to the crowd. Furthermore, the text doesn't indicate that the crowd wants to hear from the Sub-Warden. Although the crowd roars when asked "Who roar for the Sub-Warden?" it's unclear what the roaring means. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the Lord Chancellor knows of or sympathizes with the crowd's demands. In addition, the text doesn't indicate that the crowd's shouting annoys the Lord Chancellor, just that it causes him to keep repeating "What can it all mean?"

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID bcf2f169

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: bcf2f169

Ana Castillo's 1986 novel *The Mixquiahuala Letters* is a story told entirely through expressive letters from the narrator to her friend—letters that Castillo suggests could be read in several different orders. As they began reading it in class, some students remarked that they found the novel's letter format daunting and its treatment of gender relations old-fashioned. The professor, however, pointed out that the novel is written in modern-sounding language and addresses issues that still matter today, suggesting that *The Mixquiahuala Letters* \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. has more to say about gender relations than other novels from the same period.
- B. is more relevant to contemporary audiences than it may seem at first.
- C. is easier to read than many contemporary novels that focus on friendship.
- D. is best understood after multiple readings in different orders.

## ID: bcf2f169 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Ana Castillo's 1986 novel *The Mixquiahuala Letters*. The text states that the novel consists entirely of letters from the narrator to her friend—a format that some students reading the novel in a class found intimidating. According to the text, those students also found the novel's treatment of gender to be old-fashioned. In response to the students' concerns, their professor emphasized the novel's relevance: it's written in modern-sounding language and addresses issues that still matter. This, in turn, suggests that *The Mixquiahuala Letters* is more relevant to contemporary audiences than it may initially seem.

Choice A is incorrect because the professor's response to the students only mentions *The Mixquiahuala Letters*: it doesn't compare the novel to others from the same period. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the professor's response to the students compares *The Mixquiahuala Letters* to contemporary novels about friendship. Choice D is incorrect because the professor's response to the students doesn't address the idea of reading the novel's letters multiple times and in different orders.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 35ec767c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 35ec767c

## Corn-Related Vocabulary in Various Southeastern Languages

Language family	Word (language)	English translation	Proposed origin in vocabulary of the Totozoquean language family
Muskogean	tanchi' (Chickasaw); tanchi (Choctaw); vce (Muscogee, pronounced "uh-chi")	corn	no
Iroquoian	se-lu (Cherokee)	corn	no
Caddoan	-k'as- (Caddo)	dried corn	yes
Chitimacha	k'asma (Chitimacha)	corn	yes

In Caddo, a language from what is now the US Southeast, vocabulary pertaining to corn cultivation resembles equivalent vocabulary in the Totozoquean language family in Mexico. This resemblance is perhaps attributable to cultural contact: such words could have entered Caddo through the intermediary of the neighboring but unrelated Chitimacha language, concurrent with the dissemination of corn itself from Mexico into the Southeast after 700 CE. That the vocabulary pertaining to domestic crops accompanies them as they diffuse into new regions is an established phenomenon globally. Crops may also be decoupled from vocabulary altogether: corn cultivation became ubiquitous among the Southeastern tribes, yet \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

A. the origins of vocabulary pertaining to the crop vary across languages in the region, with the words for corn in Cherokee and the Muskogean languages showing no demonstrable relationship to Totozoquean vocabulary.

B. the region is linguistically diverse, being home not only to Chitimacha and Caddo, but also to the Muskogean language family (including Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Muscogee) and to one Iroquoian language (Cherokee).

C. corn-related vocabulary underwent changes when entering other, unrelated languages, as can be seen by the divergence of the Caddo word from the Chitimacha word it originated in.

D. words for corn in the languages of the Muskogean family evolved from a common root, with the Muscogee word having lost certain consonant sounds still present in the Chickasaw and Choctaw words.

ID: 35ec767c Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The table provides evidence that the words for corn in the Cherokee and Muskogean languages appear unrelated to those in Caddo language, which is described as closely related to the Totozoquean language family. This supports the claim that corn cultivation spread across the Southeast without necessarily spreading Totozoquean vocabulary along with it.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice emphasizes the diversity of Southeastern languages in general, but we're specifically looking for information about words associated with corn. Choice C is incorrect. This choice shows how words for corn can change and evolve, but we're looking for an example that shows how some words for corn can be completely unrelated. Choice D is incorrect. This choice shows words for corn that share a common root, but we're looking for an example that shows how some words for corn can be unrelated.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 24c1b7e4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 24c1b7e4

Percentage Point Changes in US Federal Outlays Relative to GDP by Congressional Status

Period	Congressional status	Change in total outlays	Change in nondefense outlays	Change in defense outlays
1981–1988	divided	-0.4	-1.3	0.9
1975–1976	divided	2.7	3.0	-0.3
1977–1980	undivided	0.3	0.6	-0.3
1964–1968	undivided	1.9	1.4	0.5
1969–1974	divided	-1.8	2.1	-3.9

Economist Steve H. Hanke has shown that divided US Congresses—which occur when one party holds the majority in the House of Representatives and another holds the majority in the Senate—tend to accompany reductions in total federal outlays (spending) relative to gross domestic product (GDP), which Hanke interprets to reflect decreases in government size. Hanke calculated the percentage point change in total outlays (encompassing nondefense and defense outlays) for consecutive US Congresses. Hanke has pointed to his calculations as evidence that a divided Congress may be a “necessary but not sufficient condition” for a decrease in government size to occur.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the underlined claim?

The periods of undivided Congresses were associated with increases in nondefense outlays, whereas all the periods of  
A. divided Congresses except one were associated with reductions in defense outlays.

All the periods of divided Congresses were associated with reductions in total outlays, although two periods were also  
B. associated with increases in nondefense outlays.

The periods of undivided Congresses were associated with increases in total outlays, whereas all the periods of divided  
C. Congresses were associated with reductions in either nondefense outlays or defense outlays.

All the periods of divided Congresses except one were associated with reductions in total outlays, whereas the periods of  
D. undivided Congresses were associated with increases in total outlays.

**Correct Answer:** D

**Rationale**

Choice D is the best answer. The claim is that divided Congresses are necessary but insufficient—that is, we need divide Congresses, but they are not enough—to decrease government size, as measured by total federal outlays. This choice accurately expresses the supporting data from the “change in total outlays” part of the graph. Within the data set, divided Congresses sometimes decreased total outlays, but undivided ones never did.

Choice A is incorrect. The claim is only about government size, as measured by total federal outlays—defense and nondefense outlays aren’t relevant. Choice B is incorrect. The claim is only about government size as measured by total federal outlays—nondefense outlays aren’t relevant. Choice C is incorrect. The claim is only about government size as measured by total federal outlays—specific information about defense or nondefense outlays isn’t relevant.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c188a397

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: c188a397

Recently, scientists looked at data collected by NASA's InSight lander to learn more about seismic activity on Mars, known as marsquakes. The data show that the marsquakes all started from the same location on the planet. This discovery was surprising to scientists, as they expected that the marsquakes would originate from all over the planet because of the cooling of the planet's surface. Now, scientists believe that there could be areas of active magma flows deep beneath the planet's surface that trigger the marsquakes.

According to the text, what was surprising to scientists studying the seismic activity data from NASA's InSight lander?

- A. The surface temperature of Mars has been rising.
- B. There were different types of seismic waves causing marsquakes.
- C. NASA's InSight lander collected less data than scientists had expected.
- D. All the marsquakes started from the same location on the planet.

## ID: c188a397 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about what surprised the scientists that is supported by the text. The text states that the marsquakes described in the data from NASA's InSight lander originated from the same location on Mars. The text goes on to say that because they had expected the opposite (that marsquakes would originate from all over the planet) this discovery surprised the scientists.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't say that the data from NASA's InSight lander revealed any surprising information about the planet's surface temperature. Instead, the text mentions the cooling of Mars's surface as a reason the scientists expected that marsquakes had multiple origins. In addition, cooling would indicate that the temperature has been falling rather than rising. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text indicates that by studying seismic activity scientists found a possible explanation for what causes marsquakes, the text doesn't say that they discovered that marsquakes are caused by different types of seismic waves. Rather, the text states that based on the data from NASA's InSight lander, scientists now believe that this seismic activity happens because of areas of active magma that flow below the planet's surface. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss the amount of data NASA's InSight lander collected or whether scientists who studied the data found the amount to be as expected. Instead, the text focuses on what the data revealed about where on Mars the marsquakes originated.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID fbb84fb0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: fbb84fb0

*Hedda Gabler* is an 1890 play by Henrik Ibsen. As a woman in the Victorian era, Hedda, the play's central character, is unable to freely determine her own future. Instead, she seeks to influence another person's fate, as is evident when she says to another character, \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from a translation of *Hedda Gabler* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "Then what in heaven's name would you have me do with myself?"
- B. "I want for once in my life to have power to mould a human destiny."
- C. "Then I, poor creature, have no sort of power over you?"
- D. "Faithful to your principles, now and for ever! Ah, that is how a man should be!"

## ID: fbb84fb0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim in the text that Hedda seeks to influence another character's fate. In the quotation, Hedda says that she wants "to have power to mould a human destiny," or shape a person's fate, just as the text indicates. Additionally, the phrase "for once in my life" suggests that Hedda feels that she has never been able to shape anyone's life, including her own, supporting the text's assertion that she "is unable to freely determine her own future."

Choice A is incorrect because this quotation shows Hedda being uncertain about what to do with her own life, not wanting to influence another person's fate. Choice C is incorrect because while this quotation shows Hedda's interest in finding out whether she has any power over another character, it doesn't clearly show that she wants to influence that person's fate. In this quotation, Hedda seems to have inferred or concluded ("then") that she doesn't have any influence over the person to whom she's speaking, and she's asking that person to confirm her lack of influence. Choice D is incorrect because this quotation expresses Hedda's belief that a man should be true to his principles, not her desire to influence another person's fate.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 73d457b6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 73d457b6

In the 1970s, a roughly 60,000-year-old piece of hyena bone marked with nine notches was discovered at a site in western France once inhabited by Neanderthals. Although many believe that only modern humans developed systems for notating numbers, one archaeologist asserts that this artifact may be a sign that Neanderthals also recorded numerical information. The notches on the bone are unevenly spaced but approximately parallel, and microscopic analysis reveals that they were made with a single stone tool; according to the archaeologist, this suggests that the notches were all made at one time by one individual as a means of counting something.

Which finding, if true, would most directly weaken the underlined claim?

- A. Parallel lines are a common feature in modern humans' early systems for recording numerical information.
- B. site in western France.
  - More than nine approximately parallel notches made with a different stone tool are present on another artifact found at a
- C. Neanderthals.
  - It would have taken careful effort to make evenly spaced lines on bone with the stone tools typically used by
- D. parallel lines.

## ID: 73d457b6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The archeologist bases their claim on the fact that the hyena bone features unevenly spaced parallel notches. But if unevenly spaced parallel lines were found on "decorative art" at another Neanderthal site, it would suggest that the hyena bone is probably decorative art as well—not a counting tool.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't weaken the underlined claim. If anything, it might actually strengthen the claim: assuming we can make an inference about Neanderthals using a fact about early humans, it provides more support for the idea that the person who made the notches was counting something. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't weaken the underlined claim. The fact that another artifact had parallel notches made with a different stone tool doesn't tell us anything about the use of either artifact. For all we know, they could both have been used for counting. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't weaken the underlined claim. The fact that it took effort to make the lines doesn't tell us anything about what the lines were for.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 56f477fb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 56f477fb

Distribution of Ecosystem Services Affected by Invasive Species by Service Type

Region (Overall)	Provisioning (75%)	Regulating (21%)	Cultural (4%)
West	73%	27%	0%
North	88%	12%	0%
South	79%	14%	7%
East	83%	6%	11%
Central	33%	67%	0%

To assess the impact of invasive species on ecosystems in Africa, Benis N. Egoh and colleagues reviewed government reports from those nations about how invasive species are undermining ecosystem services (aspects of the ecosystem on which residents depend). The services were sorted into three categories: provisioning (material resources from the ecosystem), regulating (natural processes such as cleaning the air or water), and cultural (nonmaterial benefits of ecosystems). Egoh and her team assert that countries in each region reported effects on provisioning services and that provisioning services represent the majority of the reported services.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support Egoh and colleagues' assertion?

Provisioning services represent 73% of the services reported for the West region and 33% of those for the Central region.  
A. but they represent 75% of the services reported overall.

None of the percentages shown for provisioning services are lower than 33%, and the overall percentage shown for provisioning services is 75%.

C. Provisioning services are shown for each region, while no cultural services are shown for some regions.

The greatest percentage shown for provisioning services is 88% for the North region, and the least shown for provisioning services is 33% for the Central region.

ID: 56f477fb Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The finding that all the regions reported at least some effects on provisioning services supports the first part of the assertion. And the fact that provisioning services comprise 75% of the reported services overall supports the second part of the assertion.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't fully support the assertion. It doesn't include the finding that all the regions (not just Central and West) reported at least some effects on provisioning services. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't fully support the assertion. It doesn't demonstrate that provisioning services represent the majority of the reported services overall. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't fully support the assertion. It doesn't demonstrate that provisioning services represent the majority of the reported services overall.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID cac82f9b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: cac82f9b

Biologist Natacha Bodenhausen and colleagues analyzed the naturally occurring bacterial communities associated with leaves and roots of wild *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a small flowering plant. The researchers found many of the same bacterial genera in both the plants' leaves and roots. To explain this, the researchers pointed to the general proximity of *A. thaliana* leaves to the ground and noted that rain splashing off soil could bring soil-based bacteria into contact with the leaves. Alternatively, the researchers noted that wind, which may be a source of bacteria in the aboveground portion of plants, could also bring bacteria to the soil and roots. Either explanation suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. bacteria carried by wind are typically less beneficial to *A. thaliana* than soil-based bacteria are.
- B. some bacteria in *A. thaliana* leaves and roots may share a common source.
- C. many bacteria in *A. thaliana* leaves may have been deposited by means other than rain.
- D. *A. thaliana* leaves and roots are especially vulnerable to harmful bacteria.

## ID: cac82f9b Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Both explanations suggest that the bacteria come from the same place: either they come from the ground and make their way to the leaves, or they come from above the ground and make their way to the roots.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never discusses any benefits of any kind of bacteria. Choice C is incorrect. This conflicts with the text. One of the theories is that the bacteria in the leaves were deposited by rain splashing off soil. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text only discusses "naturally occurring" bacteria. It never mentions either the harms or benefits of these bacteria.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 783d1388

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 783d1388

*The Souls of Black Folk* is a 1903 book by W.E.B. Du Bois. In the book, Du Bois suggests that upon hearing Black folk songs, he felt an intuitive and sometimes unexpected sense of cultural recognition: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from *The Souls of Black Folk* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. “[Black folk music] still remains as the singular spiritual heritage of the nation and the greatest gift of the Negro people.”

“Ever since I was a child these songs have stirred me strangely. They came out of the South unknown to me, one by one, B. and yet at once I knew them as of me and of mine.”

“Caricature has sought again to spoil the quaint beauty of the music, and has filled the air with many debased melodies which vulgar ears scarce know from the real. But the true Negro folk-song still lives in the hearts of those who have heard C. them truly sung and in the hearts of the Negro people.”

“The songs are indeed the siftings of centuries; the music is far more ancient than the words, and in it we can trace here D. and there signs of development.”

## ID: 783d1388 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because the quotation from *The Souls of Black Folk* illustrates the claim that Du Bois felt a sense of cultural recognition when he heard Black folk songs. In the quotation, Du Bois explains that for his entire life, Black folk songs “stirred [him] strangely.” Even though they originated in the South, a region he wasn’t familiar with, he knew the songs “as of me and of mine.” That is, he identified strongly with them and associated them with his community. Therefore, Du Bois felt an intuitive sense of cultural recognition when he heard Black folk songs.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the quotation considers the cultural and spiritual value of Black folk music, it doesn’t establish that this music inspired in Du Bois a sense of cultural recognition. Choice C is incorrect because this quotation addresses the cultural survival of Black folk songs despite attempts to caricature, or parody, them, not Du Bois’s sense of cultural connection to them. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation indicates that the Black folk songs and music are old, “the siftings of centuries,” instead of addressing how Du Bois felt when he heard the songs.

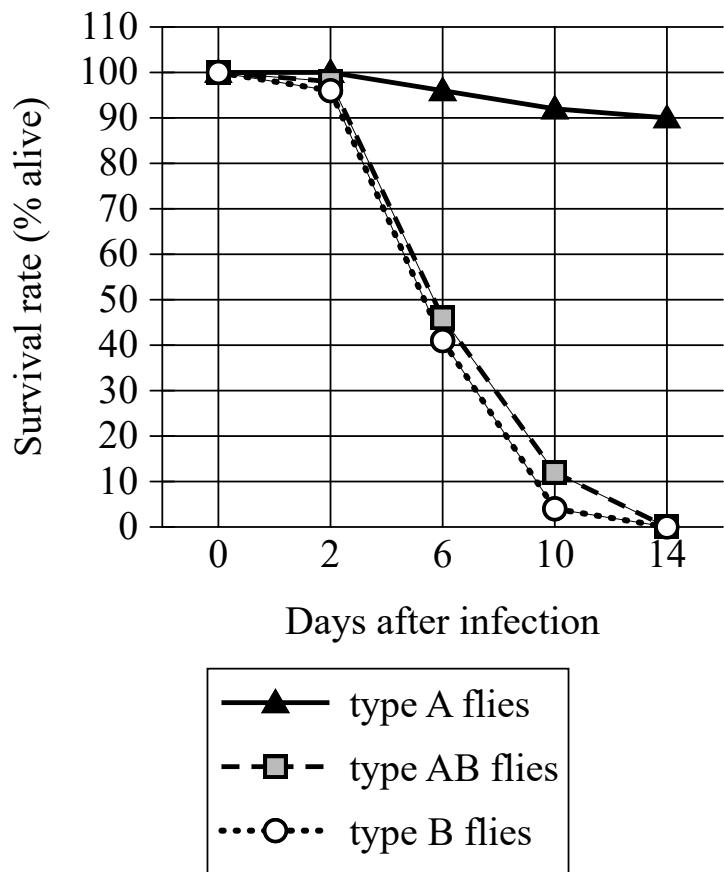
**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID cbdd5287

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: cbdd5287

Average Survival of Fruit Flies following Infection



In a study of the evolution of *DptA* and *DptB*—*Diptericin* genes encoding antimicrobial peptides that combat pathogens and foster beneficial microbes in fruit flies (*Drosophila*)—researchers assessed *Drosophila melanogaster* resistance to pathogenic infections by *Providencia rettgeri* and *Acetobacter sicerae*, bacteria common in the flies' environments. Subjects included flies identified by mutations silencing *DptA*, *DptB*, or both *DptA* and *DptB* (termed types A, B, and AB, respectively). In conjunction with the observation that resistance to *P. rettgeri* correlates with *DptA* activity but is not significantly affected by *DptB* activity, data in the graph of survival rates post-*A. sicerae* infection suggest that \_\_\_\_\_

Which completion of the text is best supported by data in the graph?

- A. *DptA* confers defense against *A. sicerae* regardless of the presence of *DptB*.
- B. *DptB* protects against only one bacteria species, whereas *DptA* protects against multiple species.
- C. *DptB* may have developed as a specific defense against *A. sicerae*.
- D. defense against *A. sicerae* is strongest when both *DptA* and *DptB* are present.

**Correct Answer:** C**Rationale**

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text based on supporting data in the graph. The text indicates that in the fly *D. melanogaster*, *DptA* and *DptB* are genes that encode peptides that both fight pathogens and promote beneficial microbes. Researchers tested *D. melanogaster*'s resistance to *P. rettgeri* and *A. sicerae* bacteria based on which variation of the peptide-encoding gene the flies exhibit: *DptA* silenced (referred to as type A), *DptB* silenced (type B), or both silenced (type AB). The text also indicates that resistance to *P. rettgeri* correlates with *DptA* activity but not with *DptB* activity (which would manifest as type B flies surviving at a higher rate than other fly types when exposed to *P. rettgeri*). The graph shows the post-*A. sicerae* infection results, which indicate that *DptB* activity was most strongly associated with survival, whereas *DptA* activity was not (manifesting in the graph as the type A flies having greater survival rates than the other fly types). In other words, when *DptA* activity was silenced, the flies showed relatively high survival rates, but when *DptB* activity was silenced, whether on its own or in conjunction with *DptA* activity being silenced, survival rates were low, suggesting that *DptB* may have developed as a specific defense against *A. sicerae*.

Choice A is incorrect. The graph suggests that *DptA* activity is associated with a low rate of survival, not a high one. Furthermore, the graph shows results for flies where *DptA* alone was silenced, *DptB* alone was silenced, and both were silenced and thus does not show any flies with activity in both *DptA* and *DptB*, which would be necessary to determine whether *DptA* conferred defense against *A. sicerae* in the presence of *DptB*. Choice B is incorrect. Only two bacteria species were considered in the text: *P. rettgeri* and *A. sicerae*. The text and graph taken together suggest that activity in *DptA* is associated with resistance to *P. rettgeri* while *DptB* activity is not, and that *DptB* activity is associated with resistance to *A. sicerae* while *DptA* is not. There is no further information to suggest one genetic type confers resistance to a greater number of pathogens than the other. Choice D is incorrect. The graph does not address flies with activity in both *DptA* and *DptB*. All flies represented in the graph had one or both of *DptA* and *DptB* silenced, or inactive.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 0045c234

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 0045c234

Given that stars and planets initially form from the same gas and dust in space, some astronomers have posited that host stars (such as the Sun) and their planets (such as those in our solar system) are composed of the same materials, with the planets containing equal or smaller quantities of the materials that make up the host star. This idea is also supported by evidence that rocky planets in our solar system are composed of some of the same materials as the Sun.

Which finding, if true, would most directly weaken the astronomers' claim?

Most stars are made of hydrogen and helium, but when cooled they are revealed to contain small amounts of iron and  
A. silicate.

B. A nearby host star is observed to contain the same proportion of hydrogen and helium as that of the Sun.

Evidence emerges that the amount of iron in some rocky planets is considerably higher than the amount in their host  
C. star.

The method for determining the composition of rocky planets is discovered to be less effective when used to analyze  
D. other kinds of planets.

## ID: 0045c234 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would weaken the astronomers' claim about the makeup of host stars and their planets. The text explains that because stars and planets begin forming from the same gas and dust, astronomers believe planets should be composed of the same materials as their host stars, but in equal or smaller quantities. The finding that the amount of iron in some rocky planets is much higher than the amount in their host star would weaken the astronomers' claim because it would show that some planets contain the same material as their host star, but in higher quantities.

Choice A is incorrect because a finding only about the makeup of stars, whether they've cooled or not, would provide no information about the makeup of planets. Thus, it wouldn't have any bearing on the claim that planets and their host stars are composed of the same materials in differing quantities. Choice B is incorrect because a finding about two host stars having similar proportions of certain materials wouldn't provide any information about the makeup of planets. Thus, it wouldn't be relevant to the claim that planets and their host stars are composed of the same materials in differing quantities. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that the astronomers' claim is based on a fact—that stars and planets begin forming from the same gas and dust in space—which would remain true regardless of the effectiveness of a method for analysis of compositions. The text does cite analysis of rocky planets in our solar system and the Sun, but only as a single piece of evidence that is consistent with the claim and not as the source of the claim; the finding that the method used for that analysis is less effective in other scenarios wouldn't weaken a claim that's based on knowledge of how stars and planets initially form.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f64ff4fb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: f64ff4fb

In her 1998 book *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism*, Angela Y. Davis bases her analysis in part on recordings of songs sung in the 1920s by Gertrude "Ma" Rainey and Bessie Smith. Davis focuses on how Rainey and Smith improvised the lyrics—replacing the original lines with mischievous jokes and wordplay. Davis's work was particularly labor intensive because in order to transcribe, or write down, the lyrics as Rainey and Smith sang them, Davis had to listen repeatedly to the vinyl recordings, which weren't very clear.

What does the text most strongly suggest about the songs sung by Rainey and Smith?

- A. The songs have grown in popularity since Rainey and Smith first sang them.
- B. There were more recordings made of Rainey's songs than there were of Smith's.
- C. There were few, if any, reliable transcriptions of Smith's and Rainey's improvised lyrics when Davis began her research.
- D. According to Davis, the songs sung by Rainey were more musically innovative than those sung by Smith typically were.

## ID: f64ff4fb Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it describes the songs sung by Gertrude "Ma" Rainey and Bessie Smith in a way the text implies is accurate. The text describes Angela Y. Davis's research on Rainey and Smith for her book *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism*, focusing on her efforts to transcribe the improvised lyrics in Rainey's and Smith's songs. The text calls Davis's transcription process "labor intensive" since the lack of clarity in the recordings required her to listen to each repeatedly to verify the accuracy of her transcripts. The fact that Davis undertook a painstaking transcription process using only fairly low-fidelity recordings suggests that reliable transcriptions were otherwise unavailable to her.

Choice A is incorrect. The text doesn't discuss the popularity of Rainey's and Smith's songs either in the 1920s or after. Although it is plausible that the music of Rainey and Smith is more widely enjoyed than it was in the 1920s, this isn't supported by the text. Choice B is incorrect. The text doesn't discuss which of Rainey and Smith was the more prolific recording artist and so provides no support for such a claim. Choice D is incorrect. The text discusses the creativity of both Rainey and Smith, but it does so only to note similarities between them in terms of improvisation and wit, not to emphasize differences between them or Davis's relative views of the artists' inventiveness.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a3fb5e77

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: a3fb5e77

Some animal-behavior studies involve observing wild animals in their natural habitat, and some involve capturing wild animals and observing them in a laboratory. Each approach has advantages over the other. In wild studies, researchers can more easily presume that the animals are behaving normally, and in lab studies, researchers can more easily control factors that might affect the results. But if, for example, the results from a wild study and a lab study of Western scrub-jays (*Aphelocoma californica*) contradict each other, one or both of the studies must have failed to account for some factor that was relevant to the birds' behavior.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

When the results of a natural-habitat study and those from a lab study of a wild animal such as the Western scrub-jay

- A. conflict, the study in the natural habitat is more likely than the lab study to have accurate results.

- B. conflicting results that researchers cannot fully resolve.

- C. approach has drawbacks that could affect the accuracy of the findings.

- D. indication that both of the studies had design flaws that affected the accuracy of their results.

## ID: a3fb5e77 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by explaining that wild animals can be studied in their natural habitat or in a laboratory setting, with each setting offering unique advantages to researchers. The text then highlights an instance in which Western scrub-jays were studied in both settings but with conflicting results, indicating that one or both studies may have failed to account for the disadvantages of its research setting. Thus, the main idea of the text is that while wild animals can be effectively studied in natural or lab settings, there are drawbacks to each that need to be considered to ensure accurate results.

Choice A is incorrect because the text does not position one study setting (natural or lab) as superior to the other; rather, the text states that each one has advantages over the other. Choice B is incorrect. The text provides a hypothetical example of two studies in different environments with conflicting results, but this single example cannot be extrapolated to a general claim about the likelihood that results of studies in different environments will conflict. Additionally, the text does not assert anything about how researchers can or cannot resolve conflicting study results. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not state that discrepancies between natural-habitat and lab-based animal behavior studies are due to both of the designs being flawed. Rather, the text states that the conflict in results can be the consequence of one or both of the studies having failed to account for some factor.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 87023f34

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

**ID: 87023f34**

"Ghosts of the Old Year" is an early 1900s poem by James Weldon Johnson. In the poem, the speaker describes experiencing an ongoing cycle of anticipation followed by regretful reflection: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from "Ghosts of the Old Year" most effectively illustrates the claim?

"What does this brazen tongue declare, / That falling on the midnight air / Brings to my heart a sense of care / Akin to  
A. fright?"

"The snow has ceased its fluttering flight, / The wind sunk to a whisper light, / An ominous stillness fills the night, / A  
B. pause—a hush."

"It tells of many a squandered day, / Of slighted gems and treasured clay, / Of precious stores not laid away, / Of fields  
C. unreaped."

"And so the years go swiftly by, / Each, coming, brings ambitions high, / And each, departing, leaves a sigh / Linked to the  
D. past."

**ID: 87023f34 Answer**

**Correct Answer: D**

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents the quotation that most effectively illustrates the claim that the speaker of the poem describes experiencing an ongoing cycle of anticipation followed by regretful reflection. In this quotation, the speaker notes that as years go by, "Each, coming"—that is, each new year as it comes—"brings ambitions high." In other words, the speaker begins each new year with large goals. But the speaker goes on to say that as each year ends ("each, departing"), it "leaves a sigh / Linked to the past." A sigh is an expression of longing or regret, so in the context of the whole quotation, this portion suggests that at the end of each year, the speaker regretfully reflects on not having achieved the ambitions formed at the beginning of the year. The phrases "the years go swiftly by," "Each, coming," and "each, departing" indicate that this experience happens over and over again: the speaker experiences a cycle of anticipation followed by regretful reflection.

Choice A is incorrect because this quotation does not describe an ongoing cycle of anticipation followed by regretful reflection. Instead, the speaker describes experiencing a sensation similar to fright as a result of something that has occurred at midnight. Specifically, the speaker has heard a "brazen tongue," a figurative way of saying that the speaker has heard the clang of a bronze bell being rung. Choice B is incorrect because although this quotation does convey a sense of anticipation through its reference to "ominous stillness," there is no suggestion of regretful reflection or any indication that the speaker is describing an ongoing cycle of anticipation followed by such reflection. Instead, the speaker is describing a particular moment when a winter storm appears to have momentarily calmed. Choice C is incorrect because although this quotation does convey a sense of regret ("many a squandered day"), nothing in the quotation suggests an ongoing cycle of anticipation followed by regret. Instead, the speaker is simply lamenting wasted time and opportunities.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4fc9a13a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 4fc9a13a

The novelist Toni Morrison was the first Black woman to work as an editor at the publishing company Random House, from 1967 to 1983. A scholar asserts that one of Morrison's likely aims during her time as an editor was to strengthen the presence of Black writers on the list of Random House's published authors.

Which finding, if true, would most strongly support the scholar's claim?

The percentage of authors published by Random House who were Black rose in the early 1970s and stabilized  
A. throughout the decade.

Black authors who were interviewed in the 1980s and 1990s were highly likely to cite Toni Morrison's novels as a  
B. principal influence on their work.

The novels written by Toni Morrison that were published after 1983 sold significantly more copies and received wider  
C. critical acclaim than the novels she wrote that were published before 1983.

Works that were edited by Toni Morrison during her time at Random House displayed stylistic characteristics that  
D. distinguished them from works that were not edited by Morrison.

## ID: 4fc9a13a Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support the scholar's claim about Toni Morrison's likely goal of strengthening the presence of Black writers on Random House's list of published authors. The text explains that Morrison was the first Black woman to be an editor for Random House and that she was an editor there from 1967 to 1983. If it were true that Random House published a higher percentage of works by Black authors throughout the 1970s—during most of Morrison's time working there—than it had previously published, that would suggest that Morrison may have made a deliberate effort to strengthen the presence of Black authors on the list of Random House's published authors, thus supporting the scholar's claim.

Choice B is incorrect because the scholar's claim is about Morrison's work as an editor at a publishing company and her likely effort to strengthen the presence of Black writers on that company's list of published authors. It might be true that Black authors interviewed in the 1980s and 1990s often cited Morrison's novels as an influence on their work, but that finding would simply suggest something about how those authors approached their work; it wouldn't show that Morrison intended to increase the number of Black writers among the published authors specifically at Random House. Choice C is incorrect because the scholar's claim is about Morrison's work as an editor at a publishing company, not about her work as a novelist. Therefore, a finding that Morrison's novels published after 1983 sold more copies and were more widely acclaimed than her earlier novels would have no bearing on the claim that as an editor Morrison made an effort to ensure that more Black writers were present on Random House's list of published authors. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text discusses Morrison's work as an editor at Random House, the scholar's claim focuses on Morrison's likely effort in that role to increase the number of Black writers present on Random House's list of published authors, not on the influence she may have had on the content of the works she edited. Without knowing whether Morrison's stylistic influence led to more publications or if Morrison applied her influence specifically to works by Black writers, the finding that works edited by Morrison could be identified by stylistic characteristics would have no bearing on the claim that Morrison intended to strengthen the presence of Black writers among the published authors at Random House.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5d20f560

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 5d20f560

Conventional theories of rhetoric hold that presenting information as coming from credentialed experts increases that information's credibility. When communications researcher Sungkyoung Lee and her colleagues tested messages seeking volunteers for clinical trials, however, they found that participants in their study judged recruitment messages from former trial volunteers as significantly more credible than messages from doctors (i.e., credentialed experts). One reason for this may be that the doctors' status as credentialed experts wasn't ignored but rather was outweighed by participants' views of the experiential relevance of the two types of messengers; that is, participants may have reacted the way they did because

Which choice most logically completes the text?

messages from former trial volunteers depicted clinical trials as being more positive experiences than did messages  
A. from doctors.

participants did not have enough experience to evaluate the credibility of the doctors' messages but did have enough  
B. experience to evaluate the credibility of former trial volunteers' messages.

the fact that former trial volunteers went through the same experience that participants were contemplating while  
C. doctors did not was more important to participants than the doctors' status as credentialed experts was.

participants regarded the experiences of both the doctors and former trial volunteers as relevant to the subject of clinical  
D. trials but were skeptical of the doctors' status as credentialed experts.

## ID: 5d20f560 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of how participants considered messages from former trial volunteers and doctors. The text first establishes that information coming from credentialed experts typically increases the credibility of that information. However, the text goes on to describe a situation that goes against this expectation: the messages from previous trial volunteers were judged as more credible than the messages from licensed doctors when recruiting clinic trial participants. The text then goes on to speculate as to why this may have been the case, stating that participants likely considered the messages from the former trial volunteers to be more convincing than the messages from the doctors because the former trial volunteers were perceived as having undergone the same experience that the participants were considering. It is reasonable to infer, then, that participants regarded the former trial volunteers' direct experience as more important to their decision-making than the doctors' status as credentialed experts.

Choice A is incorrect because the text does not provide any indication as to the content or the tone of the messages provided by either the doctors or the former trial volunteers regarding the clinical trials. Choice B is incorrect. Since the study participants had not themselves participated in the clinical trial, they could not rely on their experience to evaluate the credibility of either the former trial volunteers or the doctors. Choice D is incorrect. While the text does establish that the participants likely considered the messages from both the doctors and the former trial volunteers, it does not suggest that the participants doubted the doctors' credentials. Rather, the text speculates that participants may have given the experiences of the former trial volunteers more importance than the doctors' credentials when considering the recruitment messages.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID cae97f58

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: cae97f58

Mosses can struggle in harsh desert conditions because these plants require enough sunlight for photosynthesis but not so much that they risk drying out. Researchers Jenna Ekwealor and Kirsten M. Fisher found several species of *Syntrichia caninervis*, a type of desert moss, growing under quartz crystals in California's Mojave Desert. To evaluate whether these semitransparent rocks benefited the moss, the researchers compared the shoot tissue, a measure of plant growth, of *S. caninervis* when growing on the soil surface versus when the moss was growing under the quartz rocks. They found that the shoot tissue was 62% longer for moss growing under the quartz as compared to moss on the soil surface, suggesting that

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. *S. caninervis* is one of the few types of moss that can survive under semitransparent rocks.
- B. quartz crystals do not transmit the necessary sunlight for photosynthesis in *S. caninervis*.
- C. *S. caninervis* growing under quartz crystals experience lower light intensity and are thus able to retain more moisture.
- D. quartz crystals are capable of supporting *S. caninervis* growth if the crystals are not too thin.

## ID: cae97f58 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text. The text explains that while desert moss species need sufficient sunlight for photosynthesis, exposure to sunlight can also affect the plants negatively by drying them out. Ekwealor and Fisher's team found specimens of *S. caninervis* moss growing under quartz crystals that were semitransparent, allowing some but not all sunlight to pass through them, and the shoot tissue of these specimens was longer than that of *S. caninervis* specimens found growing on the surface that were unprotected by such crystals. Since, as the text explains, the length of shoot tissue is an indicator of plant growth, and since greater exposure to sunlight results in greater loss of moisture, it can be inferred that *S. caninervis* growing under quartz crystals experience lower light intensity and are thus able to retain more moisture.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't mention another moss species besides *S. caninervis* or discuss whether other such species are able to grow under transparent crystals, as *S. caninervis* is. Choice B is incorrect because, as the text explains, specimens of *S. caninervis* were found growing under quartz crystals and exhibited more plant growth than specimens growing on the soil surface. This wouldn't have been the case if the crystals transmitted insufficient light for the moss's photosynthesis. Choice D is incorrect. The text contrasts the growth of *S. caninervis* specimens found beneath semitransparent quartz crystals with that of specimens found on the soil surface absent such crystals, but it doesn't make a comparison among specimens growing beneath crystals of different degrees of thickness or consider how the relative thickness of the crystals affects the growth of the moss.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8391a002

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 8391a002

Black beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) are a nutritionally dense food, but they are difficult to digest in part because of their high levels of soluble fiber and compounds like raffinose. They also contain antinutrients like tannins and trypsin inhibitors, which interfere with the body's ability to extract nutrients from foods. In a research article, Marisela Granito and Glenda Álvarez from Simón Bolívar University in Venezuela claim that inducing fermentation of black beans using lactic acid bacteria improves the digestibility of the beans and makes them more nutritious.

Which finding from Granito and Álvarez's research, if true, would most directly support their claim?

When cooked, fermented beans contained significantly more trypsin inhibitors and tannins but significantly less soluble A. fiber and raffinose than nonfermented beans.

Fermented beans contained significantly less soluble fiber and raffinose than nonfermented beans, and when cooked, the B. fermented beans also displayed a significant reduction in trypsin inhibitors and tannins.

When the fermented beans were analyzed, they were found to contain two microorganisms, *Lactobacillus casei* and *Lactobacillus plantarum*, that are theorized to increase the amount of nitrogen absorbed by the gut after eating C. beans.

Both fermented and nonfermented black beans contained significantly fewer trypsin inhibitors and tannins after being D. cooked at high pressure.

## ID: 8391a002 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a finding that would best support Granito and Álvarez's claim that fermenting black beans makes them easier to digest and more nutritious. The text indicates that high levels of soluble fiber and raffinose in black beans make the beans hard to digest and that tannins and trypsin inhibitors make it harder for the body to extract nutrients from the beans. If it were found that fermenting the beans significantly reduces their levels of soluble fiber, raffinose, trypsin inhibitors, and tannins when cooked, this would directly support the claim that fermentation improves the digestibility of the beans and makes them more nutritious.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that trypsin inhibitors and tannins interfere with the body's ability to extract nutrients from black beans; if fermentation and cooking were found to increase these antinutrients, fermented beans would likely be less nutritious than unfermented ones, not more nutritious (as Granito and Álvarez claim). Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't address the idea that greater nitrogen absorption in the gut has an effect on a food's digestibility or level of nutrition, so the discovery of the presence of microorganisms that may increase nitrogen absorption wouldn't provide relevant support for the claim that fermentation makes black beans easier to digest and more nutritious. Choice D is incorrect because Granito and Álvarez's claim focuses on the effect of fermenting black beans, but the finding that nonfermented black beans also have fewer trypsin inhibitors and tannins when cooked at high pressure would suggest that the role of the cooking method could be significant when it comes to nutrition; further, the finding wouldn't address the beans' digestibility.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6317295c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 6317295c

Properties of Select Rotating Radio Transients

Name	Right ascension (hours)	Period (seconds)	Frequency (hertz)
J0545-03	5:45	1.074	0.931
J1654-2335	16:54:03	0.545	1.834
J0103+54	1:03:37	0.354	2.822
J0121+53	1:21	2.725	0.367
J0614-03	6:15	0.136	7.353

A student is researching rotating radio transients (RRATs), a subclass of pulsar stars characterized by short pulses of radio waves. The time between consecutive pulses of an RRAT is referred to as a period. Looking at the table, the student determines that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. J0614-03 has the shortest amount of time between consecutive pulses of all the RRATs in the table.
- B. J0545-03 and J0121+53 have the same amount of time between consecutive pulses.
- C. J1654-2335 has the longest amount of time between consecutive pulses of all the RRATs in the table.
- D. J0103+54 and J0121+53 both have more than one second of time between consecutive pulses.

ID: 6317295c Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately uses data from the table to complete the statement about certain rotating radio transients (RRATs). The table contains information about the right ascensions, periods, and frequencies of various pulsar stars called RRATs. According to the text, the period of an RRAT is defined as the time between consecutive pulses. The table shows that the period of RRAT J0614-03 is 0.136 seconds, which is the lowest number of all the periods of the RRATs listed in the table. If the period is the time between consecutive pulses, and J0614-03 has the shortest period, then J0614-03 has the shortest amount of time between consecutive pulses of all the RRATs in the table.

Choice B is incorrect because according to the table, J0545-03 has a period of 1.074 seconds and J0121+53 has a period of 2.725 seconds. According to the text, the period of an RRAT is the time between consecutive pulses. Therefore, since J0545-03 and J0121+53 have different periods, they do not have the same amount of time between consecutive pulses. Choice C is incorrect because according to the table, J1654-2335 has a period of 0.545 seconds, which is not the longest period of all the RRATs listed in the table. According to the text, the period of an RRAT is the time between consecutive pulses, and both J0545-03 and J0121+53 have longer periods than J1654-2335, so J1654-2335 does not have the longest time between consecutive pulses of all the RRATs in the table. Choice D is incorrect because according to the table, J0103+54 has a period of 0.354 seconds, and J0121+53 has a period of 2.725 seconds. According to the text, the period of an RRAT is the time between consecutive pulses, and only J0121+53 has more than one second of time between consecutive pulses, not J0103+54.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4987f743

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

**ID: 4987f743**

ALSOL is a microcredit program in Mexico that makes small loans to female entrepreneurs who lack the collateral and credit history to secure financing from conventional banks. Borrowers use their business proceeds to repay loans in equal weekly installments and incur no penalty for missed payments other than lack of access to larger loans. Economists Gustavo Barboza and Sandra Trejos analyzed ALSOL data and found that rural borrowers, who mostly make and sell handicrafts, miss payments more often than urban borrowers do, partly because they sell their goods less frequently than they could. Barboza and Trejos claim that this behavior reflects strategic decisions that enable rural women to increase their profits per unit sold.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Barboza and Trejos's claim?

Many marketplaces require entrepreneurs to pay marketplace operators a fixed percentage of each day's proceeds in  
A. exchange for permission to sell goods there.

Rural entrepreneurs can typically sell their goods for higher prices in cities than in their home areas, but the number of  
B. people selling competing goods tends to be higher in cities.

C. Due to the lower costs they incur, rural entrepreneurs tend to require smaller initial loans than urban entrepreneurs do.

The cost to rural entrepreneurs to bring their goods to towns with marketplaces is high but largely independent of the  
D. number of goods they bring.

**ID: 4987f743 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support Barboza and Trejos's claim that rural female entrepreneurs who have received small loans from ALSOL are strategic in selling their goods less frequently than they could, even if it means missing payments. The text explains that borrowers in the ALSOL program use proceeds from their businesses to repay loans in equal weekly payments, with almost no penalty for missed payments. According to the text, Barboza and Trejos found that rural borrowers miss weekly payments in part because they don't sell their goods as often as they could, a move the researchers claim allows the entrepreneurs to help increase profits for the goods they sell. Finding that the cost of bringing goods to towns with marketplaces is high for rural entrepreneurs but is largely independent of how many goods are brought would support the researchers' claim: traveling to marketplaces less frequently would mean that a rural entrepreneur spends less on travel overall, and taking a large load of goods to a marketplace for essentially the same cost as taking a small load would allow the entrepreneur to more substantially offset the cost of travel with greater overall sales at the marketplace, resulting in more profit per good sold—even if those profits are earned less frequently and don't support weekly loan payments.

Choice A is incorrect because the finding that many marketplaces require entrepreneurs to pay the operators of the marketplace a fixed percentage of proceeds to be able to sell goods there wouldn't explain why rural entrepreneurs strategically choose to sell their goods less frequently than they could in order to increase their profits per unit sold. With a fixed percentage of proceeds due to operators, the amount entrepreneurs have to pay operators would also be fixed regardless of frequency of selling. Choice B is incorrect because the finding that rural entrepreneurs can usually sell their goods for higher prices in cities than in their local areas but also face higher competition to sell goods in cities wouldn't explain why rural entrepreneurs strategically choose to sell their goods less frequently than they could in order to increase their profits per unit sold. This is because both the higher prices and higher competition in cities would be stable factors—meaning there would be no clear reason for the rural entrepreneurs not to take every available chance to sell their goods in cities and to instead sell their goods in cities only sometimes. Choice C is incorrect because the finding that rural entrepreneurs have lower costs and thus tend to require smaller initial loans than urban entrepreneurs do has no bearing on rural borrowers strategically choosing to sell their goods less frequently than they could specifically to increase their profits per unit sold. The cost of producing goods doesn't depend on the frequency with which an entrepreneur sells those goods, so lower frequency alone wouldn't affect profits, and the initial loan amount is set and has nothing to do with how much profit is earned from each sale.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 835545cd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

**ID: 835545cd**

The following text is adapted from Charles W. Chesnutt's 1901 novel *The Marrow of Tradition*.

Mrs. Ochiltree was a woman of strong individuality, whose comments upon her acquaintance[s], present or absent, were marked by a frankness at times no less than startling. This characteristic caused her to be more or less avoided. Mrs. Ochiltree was aware of this sentiment on the part of her acquaintance[s], and rather exulted in it.

Based on the text, what is true about Mrs. Ochiltree's acquaintances?

- A. They try to refrain from discussing topics that would upset Mrs. Ochiltree.
- B. They are unable to spend as much time with Mrs. Ochiltree as she would like.
- C. They are too preoccupied with their own concerns to speak with Mrs. Ochiltree.
- D. They are likely offended by what Mrs. Ochiltree has said about them.

**ID: 835545cd Answer**

**Correct Answer:** D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about Mrs. Ochiltree's acquaintances that is supported by the text. The text indicates that Mrs. Ochiltree makes comments about her acquaintances that are frank, or direct and blunt, and sometimes startling. It also states that because of this behavior, the acquaintances tend to avoid Mrs. Ochiltree. Together, these details suggest that the acquaintances choose not to be around Mrs. Ochiltree because they are offended by the things she has said about them.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that Mrs. Ochiltree's acquaintances avoid discussing topics that would upset Mrs. Ochiltree; instead, it states that they avoid being around Mrs. Ochiltree at all. Choice B is incorrect because the text makes it clear that Mrs. Ochiltree knows her acquaintances often avoid her and is pleased about it (she "rather exulted in it"), not that she wants to spend more time with them. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that Mrs. Ochiltree's acquaintances don't speak with Mrs. Ochiltree because they are too focused on their own concerns, but rather because they don't like the frank comments she makes.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9869c261

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

**ID: 9869c261**

Data collected by the Mars rover *Curiosity* at the Gale Crater's Murray Formation are suggestive of hydrological deposition of sediment in the distant past. To characterize the nature of the depositional environment, Frances Rivera-Hernández et al. analyzed the grain size of Murray Formation sediment, finding that although there are intervals of coarse grains, most of the sediment consists of fine grains that show signs of cracking due to episodic desiccation. Rivera-Hernández et al. concluded that the coarse grains are sandstone, which tends to be deposited by flowing water, whereas the fine grains are mudstone, which is slowly deposited by settling out of suspension in low-flow water, leading the researchers to posit that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

although the area of the Murray Formation experienced a prolonged period of dryness that prevented a lake from  
A. forming, water flowing from a distant source was present.

a lake existed at the Murray Formation for a prolonged period, though the lake occasionally experienced drying and there  
B. were periods in which one or more streams were present.

one or more streams existed at the Murray Formation for an extended period until being replaced by a lake that persisted  
C. for only a brief period before permanently drying.

a stream-fed lake was present at the Murray Formation for an extended period, and although the streams experienced  
D. occasional drying, the lake did not.

**ID: 9869c261 Answer**

**Correct Answer: B**

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the sediments found at the Gale Crater's Murray Formation on Mars. The text states that data gathered by the *Curiosity* rover suggest that bodies of water deposited sediment on Mars's surface long ago. The text goes on to say that studying the sediment, Rivera-Hernández et al. found some coarse grains they believe are sandstone, which tends to be left by flowing water, and many more fine grains they believe are mudstone, which tends to slowly sink in low-flow water. The text further indicates that the researchers noted cracks in the fine grains that suggest there were cycles of desiccation, or drying, at the site. Taken together, this information suggests that a lake (a body of low-flow water) existed at the site for a prolonged period but occasionally experienced drying and that there were periods in which one or more streams (flowing water) were present, since the extended existence of a lake would account for the abundance of fine grains, periods of drying would account for the cracks in the fine grains, and periods with streams would account for the sections of coarse grains.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that an abundance of fine grains of sediment was found at the Murray Formation site, which suggests that a low-flow water source (such as a lake) was present. Further, the text makes no mention of where the water at the site may have originated from. Choice C is incorrect because the evidence described in the text doesn't support the idea that there were streams at the Murray Formation for an extended period and a lake for just a short time. The abundance of fine grains suggests that a lake (a body of low-flow water) was present for an extended time, not just a short time, and the sections of coarse grains suggest that one or more streams (bodies of flowing water) were intermittently present while the lake existed, not at a separate time. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text suggests that both a low-flow body of water (such as a lake) and flowing water (such as streams) existed at the Murray Formation site, meaning that there could have been a stream-fed lake, the text explains that the fine grains that signify the presence of a lake exhibit cracking that indicates periods of desiccation, or drying, which suggests that a lake was present but *did* occasionally dry out.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a66f9b8d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

## ID: a66f9b8d

Cats can judge unseen people's positions in space by the sound of their voices and thus react with surprise when the same person calls to them from two different locations in a short span of time. Saho Takagi and colleagues reached this conclusion by measuring cats' levels of surprise based on their ear and head movements while the cats heard recordings of their owners' voices from two speakers spaced far apart. Cats exhibited a low level of surprise when owners' voices were played twice from the same speaker, but they showed a high level of surprise when the voice was played once each from the two different speakers.

According to the text, how did the researchers determine the level of surprise displayed by the cats in the study?

- A. They watched how each cat moved its ears and head.
- B. They examined how each cat reacted to the voice of a stranger.
- C. They studied how each cat physically interacted with its owner.
- D. They tracked how each cat moved around the room.

## ID: a66f9b8d Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it explains how the researchers determined the level of surprise displayed by the cats in the study. The text states that Saho Takagi and colleagues played recordings of the voice of each cat's owner and measured how surprised the cat was by the recording based on how it moved its ears and head.

Choice B is incorrect because, as the text explains, the recordings played for each cat in the study were of the voice of the cat's owner, not a stranger's voice. Choice C is incorrect because the text explains that during the study, the cats didn't interact directly with their owners; instead, the cats listened to recordings of their owners' voices. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that the researchers monitored the cats' movement around the room in which the study was conducted.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 124fdcd7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

## ID: 124fdcd7

Many archaeologists will tell you that categorizing excavated fragments of pottery by style, period, and what objects they belong to relies not only on standard criteria, but also on instinct developed over years of practice. In a recent study, however, researchers trained a deep-learning computer model on thousands of images of pottery fragments and found that it could categorize them as accurately as a team of expert archaeologists. Some archaeologists have expressed concern that they might be replaced by such computer models, but the researchers claim that outcome is highly unlikely.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers' claim?

In the researchers' study, the model was able to categorize the pottery fragments much more quickly than the  
A. archaeologists could.

In the researchers' study, neither the model nor the archeologists were able to accurately categorize all the pottery  
B. fragments that were presented.

A survey of archaeologists showed that categorizing pottery fragments limits the amount of time they can dedicate to  
C. other important tasks that only human experts can do.

A survey of archaeologists showed that few of them received dedicated training in how to properly categorize pottery  
D. fragments.

## ID: 124fdcd7 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support the researchers' claim that archaeologists are unlikely to be replaced by certain computer models. The text explains that although archaeologists hold that categorizing pottery fragments relies on both objective criteria and instinct developed through direct experience, researchers have found that a computer model can categorize the fragments with the same degree of accuracy as the humans can—a finding that has caused some archaeologists to worry that their own work won't be needed any longer. If survey results indicate that categorizing pottery fragments limits the amount of time archaeologists can dedicate to other important tasks that only human experts can do, that would mean that computer models aren't able to do all of the important things archaeologists do, thus supporting the researchers' claim that computer models are unlikely to replace human archaeologists.

Choice A is incorrect because if it were true that the computer model could categorize the pottery fragments much more quickly than the archaeologists could, that would weaken the researchers' claim that archaeologists are unlikely to be replaced by certain computer models, since it would demonstrate that the models could conduct the archaeologists' work not only with equal accuracy but also at a faster pace. Choice B is incorrect because the inability of both the computer model and the archaeologists to accurately categorize all of the pottery fragments presented wouldn't support the researchers' claim that archaeologists are unlikely to be replaced by certain computer models. The text indicates that some archaeologists are worried because the computer model's accuracy is equal to their own, and that could be the case whether both were perfectly accurate or were unable to achieve complete accuracy. Choice D is incorrect because survey results showing that few archaeologists received special training in properly categorizing pottery fragments wouldn't support the researchers' claim that archaeologists are unlikely to be replaced by certain computer models. The amount of special training in categorizing pottery fragments that archaeologists have received has no direct bearing on whether computer models' success at categorizing fragments will lead to the models replacing the archaeologists.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 03701ef3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: 03701ef3

To better understand the burrowing habits of *Alpheus bellulus* (the tiger pistol shrimp), some studies have used resin casting to obtain precise measurements of the shrimps' burrows. Resin casting involves completely filling an empty burrow with a liquid plastic that hardens to create a three-dimensional model; however, recovering the model inevitably requires destroying the burrow. In their 2022 study, Miyu Umehara and colleagues discovered that an x-ray computed tomography (CT) scanner can accurately record a burrow's measurements both at a moment in time and throughout the entire burrow-building process, something that's impossible with resin casting because \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. it can only be used on burrows below a certain size.
- B. it does not allow for multiple castings of the same burrow over time.
- C. the casting process takes more time than *A. bellulus* takes to construct a burrow.
- D. the process of recovering the model distorts the resin's shape.

## ID: 03701ef3 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Since resin casting "inevitably requires destroying the burrow," it would be impossible to make multiple castings of the same burrow over time.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage doesn't discuss size requirements for completing resin casting, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage never mentions how long the casting process takes nor how long *A. bellulus* takes to construct a borrow, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. The passage never states that recovering the model distorts the resin's shape, only that it destroys the burrow. Therefore, there's no basis for this inference.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b1fab3e1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

## ID: b1fab3e1

Violins made by Antonio Stradivari and other craftspeople in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries in Cremona, Italy, produce a sound that is considered superior to that of modern stringed instruments. Some experts have claimed that the type of wood used to create Cremonese violins is responsible for their prized sound, but modern and Cremonese violins are made of the same kinds of wood: maple and spruce. New analysis, however, has revealed unique indications that the wood in the older violins was chemically treated by the makers, leading researchers to suggest that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. Cremonese violins probably were not considered superior to other instruments at the time they were made.
- B. the sound quality of Cremonese violins results in part from a method the craftspeople used to alter the wood.
  - if modern violins were made of a wood other than maple or spruce, they likely would sound as good as Cremonese C. violins.
- D. the current process of making violins is the same process that was used centuries ago by Cremonese craftspeople.

## ID: b1fab3e1 Answer

Correct Answer: B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the sound quality of Cremonese and modern violins. The text states that violins made in Cremona in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries sound superior to modern violins. It then indicates that some experts attribute the difference to different woods being used to make these violins, but both Cremonese and modern violins are made of the same woods (maple and spruce); thus this cannot account for the difference. The text then says that recent analysis suggests the wood in Cremonese violins was chemically treated by the craftspeople who made them, thereby providing an alternate explanation for the sound differences: the chemical alteration that is present in the Cremonese violins but absent from the modern ones.

Choice A is incorrect because the text does not discuss how the sound quality of Cremonese violins compares with the sound quality of other instruments made during the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. Instead it focuses on how the sound of the Cremonese violins compares with that of modern violins. Choice C is incorrect. The text states that there are differences in sound quality between the Cremonese and modern violins, and that both types of violin are made with maple or spruce. Thus the type of wood alone does not determine a violin's sound quality. Furthermore, even if the type of wood alone could account for differences in sound quality, the text makes no mention of other woods, so there is no basis to judge how modern violins would sound if they were made using woods besides maple and spruce. Choice D is incorrect because the text states that there is evidence that Cremonese craftspeople chemically treated the wood used in Cremonese violins. This evidence is attributed to "new analysis," which strongly suggests that this process was unknown to modern violin makers before that analysis. If the chemical treatment was unknown until recently, the manufacturing process for modern violins must differ with respect to the previously unknown practice of chemically treating the wood.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 359902ae

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 359902ae

The following text is adapted from Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1837 story "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment." The main character, a physician, is experimenting with rehydrating a dried flower.

At first [the rose] lay lightly on the surface of the fluid, appearing to imbibe none of its moisture. Soon, however, a singular change began to be visible. The crushed and dried petals stirred and assumed a deepening tinge of crimson, as if the flower were reviving from a deathlike slumber.

As used in the text, what does the phrase "a singular" most nearly mean?

- A. A lonely
- B. A disagreeable
- C. An acceptable
- D. An extraordinary

## ID: 359902ae Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, "singular" most nearly means extraordinary. The text portrays an experiment in which a character rehydrates a dried rose by infusing it with moisture. After prolonged contact with the liquid, the rose begins to absorb it, undergoing an exceptional transformation: its color deepens, its previously "crushed and dried" petals shift, and the entire flower revives "from a deathlike slumber." In other words, an extraordinary change is visible in the flower.

Choice A is incorrect. Although in some contexts "singular" can mean of or relating to an individual or to a single instance of something, this usage doesn't imply loneliness or an otherwise unsatisfactory condition of isolation. Moreover, the text doesn't attribute such a condition to the rose. Choice B is incorrect. Although "singular" has several related meanings, none of them relate to being disagreeable or unpleasant. Moreover, the text doesn't portray the change undergone by the rose as necessarily disagreeable. Choice C is incorrect because "singular" means extraordinary, not acceptable. The change is portrayed as striking, not barely satisfactory.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 22a41819

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 22a41819

Rejecting the premise that the literary magazine *Ebony and Topaz* (1927) should present a unified vision of Black American identity, editor Charles S. Johnson fostered his contributors' diverse perspectives by promoting their authorial autonomy. Johnson's self-effacement diverged from the editorial stances of W.E.B. Du Bois and Alain Locke, whose decisions for their publications were more \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. proficient
- B. dogmatic
- C. ambiguous
- D. unpretentious

ID: 22a41819 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. A person who is "dogmatic" believes strongly that their principles and opinions are true. Because Du Bois and Locke are implied to have one "unified vision" of Black American identity that they prioritize over the "diverse perspectives" of different writers, they can be described as dogmatic.

Choice A is incorrect. "Proficient" means "skilled." Du Bois and Locke are contrasted with Johnson, but nothing in the text suggests that Johnson was not skilled at making editorial decisions. Based on the text, the three editors just have different styles; they're not necessarily more or less skilled. Choice C is incorrect. "Ambiguous" means "unclear" or "open to multiple interpretations." However, it's actually Johnson who encouraged multiple interpretations ("diverse perspectives"). Since Du Bois and Locke are said to "diverge" from Johnson, we can assume that the views they published were not ambiguous, but instead clear and firm (a "unified vision"). Choice D is incorrect. "Unpretentious" means "not trying to impress others with greater skill or importance than is actually possessed." Du Bois and Locke are contrasted with Johnson, but nothing in the text suggests that Johnson is pretentious (trying to impress others).

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID ca50de52

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: ca50de52

“How lifelike are they?” Many computer animators prioritize this question as they strive to create ever more realistic environments and lighting. Generally, while characters in computer-animated films appear highly exaggerated, environments and lighting are carefully engineered to mimic reality. But some animators, such as Pixar’s Sanjay Patel, are focused on a different question. Rather than asking first whether the environments and lighting they’re creating are convincingly lifelike, Patel and others are asking whether these elements reflect their films’ unique stories.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined question in the text as a whole?

- A. It reflects a primary goal that many computer animators have for certain components of the animations they produce.  
It represents a concern of computer animators who are more interested in creating unique backgrounds and lighting
- B. effects than realistic ones.
- C. technology.
- D. It illustrates a reaction that audiences typically have to the appearance of characters created by computer animators.

## ID: ca50de52 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined question in the text as a whole. The text begins with the underlined question, “How lifelike are they?” The text then explains that many computer animators pose this question about the environments and lighting that they create for animated films, striving for realistic animation of those components even if the characters themselves aren’t portrayed in realistic terms. The focus of the text then shifts to describe how some animators strive to create environments and lighting that reflect the film’s unique stories rather than making them appear realistic. Therefore, the function of the underlined question is to reflect a primary goal that many computer animators have for certain components of the animations they produce.

Choice B is incorrect because, as the text makes clear, the underlined question is one posed by computer animators who wish to create realistic backgrounds and lighting effects, not by those who, instead, wish to create effects that reflect films’ unique stories and aren’t necessarily realistic; this latter group of animators is discussed later in the text. Choice C is incorrect. As the text explains, many computer animators strive for realistic environments and lighting, while others do not; this difference of approach relates to whether these components should be realistic, not to how realism can be achieved using current technology, and the text never suggests that animators are uncertain how to achieve it. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined question pertains to the perspective of computer animators, not the audience, and the text never considers audience’s reactions to characters in animated films.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 82cb7dda

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 82cb7dda

The field of study called affective neuroscience seeks instinctive, physiological causes for feelings such as pleasure or displeasure. Because these sensations are linked to a chemical component (for example, the release of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the brain when one receives or expects a reward), they can be said to have a partly physiological basis. These processes have been described in mammals, but Jingnan Huang and his colleagues have recently observed that some behaviors of honeybees (such as foraging) are also motivated by a dopamine-based signaling process.

What choice best describes the main purpose of the text?

- A. It describes an experimental method of measuring the strength of physiological responses in humans.
- B. It illustrates processes by which certain insects can express how they are feeling.

It summarizes a finding suggesting that some mechanisms in the brains of certain insects resemble mechanisms in C. mammalian brains.

It presents research showing that certain insects and mammals behave similarly when there is a possibility of a reward D. for their actions.

## ID: 82cb7dda Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to summarize a finding suggesting that some mechanisms in the brains of certain insects resemble mechanisms in mammalian brains. The text begins by explaining that feelings such as pleasure and displeasure are linked to chemical processes in the brain, such as the release of dopamine when one receives a reward. The text then indicates that such processes have been seen in mammals but that researchers have recently observed similar processes involving dopamine in honeybees. Taken together, this information serves to sum up the discovery that some mechanisms in the brains of certain insects may resemble mechanisms linked to feelings such as pleasure and displeasure in mammals.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't describe any experiments or experimental methods. Instead, the text describes a phenomenon that has been observed in mammals and then presents the recent observations of Huang and colleagues that this phenomenon is also seen in honeybees. Choice B is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that certain insects can express how they're feeling through particular processes. The text does indicate that certain honeybee behaviors such as foraging are linked to dopamine, but it doesn't suggest that these behaviors enable honeybees to communicate feelings or sensations. Choice D is incorrect because the text presents research showing that certain honeybee behaviors such as foraging are linked to dopamine and therefore may be motivated by similar mechanisms to those in mammalian brains, not that honeybees and mammals behave similarly when there is the possibility of reward for their actions.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c977cfef

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: c977cfef

According to a team of neuroeconomists from the University of Zurich, ease of decision making may be linked to communication between two brain regions, the prefrontal cortex and the parietal cortex. Individuals tend to be more decisive if the information flow between the regions is intensified, whereas they make choices more slowly when information flow is \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. reduced
- B. evaluated
- C. determined
- D. acquired

## ID: c977cfef Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of how the flow of information between two regions of the brain may affect the ease of people's decision making. In this context, "reduced" means decreased. The text presents the finding from a team of neuroeconomists that decision making may be connected to communication between the prefrontal cortex and the parietal cortex. In presenting this finding, the text suggests a contrast between people who tend to be more decisive and people who make decisions more slowly. According to the text, people tend to be more decisive when the flow of information between the two brain regions is intensified, or strengthened. On the other hand, this context suggests that people make choices more slowly when the flow of information between the two brain regions is decreased.

Choice B is incorrect because "evaluated" means assessed, which wouldn't make sense in context. According to the text, people tend to be more decisive when the flow of information between two brain regions is intensified, or strengthened. This suggests that people's ease of decision making varies based on the rate of information traveling between the regions, not based on an effort to assess the information. Choice C is incorrect because "determined" means judged or influenced, neither of which would make sense in context. According to the text, people tend to be more decisive when the flow of information between two brain regions is intensified, or strengthened. This suggests that people's ease of decision making varies based on the rate of information traveling between the regions, not based on an effort to judge or influence the information. Choice D is incorrect because "acquired" means developed or attained, neither of which would make sense in context. According to the text, people tend to be more decisive when the flow of information between two brain regions is intensified, or strengthened. This suggests that people's ease of decision making varies based on the rate of information traveling between the regions, not based on the development or attainment of the information.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e35d481c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: e35d481c

Some economic historians \_\_\_\_\_ that late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century households in the United States experienced an economy of scale when it came to food purchases—they assumed that large households spent less on food per person than did small households. Economist Trevor Logan showed, however, that a close look at the available data disproves this supposition.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. surmised
- B. contrived
- C. questioned
- D. regretted

## ID: e35d481c Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century household food purchases. In this context, "surmised" means formed an idea or assumption with little evidence. The text explains that certain economic historians "assumed" that large and small households spent different amounts on food per person, but that another economist found this supposition to be false based on evidence from available data. This context suggests that the economic historians made an incorrect assumption without enough consideration of evidence.

Choice B is incorrect. In this context, "contrived" would mean brought about or created through trickery. Nothing in the text suggests that the economic historians were deliberately trying to trick people with a claim about food purchasing behaviors in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century households; the text simply suggests that they made an assumption about those behaviors that another historian believes isn't supported by the available data. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that it's Logan and not the economic historians who "questioned," or doubted, the assumption that large and small households in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries spent different amounts on food per person; the economic historians are the ones who made that assumption to begin with. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that some economic historians "regretted," or felt sad or remorseful about, the food purchasing behaviors of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century households. The text focuses on the idea that the economic historians made an assumption about those behaviors that may not be supported by available data, not on the historians' emotional response to what households did in the past.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5e57efec

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 5e57efec

Economist Marco Castillo and colleagues showed that nuisance costs—the time and effort people must spend to make donations—reduce charitable giving. Charities can mitigate this effect by compensating donors for nuisance costs, but those costs, though variable, are largely \_\_\_\_\_ donation size, so charities that compensate donors will likely favor attracting a few large donors over many small donors.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. supplemental to
- B. predictive of
- C. independent of
- D. subsumed in

## ID: 5e57efec Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. We're told that charities that pay donors back for nuisance costs will attract a few large donors instead of many small donors. This suggests that nuisance costs are not linked to donation size.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn't fit the logic of the text. If nuisance costs are supplemental to (meaning in addition to) donation size, that wouldn't result in charities that compensate donors for those costs attracting a few large donors over many small donors. Choice B is incorrect. This doesn't fit the logic of the text. If nuisance costs can predict donation size, that wouldn't necessarily result in charities that compensate donors for those costs attracting a few large donors over many small donors. Choice D is incorrect. This doesn't fit the logic of the text. If nuisance costs are subsumed in (meaning included in) donation size, that wouldn't result in charities that compensate donors for those costs attracting a few large donors over many small donors.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 1c7fe9be

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 1c7fe9be

At the turn of the twentieth century, Black residents of Richmond, Virginia, had few formal options for banking and other financial services. To \_\_\_\_\_ this situation, Maggie Lena Walker chartered the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank in 1903. The bank went on to provide home loans and savings opportunities to thousands of Black families over the following decades.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. prolong
- B. rectify
- C. retain
- D. highlight

## ID: 1c7fe9be Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of how Maggie Lena Walker addressed the lack of financial services available to Black residents in Richmond, Virginia, at the turn of the twentieth century. In this context, "rectify" means to correct or remedy something undesirable. The text indicates that by chartering the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank in 1903, Walker took action to provide local Black residents with greater access to financial services like home loans and savings opportunities. This context supports the idea that she aimed to rectify the undesirable situation affecting these residents.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "prolong" would mean to lengthen something in time. The text indicates that at the turn of the twentieth century, Black residents in Richmond, Virginia, were faced with a lack of formal banking options. The text then states that Walker founded a new bank that provided these residents with financial services. Therefore, instead of prolonging the situation, she took steps to rectify, or correct, it. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "retain" would mean to continue to have or to keep something. According to the text, at the turn of the twentieth century, Black residents in Richmond, Virginia, had few formal banking options, and Walker chartered a new institution to provide these residents with expanded financial services; therefore, she took steps to rectify, not retain, the situation. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "highlight" would mean to emphasize or call attention to something, but the text indicates that Walker took concrete steps beyond merely drawing attention to the situation Black residents were facing in Richmond, Virginia, at the turn of the twentieth century. According to the text, Walker worked to rectify, or correct, the lack of formal banking options that were available to these residents by establishing a bank that provided them with home loans and savings opportunities.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 757077f9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 757077f9

During a 2014 archaeological dig in Spain, Vicente Lull and his team uncovered the skeleton of a woman from El Algar, an Early Bronze Age society, buried with valuable objects signaling a high position of power. This finding may persuade researchers who have argued that Bronze Age societies were ruled by men to \_\_\_\_\_ that women may have also held leadership roles.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. waive
- B. concede
- C. refute
- D. require

## ID: 757077f9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the significance of the 2014 archaeological finding at El Algar. In this context, "concede" means to admit something is true after first resisting that admission. The text indicates that some researchers believe "Bronze Age societies were ruled by men." But the Bronze Age burial of a woman at El Algar included "valuable objects signaling a high position of power," which would raise the possibility that "women may have also held leadership roles." Thus, the text is calling into question the notion that only men were leaders in these societies and speculating that people holding this view may reconsider their opinion.

Choice A is incorrect because "waive" means to refrain from insisting that something, such as a right or a requirement, be observed; the word isn't used, however, in contexts where someone acknowledges that an opinion they hold may be invalid, as is the case in the text. Choice C is incorrect. According to the text, the finding from the El Algar burial site undermines the view that Bronze Age societies were exclusively ruled by men. However, "refute" means to demonstrate that something is false and would not make sense in context. Lull and team's finding supports the view that women may have also held leadership roles, not that they did not participate in such roles. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "require" means to demand or specify as mandatory. However, it would not make sense for contemporary researchers to demand that Bronze Age "women may have also held leadership roles."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2af2016f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 2af2016f

A study by Dr. Paul Hanel and colleagues concluded that people are more likely to behave politely when listening to ideas they disagree with if they think about values before they engage in a discussion. Study participants were assigned to one of two groups. The experimental group spent a few minutes writing about one of their personal values before they had a group discussion on a controversial topic. And the control group spent a few minutes writing about a drink (tea, milk, etc.) before their group discussion on that topic. Hanel and colleagues found that the experimental group's discussion was more civil than the control group's discussion was.

Which choice best describes the main purpose of the text?

- A. To describe a widely held belief and how a study's results support that belief
- B. To argue that researchers were surprised by the results of a certain study
- C. To suggest ways to improve a certain study's experimental design
- D. To explain a study's conclusion and how a research team arrived at that conclusion

## ID: 2af2016f Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to explain a study's conclusion and how researchers involved in the study arrived at that conclusion. The text begins by summarizing the main conclusion of the study conducted by Paul Hanel and colleagues: when confronted with ideas they disagree with in discussions about controversial topics, people are more likely to respond politely if they think about their personal values before engaging in such discussions. The text then goes on to describe the design of Hanel and colleagues' experiment. By comparing interactions between members of an experimental group (who had been prompted to write about their personal values beforehand) to those between members of a control group (who had been prompted to write about a beverage), the team found that people in the experimental group behaved more civilly, or politely, than people in the control group did during discussions about a controversial topic. This finding led to the conclusion described at the beginning of the text.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text discusses the results of a study, it doesn't provide any indication that the conclusion the study supported—that when facing disagreement, people behave more politely when they have thought about their values—is a belief that is widely held. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that the researchers found the results of their study to be surprising, or contrary to what they expected. In fact, there's no indication provided in the text about how the researchers felt about the study's results or that the results should be considered surprising. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text discusses the experimental design of a study, it doesn't suggest any improvements to that design; instead, it focuses on how the design enabled the researchers to draw a particular conclusion.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID b13378c8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: b13378c8

Early in the Great Migration of 1910–1970, which involved the mass migration of Black people from the southern to the northern United States, political activist and *Chicago Defender* writer Fannie Barrier Williams was instrumental in helping other Black women establish themselves in the North. Many women hoped for better employment opportunities in the North because, in the South, they faced much competition for domestic employment and men tended to get agricultural work. To aid with this transition, Barrier Williams helped secure job placement in the North for many women before they even began their journey.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

To introduce and illustrate Barrier Williams's integral role in supporting other Black women as their circumstances  
A. changed during part of the Great Migration

To establish that Barrier Williams used her professional connections to arrange employment for other Black women,  
B. including jobs with the *Chicago Defender*

To demonstrate that the factors that motivated the start of the Great Migration were different for Black women than they  
C. were for Black men

To provide an overview of the employment challenges faced by Black women in the agricultural and domestic spheres in  
D. the southern United States

## ID: b13378c8 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the text's purpose, which is to discuss the important role Barrier Williams played in supporting many other Black women as they relocated to the northern United States during the early years of the Great Migration. After introducing Barrier Williams, the text describes how she helped find jobs for other Black women, who in many cases relocated in search of better employment prospects than the South could offer at the time. The text indicates that by doing so, she eased these women's transition as their circumstances changed.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text mentions Barrier Williams's work as a political activist and writer for the *Chicago Defender*, it doesn't discuss any professional connections she made in these roles or indicate that she used any such connections in her work to secure employment for other Black women. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text discusses a factor that caused many women to relocate during the Great Migration, their difficulty finding employment in the South, the text doesn't indicate that this factor motivated the start of the Great Migration. Moreover, the text doesn't discuss the factors that motivated Black men to migrate. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text mentions the difficult employment prospects for Black women in the domestic and agricultural sectors in the South during the Great Migration, the text's main purpose isn't to provide an overview of the employment challenges Black women faced in these sectors. Rather, it provides this information to show that Barrier Williams played a crucial role in supporting many Black women who relocated to the North by helping them achieve one of their main goals, securing a job.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 97e5bf55

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: 97e5bf55

## Text 1

In 1916, H. Dugdale Sykes disputed claims that *The Two Noble Kinsmen* was coauthored by William Shakespeare and John Fletcher. Sykes felt Fletcher's contributions to the play were obvious—Fletcher had a distinct style in his other plays, so much so that lines with that style were considered sufficient evidence of Fletcher's authorship. But for the lines not deemed to be by Fletcher, Sykes felt that their depiction of women indicated that their author was not Shakespeare but Philip Massinger.

## Text 2

Scholars have accepted *The Two Noble Kinsmen* as coauthored by Shakespeare since the 1970s: it appears in all major one-volume editions of Shakespeare's complete works. Though scholars disagree about who wrote what exactly, it is generally held that on the basis of style, Shakespeare wrote all of the first act and most of the last, while John Fletcher authored most of the three middle acts.

Based on the texts, both Sykes in Text 1 and the scholars in Text 2 would most likely agree with which statement?

- A. John Fletcher's writing has a unique, readily identifiable style.
- B. The women characters in John Fletcher's plays are similar to the women characters in Philip Massinger's plays.
- C. *The Two Noble Kinsmen* belongs in one-volume compilations of Shakespeare's complete plays.
- D. Philip Massinger's style in the first and last acts of *The Two Noble Kinsmen* is an homage to Shakespeare's style.

ID: 97e5bf55 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Text 1 states that Sykes felt Fletcher's contributions to the play were obvious because he had a distinct style in his other plays. Text 2 states that scholars generally agree "on the basis of style" that Fletcher wrote most of the three middle acts. Both texts imply that Fletcher's writing has a unique, readily identifiable style that can be used to distinguish his work from others.

Choice B is incorrect. While Text 1 refers to the women in Massinger plays, neither text compares the women of Fletcher's plays to the women of Massinger's plays. Text 2 doesn't mention Massinger at all. Choice C is incorrect. Text 1 states that Sykes disputed that Shakespeare coauthored the play, and implied that it was coauthored by Fletcher and Massinger instead. Sykes, therefore, would disagree that *The Two Noble Kinsmen* belongs in a Shakespeare compilation. Choice D is incorrect. Text 1 doesn't suggest that Massinger was inspired by Shakespeare, and Text 2 doesn't mention Massinger at all.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 84ece3f6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 84ece3f6

The following text is adapted from Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1844 short story "Drowne's Wooden Image." Drowne, a young man, is carving a wooden figure to decorate the front of a ship.

Day by day, the work assumed greater precision, and settled its irregular and misty outline into distincter grace and beauty. The general design was now obvious to the common eye.

As used in the text, what does the word "assumed" most nearly mean?

- A. Acquired
- B. Acknowledged
- C. Imitated
- D. Speculated

## ID: 84ece3f6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "assumed" most nearly means acquired, or came to possess. The text portrays a character named Drowne carving a figure out of wood. At first "irregular and misty," or haphazard and indistinct, the figure's outline gradually showed "distincter grace and beauty" until the general design of the carved object "was now obvious to the common eye," or plainly recognizable to anyone. In other words, as Drowne continued to carve, the wooden object came to possess, or acquired, greater precision, changing from an indistinct outline or shape into a graceful, beautiful, and clearly recognizable form.

Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts "assumed" can mean acknowledged, or recognized, it doesn't have that meaning in this context because an inanimate object like the wooden figure can't acknowledge its own precision. Choice C is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that the wooden figure merely imitated, or mimicked, precision. Rather, the text suggests that as Drowne carved his wooden figure, it gradually became more precise. Choice D is incorrect. Although in some contexts "assumed" can mean speculated, or supposed based on incomplete information, it doesn't have that meaning in this context because an inanimate object like the wooden figure can't speculate about its own precision.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d4732483

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: d4732483

Studying late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century artifacts from an agricultural and domestic site in Texas, archaeologist Ayana O. Flewellen found that Black women employed as farm workers utilized hook-and-eye closures to fasten their clothes at the waist, giving themselves a silhouette similar to the one that was popular in contemporary fashion and typically achieved through more restrictive garments such as corsets. Flewellen argues that this sartorial practice shows that these women balanced hegemonic ideals of femininity with the requirements of their physically demanding occupation.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

To describe an unexpected discovery that altered a researcher's view of how rapidly fashions among Black female

- A. farmworkers in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Texas changed during the period

To discuss research that investigated the ways in which Black female farmworkers in late nineteenth- and early

- B. twentieth-century Texas used fashion practices to resist traditional gender ideals

To evaluate a scholarly work that offers explanations for the impact of urban fashion ideals on Black female farmworkers

- C. in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Texas

To summarize the findings of a study that explored factors influencing a fashion practice among Black female

- D. farmworkers in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Texas

## ID: d4732483 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text provides an overview of a scholarly work discussing the fashion practices of Black female farmworkers in late 19th- and early 20th-century Texas, and how these practices were influenced by both the fashion ideals of the time and the demands of farmwork.

Choice A is incorrect. The text never discusses the rate of fashion change among Black female farmworkers. The text also never categorizes Flewellen's findings as "unexpected." Choice B is incorrect. The text actually explains that Black female farmworkers were trying to achieve traditional feminine ideals, not resist them. Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn't evaluate a scholarly work but rather simply describes it. Furthermore, the text is focused on "agricultural and domestic" fashion, not urban fashion as this choice suggests.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d9915c15

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: d9915c15

In 2020, rap artist and professor A.D. Carson published the first peer-reviewed rap album about his experiences with Black masculinity called “i used to love to dream.” Typically in peer review, experts evaluate scholarly articles prior to publication. For Carson’s album, dubbed a “mixtap/e/ssay,” peer review involved both scholars and rap artists. In combining elements of a mixtape album with scholarly essays that connect Carson’s lyrics to historical and contemporary contexts for listeners both inside and outside academia, Carson’s album helped redefine how scholarship is created and shared.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To compare the relative public impact of scholarly articles and albums
- B. To capture one scholar’s opinion of a new rap album
- C. To explain why a certain rap album is particularly innovative
- D. To describe how each step of the peer review process unfolds

## ID: d9915c15 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes the main purpose of the text, which is to explain why a certain rap album is particularly innovative. The text mentions rap artist and professor A.D. Carson, who published "the first peer-reviewed rap album." The text also describes the unusual process of having the work evaluated by both scholars and rap artists before its release, and details how the album combines elements of a mixtape album with elements of scholarly essays. All of these characteristics of the album and the way in which it was developed help to demonstrate the album's novelty.

Choice A is incorrect because though the text mentions an album that combines elements of scholarly essays and mixtapes, it does not compare the relative public impact of scholarly articles and albums. Choice B is incorrect because the text does not present the opinion of a scholar regarding the rap album. Choice D is incorrect because though the text mentions that the album was peer reviewed, it does not detail the steps of the review.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID e818241b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: e818241b

Astronomers are confident that the star Betelgeuse will eventually consume all the helium in its core and explode in a supernova. They are much less confident, however, about when this will happen, since that depends on internal characteristics of Betelgeuse that are largely unknown. Astrophysicist Sarafina El-Badry Nance and colleagues recently investigated whether acoustic waves in the star could be used to determine internal stellar states but concluded that this method could not sufficiently reveal Betelgeuse's internal characteristics to allow its evolutionary state to be firmly fixed.

Which choice best describes the function of the second sentence in the overall structure of the text?

- A. It describes a serious limitation of the method used by Nance and colleagues.
- B. It presents the central finding reported by Nance and colleagues.
- C. It identifies the problem that Nance and colleagues attempted to solve but did not.
- D. It explains how the work of Nance and colleagues was received by others in the field.

## ID: e818241b Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes how the second sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence establishes something astronomers believe with some certainty: that Betelgeuse will explode in a supernova. The second sentence then introduces a problem: astronomers aren't certain *when* Betelgeuse will explode because they don't have enough information about the star's internal characteristics. Finally, the third sentence indicates that researcher Sarafina El-Badry Nance and colleagues investigated a possible method of obtaining the necessary information about Betelgeuse's internal characteristics, though they found that the method wouldn't be sufficient. Thus, the function of the second sentence is to identify the problem that Nance and colleagues attempted to solve but didn't.

Choice A is incorrect because the second sentence introduces the general problem Nance and colleagues hoped to solve, not a serious limitation of how Nance and colleagues tried to solve it. It is the third sentence that introduces Nance and colleagues, but no serious limitation of their approach to studying a method of determining internal stellar states is described. Choice B is incorrect because the second sentence introduces the general problem Nance and colleagues hoped to solve, not the central finding they ultimately reported. It is the third sentence that presents Nance and colleagues' conclusion that a potential method for determining internal stellar states would be insufficient. Choice D is incorrect because the second sentence doesn't indicate how other astronomers or astrophysicists responded to the work done by Nance and colleagues; the text doesn't address this information at all.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d5ad34f0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: d5ad34f0

The results of randomized clinical trials testing the efficacy of common medical interventions sometimes fail to \_\_\_\_\_ conclusions that practitioners reach based on their real-world observations of patients. While there are several possible reasons for this, one is that practitioners may overlook confounding variables that account for the results they attribute to the interventions in question.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. circumvent
- B. corroborate
- C. disseminate
- D. implement

## ID: d5ad34f0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of a relationship between the results of randomized clinical tests of how effective common medical interventions are and the conclusions practitioners reach about such interventions in real-world settings. In this context, "corroborate" means confirm or support with evidence. The text indicates that one possible explanation for the relationship being discussed is that practitioners may overlook confounding variables—that is, additional factors other than the medical interventions being investigated that affect the observed outcomes. This means that practitioners may assume that an outcome is the direct result of a medical intervention when it is actually the result of a combination of factors. Clinical trials take steps to rule out factors other than the one being studied, so if those extra factors are actually having an effect on real-world outcomes, the trials are likely to produce conclusions different from those practitioners reach in their real-world observations. In other words, clinical trials may fail to corroborate practitioners' conclusions.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that the results of clinical trials could "circumvent," or find a way around or bypass, conclusions practitioners reach in real-world scenarios with patients; it's possible that researchers conducting the trials might avoid engaging with practitioners' conclusions, but findings from a study can't choose to get around something. Choice C is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that the results of clinical trials could "disseminate," or spread widely, conclusions practitioners reach in real-world scenarios with patients; the researchers conducting the trials might choose to draw attention to practitioners' conclusions, but findings from a study can't spread anything. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that the results of clinical trials could "implement," or put into effect, conclusions practitioners reach in real-world scenarios with patients; the researchers conducting the trials might consider practitioners' conclusions, but findings from a study can't put anything into effect.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 236fee8e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 236fee8e

Archeological excavation of Market Street Chinatown, a nineteenth-century Chinese American community in San Jose, California, provided the first evidence that Asian food products were imported to the United States in the 1800s: bones from a freshwater fish species native to Southeast Asia. Jinshanzhuang—Hong Kong-based import/export firms—likely coordinated the fish's transport from Chinese-operated fisheries in Vietnam and Malaysia to North American markets. This route reveals the (often overlooked) multinational dimensions of the trade networks linking Chinese diaspora communities.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- It explains why efforts to determine the country of origin of the items mentioned in the previous sentence remain A. inconclusive.
- It provides information that helps support a claim about a discovery's significance that is presented in the following B. sentence.
- C. It traces the steps that were taken to locate and recover the objects that are described in the previous sentence.
- D. It outlines a hypothesis that additional evidence discussed in the following sentence casts some doubt on.

## ID: 236fee8e Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The underlined sentence provides information about import/export firms, showing how Chinese communities across the world were connected by trade routes.

Choice A is incorrect. The underlined sentence never suggests that the countries of origin of the fish are in question—in fact, it tells us exactly where they came from. Choice C is incorrect. The passage never describes the steps taken to discover the fish bones described in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect. The underlined sentence doesn't outline a hypothesis but instead provides evidence. And the following sentence agrees with the underlined sentence, so we could eliminate this choice just for saying that the following sentence "casts some doubt on" the underlined one—partly wrong is all wrong.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID be612a26

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

**ID: be612a26**

Recent measurements of the mass of the  $W$  boson (a subatomic particle) were notable not only for the mere fact that the particle's mass differed from expectations but for the \_\_\_\_\_ of that difference: the measured mass of the  $W$  boson was seven standard deviations higher than predicted by the standard model of particle physics.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. cause
- B. existence
- C. implication
- D. scale

**ID: be612a26 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the  $W$  boson. In this context, "scale" means size or extent. The text indicates that recent measurements of the  $W$  boson were remarkable because they revealed the subatomic particle's mass to be much greater ("seven standard deviations higher") than had been expected based on a standard model. This context conveys not only that the measurements differed from predictions but also that the extent of the difference was very large.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text indicates that there was a very large difference between the predicted mass and the actual measured mass of the subatomic particle, it doesn't explain the cause of, or reason behind, that difference. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that the measurements of the subatomic particle were notable because they differed from expectations and also because a difference existed between the measurements and what had been predicted; the text would be repeating the idea that there was a difference instead of adding to that idea. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't convey any implications of, or consequences of or conclusions drawn from, the fact that the mass of the subatomic particle differed from expectations; the context indicates only that the actual measured mass was much higher than the predicted mass.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 6c9f1727

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 6c9f1727

One popular theory of the origin of the Moon, the “big whack,” posits that a protoplanet called Theia collided with Earth, flinging debris into orbit that eventually coalesced into the Moon. Until recently, Theia was \_\_\_\_\_, but researcher Qian Yuan and colleagues now claim to have identified pieces of the protoplanet in the lowermost section of Earth’s mantle.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. desultory
- B. spurious
- C. veritable
- D. notional

## ID: 6c9f1727 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Theia and the origin of the Moon. In this context, “notional” means theoretical or only an idea. The text indicates that although something was once true of Theia, the protoplanet one theory holds collided with Earth and created debris that became the Moon, researchers now claim to have identified pieces of it deep in Earth’s mantle. In other words, having direct evidence of Theia is a new development. This context suggests that before evidence was found, Theia was only theoretical—that is, that it was notional.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Theia, a protoplanet, was “desultory,” which in this context would mean moving away from the matter at hand; indeed, the text focuses on the “big whack” theory of the origin of the Moon and indicates that Theia is a central part of that theory. Choice B is incorrect because the text makes the point that something was true of Theia until recently and suggests that this has changed now that researchers believe they have found pieces of the protoplanet deep in Earth’s mantle. It wouldn’t make sense to say that Theia was actually “spurious,” or false, until researchers found direct evidence of the protoplanet. (Although Theia’s existence might not have been certain, it would not have been false simply because there was no evidence of it.) Choice C is incorrect because the text makes the point that something was true of Theia until recently and suggests that this has changed now that researchers believe they have found pieces of the protoplanet deep in Earth’s mantle. It wouldn’t make sense to say that Theia was “veritable,” or real, before researchers found direct evidence of its existence: the evidence would instead confirm that Theia was real.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3f37eb3b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 3f37eb3b

People sometimes dismiss a claim if it comes from a source they regard as self-interested, but from a strictly logical perspective, the source of a claim is \_\_\_\_\_: it has no direct bearing on whether the claim is true.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. indistinct
- B. irrelevant
- C. indisputable
- D. implicit

## ID: 3f37eb3b Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion about people's tendency to dismiss claims from sources perceived as self-interested, or acting for their own advantage. In this context, "irrelevant" means not applicable to the matter at hand. The text explains that as a matter of logical reasoning, the source of a claim has nothing to do with the claim's truthfulness—a claim is either true or false in actuality, regardless of where it originates. This context suggests that even though people may distrust a claim based on its source, the source of the claim is actually irrelevant.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "indistinct" would mean uncertain or not clearly recognizable. Instead of suggesting that the source of a claim can't be determined with certainty, the text suggests that recognizing a source and having an opinion of it simply doesn't matter because as a matter of logic, a claim is true or false in actuality, regardless of where it originates. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "indisputable" would mean impossible to question or deny. Although the text suggests that it isn't logical to assume a claim is false just because its source appears to be self-interested, it doesn't go so far as to suggest that the source of a claim can't be questioned—the text instead makes the point that from a logical standpoint, the source of a claim doesn't matter because the claim is either true or false in and of itself. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "implicit" would mean suggested or understood without being directly expressed. Nothing in the text suggests that logically, the source of a claim is only suggested; instead of addressing whether sources can be directly identified, the text focuses on the idea that sources don't matter because a claim is true or false in actuality, regardless of where it originates.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 93665100

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

**ID: 93665100**

Seminole/Muscogee director Sterlin Harjo \_\_\_\_\_ television's tendency to situate Native characters in the distant past: this rejection is evident in his series *Reservation Dogs*, which revolves around teenagers who dress in contemporary styles and whose dialogue is laced with current slang.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. repudiates
- B. proclaims
- C. foretells
- D. recants

**ID: 93665100 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Sterlin Harjo's approach to representing Native characters on television. As used in this context, "repudiates" means rejects or refuses to have anything to do with. The text indicates that television shows tend to depict Native characters as living long ago, but that Harjo's series *Reservation Dogs* focuses on Native teenagers in the present day, representing a "rejection" of the typical approach to depicting Native characters. This context thus indicates that Harjo repudiates television's general tendency regarding Native characters.

Choice B is incorrect because the text describes Harjo's "rejection" of the typical approach to representing Native characters on television, so it wouldn't make sense to say that Harjo "proclaims," or declares or affirms, television's general tendency regarding Native characters. Harjo is described as refusing to follow the pattern of depicting Native characters in the distant past, not as proclaiming that pattern. Choice C is incorrect because the text describes television's tendency to represent Native characters in the distant past as something that is already occurring, not as something that Harjo "foretells," or predicts will happen in the future. The text is focused on Harjo's "rejection" of this pattern, not on any predictions he may have about it. Choice D is incorrect because saying that Harjo "recants" something would mean that he withdraws a previously held belief, and it wouldn't make sense to say that Harjo recants television's tendency to represent Native characters as living in the past. No beliefs previously held by Harjo are mentioned. Additionally, a tendency isn't a belief and thus isn't something that can be recanted.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID cef79fb9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: cef79fb9

The Bayeux Tapestry, from eleventh-century France, depicts 75 scenes over 250 feet of fabric. It was likely produced by workers embroidering in sections and then joining the resulting panels together. It's plausible that the workshop that produced the tapestry had never produced one so large, and some researchers claim that a close examination of the joins—the places where the panels are stitched together—suggests that the workers developed and refined their joining process over the course of production. For example, the first join the workers completed exhibits a clear misalignment of the borders of the two panels, whereas the later joins are virtually invisible.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It identifies the people and events depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry.
- B. It supports an argument about the workers who produced the Bayeux Tapestry.
- C. It compares the Bayeux Tapestry with other tapestries from eleventh-century France.
- D. It describes how researchers determined where the Bayeux Tapestry was produced.

## ID: cef79fb9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole. The text discusses the Bayeux Tapestry, making the point that the workers who produced the huge tapestry in the eleventh century might not have ever produced a tapestry so large before. The text goes on to suggest that because of this lack of previous experience, the workers developed and refined the process of joining the tapestry's panels over time as they worked. The last sentence of the text then provides an example of an observation that suggests the workers' process changed: clear misalignment of the borders of the two panels the workers joined first and virtually invisible joins completed later. Thus, the underlined sentence serves to support an argument about the workers who produced the tapestry.

Choice A is incorrect because the example given in the last sentence of the text has to do with how the panels of the Bayeux Tapestry were joined by the workers, not with what is depicted in those panels; the text never identifies any people or places depicted in the tapestry. Choice C is incorrect because the last sentence compares how early panels in the Bayeux Tapestry were joined with how later panels in the same tapestry were joined; it doesn't make any comparison between the Bayeux Tapestry and other tapestries from the same time in France. Choice D is incorrect because the last sentence doesn't address the location where the Bayeux Tapestry was created; the first sentence of the text presents it as a given that the tapestry was created in France, but nothing in the text indicates how that origin was determined.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e459076b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: e459076b

The following text is adapted from George Eliot's 1871–72 novel *Middlemarch*.

[Mr. Brooke] had travelled in his younger years, and was held in this part of the country to have contracted a too rambling habit of mind. Mr. Brooke's conclusions were as difficult to predict as the weather.

As used in the text, what does the word “contracted” most nearly mean?

- A. Restricted
- B. Described
- C. Developed
- D. Settled

ID: e459076b Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text, “contracted” most nearly means developed. The text explains that Mr. Brooke has a “too rambling habit of mind,” which the text likens to a disease, saying he is thought to have contracted it. To contract a disease means to acquire or develop a disease. In other words, the text indicates that Mr. Brooke is believed to have acquired, or developed, the habit of mind described in the text.

Choice A is incorrect. Although “contracted” can mean limited or restricted in some contexts, here Mr. Brooke is said to draw unpredictable conclusions, suggesting that he exhibits this “too rambling habit of mind,” not that it has been somehow limited or restricted. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text describes Mr. Brooke’s habit of mind, nothing suggests that those are his descriptions or, indeed, that he described his habit of mind at all. Choice D is incorrect because settled means calmed or mitigated, but here Mr. Brooke is said to draw unpredictable conclusions, suggesting that he exhibits this “too rambling habit of mind,” not that it has been somehow calmed or mitigated.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 0462dac3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 0462dac3

Barring major archaeological discoveries, we are unlikely to ever have \_\_\_\_\_ account of ancient Egypt under the female pharaoh Hatshepsut, as much of the evidence of her reign was deliberately destroyed by her successors.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. an imaginative
- B. a superficial
- C. an exhaustive
- D. a questionable

## ID: 0462dac3 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of historical evidence about ancient Egypt under the reign of the pharaoh Hatshepsut. In this context, "an exhaustive" account would be a thorough one. The text states that much of the evidence from her reign was purposely destroyed—in other words, there is a lack of surviving records. This context conveys that unless there are major new archaeological discoveries, an exhaustive account of Hatshepsut's reign is unlikely.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "an imaginative" account would be an account based on imagination, or ideas and speculation, rather than facts. The text indicates that much of the evidence of Hatshepsut's reign was deliberately destroyed, and a lack of evidence actually makes it more likely that accounts will be imaginative to some degree and not strictly factual. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "a superficial" account would be one that is lacking in depth or concerned only with what is obvious. The text indicates that most evidence of Hatshepsut's reign was purposely destroyed, which suggests that accounts of that time are likely already somewhat superficial, since there is little information available to support deeper knowledge. Further, it would be illogical to suggest that discovering major new evidence would make it more likely that accounts would be superficial. Choice D is incorrect because "a questionable" account would be one likely to be challenged or doubted, and since the text suggests that little evidence of Hatshepsut's reign has survived, accounts of that time probably involve some speculation and thus may already be open to doubt. Further, it would be illogical to suggest that discovering major new evidence would make it more likely that accounts would be questionable.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 4974b053

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 4974b053

Although science fiction was dominated mostly by white male authors when Octavia Butler, a Black woman, began writing, she did not view the genre as \_\_\_\_\_. Butler broke into the field with the publication of several short stories and her 1976 novel *Patternmaster*, and she later became the first science fiction writer to win a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. legitimate
- B. impenetrable
- C. compelling
- D. indecipherable

## ID: 4974b053 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the discussion of Octavia Butler's career. In this context, "impenetrable" means impossible to enter. The text indicates that the field of science fiction was dominated by white males when Butler, a Black woman, started writing, but she published several science fiction short stories and a novel and later won a prestigious award; that is, Butler pursued science fiction writing and had success. This context suggests that Butler didn't view the genre as impossible to enter.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, "legitimate" would mean genuinely good or valid. Nothing in the text suggests that Butler didn't think the science fiction genre was good or valid; in fact, it indicates that she pursued and made a successful career of publishing work in that field. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "compelling" would mean attracting or demanding attention. The text indicates that Butler chose to write science fiction, so it wouldn't make sense to say that she didn't see the field as drawing her attention. Choice D is incorrect. To say that Butler didn't consider science fiction "indecipherable," or impossible to understand, would suggest that Butler did understand it. However, the text doesn't address Butler's ability to interpret works in the genre; rather, it focuses on Butler's successful pursuit of writing science fiction.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 105ea6de

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

**ID: 105ea6de**

Text 1

Growth in the use of novel nanohybrids—materials created from the conjugation of multiple distinct nanomaterials, such as iron oxide and gold nanomaterials conjugated for use in magnetic imaging—has outpaced studies of nanohybrids' environmental risks. Unfortunately, risk evaluations based on nanohybrids' constituents are not reliable: conjugation may alter constituents' physiochemical properties such that innocuous nanomaterials form a nanohybrid that is anything but.

Text 2

The potential for enhanced toxicity of nanohybrids relative to the toxicity of constituent nanomaterials has drawn deserved attention, but the effects of nanomaterial conjugation vary by case. For instance, it was recently shown that a nanohybrid of silicon dioxide and zinc oxide preserved the desired optical transparency of zinc oxide nanoparticles while mitigating the nanoparticles' potential to damage DNA.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the assertion in the underlined portion of Text 1?

By concurring that the risk described in Text 1 should be evaluated but emphasizing that the risk is more than offset by

- A. the potential benefits of nanomaterial conjugation

By arguing that the situation described in Text 1 may not be representative but conceding that the effects of

- B. nanomaterial conjugation are harder to predict than researchers had expected

By denying that the circumstance described in Text 1 is likely to occur but acknowledging that many aspects of

- C. nanomaterial conjugation are still poorly understood

By agreeing that the possibility described in Text 1 is a cause for concern but pointing out that nanomaterial conjugation

- D. does not inevitably produce that result

**ID: 105ea6de Answer**

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The author of Text 2 acknowledges that nanohybrids may be more toxic than their constituent parts, but also provides an example of a nanohybrid that has reduced toxicity compared to its components: silicon dioxide and zinc oxide together have all the benefits of zinc oxide nanoparticles without any of the DNA harm zinc oxide has on its own.

Choice A is incorrect. While the author of Text 2 gives an example of a nanohybrid that isn't as toxic as its constituent parts, they don't argue that the benefit outweighs the risk. They merely argue that "the effects of nanomaterial conjugation vary by case." Choice B is incorrect. The author of Text 2 states that the effects of nanomaterial conjugation "vary by case," and that the attention that their potential toxicity has drawn is warranted. If the situation in Text 1 weren't representative, then there would be less attention to the potential danger of these materials. Furthermore, neither passage suggests that researchers had expected that they could predict the effects of nanomaterial conjugation. Choice C is incorrect. The author of Text 2 agrees that the potential toxicity of nanohybrids "has drawn deserved attention," so they aren't denying the problem.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 7d8224f9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 7d8224f9

In 1154, Muhammad al-Idrisi completed a collection of maps of the lands known to medieval Arabic and European scholars. This collection was titled *Al-Kitāb al-Rujārī* (*The Book of Roger*), after the Norman king Roger II who hired him to create it. To create the collection, al-Idrisi consulted Arabic and Greek maps and interviewed travelers about the lands they visited. He included these travelers' stories alongside the map illustrations.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To discuss the benefits of studying mapmaking
- B. To explain how travelers created maps
- C. To describe a collection of medieval maps and how it was created
- D. To compare medieval Arabic and Greek mapmaking techniques

## ID: 7d8224f9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately states the main purpose of the text, which is to describe a collection of medieval maps and how it was created. The text begins by mentioning Muhammad al-Idrisi's collection of maps of lands known to medieval Arabic and European scholars. It then states that the Norman king Roger II hired al-Idrisi to create the collection and details al-Idrisi's methods of creation: consulting Arabic and Greek maps and interviewing travelers. In short, the text presents a collection of medieval maps and then goes on to describe how that collection came to be.

Choice A is incorrect because the text describes a collection of maps and the process of creating that collection but does not discuss the benefits of studying mapmaking in general. Choice B is incorrect because though the text mentions that al-Idrisi interviewed travelers, the text does not describe how those travelers created maps. Choice D is incorrect because though the text mentions that al-Idrisi consulted Arabic and Greek maps, the text does not offer a comparison of Arabic and Greek mapmaking techniques.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2903a041

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 2903a041

Using NASA's powerful James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), Mercedes López-Morales and colleagues measured the wavelengths of light traveling through the atmosphere of WASP-39b, an exoplanet, or planet outside our solar system. Different molecules absorb different wavelengths of light, and the wavelength measurements showed the presence of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in WASP-39b's atmosphere. This finding not only offers the first decisive evidence of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere of an exoplanet but also illustrates the potential for future scientific breakthroughs held by the JWST.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It discusses a method used by some researchers, then states why an alternative method is superior to it.
- B. It describes how researchers made a scientific discovery, then explains the importance of that discovery.
- C. It outlines the steps taken in a scientific study, then presents a hypothesis based on that study.

It examines how a group of scientists reached a conclusion, then shows how other scientists have challenged that conclusion.

## ID: 2903a041 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text begins by describing how the researchers used the JWST to detect CO<sub>2</sub> in WASP-39b's atmosphere. Then the text discusses the significance of this finding, both as the first evidence of CO<sub>2</sub> in an exoplanet's atmosphere and as an illustration of the JWST's potential for making new discoveries in general.

Choice A is incorrect. The text doesn't compare two different methods, but rather focuses on one study that used the JWST. Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn't present a hypothesis, but rather reports on the findings of a study. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't mention any scientists challenging the conclusion reached by López-Morales and colleagues.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ac9a3a26

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: ac9a3a26

According to historian Vicki L. Ruiz, Mexican American women made crucial contributions to the labor movement during World War II. At the time, food processing companies entered into contracts to supply United States armed forces with canned goods. Increased production quotas conferred greater bargaining power on the companies' employees, many of whom were Mexican American women: employees insisted on more favorable benefits, and employers, who were anxious to fulfill the contracts, complied. Thus, labor activism became a platform for Mexican American women to assert their agency.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It elaborates on a claim about labor relations in a particular industry made earlier in the text.
- B. It offers an example of a trend in the World War II–era economy discussed earlier in the text.
- C. It notes a possible exception to the historical narrative of labor activism sketched earlier in the text.
- D. It provides further details about the identities of the workers discussed earlier in the text.

## ID: ac9a3a26 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it best describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The text says that the increased production quotas of food processing companies during World War II enabled employees to make better bargains in exchange for their labor. The underlined portion presents an example of this increased bargaining power: employees requested more favorable benefits, and employers complied because they were under pressure to fulfill the demanding terms of their contracts. Thus, the underlined portion of the text elaborates on a claim about labor relations in a particular industry (food processing) made earlier in the text.

Choice B is incorrect because there is no indication in the text that the economic factors that influenced food processing also influenced other parts of the economy; thus, the bargaining described in the underlined portion of the text cannot be called an example of a trend. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined portion supports the historical narrative of labor activism in food processing that is sketched in the text, instead of noting an exception to that narrative. Choice D is incorrect because while the underlined portion does discuss the demands that workers made in exchange for their labor, it does not discuss the identities of the workers.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 03c9f327

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 03c9f327

The following text is from Charlotte Brontë's 1847 novel *Jane Eyre*. Jane, the narrator, works as a governess at Thornfield Hall.

I went on with my day's business tranquilly; but ever and anon vague suggestions kept wandering across my brain of reasons why I should quit Thornfield; and I kept involuntarily framing advertisements and pondering conjectures about new situations: these thoughts I did not think to check; they might germinate and bear fruit if they could.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To convey a contrast between Jane's outward calmness and internal restlessness
- B. To emphasize Jane's loyalty to the people she works for at Thornfield Hall
- C. To demonstrate that Jane finds her situation both challenging and deeply fulfilling
- D. To describe Jane's determination to secure employment outside of Thornfield Hall

## ID: 03c9f327 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to show that while Jane calmly goes about her daily tasks, she is experiencing internal agitation about possibly seeking a new job. At the start of the text, Jane says, "I went on with my day's business tranquilly," indicating that she is outwardly calm. This outward calmness is then contrasted with her intense internal restlessness, as Jane says that thoughts of leaving her job keep running through her mind, that she is "involuntarily framing advertisements" (meaning that she can't stop herself from thinking up potential listings for jobs), and that she often wonders what new "situations" (or jobs) would be like.

Choice B is incorrect because the text gives no indication of Jane's feelings, either positive or negative, about the people she works for at Thornfield Hall. And rather than emphasizing that Jane feels particularly loyal to her employers, the text focuses on her constant consideration of leaving her job. Choice C is incorrect because the text gives no indication that Jane finds her current situation fulfilling, or satisfying. Given that much of the text is focused on Jane's thoughts about possibly leaving her job for a new one, it might be the case that she finds her situation challenging, but there is no evidence in the text that Jane also finds that situation satisfying—she says nothing positive about her current job at all, in fact. Choice D is incorrect because the text describes Jane as wondering about getting a new job, not as determined to definitely do so. Jane keeps thinking about reasons why she "should" quit her current job (indicating that she hasn't yet decided to) and imagining possible new situations she could find, but she says at the end of the text that these thoughts "might germinate and bear fruit if they could," meaning that the thoughts haven't yet led to a decision—that Jane isn't yet determined to get a new job somewhere else.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 662ebff2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 662ebff2

In response to concerns that some recent financial crises were exacerbated by consumers misunderstanding risks associated with credit cards, loans, and other financial products, policymakers in many countries have instituted risk-disclosure requirements on sellers of those products. Enrique Seira et al. investigated a variety of risk-disclosure messages sent to thousands of credit card customers and found that the messages had only small and short-lived effects on behavior. Seira et al. asserted that such effects may nevertheless be worth pursuing, given the negligible cost of messaging.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- It notes a factor that led Seira et al. to not dismiss risk-disclosure messaging altogether despite their evidence of its A. limited utility.
- B. It acknowledges a type of risk-disclosure messaging that Seira et al. may not have fully accounted for in their study.
- It describes a consideration that explains why Seira et al. recommended risk-disclosure messaging even though its C. effects may be small relative to its costs.
- D. It points out a circumstance that Seira et al. conceded may make risk-disclosure messaging more effective than their study suggests.

## ID: 662ebff2 Answer

Correct Answer: A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole. The text establishes that many countries have adopted risk-disclosure requirements for financial products due to concerns that consumers don't understand the risks associated with the products. According to the text, Seira et al. found that the effects of such messaging on consumer behavior were small and temporary. The text then adds that the researchers assert that because the cost of the messaging is negligible, the approach may be worth doing even if the effects are limited. Thus, the underlined portion notes a factor—very low cost—that led the researchers to not completely dismiss risk-disclosure messaging despite their evidence of its limited utility.

Choice B is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn't refer to a particular type of risk-disclosure messaging, whether Seira et al. considered it or not; the underlined portion simply indicates that the cost of the messaging (broadly) is very low, which makes the approach worth pursuing even if its effects are limited. Choice C is incorrect. Although the underlined portion does describe a consideration that led the researchers to recommend risk-disclosure messaging despite the messaging's small effects on consumer behavior, it directly states that the cost of such messaging is negligible, or very low—meaning that both the effects and the costs are small, not that the effects are small only relative to the costs. Choice D is incorrect because there's no indication that Seira et al. suggest that risk-disclosure messaging could be more effective if it had lower costs; rather, the underlined portion indicates that Seira et al. believe the already negligible cost of messaging makes the approach worth pursuing even if its effects are limited.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c4737d6a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: c4737d6a

## Text 1

Africa's Sahara region—once a lush ecosystem—began to dry out about 8,000 years ago. A change in Earth's orbit that affected climate has been posited as a cause of desertification, but archaeologist David Wright also attributes the shift to Neolithic peoples. He cites their adoption of pastoralism as a factor in the region drying out: the pastoralists' livestock depleted vegetation, prompting the events that created the Sahara Desert.

## Text 2

Research by Chris Brierley et al. challenges the idea that Neolithic peoples contributed to the Sahara's desertification. Using a climate-vegetation model, the team concluded that the end of the region's humid period occurred 500 years earlier than previously assumed. The timing suggests that Neolithic peoples didn't exacerbate aridity in the region but, in fact, may have helped delay environmental changes with practices (e.g., selective grazing) that preserved vegetation.

Based on the texts, how would Chris Brierley (Text 2) most likely respond to the discussion in Text 1?

By pointing out that given the revised timeline for the end of the Sahara's humid period, the Neolithic peoples' mode of  
A. subsistence likely didn't cause the region's desertification

By claiming that pastoralism was only one of many behaviors the Neolithic peoples took part in that may have  
B. contributed to the Sahara's changing climate

C. By insisting that pastoralism can have both beneficial and deleterious effects on a region's vegetation and climate

By asserting that more research needs to be conducted into factors that likely contributed to the desertification of the  
D. Sahara region

ID: c4737d6a Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Brierley et al.'s research directly challenges Wright's claim that pastoralism turned the Sahara into a desert, suggesting that, in a Sahara that turned arid 500 years earlier than previously thought, pastoral practices may have actually "preserved vegetation" rather than depleting it.

Choice B is incorrect. Brierley et al.'s research actually disputes the idea that any Neolithic peoples' behaviors, including pastoralism, could have contributed to the Sahara's changing climate. In fact, their research implies that the Neolithic peoples' practices did not "exacerbate aridity" (i.e., make things worse), but may have slowed environmental changes. Choice C is incorrect. Brierley et al.'s research does not acknowledge that pastoralism can have deleterious (i.e., negative) effects on a region's vegetation and climate. It only describes one possible beneficial effect: preserving vegetation through practices like selective grazing. Choice D is incorrect. Brierley et al.'s research does not call for more research into factors that likely contributed to the desertification of the Sahara region.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 47598085

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 47598085

Yawn contagion occurs when one individual yawns in response to another's yawn. Studies of this behavior in primates have focused on populations in captivity, but biologist Elisabetta Palagi and her colleagues have shown that it can occur in wild primate populations as well. In their study, which focused on a wild population of gelada monkeys (*Theropithecus gelada*) in Ethiopia, the researchers further reported that yawn contagion most commonly occurred in males and across different social groups instead of within a single social group.

Which choice best describes the function of the first sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It defines a phenomenon that is discussed in the text.
- B. It introduces a problem that is examined in the text.
- C. It makes a claim that is challenged in the text.
- D. It presents a hypothesis that is evaluated in the text.

## ID: 47598085 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the first sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence introduces what yawn contagion is, explaining that it occurs when an individual yawns in response to the yawn of another individual. The text goes on to describe Elisabetta Palagi and her colleagues' study of this phenomenon in a wild population of gelada monkeys. According to the text, the study showed that wild primate populations experience yawn contagion and that the behavior occurs most commonly in male monkeys and across social groups. Thus, the function of the first sentence is to define the phenomenon of yawn contagion that is discussed in the text.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the first sentence introduces the text's discussion of yawn contagion, it doesn't present this behavior, or anything else, as a problem. Choice C is incorrect because the first sentence doesn't present a claim but instead explains what yawn contagion is. Moreover, the text doesn't challenge anything; it's an informative text that describes the findings of a research study about yawning in wild primate populations. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text describes a scientific study, and most scientific studies are guided by a hypothesis, the text doesn't say what Palagi and her colleagues' hypothesis was; the text discusses their findings instead.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 710799ae

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 710799ae

Cuttlefish appear to be surprisingly \_\_\_\_\_ at exercising self-control: in a 2021 study conducted by behavioral ecologist Alexandra Schnell, these cephalopods routinely demonstrated restraint by delaying gratification, waiting for a favorite treat instead of instantly devouring a readily available meal.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. awkward
- B. imaginative
- C. manageable
- D. competent

## ID: 710799ae Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of self-control in cuttlefish. In this context, "competent" means capable. The text describes a study in which cuttlefish demonstrated an ability to exercise restraint by waiting for a favorite treat instead of eating a meal that was already available to them. That is, by delaying gratification, the cuttlefish in the study demonstrated that they were capable of, or competent at, exercising self-control.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that in demonstrating self-control, cuttlefish are "awkward," or lacking skill or grace. If anything, the text indicates that cuttlefish appear to be surprisingly skilled at exercising self-control. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "imaginative" would mean creative, and there's nothing in the text to suggest that cuttlefish demonstrate creativity. Instead, the text focuses on the fact that cuttlefish seem to be capable of exercising restraint and self-control. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "manageable" would mean capable of being controlled. Although the text indicates that the cuttlefish in the study demonstrated restraint by waiting for a favorite treat instead of devouring a readily available meal (which suggests their ability to control themselves), it doesn't suggest that cuttlefish are thus also able to be managed or controlled by others.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a87c3925

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: a87c3925

## Text 1

Soy sauce, made from fermented soybeans, is noted for its umami flavor. Umami—one of the five basic tastes along with sweet, bitter, salty, and sour—was formally classified when its taste receptors were discovered in the 2000s. In 2007, to define the pure umami flavor scientists Rie Ishii and Michael O'Mahony used broths made from shiitake mushrooms and kombu seaweed, and two panels of Japanese and US judges closely agreed on a description of the taste.

## Text 2

A 2022 experiment by Manon Jünger et al. led to a greater understanding of soy sauce's flavor profile. The team initially presented a mixture of compounds with low molecular weights to taste testers who found it was not as salty or bitter as real soy sauce. Further analysis of soy sauce identified proteins, including dipeptides, that enhanced umami flavor and also contributed to saltiness. The team then made a mix of 50 chemical compounds that re-created soy sauce's flavor.

Based on the texts, if Ishii and O'Mahony (Text 1) and Jünger et al. (Text 2) were aware of the findings of both experiments, they would most likely agree with which statement?

On average, the diets of people in the United States tend to have fewer foods that contain certain dipeptides than the  
A. diets of people in Japan have.

Chemical compounds that activate both the umami and salty taste receptors tend to have a higher molecular weight than  
B. those that only activate umami taste receptors.

Fermentation introduces proteins responsible for the increase of umami flavor in soy sauce, and those proteins also  
C. increase the perception of saltiness.

The broths in the 2007 experiment most likely did not have a substantial amount of the dipeptides that played a key part  
D. in the 2022 experiment.

ID: a87c3925 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Ishii and O'Mahony were trying to isolate the pure umami flavor, while Jünger was trying to recreate soy sauce, which has a mix of flavors that includes umami. Accordingly, the broths from Text 1 are not described as having any soy sauce in them—just “shiitake mushrooms and kombu seaweed.” So they probably don’t have as much of the dipeptides described in Text 2, which were found to be a key part of soy sauce’s umami-ness and its saltiness.

Choice A is incorrect. Neither text supports this. Neither text gets into the diets of people in the United States, nor the diets of people in Japan. Choice B is incorrect. Neither text supports this. Text 2 does talk about the molecular weights of chemical compounds, but there isn’t enough information provided about molecular weights in Text 1 to make an inference about what the scientists in Text 1 would say. Choice C is incorrect. Neither text supports this. Text 1 briefly mentions that soy sauce is “made from fermented soybeans,” but it never claims that fermentation is responsible for its flavor in any way. And Text 2 never mentions fermentation at all.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b0f7541b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: b0f7541b

The following text is adapted from Herman Melville's 1857 novel *The Confidence-Man*. Humphry Davy was a prominent British chemist and inventor.

Years ago, a grave American savant, being in London, observed at an evening party there, a certain coxcombical fellow, as he thought, an absurd ribbon in his lapel, and full of smart [banter], whisking about to the admiration of as many as were disposed to admire. Great was the savant's disdain; but, chancing ere long to find himself in a corner with the jackanapes, got into conversation with him, when he was somewhat ill-prepared for the good sense of the jackanapes, but was altogether thrown aback, upon subsequently being [informed that he was] no less a personage than Sir Humphry Davy.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It portrays the thoughts of a character who is embarrassed about his own behavior.
- B. It presents an account of a misunderstanding.
- C. It offers a short history of how a person came to be famous.
- D. It explains why one character dislikes another.

## ID: b0f7541b Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text tells a story of a first impression that turned out to be wrong: a serious American savant was dismissive of a goofy-looking, wisecracking guest at a British party, and then was shocked to learn that the guest was actually a prominent British chemist and inventor.

Choice A is incorrect. This is too strong and too narrow. Only at the very end is the savant "thrown aback" by the fact that the man was Sir Humphry Davy—he's not "embarrassed about his own behavior." Choice C is incorrect. This isn't the main purpose. The text never provides the history of how Sir Humphry Davy came to be famous. Nor does it provide any history for the American savant. Choice D is incorrect. This is too narrow. It doesn't include the second half of the text, where the savant gets into a conversation with the man and then finds out that the man is Sir Humphry Davy.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 7bf79a90

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: 7bf79a90

## Text 1

Microbes are tiny organisms in the soil, water, and air all around us. They thrive even in very harsh conditions. That's why Noah Fierer and colleagues were surprised when soil samples they collected from an extremely cold, dry area in Antarctica didn't seem to contain any life. The finding doesn't prove that there are no microbes in that area, but the team says it does suggest that the environment severely restricts microbes' survival.

## Text 2

Microbes are found in virtually every environment on Earth. So it's unlikely they would be completely absent from Fierer's team's study site, no matter how extreme the environment is. There were probably so few organisms in the samples that current technology couldn't detect them. But since a spoonful of typical soil elsewhere might contain billions of microbes, the presence of so few in the Antarctic soil samples would show how challenging the conditions are.

Based on the texts, Fierer's team and the author of Text 2 would most likely agree with which statement about microbes?

Most microbes are better able to survive in environments with extremely dry conditions than in environments with harsh A. temperatures.

A much higher number of microbes would probably be found if another sample of soil were taken from the Antarctic B. study site.

Microbes are likely difficult to detect in the soil at the Antarctic study site because they tend to be smaller than microbes C. found in typical soil elsewhere.

D. Most microbes are probably unable to withstand the soil conditions at the Antarctic study site.

ID: 7bf79a90 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about microbes with which Fierer's team (Text 1) and the author of Text 2 would most likely agree. Text 1 states that microbes usually thrive in very harsh conditions, and so Fierer's team was surprised when samples collected from an extremely cold and dry area of Antarctica didn't appear to contain any life. Fierer's team says that though this doesn't conclusively prove there are no microbes in the area, it suggests that microbes would have a notably difficult time surviving in the environment. The author of Text 2 says it's unlikely that there would be no microbes at all in the Antarctic study site from which Fierer's team retrieved soil samples and that there may have been hard-to-detect microbes in the samples. However, the presence of only a few microbes in the Antarctic samples rather than the billions found in a typical soil sample (which would presumably be much easier to detect) would illustrate conditions in the Antarctic soil that make it difficult for microbes to thrive. Since Fierer's team says that the seeming absence of microbes in the Antarctic samples suggests an unusually harsh environment and the author of Text 2 says that even if there are a few undetectable microbes in the samples, the relatively tiny number of microbes would also suggest an unusually harsh environment, then Fierer's team and the author of Text 2 would most likely agree that most microbes are unable to withstand the soil conditions at the Antarctic study site.

Choice A is incorrect. The samples taken by Fierer's team were from an area of Antarctica that is described in part as extremely dry, and these samples didn't appear to have any life. Therefore, even though these samples also came from an extremely cold area, Fierer's team wouldn't argue based on the evidence available that microbes were better able to survive in dry conditions than in areas with harsh temperatures. Moreover, the author of Text 2 says that microbes are found in virtually every environment on Earth but doesn't compare dry environments and harsh environments. Choice B is incorrect. Nothing in Text 1 indicates that another collection of samples from the Antarctic study site might yield different results from the samples already taken by Fierer's team. The author of Text 2 does state that microbes are found in virtually every environment on Earth and suggests that new technology may be better able to detect so few microbes in a soil sample, but the author of Text 2 concludes that the unusual absence of microbes in the Antarctic samples is evidence of the harsh Antarctic environment. Therefore, there is no reason to believe that the author of Text 2 thinks that another sample drawn from that same harsh environment would yield a much higher number of microbes. Choice C is incorrect. The author of Text 2 does speculate that there may have been so few microbes in the Antarctic samples that current technology couldn't detect them, but the author doesn't speculate that this is due to the size of the microbes. Moreover, nothing that Fierer's team says suggests that they are speculating that their samples might have microbes that are smaller than microbes in typical soil samples.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID af4300b0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: af4300b0

The creation of Lotte Reiniger's 1926 animated film *The Adventures of Prince Achmed* was \_\_\_\_\_ process. Over the course of three years, Reiniger and her collaborators painstakingly made more than 250,000 individual images of hand-cut paper silhouettes and repeatedly had to invent entirely new methods and tools to create the special effects Reiniger envisioned.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. a haphazard
- B. a contentious
- C. an ineffectual
- D. an arduous

## ID: af4300b0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the creation of *The Adventures of Prince Achmed*. In this context, "arduous" means that the process is marked by great labor or effort. According to the text, the creation of the 1926 animated film *The Adventures of Prince Achmed* took three years and was a painstaking process. Since the process was so long and required great efforts by Lotte Reiniger and her team, the creation of the film was therefore an arduous process.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that the creation of Reiniger's film was "a haphazard," or disorganized, process. In fact, the text suggests that the creation process was quite meticulous and the team worked hard together to produce the envisioned effects. Choice B is incorrect. While the text does suggest that the creation of Reiniger's film was a long and difficult process, it doesn't suggest that the process was "a contentious" one, or one causing controversy or argument. The text suggests that the team worked together to produce the envisioned effects. Choice C is incorrect because rather than describing the process of creating the film as "ineffectual," or not having the effect it was intended to have, the text describes the process as ultimately successful despite the difficulty it involved.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 4c4db685

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 4c4db685

On painter William H. Johnson's return to the United States in 1938 after a decade in Europe, his style underwent an abrupt transformation. Turning away from landscapes painted in an expressionist style—a style that often involves using fluid, distorted shapes and thick, textured brushstrokes to express the artist's subjective experience of reality—Johnson began painting portraits of Black Americans in a bold new way. Evocative of African sculpture and American and Scandinavian folk art, these portraits feature flat, deliberately oversimplified figures in a vibrant but limited color palette.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It elaborates on the previous sentence's statement about a transitional moment in Johnson's artistic career.
- B. It provides information about Johnson's travels in support of a claim about his artistic influences, which is advanced in the following sentence.
- C. It recounts a moment in Johnson's personal life that enabled the success of his subsequent career, which is summarized in the following sentence.
- D. It presents evidence that calls into question the previous sentence's characterization of Johnson's artistic development.

## ID: 4c4db685 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole. The first sentence of the text indicates that Johnson returned to the US in 1938 at which time his painting style suddenly changed. The second sentence is underlined and gives more detail about this stylistic change, noting that his earlier work consisted largely of landscapes in an expressionist style and his new works were highly stylized portraits of Black Americans. In other words, the function of the underlined sentence is to elaborate on a transitional moment in Johnson's painting career.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text does mention that Johnson spent a decade in Europe, it does not discuss what other travel Johnson might have done. Furthermore, although the text mentions African, American, and Scandinavian artistic elements in Johnson's work, it does not indicate that he traveled to different locations to learn about these practices. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not focus on Johnson's personal life nor does it address how successful his career was in general. Choice D is incorrect because, rather than call it into question, the underlined sentence continues the discussion of Johnson's career by adding further relevant detail of Johnson's artistic transformation.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID cf46f239

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: cf46f239

The following text is adapted from Herman Melville's 1855 novel *Israel Potter*. Israel is a young man wandering through New England during the late eighteenth century.

He hired himself out for three months; at the end of that time to receive for his wages two hundred acres of land lying in New Hampshire. [...] His employer proving false to the contract in the matter of the land, and there being no law in the country to force him to fulfil it, Israel—who, however brave-hearted, and even much of a dare-devil upon a pinch, seems nevertheless to have evinced, throughout many parts of his career, a singular patience and mildness—was obliged to look round for other means of livelihood than clearing out a farm for himself in the wilderness.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

It implies that Israel treasures a particular characteristic of his personality when that characteristic should usually be  
A. regarded as a flaw.

It suggests that if not for a certain aspect of his character, Israel might not have been as easily thwarted in his ambition  
B. to establish a farm.

It shows why Israel would not have been able to undertake the enormous amount of labor necessary to run a farm even if  
C. he had owned the necessary property.

It explains why, when the situation requires it, Israel is able to undertake courageous acts that others would generally  
D. avoid.

## ID: cf46f239 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole. The text describes the failed attempt of Israel Potter to establish a farm in New England during the late eighteenth century: according to his contract, he was to receive two hundred acres in exchange for three months' work, but his employer then refused to fulfill the bargain and Israel had no recourse to law to obtain the land he was owed. Israel was therefore forced to find another means of supporting himself. To explain why Israel was particularly susceptible to his employer's dishonesty, the underlined portion states that though Israel was "brave-hearted, and even much of a dare-devil upon a pinch," he also possessed "a singular patience and mildness." In other words, Israel could be courageous in certain circumstances, but he was usually meek and disinclined to argument, from which it is reasonable to infer that Israel was often taken advantage of. Thus, the underlined portion suggests that if not for a certain aspect of his character, Israel might not have been as easily thwarted in his ambition to establish a farm.

Choice A is incorrect because although the underlined portion describes aspects of Israel's personality, it does not address how he feels about his own personality. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined portion addresses Israel's occasional courage and frequent meekness but does not address whether he would have the skills and resolve necessary to operate a farm if he owned sufficient property. Choice D is incorrect. Though the underlined portion does indicate that Israel could be courageous in certain circumstances, it does not say that he undertook acts of courage that others avoided, but rather that he was habitually meek. Even if the underlined portion did say that Israel was more courageous than most, this would not explain why he found himself under the circumstances described in the text—that is, as a consequence of his meek nature, cheated of the property to which he had a right.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 617a8a10

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 617a8a10

Very little is known about the role nocturnal insects, such as moths, play in flower pollination because it is difficult to monitor insects at night. To address this problem, a team of scientists used time-lapse cameras to record pollinator visits to red clover all day and night. The recordings showed that while most pollinator visits were by bumblebees, one-third of visits were by moths. Additionally, flowers that were visited by both moths and bees produced more seeds than flowers that were only visited by bees.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined sentence?

- A. To describe an approach a team of scientists used to study pollinators
- B. To question a claim scientists make about pollinators
- C. To explain why moths prefer red clover to other flowers
- D. To announce an unexpected research finding about red clover

## ID: 617a8a10 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined sentence. The sentence indicates that scientists used time-lapse photography during both day and night to detect pollinators visiting red clover. Therefore, the underlined sentence has the function of describing an approach scientists used in the pollinator study discussed in the text.

Choice B is incorrect because the underlined sentence discusses equipment the scientists used to conduct their study, and the text provides nothing to suggest these elements of their experimental design could, by themselves, question claims resulting from the study. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in either the underlined sentence or the rest of the text addresses whether moths have a preference for red clover or any other flowers. Choice D is incorrect. Although the sentences that follow the underlined sentence discuss research findings, nothing in the text suggests that these findings were unexpected. Moreover, the underlined sentence describes part of the scientists' experimental design (day and night time-lapse photography), not a finding of the scientists' study.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d6c77ae5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: d6c77ae5

## Text 1

Astronomer Mark Holland and colleagues examined four white dwarfs—small, dense remnants of past stars—in order to determine the composition of exoplanets that used to orbit those stars. Studying wavelengths of light in the white dwarf atmospheres, the team reported that traces of elements such as lithium and sodium support the presence of exoplanets with continental crusts similar to Earth's.

## Text 2

Past studies of white dwarf atmospheres have concluded that certain exoplanets had continental crusts. Geologist Keith Putirka and astronomer Siyi Xu argue that those studies unduly emphasize atmospheric traces of lithium and other individual elements as signifiers of the types of rock found on Earth. The studies don't adequately account for different minerals made up of various ratios of those elements, and the possibility of rock types not found on Earth that contain those minerals.

Based on the texts, how would Putirka and Xu (Text 2) most likely characterize the conclusion presented in Text 1?

- A. As unexpected, because it was widely believed at the time that white dwarf exoplanets lack continental crusts
- B. As premature, because researchers have only just begun trying to determine what kinds of crusts white dwarf exoplanets had
- C. As questionable, because it rests on an incomplete consideration of potential sources of the elements detected in white dwarf atmospheres
- D. As puzzling, because it's unusual to successfully detect lithium and sodium when analyzing wavelengths of light in white dwarf atmospheres

ID: d6c77ae5 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it reflects how Putirka and Xu (Text 2) would likely characterize the conclusion presented in Text 1. Text 1 discusses a study by Mark Holland and colleagues in which they detected traces of lithium and sodium in the atmospheres of four white dwarf stars. The team claims that this supports the idea that exoplanets with continental crusts like Earth's once orbited these stars. Text 2 introduces Putirka and Xu, who indicate that sodium and lithium are present in several different minerals and that some of those minerals might exist in types of rock that are not found on Earth. Therefore, Putirka and Xu would likely describe the conclusion in Text 1 as questionable because it does not consider that lithium and sodium are also found in rocks that are not like Earth's continental crust.

Choice A is incorrect because the texts do not indicate how widely held any of the viewpoints described are. Choice B is incorrect because neither text discusses how new this area of study is. Choice D is incorrect because neither text discusses how likely lithium and sodium are to be detected by analyzing wavelengths of light.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID df46a2ee

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: df46a2ee

The following text is from Joseph Conrad's 1907 novel *The Secret Agent: A Simple Tale*. Mr. Verloc is navigating the London streets on his way to a meeting.

Before reaching Knightsbridge, Mr. Verloc took a turn to the left out of the busy main thoroughfare, uproarious with the traffic of swaying omnibuses and trotting vans, in the almost silent, swift flow of hansoms [horse-drawn carriages]. Under his hat, worn with a slight backward tilt, his hair had been carefully brushed into respectful sleekness; for his business was with an Embassy. And Mr. Verloc, steady like a rock—a soft kind of rock—marched now along a street which could with every propriety be described as private.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined phrase in the text as a whole?

- A. It qualifies an earlier description of Mr. Verloc.
- B. It emphasizes an internal struggle Mr. Verloc experiences.
- C. It contrasts Mr. Verloc with his surroundings.
- D. It reveals a private opinion Mr. Verloc holds.

## ID: df46a2ee Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The underline phrase qualifies (meaning adds limits or conditions to) the description of Mr. Verloc as "steady like a rock," adding that he is a "soft" rock.

Choice B is incorrect. In fact, the passage never mentions Mr. Verloc experiencing any internal struggles. Choice C is incorrect. The underlined phrase doesn't contrast Mr. Verloc with his surroundings, but is instead modifying the description of him as a rock. Choice D is incorrect. The underlined phrase doesn't reveal a private opinion Mr. Verloc holds: instead, it further describes his character for the reader.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5a278f24

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 5a278f24

The work of molecular biophysicist Enrique M. De La Cruz is known for \_\_\_\_\_ traditional boundaries between academic disciplines. The university laboratory that De La Cruz runs includes engineers, biologists, chemists, and physicists, and the research the lab produces makes use of insights and techniques from all those fields.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. epitomizing
- B. transcending
- C. anticipating
- D. reinforcing

## ID: 5a278f24 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Based on the text, we're looking for a word that means something similar to "mak[ing] use of insights and techniques from all those fields." "Transcending" means "going beyond," so "transcending traditional boundaries" would mean crossing into all those various fields of research, which is exactly the meaning we want.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn't a logical word choice. Based on the text, we're looking for a word that means something similar to "mak[ing] use of insights and techniques from all those fields." To "epitomize" means to "be a perfect example of," so "epitomizing traditional boundaries" would mean the opposite of what we want: keeping the fields of research separate. Choice C is incorrect. This isn't a logical word choice. Based on the text, we're looking for a word that means something similar to "mak[ing] use of insights and techniques from all those fields." "Anticipating" means "expecting" or "waiting for," and would result in a confusing sentence with an unclear meaning. Choice D is incorrect. This isn't a logical word choice. Based on the text, we're looking for a word that means something similar to "mak[ing] use of insights and techniques from all those fields." "Reinforcing traditional boundaries" would mean the opposite: keeping the fields of research separate.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 76e4c51d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 76e4c51d

The güiro, a musical instrument traditionally made from a dried and hollowed gourd, is thought to have originated with the Taíno people of Puerto Rico. Players use a wooden stick to scrape along ridges cut into the side of the gourd, creating sounds that are highly \_\_\_\_: the sounds produced by güiros can differ based on the distance between the ridges, the types of strokes the player uses, and the thickness of the gourd.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. overlooked
- B. powerful
- C. routine
- D. variable

## ID: 76e4c51d Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the sounds made by güiros. In this context, "variable" means able to change. The text begins by explaining that güiros are instruments made out of hollowed gourds with ridges cut into their sides and that players scrape the ridges with wooden sticks to produce sounds. The text goes on to say that güiros' sounds can change depending on gourd thickness, the distance between ridges, and the types of strokes the player uses, thus supporting the idea that the sounds created by these instruments are variable.

Choice A is incorrect because "overlooked" means not being seen or noticed, and there is nothing in the text to suggest that the sounds produced by güiros are overlooked or not noticed. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "powerful" would mean having a great ability to produce an effect. While it's possible that the sounds produced by güiros have a strong effect on listeners, the text doesn't discuss this aspect of their sounds. Choice C is incorrect because "routine" means usual and unvarying, and there is nothing in the text to suggest that the sounds produced by güiros are unvarying. In fact, the text describes how the sounds produced by güiros can differ based on several factors.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID ff97fd53

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: ff97fd53

In 1973, poet Miguel Algarín started inviting other writers who, like him, were Nuyorican—a term for New Yorkers of Puerto Rican heritage—to gather in his apartment to present their work. The gatherings were so well attended that Algarín soon had to rent space in a cafe to accommodate them. Thus, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe was born. Moving to a permanent location in 1981, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe expanded its original scope beyond the written word, hosting art exhibitions and musical performances as well. Half a century since its inception, it continues to foster emerging Nuyorican talent.

Which choice best describes the overall purpose of the text?

- A. To explain what motivated Algarín to found the Nuyorican Poets Cafe
- B. To situate the Nuyorican Poets Cafe within the cultural life of New York as a whole
- C. To discuss why the Nuyorican Poets Cafe expanded its scope to include art and music
- D. To provide an overview of the founding and mission of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe

## ID: ff97fd53 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text presents a brief history of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, from how it got started in the '70s, to its expansion in the '80s, to its ongoing mission today.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn't the overall purpose. The text never mentions Algarín's motivations. Choice B is incorrect. This isn't the overall purpose. The text never discusses the cultural life of New York as a whole. Choice C is incorrect. This is too narrow. One sentence mentions that the Nuyorican Poets Cafe expanded its scope to include art and music, but this is only one point in the broader history of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, which is the overall focus of the text.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c61a7c4a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: c61a7c4a

Some studies have suggested that posture can influence cognition, but we should not overstate this phenomenon. A case in point: In a 2014 study, Megan O'Brien and Alaa Ahmed had subjects stand or sit while making risky simulated economic decisions. Standing is more physically unstable and cognitively demanding than sitting; accordingly, O'Brien and Ahmed hypothesized that standing subjects would display more risk aversion during the decision-making tasks than sitting subjects did, since they would want to avoid further feelings of discomfort and complicated risk evaluations. But O'Brien and Ahmed actually found no difference in the groups' performance.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

A. It argues that research findings about the effects of posture on cognition are often misunderstood, as in the case of O'Brien and Ahmed's study.

B. It presents the study by O'Brien and Ahmed to critique the methods and results reported in previous studies of the effects of posture on cognition.

C. It explains a significant problem in the emerging understanding of posture's effects on cognition and how O'Brien and Ahmed tried to solve that problem.

D. It discusses the study by O'Brien and Ahmed to illustrate why caution is needed when making claims about the effects of posture on cognition.

## ID: c61a7c4a Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The text notes that although some studies have suggested that posture may have an effect on cognition, this phenomenon should not be overstated. In other words, the text begins by urging caution and restraint when discussing the effects of posture on cognition, implying that even though some studies have shown posture to affect cognition, we should not assume that posture always affects cognition or does so in a strong way. The text goes on to discuss O'Brien and Ahmed's study as a "case in point" (that is, as an example of the point made previously). According to the text, O'Brien and Ahmed hypothesized that since standing is more cognitively demanding than sitting, standing subjects in their experiment would respond differently to decision-making tasks than sitting subjects would, which would show an effect of posture on cognition. What the researchers actually found, however, was that the standing and sitting subjects performed the same—posture did not affect cognition. By presenting a circumstance in which posture does not appear to affect cognition, the discussion of O'Brien and Ahmed's study shows why it is important not to overstate the phenomenon. The purpose of the text, therefore, is to discuss O'Brien and Ahmed's study to illustrate why caution is needed when making claims about posture's effects on cognition.

Choice A is incorrect because the text discusses O'Brien and Ahmed's study as an example of why caution is needed when discussing posture's effects on cognition, not as an example of how research findings related to posture and cognition are often misunderstood. Although the text does warn against misunderstanding the scope of the relationship between posture and cognition that has been reported in some previous studies, O'Brien and Ahmed's study is not one of those studies, and there is no suggestion that anyone has misunderstood O'Brien and Ahmed's findings. Choice B is incorrect because the text makes no mention of the methods used in previous studies of the effects of posture on cognition. Although the text does urge caution when discussing posture's effects on cognition, it does not critique the results of studies that suggested that posture can affect cognition. Instead, the text suggests that such results should not be exaggerated or taken too broadly. Choice C is incorrect because although the text implies that overstating posture's effects on cognition would be a problem, nothing in the text suggests that O'Brien and Ahmed share that view or that they attempted to solve that problem. O'Brien and Ahmed are presented as hypothesizing that posture would affect cognition in their study, not as trying to resolve the problem the text describes.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a2f64e58

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: a2f64e58

Individual elephants and Arctic herbivores such as caribou tend to have fixed geographic ranges throughout their lifetimes, which had prompted some researchers to speculate that the Arctic woolly mammoth, an extinct elephantid, might have exhibited similar behavior. Mammoth tusks grew in sequential layers, incorporating ingested minerals and organics, and so each ivory stratum reflects the ratio of strontium isotopes ( $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ) in the local environment; thus, the sequence of strata shows where the animal roamed during life. Recent analysis of the strontium ratios in the strata of one Arctic woolly mammoth tusk in relation to the geographic distribution of strontium ratios in the environment shows the animal's range begin to expand as it reached sexual maturity, only to contract again in its final 1.5 years.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined statement in the text as a whole?

- A. It discusses a characteristic shared by certain animals in order to explain why researchers raised a possibility that turned out not to be supported by data described later in the text.
- B. It illustrates a pattern of behavior among certain animals in order to present a theory about exceptions to that pattern that is weakened by a finding described later in the text.
- C. It describes a similarity in the behavior of certain animals in order to show why a method described later in the text did not reveal whether another animal also showed that behavior.
- D. It introduces a trait shared by certain animals in order to contextualize a hypothesis about the origin of that trait that is advanced later in the text.

## ID: a2f64e58 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined statement functions in the text as a whole. The underlined statement mentions a category of animals that have a feature in common: they tend to have fixed geographic ranges throughout their lifetimes. The text then presents the speculation of some researchers that the Arctic woolly mammoth might also share this characteristic. However, an examination of the content of strontium in the strata (or layers) of a woolly mammoth tusk indicated that contrary to the researchers' hypothesis, the mammoth had an expanding range in its environment that contracted in its last 1.5 years of life. Thus, the underlined statement discusses a characteristic shared by certain animals in order to explain why researchers raised a possibility that turned out not to be supported by data described later in the text.

Choice B is incorrect. Though the underlined statement presents a pattern of behavior (the habit of certain animals of staying within a fixed geographic range), the rest of the text does not present a theory of exceptions to that pattern; rather, the researchers are merely concerned with whether one particular animal has behavior consistent with the pattern. Choice C is incorrect. Though the underlined statement does describe a similarity in the behavior of certain animals (their tendency to stay within a fixed geographic range), this is not done in order to show why a method described later in the text failed to show whether another animal showed that behavior; rather, the method of analysis of strata of a woolly mammoth tusk showed that the mammoth's behavior was different from that of the animals mentioned in the underlined statement. Choice D is incorrect. Though the underlined statement mentions a trait shared by a number of animals (their fixed geographic range), the rest of the text does not present a hypothesis regarding the origin of that trait; rather, the researchers are concerned with whether another particular animal shares that trait.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID e26d23c4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: e26d23c4

Proposals to raise the age at which retirees begin receiving government transfers of funds are generally discussed in terms of the effects on transfer recipients, but Andria Smythe has argued that delaying such transfers could \_\_\_\_\_ wealth creation among working adults by lengthening the period in which they are providing financial support to their nonworking parents.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. stymie
- B. compound
- C. disparage
- D. outstrip

## ID: e26d23c4 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the consequences of raising the age at which retirees begin receiving government funds. The text indicates that raising the age for these funds is usually discussed in terms of effects on fund recipients but that Andria Smythe is instead considering the effects on working family members who care for retirees. Smythe notes that raising the age for the funds would increase the length of time retirees are dependent on financial assistance from working family members. This is suggested to have an effect on wealth creation for those workers, and most logically, that effect would be disadvantageous. Thus, "stymie," which means to prevent or greatly hinder, is the most logical choice in context.

Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "compound" would most nearly mean multiply or greatly enhance. The text indicates that raising the age at which retirees are eligible for government funds will increase the amount of time retirees are dependent on working family members for financial support. This would likely have a negative rather than a positive effect on wealth creation. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "disparage" would most nearly mean criticize or defame. Nothing in the text suggests that raising the age at which retirees are eligible for government funds would defame wealth creation among working adults. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "outstrip" would most nearly mean to exceed, and nothing in the text indicates that the financial support provided to retirees would exceed the amount of wealth these workers can create. The text does suggest that workers providing funds to retirees works against those workers' wealth accumulation, but not that the support to retirees exceeds the workers' accumulated wealth.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID acb852e7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: acb852e7

The following text is from the 1923 poem “Black Finger” by Angelina Weld Grimké, a Black American writer. A cypress is a type of evergreen tree.

I have just seen a most beautiful thing,

Slim and still,

Against a gold, gold sky,

A straight black cypress,

Sensitive,

Exquisite,

A black finger

Pointing upwards.

Why, beautiful still finger, are you black?

And why are you pointing upwards?

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The speaker assesses a natural phenomenon, then questions the accuracy of her assessment.
- B. The speaker describes a distinctive sight in nature, then ponders what meaning to attribute to that sight.
- C. The speaker presents an outdoor scene, then considers a human behavior occurring within that scene.
- D. The speaker examines her surroundings, then speculates about their influence on her emotional state.

## ID: acb852e7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall structure of the text. First, the speaker describes observing a “most beautiful” sight: a tree (“black cypress”) standing out from the golden sky behind it, looking like a person’s finger “pointing upwards” and appearing “sensitive” and “exquisite.” Then the speaker wonders about the image’s meaning, asking why the finger is black and why it’s pointing upward. Thus, the text moves from the speaker’s description of a distinctive sight in nature to her pondering about what meaning to attribute to that sight.

Choice A is incorrect because the speaker assesses a natural sight—a “black cypress” tree standing “against a gold, gold sky” like a pointed finger—but doesn’t question the accuracy of her own assessment. Although she wonders why the finger, which is really a tree, is black and why it’s pointing, the speaker doesn’t suggest that her belief that the tree resembles a finger is wrong. Choice C is incorrect. Although the speaker describes seeing a “black cypress” tree standing “against a gold, gold sky” like a pointed finger, she wonders about that natural image (asking why the finger, which is really a tree, is black and why it’s pointing) and doesn’t give any indication that any people are present in the scene. Choice D is incorrect. Although the speaker examines and wonders about one thing in her surroundings—a “black cypress” tree standing “against a gold, gold sky” like a pointed finger—she doesn’t address her own emotional state or consider how it’s affected by her surroundings.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 98364791

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

**ID: 98364791**

In studying the use of external stimuli to reduce the itching sensation caused by an allergic histamine response, Louise Ward and colleagues found that while harmless applications of vibration or warming can provide a temporary distraction, such \_\_\_\_\_ stimuli actually offer less relief than a stimulus that seems less benign, like a mild electric shock.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. deceptive
- B. innocuous
- C. novel
- D. impractical

**ID: 98364791 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Ward and colleagues' findings. As used in this context, "innocuous" means mild or unharful. The text describes the vibration and warming that Ward and colleagues used to alleviate itching as "harmless applications" and goes on to contrast these applications with another stimulus that actually offers more relief even though it seems to be stronger and "less benign." This context conveys the idea that vibration and warming were innocuous stimuli.

Choice A is incorrect because the text focuses on a distinction between harmless stimuli and those that seem to be less benign. Nothing in the text suggests that any of the treatments are "deceptive," or misleading; indeed, even the less effective ones are described as offering some relief. Choice C is incorrect because the text focuses on the amount of relief from itching offered by harmless stimuli and those that seem to be less benign. The text doesn't suggest that any of these stimuli are "novel," or original and new; heat, vibration, and electricity aren't new inventions. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to describe an application of vibration or warming as "impractical," or not suitable for use. The text indicates that these harmless applications are useful in that they offer at least some temporary relief.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 9107ad5c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 9107ad5c

Stars form in cloudlike swirls of gas and dust that cannot be touched, but astrophysicist Nia Imara believes these formations need not remain completely \_\_\_\_\_ to researchers: she uses simulation data and sophisticated 3D printers to produce interactive models of these stellar nurseries.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. repeatable
- B. explicable
- C. regrettable
- D. intangible

## ID: 9107ad5c Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of how Nia Imara facilitates the study of star formations. As used in this context "intangible" means unable to be physically handled or touched. The text states that star formations cannot be touched, and then goes on to explain that Imara created a special model to research star formations. In other words, despite the fact that real star formations are intangible, thanks to Imara, researchers can handle models of star formations to better understand them.

Choice A is incorrect because "repeatable" means can be duplicated or done again, which wouldn't make sense in context. The text indicates that the swirls of gas and dust in which stars form are untouchable, but that Nia Imara has produced interactive models of them. It would therefore be illogical to suggest that Imara believes that the formations need not be duplicated and then go on to say that she has copied them. Choice B is incorrect because "explicable" means explainable or understandable, which wouldn't make sense in context. The text does not suggest that Nia Imara believes that star formations can be fully explained but rather that she produced interactive models to physically study them because researchers are unable to touch them directly. Choice C is incorrect because "regrettable" means distressing or unfortunate, which wouldn't make sense in context. The text does not suggest that Imara believes the researchers regret the star formations or find them distressing, but rather that she uses interactive models to physically study them.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID aa5897b8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: aa5897b8

In Jane Austen's novel *Mansfield Park*, an almost imperceptible smile from potential suitor Henry Crawford causes the protagonist Fanny Price to blush; her embarrassment grows when she suspects that he is aware of it. This moment—in which Fanny not only infers Henry's mental state through his gestures, but also infers that he is drawing inferences about her mental state—illustrates what literary scholar George Butte calls “deep intersubjectivity,” a technique for representing interactions between consciousnesses through which Austen's novels derive much of their social and psychological drama.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- It states a claim about Austen's skill at representing psychological complexity that is reinforced by an example presented A. in the following sentence.
- It advances an interpretation of an Austen protagonist who is contrasted with protagonists from other Austen novels B. cited in the following sentence.
- It describes a recurring theme in Austen's novels that is the focus of a literary scholar's analysis summarized in the C. following sentence.
- It provides a synopsis of an interaction in an Austen novel that illustrates a literary concept discussed in the following D. sentence.

## ID: aa5897b8 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The underlined sentence provides a concrete example to ground readers' understanding of the “deep intersubjectivity” described in the next sentence as central to Austen's work.

Choice A is incorrect. There is no evaluation made of Austen's skill in this sentence, and no examples are given in the following sentence. This choice essentially flips the paragraph: it's this first sentence that provides an example. Choice B is incorrect. There are no other Austen protagonists mentioned in this passage, so this couldn't be the answer. Choice C is incorrect. The underlined sentence doesn't identify any “recurring theme,” but instead simply describes one interaction from one book. This interaction exemplifies the literary technique of “deep intersubjectivity” that is introduced in the next sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8de51658

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: 8de51658

## Text 1

The idea that time moves in only one direction is instinctively understood, yet it puzzles physicists. According to the second law of thermodynamics, at a macroscopic level some processes of heat transfer are irreversible due to the production of entropy—after a transfer we cannot rewind time and place molecules back exactly where they were before, just as we cannot unbreak dropped eggs. But laws of physics at a microscopic or quantum level hold that those processes *should* be reversible.

## Text 2

In 2015, physicists Tiago Batalhão et al. performed an experiment in which they confirmed the irreversibility of thermodynamic processes at a quantum level, producing entropy by applying a rapidly oscillating magnetic field to a system of carbon-13 atoms in liquid chloroform. But the experiment “does not pinpoint ... what causes [irreversibility] at the microscopic level,” coauthor Mauro Paternostro said.

Based on the texts, what would the author of Text 1 most likely say about the experiment described in Text 2?

It would suggest an interesting direction for future research were it not the case that two of the physicists who  
A. conducted the experiment disagree on the significance of its findings.

It provides empirical evidence that the current understanding of an aspect of physics at a microscopic level must be  
B. incomplete.

C. It is consistent with the current understanding of physics at a microscopic level but not at a macroscopic level.

It supports a claim about an isolated system of atoms in a laboratory, but that claim should not be extrapolated to a  
D. general claim about the universe.

ID: 8de51658 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Author 1 describes the puzzle that physicists still can't solve: at a microscopic level, the "laws of physics" suggest that we should be able to reverse processes that are not reversible at a macroscopic level (and, maybe, turn back time!). The experiment confirmed that those processes are not reversible even on the microscopic level, but it didn't explain why. This supports Author 1's point that physicists still don't fully understand how things work at a microscopic level—maybe the laws need to be revised.

Choice A is incorrect. We can't infer that the author of Text 1 would respond this way to the experiment. Text 2 does name two of the physicists involved in the experiment, but it never suggests that they disagree on anything. Choice C is incorrect. This is the opposite of what the experiment suggests. The experiment confirmed that the macroscopic-level law ("these things can't be reversed—like time") was still true on the microscopic level—meaning it supports the current understanding of physics at a macroscopic level. Choice D is incorrect. We can't infer that the author of Text 1 would respond this way to the experiment. Neither text makes this distinction between laboratory findings and the way the universe works in general.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e0656211

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: e0656211

In *Nature Poem* (2017), Kumeyaay poet Tommy Pico portrays his \_\_\_\_\_ the natural world by honoring the centrality of nature within his tribe's traditional beliefs while simultaneously expressing his distaste for being in wilderness settings himself.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. responsiveness to
- B. ambivalence toward
- C. renunciation of
- D. mastery over

## ID: e0656211 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's description of how Pico feels about the natural world. In this context, to say that Pico portrays his "ambivalence toward" nature would mean that he portrays his mixed feelings about nature. The text explains that Pico "honors the centrality of nature" and also makes it clear that he doesn't enjoy being in nature. This context suggests that Pico feels ambivalence toward nature.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that Pico portrays his "responsiveness to" nature would mean that he portrays himself as quick to react to nature, which isn't supported by the text. Instead, the text focuses on Pico's mixed feelings toward nature, describing him as both honoring nature's role in his tribe's beliefs and expressing his personal dislike for being in nature. Choice C is incorrect because saying that Pico portrays his "renunciation of" nature would mean that he portrays himself as rejecting nature, which isn't supported by the text. The text conveys that Pico demonstrates both positive and negative responses toward nature, not that he's giving it up completely. Choice D is incorrect because saying that Pico portrays his "mastery over" nature would mean that he portrays himself as having control over nature, which isn't supported by the text. The text focuses on Pico's mixed feelings about nature; nothing in the text suggests that Pico feels mastery over nature.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 059f7201

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: 059f7201

## Text 1

Graphic novels are increasingly popular in bookstores and libraries, but they shouldn't be classified as literature. By definition, literature tells a story or conveys meaning through language only; graphic novels tell stories through illustrations and use language only sparingly, in captions and dialogue. Graphic novels are experienced as series of images and not as language, making them more similar to film than to literature.

## Text 2

Graphic novels present their stories through both language and images. Without captions and dialogue, readers would be unable to understand what is depicted in the illustrations: the story results from the interaction of text and image. Moreover, Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home* and many other graphic novels feature text that is as beautifully written as the prose found in many standard novels. Therefore, graphic novels qualify as literary texts.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the overall argument presented in Text 1?

- A. By asserting that language plays a more important role in graphic novels than the author of Text 1 recognizes
- B. By acknowledging that the author of Text 1 has identified a flaw that is common to all graphic novels

By suggesting that the story lines of certain graphic novels are more difficult to understand than the author of Text 1 claims

- D. By agreeing with the author of Text 1 that most graphic novels aren't as well crafted as most literary works are

ID: 059f7201 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states how the author of Text 2 would most likely respond to the argument presented in Text 1. In arguing that graphic novels shouldn't be classified as literature and are more comparable to film, Text 1 claims that language plays a relatively limited role in graphic novels: images, not language, are the primary means by which graphic novels tell their stories, and language is used "only sparingly"—that is, comparatively very little—in the form of captions and dialogue. However, the author of Text 2 asserts that language in graphic novels is as equally vital for conveying meaning as images are, since without captions and dialogue, readers wouldn't be able to make sense of the narrative. Moreover, the author of Text 2 argues that there are many graphic novels that are "beautifully written" and whose use of language is as accomplished as any standard novel. Because Text 1 argues that language is subordinate to images in graphic novels, whereas Text 2 highlights how language is an essential component of a graphic novel's storytelling, it can reasonably be inferred that the author of Text 2 would say that language plays a more important role in graphic novels than the author of Text 1 recognizes.

Choice B is incorrect. Although Text 1 indicates that graphic novels shouldn't be classified as literature based on their limited use of language, there's no indication that the author of Text 1 considers this limited use of language as a flaw, just that it doesn't fit the particular definition of "literature" proposed in the text. Even if Text 1 had suggested that their use of language was a common flaw of graphic novels, the author of Text 2 emphasizes how many graphic novels are "beautifully written," and would therefore say that their use of language is exemplary, not that it is flawed. Choice C is incorrect because Text 1 doesn't claim that the story lines of graphic novels are generally relatively easy to understand; in addition, Text 2 argues that given their dependence on the interaction of image and text, the stories of graphic novels would be incomprehensible if their captions and dialogue were removed, not that the story lines of some graphic novels are more difficult to understand than Text 1 acknowledges. Choice D is incorrect because the author of Text 1 doesn't imply that graphic novels aren't well crafted, only that they use language too sparingly to fit the definition of "literature," and that their use of images to convey stories makes them more comparable to film than to literature. Even if the author of Text 1 had implied that most graphic novels aren't well crafted, Text 2 refers to the fact that many graphic novels are as beautifully written—that is, well crafted—as many standard novels; thus, it wouldn't be accurate to say that the author of Text 2 would agree with the author of Text 1 that most graphic novels aren't well crafted.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID be94c9fc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: be94c9fc

The following text is adapted from James Baldwin's 1956 novel *Giovanni's Room*. The narrator is riding in a taxi down a street lined with food vendors and shoppers in Paris, France.

The multitude of Paris seems to be dressed in blue every day but Sunday, when, for the most part, they put on an unbelievably festive black. Here they were now, in blue, disputing, every inch, our passage, with their wagons, handtrucks, their bursting baskets carried at an angle steeply self-confident on the back.

©1956 by James Baldwin

As used in the text, what does the word "disputing" most nearly mean?

- A. Arguing about
- B. Disapproving of
- C. Asserting possession of
- D. Providing resistance to

## ID: be94c9fc Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, "disputing" most nearly means providing resistance to. The narrator is in a taxi as it drives down a street lined with so many food vendors and shoppers that the narrator describes them as "the multitude of Paris," meaning an immense group of people. The street is essentially a large open-air market, and there are so many people pushing small wagons of goods and carrying shopping baskets that "every inch" of the taxi's progress is impeded. In other words, the people are providing resistance to the taxi's attempt to drive down the street.

Choice A is incorrect. Although in some contexts, "disputing" can mean arguing, the narrator doesn't portray the shoppers and vendors as arguing with the driver of the taxi or, indeed, arguing at all. Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts, "disputing" can mean expressing disapproval, the narrator doesn't suggest that the shoppers and vendors necessarily disapprove of the taxi's attempt to drive down the street. Instead, their combined presence along the street has the effect of impeding the taxi's progress. Choice C is incorrect because, as the narrator explains, both the multitude of people and the taxi are using a public space (a street) at the same time. The narrator doesn't go so far as to suggest that the people feel that they, and not the taxi, possess exclusive access to the street.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d72b325e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-text Connections	

**ID: d72b325e**

Text 1

What factors influence the abundance of species in a given ecological community? Some theorists have argued that historical diversity is a major driver of how diverse an ecological community eventually becomes: differences in community diversity across otherwise similar habitats, in this view, are strongly affected by the number of species living in those habitats at earlier times.

Text 2

In 2010, a group of researchers including biologist Carla Cáceres created artificial pools in a New York forest. They stocked some pools with a diverse mix of zooplankton species and others with a single zooplankton species and allowed the pool communities to develop naturally thereafter. Over the course of four years, Cáceres and colleagues periodically measured the species diversity of the pools, finding—contrary to their expectations—that by the end of the study there was little to no difference in the pools' species diversity.

Based on the texts, how would Cáceres and colleagues (Text 2) most likely describe the view of the theorists presented in Text 1?

- A. It is largely correct, but it requires a minor refinement in light of the research team's results.
- B. It is not compelling as a theory regardless of any experimental data collected by the research team.
- C. It may seem plausible, but it is not supported by the research team's findings.
- D. It probably holds true only in conditions like those in the research team's study.

**ID: d72b325e Answer**

**Correct Answer:** C

**Rationale**

Choice C is the best answer. This is how Cáceres and co. would most likely describe the view presented in Text 1. The view in Text 1 is that historical diversity affects how diverse an ecological community eventually becomes. But Cáceres and co. did not get this result: they found no difference in eventual diversity between a zooplankton pool that started out diverse and a zooplankton pool that started out with only a single species.

Choice A is incorrect. Cáceres and co. would probably not describe the view presented in Text 1 this way. The view in Text 1 is that historical diversity affects how diverse an ecological community eventually becomes. Cáceres and co.'s findings directly undermine this view: they found no difference in eventual diversity between a zooplankton pool that started out diverse and a zooplankton pool that started out with only a single species. Choice B is incorrect. Cáceres and co. would probably not describe the view presented in Text 1 this way. Their experiment was designed to test this hypothesis, and their findings were "contrary to their expectations." In other words, before the study, they predicted the theory was correct. Choice D is incorrect. Cáceres and co. would not describe the view presented in Text 1 this way. Their research finding directly undermines the view presented in Text 1: so it definitely doesn't hold true in conditions like those in the study.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 4b4ab04e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

**ID: 4b4ab04e**

## Text 1

Mycoprotein is a fungal biomass that can be eaten as an alternative to meat. Studies of the environmental impact of its manufacture generally agree it is lower than that of beef and closer to that of chicken or pork. But the expense of producing mycoprotein restricts its availability to a few countries with postindustrial economies. Knowing that cost reductions would expand access to mycoprotein, biochemists are exploring solutions, such as a cheaper substrate to feed the mycoprotein as it grows.

## Text 2

Cattle farming is a principal cause of global deforestation, and a study by Florian Humpenöder and his colleagues found that replacing 20% of beef consumption worldwide with consumption of mycoprotein would cut deforestation by half if accomplished over the next thirty years. However, this would likely involve only a small change in agricultural water consumption, since water once dedicated to raising cattle would be diverted to raising crops instead.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 1 most likely respond to the study findings mentioned in Text 2?

By emphasizing that since agricultural water consumption would remain static in the event of replacing beef consumption with mycoprotein consumption, an effort must be made to substitute mycoprotein for chicken and pork in A. diets as well

By asserting that the development of a more inexpensive substrate for mycoprotein production would contribute to the B. goal of decreasing worldwide deforestation over time

By noting that most people would be more likely to use mycoprotein as a substitute for chicken or pork in their diets than C. as a substitute for beef

By pointing out that some countries are responsible for greater deforestation than others and thus, to have any D. significant effect on the environment, will have to replace more than 20% of their beef consumption with mycoprotein

**ID: 4b4ab04e Answer**

**Correct Answer: B**

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it reflects how the author of Text 1 would most likely respond to the study findings described in Text 2. The author of Text 2 discusses a study by Florian Humpenöder and his colleagues that found that deforestation would be reduced by half over the next thirty years if 20% of the beef consumed worldwide were replaced with mycoprotein. The author of Text 1 points out that mycoprotein is not widely available because of its high production cost, but goes on to note that this problem could be addressed by the creation of a cheaper substrate to feed mycoprotein. This suggests that the author of Text 1 would assert that the development of a less expensive mycoprotein substrate would contribute to the reduction in deforestation described in the study findings discussed in Text 2: if reducing the cost of mycoprotein increases people's access to it, then mycoprotein may be able to replace beef in more people's diets, thereby reducing the deforestation associated with beef production.

Choice A is incorrect because the author of Text 1 indicates that the environmental impact of mycoprotein production is close to that of chicken or pork production, so there is no reason to think that the author would assert that replacing chicken or pork with mycoprotein would be environmentally beneficial: such a replacement would not lessen the total environmental impact of food manufacture. Additionally, the specific issue of agricultural water consumption is never mentioned in Text 1, so there is no evidence indicating what the author of Text 1 would say about that issue. Choice C is incorrect. Although Text 1 does compare the environmental effects of producing mycoprotein to those of producing chicken or pork, nothing in Text 1 suggests that the author believes that people are more likely to replace chicken or pork with mycoprotein than they are to replace beef with mycoprotein. Choice D is incorrect because Text 1 makes no mention of countries' varying contributions to deforestation, so there is no evidence that the author of Text 1 would respond to the finding described in Text 2 by saying that some countries will have to replace more than 20% of their beef consumption with mycoprotein.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 39857700

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 39857700

The following text is from Edith Wharton's 1905 novel *The House of Mirth*. Lily Bart and a companion are walking through a park.

Lily had no real intimacy with nature, but she had a passion for the appropriate and could be keenly sensitive to a scene which was the fitting background of her own sensations. The landscape outspread below her seemed an enlargement of her present mood, and she found something of herself in its calmness, its breadth, its long free reaches. On the nearer slopes the sugar-maples wavered like pyres of light; lower down was a massing of grey orchards, and here and there the lingering green of an oak-grove.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It creates a detailed image of the physical setting of the scene.
- B. It establishes that a character is experiencing an internal conflict.
- C. It makes an assertion that the next sentence then expands on.
- D. It illustrates an idea that is introduced in the previous sentence.

## ID: 39857700 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it best describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence of the text establishes that Lily can be “keenly sensitive to” scenes that serve as a “fitting background” for her feelings—that is, she’s very aware of when a setting seems to reflect her mood. The next sentence, which is underlined, then demonstrates this awareness: Lily views the landscape she’s in as a large-scale reflection of her current mood, identifying with elements such as its calmness. Thus, the function of the underlined sentence is to illustrate an idea introduced in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined sentence describes the scene only in very general terms, referring to its calmness, breadth, and long stretches of land. It’s the next sentence that adds specific details about colors, light, and various trees nearby. Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the underlined sentence suggests that Lily is experiencing an internal conflict. In fact, the sentence indicates that Lily thinks the landscape reflects her own feeling of calmness. Choice C is incorrect because the only assertion in the underlined sentence is that Lily feels that broad aspects of the landscape, such as its calmness, reflect her current mood, and that assertion isn’t expanded on in the next sentence. Instead, the next sentence describes specific details of the scene without connecting them to Lily’s feelings.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f61c22f3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: f61c22f3

Changes to vegetation cover and other human activities influence carbon and nitrogen levels in soil, though how deep these effects extend is unclear. Hypothesizing that differences in land use lead to differences in carbon and nitrogen levels that are not restricted to the topsoil layer (0–30 cm deep), Chukwuebuka Okolo and colleagues sampled soils across multiple land-use types (e.g., grazing land, cropland, forest) within each of several Ethiopian locations. They found, though, that across land-use types, carbon and nitrogen decreased to comparably low levels beyond depths of 30 cm.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- It describes a phenomenon that scientists do not fully understand, explains a research team's hypothesis about that A. phenomenon, and then describes a finding that led the team to refine the hypothesis.
- It introduces an unresolved scientific question, presents a research team's hypothesis pertaining to that question, and B. then describes an observation made by the team that conflicts with that hypothesis.
- It discusses a process that scientists are somewhat unclear about, introduces competing hypotheses about that C. process, and then explains how a research team concluded that one of those hypotheses is likely correct.
- It explains a hypothesis that has been the subject of scientific debate, discusses how a research team tested that D. hypothesis, and then presents data the team collected that validate the hypothesis.

## ID: f61c22f3 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall structure of the text. The text begins by explaining that human activities influence carbon and nitrogen levels in soil, but how deeply these effects are seen in the soil remains an unresolved question. Next, the text summarizes Okolo and colleagues' hypothesis regarding this question—which is that the different effects on carbon and nitrogen levels associated with different types of land use would also be observed below the topsoil layer—and then briefly explains the methods they used to test this hypothesis. Finally, the text states that the researchers found that at depths below the topsoil layer, carbon and nitrogen decreased to similarly low levels across all land-use types, a finding that conflicts with the team's hypothesis presented earlier in the text. Thus, the text introduces an unresolved scientific question, presents a research team's hypothesis pertaining to that question, and then describes an observation that the team made that conflicted with their hypothesis.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text introduces a phenomenon (the fact that human activities influence carbon and nitrogen levels in the soil) that isn't fully understood by scientists and explains a research team's hypothesis about the phenomenon, the text doesn't describe how the team refined their hypothesis when a research finding contradicted it. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss a process at all; rather, it poses an unsolved scientific question and presents a hypothesis that Okolo and colleagues tested to answer that question. Moreover, the text only describes one hypothesis; it doesn't mention any competing hypotheses, nor does it suggest that Okolo's team was able to determine which hypothesis was correct. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't begin by presenting a hypothesis that is under scientific debate; rather, it presents a question that scientists have been unable to answer and then introduces a hypothesis formulated by Okolo and colleagues. While the text does explain how Okolo's team tested their hypothesis, the text goes on to say that their data conflicted with their hypothesis, not that the data validated, or supported, their hypothesis.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 54804e10

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

**ID: 54804e10**

While scholars believe many Mesoamerican cities influenced each other, direct evidence of such influence is difficult to ascertain. However, recent excavations in a sector of Tikal (Guatemala) unearthed a citadel that shows \_\_\_\_\_ Teotihuacán (Mexico) architecture—including a near replica of a famed Teotihuacán temple—providing tangible evidence of outside influence in portions of Tikal.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. refinements of
- B. precursors of
- C. commonalities with
- D. animosities toward

**ID: 54804e10 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of architectural influences among Mesoamerican cities. In this context, "commonalities with" means similarities to or shared attributes with. The text indicates that a recently discovered citadel in Tikal includes a close imitation of a famous temple in Teotihuacán (another Mesoamerican city) and other evidence of Teotihuacán influence, which suggests that the citadel possesses features that resemble architectural features found in Teotihuacán. This context thus indicates that the Tikal citadel shows commonalities with Teotihuacán architecture.

Choice A is incorrect because there's nothing in the text that suggests that the Tikal citadel shows "refinements of," or improvements on, Teotihuacán architecture. Although the text suggests that the architecture of Teotihuacán influenced the architecture of the Tikal citadel, and although it's possible that later architectural designs could make improvements on earlier designs, the text doesn't discuss whether, in imitating Teotihuacán architecture, the Tikal citadel's builders improved on it. Choice B is incorrect because describing the citadel in Tikal as showing "precursors of" Teotihuacán architecture—or features that preceded and foreshadowed those of Teotihuacán architecture—would imply the opposite of what the text suggests about the relationship between the architecture found in Tikal and Teotihuacán. The text claims that the discovery of similarities between the Tikal citadel and the architecture of Teotihuacán, including a replica of a temple in Teotihuacán, provides evidence of outside influences on Tikal architecture. If the Tikal citadel was influenced by Teotihuacán architecture, then the Teotihuacán architecture must predate the citadel, not the other way around. In this context, therefore, it wouldn't make sense to say that the Tikal citadel shows precursors of Teotihuacán architecture. Choice D is incorrect because the text discusses how the citadel in Tikal indicates the influence of Teotihuacán architecture, which implies that the makers of the Tikal citadel likely admired aspects of Teotihuacán architecture enough to imitate it. Thus, there's no reason to think that the Tikal citadel provides evidence of the Tikal people's "animosities toward," or feelings of strong dislike or hostility toward, Teotihuacán architecture.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2e744883

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 2e744883

Historians have argued that a crucial component of the Civil Rights Movement's success in the 1960s was the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Citizen Education Program (CEP), which invited promising activists from across the South to its one-week training sessions in Dorchester, Georgia. Led by experienced organizers such as Dorothy Cotton and Septima Clark, CEP attendees—more than 7,000 in all—participated in workshops on topics ranging from public speaking to legal doctrine before returning home and using their newly acquired knowledge to spearhead local civil rights initiatives.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It underscores the extent of the CEP's impact on the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.
- B. It illustrates the CEP organizers' efforts to educate participants on a wide variety of topics.
- C. political philosophy.
- D. It establishes that criticism of the CEP was limited to a few individuals in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

## ID: 2e744883 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence of the text states that the CEP had a positive impact on the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. The next sentence explains that the CEP organized workshops for attendees, who later used the knowledge they gained to lead civil rights initiatives. And the underlined portion indicates the number of activists—more than 7,000—who participated in the workshops. Thus, the underlined portion provides a number that underscores the extent of the CEP's impact on the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the sentence that contains the underlined portion mentions some CEP workshop topics, the underlined portion itself addresses the number of participants in the CEP workshops, not the number of topics covered. Choice C is incorrect. Although the underlined portion refers to attendees of the CEP workshops, nothing in the underlined portion or the text as a whole addresses the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's philosophy or the attendees' opinions thereof. Choice D is incorrect because neither the underlined portion nor the text as a whole mentions any criticism of the CEP by members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 9aa44886

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

**ID: 9aa44886**

The following text is from F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel *The Great Gatsby*.

[Jay Gatsby] was balancing himself on the dashboard of his car with that resourcefulness of movement that is so peculiarly American—that comes, I suppose, with the absence of lifting work in youth and, even more, with the formless grace of our nervous, sporadic games. This quality was continually breaking through his punctilious manner in the shape of restlessness.

As used in the text, what does the word “quality” most nearly mean?

- A. Standard
- B. Prestige
- C. Characteristic
- D. Accomplishment

**ID: 9aa44886 Answer**

**Correct Answer: C**

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “This quality” refers to Gatsby’s “resourcefulness of movement,” which is described as a characteristic or trait of his.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn’t what “quality” means in this context. Here, “this quality” refers to Gatsby’s “resourcefulness of movement,” which is described as a characteristic or trait of his. “Standard” is a synonym for a different definition of “quality”: the degree of excellence of something. Choice B is incorrect. This isn’t what “quality” means in this context. Here, “this quality” refers to Gatsby’s “resourcefulness of movement,” which is described as a characteristic or trait of his. “Prestige” would suggest a high status or an admirable reputation, which doesn’t match that description. Choice D is incorrect. This isn’t what “quality” means in this context. Here, “this quality” refers to Gatsby’s “resourcefulness of movement,” which is described as a characteristic or trait of his. “Accomplishment” would suggest an achievement, which doesn’t match that description.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e1befb41

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: e1befb41

## Text 1

In a study of the benefits of having free time, Marissa Sharif found that the reported sense of life satisfaction tended to plateau when participants had two hours of free time per day and actually began to fall when they had five hours of free time per day. After further research, Sharif concluded that this dip in life satisfaction mainly occurred when individuals spent all their free time unproductively, such as by watching TV or playing games.

## Text 2

Psychologist James Maddux cautions against suggesting an ideal amount of free time. The human desire for both free time and productivity is universal, but Maddux asserts that individuals have unique needs for life satisfaction. Furthermore, he points out that there is no objective definition for what constitutes productivity; reading a book might be considered a productive activity by some, but idleness by others.

Based on the texts, how would Maddux (Text 2) most likely respond to the conclusion Sharif (Text 1) reached after her further research?

By acknowledging that free time is more likely to enhance life satisfaction when it is spent productively than when it is  
A. spent unproductively

By challenging the reasoning in Text 1, as it has not been proved that productivity commonly contributes to individuals'  
B. life satisfaction

By warning against making an overly broad assumption, as there is no clear consensus in distinguishing between  
C. productive and unproductive activities

By claiming that the specific activities named in Text 1 are actually examples of productive activities rather than  
D. unproductive ones

ID: e1befb41 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it characterizes how Maddux would most likely respond to the conclusion Sharif reached after her research. Text 1 describes Sharif's study of the benefits of free time, saying that the reported sense of satisfaction plateaued at two hours per day and began to decline at five hours per day. Further research led Sharif to conclude that time spent doing tasks she defines as unproductive, such as watching TV or playing games, correlated with a drop in life satisfaction. However, in Text 2 Maddux says that there is no objective definition of what constitutes productive behavior, giving the example that reading a book might be considered productive by some but unproductive by others. It can be inferred that Maddux would also assert that whether watching TV or playing games is productive or unproductive is a matter of subjective judgment. Thus, Maddux would most likely caution against making an overly broad assumption, as there is no clear consensus in distinguishing between productive and unproductive activities.

Choice A is incorrect because Maddux asserts that individuals have unique needs for life satisfaction: some may want to spend that time productively, others unproductively, and what counts as productive is subjective. Therefore, Maddux would likely not consider it universally true that free time is more likely to enhance life satisfaction when it is spent productively. Choice B is incorrect because the study described in Text 1 concerns whether free time contributes to life satisfaction, not whether productivity contributes to life satisfaction. The dip in life satisfaction that Sharif claims to observe in Text 1 happens only after five hours, and mainly if the time is spent unproductively—that is, two hours of free time spent productively might increase life satisfaction just as much as two hours spent unproductively. Choice D is incorrect because Maddux holds the opinion that whether an activity is productive or unproductive is subjective and depends on the individual; therefore, he would most likely claim that watching TV or playing games might be productive for some and unproductive for others.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID b4887dae

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: b4887dae

Mathematician Claude Shannon is widely regarded as a foundational figure in information theory. His most important paper, "A Mathematical Theory of Communication," published in 1948 when he was employed at Bell Labs, utilized a concept called a "binary digit" (shortened to "bit") to measure the amount of information in any signal and determine the fastest rate at which information could be transmitted while still being reliably decipherable. Robert Gallagher, one of Shannon's colleagues, said that the bit was "[Shannon's] discovery, and from it the whole communications revolution has sprung."

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It presents a theoretical concept, illustrates how the name of the concept has changed, and shows how the name has entered common usage.
- B. It introduces a respected researcher, describes an aspect of his work, and suggests why the work is historically significant.
- C. It names the company where an important mathematician worked, details the mathematician's career at the company, and provides an example of the recognition he received there.
- D. It mentions a paper, offers a summary of the paper's findings, and presents a researcher's commentary on the paper.

## ID: b4887dae Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text starts with a general statement that introduces Shannon, then describes a specific contribution from one of his papers, then provides a quote that illustrates just how important this contribution was.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn't the overall structure. The text only mentions very briefly, in parentheses, that "binary digit" was shortened to "bit." It doesn't go into detail about this name change, and it doesn't discuss any "common usage" of the name at all. Choice C is incorrect. This isn't the overall structure. Shannon's employment at Bell Labs is only mentioned once, very briefly: the text never goes into detail about his career there, and it never mentions any recognition he received there. Choice D is incorrect. This is too narrow. Overall, the text is about Shannon's importance in his field, not just this one paper of his.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID cf9a00e0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: cf9a00e0

Chile's Atacama Desert is one of the driest places on Earth. Mary Beth Wilhelm and other astrobiologists search for life, or its remains, in this harsh place because the desert closely mirrors the extreme environment on Mars. The algae and bacteria found in Atacama's driest regions may offer clues about Martian life. By studying how these and other microorganisms survive such extreme conditions on Earth, Wilhelm's team hopes to determine whether similar life might have existed on Mars and to develop the best tools to look for evidence of it.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. To contrast the conditions in the Atacama Desert with those on Mars
- B. To explain why many life-forms cannot survive in the Atacama Desert
- C. To indicate why astrobiologists choose to conduct research in the Atacama Desert
- D. To describe certain limitations to conducting scientific study in the Atacama Desert

## ID: cf9a00e0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence describes a unique location on Earth, the Atacama Desert. The next sentence, which is the underlined sentence, states that the reason why astrobiologists study life, or its remains, in this unique location is that Atacama is a harsh environment that closely resembles the extreme environment of Mars. The remainder of the text explains that the researchers hope their work in Atacama will support inquiry into life on Mars. Thus, the underlined portion functions mainly to indicate why astrobiologists choose to conduct research in the Atacama Desert.

Choice A is incorrect because to contrast two things means to show the differences between them, and the phrase "closely mirrors" in the underlined sentence indicates that the extreme environment in the Atacama Desert is similar to, not different from, that on Mars. This similarity is why, according to the underlined sentence, astrobiologists conduct research in Atacama. Choice B is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn't address forms of life that are unable to survive the harsh environment of the Atacama Desert. Instead, the underlined sentence explains why astrobiologists study life, or its remains, in this environment. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn't suggest that the scientific research in the Atacama Desert is limited in any way; instead, the sentence explains that the similarity between the environments of Atacama and Mars is the reason why astrobiologists search for life, or its remains, in Atacama.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9b22bf7b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 9b22bf7b

The following text is from the 1989 novel *The Ancient Child* by Kiowa writer N. Scott Momaday. The main character has achieved tremendous commercial success as a painter.

More and more often he was asked to compromise his art or himself in one way or another, and more often than not he did so, for he was inclined to be passive and naïve; it was difficult for him to say no. Those who exhibited his work, who praised and purchased it, and who demanded its proliferation began to determine it.

©1989 by N. Scott Momaday

As used in the text, what does the word "determine" most nearly mean?

- A. Conclude
- B. Dictate
- C. Evaluate
- D. Select

## ID: 9b22bf7b Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because as used in the text "determine" most nearly means "dictate." The text describes the relationship between the main character and those who exhibit, praise, and purchase his artwork. The text states that the main character is often asked to change his art or himself based on outside influences, and he usually acquiesces. Because the main character admits that those who support his work often shape it based on their demands, it follows that those outside influences dictate, or guide or dominate, the direction his work takes.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that outside influences "conclude," or end, the main character's work. The text states that many supporters of the main character's art "demand its proliferation," not its conclusion. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that outside influences are "evaluating," or judging the main character's work. According to the text, the main character's art has already achieved great commercial success, with many people exhibiting, purchasing, and praising his work. Thus, outsiders have already supported the main character's work and are not questioning or evaluating its success or worth. They are instead influencing its initial direction. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that outside influences "select," or choose the main character's work. According to the text, the main character's art has already achieved great commercial success, with many people exhibiting, purchasing, and praising his work. Thus, outsiders have already supported the main character's work and are not selecting it. They are instead influencing its initial direction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3e6ad72d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 3e6ad72d

A study by a team including finance professor Madhu Veeraraghavan suggests that exposure to sunshine during the workday can lead to overly optimistic behavior. Using data spanning from 1994 to 2010 for a set of US companies, the team compared over 29,000 annual earnings forecasts to the actual earnings later reported by those companies. The team found that the greater the exposure to sunshine at work in the two weeks before a manager submitted an earnings forecast, the more the manager's forecast exceeded what the company actually earned that year.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined sentence in the overall structure of the text?

- A. To summarize the results of the team's analysis
- B. To present a specific example that illustrates the study's findings
- C. To explain part of the methodology used in the team's study
- D. To call out a challenge the team faced in conducting its analysis

## ID: 3e6ad72d Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence presents the implications of Veeraraghavan's team's study: sunshine exposure during work hours can cause overly optimistic behavior. The underlined sentence then describes the data the team consulted and how they were used (comparing predictions about earnings to what the companies actually earned), and the final sentence presents what the team found in their examination of the data. Thus, the underlined sentence mainly functions to explain part of the methodology used in the team's study.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined sentence explains in part how the team conducted their analysis of the effect of sunshine but doesn't address what the team found; a broad summary is instead given in the other two sentences. Choice B is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn't present any specific examples from the team's comparisons of 29,000 earnings predictions to actual earnings; it simply explains in part how the team conducted their analysis. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined sentence simply explains in part how the team conducted their analysis; the text never mentions any challenges that the team encountered in their study.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f3c45b4f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: f3c45b4f

## Text 1

Fossils of the hominin *Australopithecus africanus* have been found in the Sterkfontein Caves of South Africa, but assigning an age to the fossils is challenging because of the unreliability of dating methods in this context. The geology of Sterkfontein has caused soil layers from different periods to mix, impeding stratigraphic dating, and dates cannot be reliably imputed from those of nearby animal bones since the bones may have been relocated by flooding.

## Text 2

Archaeologists used new cosmogenic nuclide dating techniques to reevaluate the ages of *A. africanus* fossils found in the Sterkfontein Caves. This technique involves analyzing the cosmogenic nucleotides in the breccia—the matrix of rock fragments immediately surrounding the fossils. The researchers assert that this approach avoids the potential for misdating associated with assigning ages based on Sterkfontein's soil layers or animal bones.

Based on the texts, how would the researchers in Text 2 most likely respond to the underlined portion in Text 1?

They would emphasize the fact that the *A. africanus* fossils found in the Sterkfontein Caves may have been corrupted in A. some way over the years.

They would contend that if analyses of surrounding layers and bones in the Sterkfontein Caves were combined, then the B. dating of the fossils there would be more accurate.

They would argue that their techniques are better suited than other methods to the unique challenges posed by the C. Sterkfontein Caves.

They would claim that cosmogenic nuclide dating is reliable in the context of the Sterkfontein Caves because it is applied D. to the fossils directly.

ID: f3c45b4f Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. Text 2 states that the researchers used cosmogenic nuclide dating to "avoid the potential for misdating" caused by the geology of Sterkfontein, which Text 1 describes as "challenging" and unreliable.

Choice A is incorrect. Neither text suggests that the *A. africanus* fossils have been "corrupted," but only that traditional dating methods are difficult in Sterkfontein because of floods and soil mixing where the fossils were found. Nothing is implied to have compromised the fossils themselves. Choice B is incorrect. This choice misreads Text 2. Text 2 agrees that stratigraphy and other methods are prone to error in the context of Sterkfontein: there's a "potential for misdating" when evaluating age based on soil layers and bones. Choice D is incorrect. Text 2 does not state that cosmogenic nuclide dating is applied to the fossils directly but rather to the breccia that surrounds them.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID e8c26398

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: e8c26398

To develop a method for measuring snow depth with laser beams, NASA physicist Yongxiang Hu relied on \_\_\_\_; identifying broad similarities between two seemingly different phenomena, Hu used information about how ants move inside colonies to calculate how the particles of light that make up laser beams travel through snow.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. a collaboration
- B. an accessory
- C. a contradiction
- D. an analogy

## ID: e8c26398 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text after the semicolon tells us that Hu "identif[ied] broad similarities between two seemingly different phenomena," comparing ants with light particles. Since an analogy seeks similarities between seemingly unrelated phenomena, this fits the context perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. "A collaboration" refers to "an act of working with others," but what comes after the semicolon doesn't describe collaboration with other researchers. Instead, it shows a comparison between two different (but ultimately similar) scientific phenomena. Choice B is incorrect. "An accessory" can refer to "something added to increase attractiveness or usefulness." No accessories are described in this text. Choice C is incorrect. "A contradiction" means "a set of ideas or things that are opposed to or inconsistent with each other." The text describes how Hu used the similarity between ant and light particle movement to develop his method, so a word that refers to difference would not make sense here.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4830ab87

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 4830ab87

The way in which individual elements are balanced within a photographic image tends to affect how viewers perceive it: symmetry tends to give the elements equal importance, asymmetry emphasizes differences, and radial balance (organizing the elements around a central point) emphasizes the center over the periphery. What a photograph conveys is therefore largely \_\_\_\_\_ how it is balanced.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. inhibited by
- B. contingent on
- C. obligated to
- D. reserved for

## ID: 4830ab87 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of visual balance in photography. In this context, "contingent on" means conditional upon, or determined by. The text indicates that different ways of balancing elements in a photograph convey different ideas to viewers (for example, symmetrical composition tends to emphasize similarity among elements, whereas asymmetry tends to emphasize difference). Thus, there is a strong connection between what a photograph conveys and how its elements are balanced. Therefore, what a photo conveys is contingent on how it is balanced.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, "inhibited by" most nearly means hindered or undermined by. The text indicates that different ways of balancing elements in a photograph convey different ideas to viewers, thereby indicating a relationship between image balance and what is conveyed. Although this explanation is consistent with a photographer choosing asymmetrical balance even while intending to convey similarity (associated with symmetrical balance), there is nothing to indicate that messages generally are inhibited by balance. Rather the implication is that balance is a tool photographers can use to craft their messages. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "obligated to" means duty bound toward or answerable to. In context, it would not make sense to assert that a photograph's message is obligated to how that photograph is balanced. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, "reserved for" most nearly means solely available to someone or held aside for some purpose. The text as a whole does not support the claim that a photograph's message is reserved for how that photograph is balanced.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5336f2e4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 5336f2e4

The following text is adapted from Zora Neale Hurston's 1921 short story "John Redding Goes to Sea." John is a child who lives in a town in the woods.

Perhaps ten-year-old John was puzzling to the folk there in the Florida woods for he was an imaginative child and fond of day-dreams. The St. John River flowed a scarce three hundred feet from his back door. On its banks at this point grow numerous palms, luxuriant magnolias and bay trees. On the bosom of the stream float millions of delicately colored hyacinths. [John Redding] loved to wander down to the water's edge, and, casting in dry twigs, watch them sail away down stream to Jacksonville, the sea, the wide world and [he] wanted to follow them.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It provides an extended description of a location that John likes to visit.
- B. It reveals that some residents of John's town are confused by his behavior.
- C. It illustrates the uniqueness of John's imagination compared to the imaginations of other children.
- D. It suggests that John longs to experience a larger life outside the Florida woods.

## ID: 5336f2e4 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it accurately describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The text establishes that John has a strong imagination and then goes on to describe the St. John River near John's home in the Florida woods. The underlined sentence depicts John sending twigs sailing down the river while he imagines them reaching "Jacksonville, the sea, the wide world," where he wishes he could follow. This suggests that John longs to expand his life experiences beyond the Florida woods.

Choice A is incorrect because the second and third sentences of the text provide an extended description of the riverbank where John likes to go, whereas the underlined sentence describes what John does at that location. Choice B is incorrect because the first sentence of the text suggests that John's behavior "was puzzling" to others around him, whereas the underlined sentence concerns the content of John's imaginings. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined sentence elaborates on John's imagination but doesn't mention any other children to whom John could be compared.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6f5fc289

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 6f5fc289

The following text is adapted from Charles Dickens's 1854 novel *Hard Times*. Coketown is a fictional town in England. [Coketown] contained several large streets all very like one another, and many small streets still more like one another, inhabited by people equally like one another, who all went in and out at the same hours, with the same sound upon the same pavements, to do the same work, and to whom every day was the same as yesterday and tomorrow, and every year the counterpart of the last and the next.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To emphasize the uniformity of both the town and the people who live there
- B. To explain the limited work opportunities available to the town's residents
- C. To reveal how the predictability of the town makes it easy for people lose track of time
- D. To argue that the simplicity of life in the town makes it a pleasant place to live

## ID: 6f5fc289 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The author describes Coketown as having streets that are all very similar and residents who live similarly and do the same work. This repetition of similarities emphasizes how everything in Coketown is alike.

Choice B is incorrect. While the text mentions that all the residents "do the same work," it never explains what that work is or why everyone does it. Besides, the idea that they all do the same work is just one of several similarities among the townspeople described in the text. Choice C is incorrect. While the last sentence states that "every day was the same as yesterday and tomorrow, and every year the counterpart of the last and the next," it never suggests that people actually "lose track of time." This is also too narrow to be the main idea, since time is just one of many aspects of Coketown that the text describes as always being the same. Choice D is incorrect. The text never mentions whether life is simple in Coketown, and the town sounds as though it's probably a pretty dull place to live, rather than a pleasant one.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1455b754

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 1455b754

While recent scholarship has undermined claims that the works of twelfth-century Islamic philosopher Ibn Rushd were \_\_\_\_\_ other Muslim philosophers of his time, it is indisputable that his location in the Muslim-ruled area of what is now Spain meant that his works were primarily available thousands of miles west of the era's center of Islamic thought.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. controversial among
- B. antagonistic toward
- C. imitated by
- D. inconsequential to

## ID: 1455b754 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the twelfth-century Islamic philosopher Ibn Rushd. As used in this context, "inconsequential to" means not significant to. According to the text, Ibn Rushd's works were primarily available in Spain, where he lived, far from central areas of the Muslim world, a fact that could support the conclusion that his influence on Muslim contemporaries was limited. The text implies, however, that recent scholarship has shown that his works still had an impact on other Muslim philosophers of his time. This context supports the idea that his works weren't inconsequential to Islamic thought in this period.

Choice A is incorrect because the issue under consideration in the text is whether other Muslim philosophers of Ibn Rushd's time had access to his works, not whether his works were "controversial among," or causing dispute among, other philosophers. Choice B is incorrect. The text implies that other Muslim philosophers of Ibn Rushd's era were aware of his works, not that they were "antagonistic toward," or hostile toward, them. There is no suggestion that Ibn Rushd's writings elicited hostility from his contemporaries. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "imitated by" would mean followed as a model by. Although the text implies that Ibn Rushd's works were at least somewhat available in regions that were at the center of Islamic thought during the period, it doesn't specifically address in what ways his works influenced contemporary Muslim philosophers. Thus, the text doesn't support the idea that other philosophers modeled their own works after Ibn Rushd's works.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 7bc05fa2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 7bc05fa2

Whether the reign of a French monarch such as Hugh Capet or Henry I was historically consequential or relatively uneventful, its trajectory was shaped by questions of legitimacy and therefore cannot be understood without a corollary understanding of the factors that allowed the monarch to \_\_\_\_\_ his right to hold the throne.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. disengage
- B. annotate
- C. buttress
- D. reciprocate

## ID: 7bc05fa2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the legitimacy of the reigns of French monarchs such as Hugh Capet and Henry I. As used in this context, "buttress" means to strengthen or defend. The text indicates that regardless of whether a French monarch's reign was significant or uneventful, each monarch faced questions about his right to the throne. The text goes on to say that in order to understand the path of a French monarch's reign, it's important to understand what contributed to the monarch's ability to "hold the throne." This context suggests that French monarchs such as Hugh Capet and Henry I had to buttress, or defend, their right to be monarch.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to discuss factors that enabled a monarch to "disengage," or withdraw his right to the French throne. The text focuses on an examination of people who reigned as French monarchs, not on people who didn't choose to rule. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to discuss factors that enabled a monarch to "annotate," or add notes to or explain, his right to the French throne. Nothing in the text suggests that the monarchs were writing notes about their right to the throne; instead, faced with questions about the legitimacy of their reign, the monarchs defended their right. Choice D is incorrect. Saying that a monarch who is faced with questions about the legitimacy of his reign was able to "reciprocate" his right to the French throne would mean that he either returned his right to the throne or that he responded in kind to the challenge. Neither of these meanings would make sense in context because the text focuses on people who did reign as French monarchs and defended their right to do so.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f7c02e89

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: f7c02e89

## Text 1

Films and television shows commonly include a long list of credits naming the people involved in a production. Credit sequences may not be exciting, but they generally ensure that everyone's contributions are duly acknowledged. Because they are highly standardized, film and television credits are also valuable to anyone researching the careers of pioneering cast and crew members who have worked in the mediums.

## Text 2

Video game scholars face a major challenge in the industry's failure to consistently credit the artists, designers, and other contributors involved in making video games. Without a reliable record of which people worked on which games, questions about the medium's development can be difficult to answer, and the accomplishments of all but its best-known innovators can be difficult to trace.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 1 most likely respond to the discussion in Text 2?

By recommending that the scholars mentioned in Text 2 consider employing the methods regularly used by film and television researchers

By pointing out that credits have a different intended purpose in film and television than in the medium addressed by the scholars mentioned in Text 2

By suggesting that the scholars mentioned in Text 2 rely more heavily on credits as a source of information than film and television researchers do

By observing that a widespread practice in film and television largely prevents the kind of problem faced by the scholars mentioned in Text 2

ID: f7c02e89 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it reflects how the author of Text 1 would most likely respond to Text 2 based on the information provided. Text 2 discusses how the inconsistent use of credits to identify the contributors to video games can pose an obstacle to scholars of the medium, who rely on such credits to answer questions about the medium's development. Text 1 notes that in film and television, on the other hand, credits are used consistently and are valuable to researchers studying the cast and crew members in these mediums. Since Text 1 asserts how the consistent use of credits benefits scholars of film and television, it can be inferred that this text's author would respond to the discussion in Text 2 by observing that the kind of problem faced by scholars of video games—the inability to know who contributed to a particular production and how—is, in film and television studies, largely prevented by the widespread practice of credits in these mediums.

Choice A is incorrect. Although Text 1 discusses a method used by film and television researchers—namely, relying on credits to research the careers of cast and crew members—the author doesn't explicitly recommend that or any other method. Moreover, Text 1 states that films and television shows themselves, not their researchers, regularly use the method of listing credits. Choice B is incorrect. It can be inferred from Text 2 that when video games do feature credits, they have essentially the same function as credits in film and television—namely, to identify the individuals who worked on a particular production. Therefore, it is unlikely that the author of Text 1 would characterize video game credits as differing in purpose from film and television credits. Choice C is incorrect because, as Text 2 explains, credits are not consistently used in video games. Therefore, it is unlikely that the author of Text 1 would argue that scholars of the medium discussed in this text—video games—rely more heavily on credits than scholars of film and television, two mediums where credits consistently appear.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b44066dc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: b44066dc

Economist Jingting Fan argues that the effects of international trade may display spatial variation at sub-national levels. For instance, imported goods may reduce expenses for a country's average consumer, but for consumers living far from ports, high intranational transport costs could \_\_\_\_\_ the price advantages associated with imports.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. nullify
- B. denigrate
- C. underestimate
- D. misconstrue

## ID: b44066dc Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it logically completes the text's discussion of imported goods and consumer prices. In this context, "nullify" most nearly means negate or undermine. The text indicates that importing goods to a country can reduce consumer prices in that country, then cautions that the costs of transporting goods within the country is also a factor. These transportation costs likely raise the prices that must be paid by people who live far from the ports of entry. Therefore, the intranational transportation costs could nullify the price advantages to consumers of importing goods.

Choice B is incorrect. In this context, "denigrate" would most nearly mean disparage or deny the importance of. Since transportation costs would not be capable of denying the importance of price advantages, it would not make sense to state that intranational transportation costs denigrate the price advantages of importing goods. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "underestimate" would most nearly mean predict a lower value for, or to undervalue, someone or something. Though transportation costs might be undervalued, they cannot themselves undervalue something else, so it would not make sense to state that intranational transportation costs underestimate the price advantages of importing goods. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, "misconstrue" would most nearly mean misunderstand. Since transport costs are not capable of understanding, it would not make sense to claim that intranational transportation costs misconstrue the price advantages of importing goods.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 82c05b34

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

**ID: 82c05b34**

## Text 1

The live music festival business is growing in event size and genre variety. With so many consumer options, organizers are finding ways to cement festival attendance as a special experience worth sharing. This phenomenon is linked to the growing “experiential economy,” where many find it gratifying to purchase lived experiences. To ensure a profitable event, venues need to consider the overall consumer experience, not just the band lineup.

## Text 2

Music festival appearances are becoming a more important part of musicians’ careers. One factor in this shift is the rising use of streaming services that allow access to huge numbers of songs for a monthly fee, subsequently reducing sales of full-length albums. With this shift in consumer behavior, musicians are increasingly dependent on revenue from live performances.

Based on the texts, both authors would most likely agree with which statement?

- A. Consumers are more interested in paying subscription fees to stream music than in attending music festivals in person.
- B. Consumers’ growing interest in purchasing experiences is mostly confined to the music industry.
- C. Changing consumer behaviors are leading to changes in music-related businesses.
- D. The rising consumer demand for live music festivals also generates higher demand for music streaming platforms.

**ID: 82c05b34 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. Both authors mention how consumer behaviors have shifted, and how this affects different aspects of the music industry. Text 1 states that consumers enjoy purchasing “lived experiences,” and that this influences how organizers design music festivals. Text 2 states that consumers are using streaming services more, and that this reduces album sales and increases the importance of live performances for musicians.

Choice A is incorrect. Neither text claims that consumers prefer streaming to festivals, or that these are mutually exclusive options. Text 1 implies that festivals are popular and profitable, and Text 2 never suggests that streaming services diminish the demand for live music. Choice B is incorrect. This choice misreads Text 1, which identifies music festivals as just one example of a broader trend of purchasing “lived experiences.” Text 2 doesn’t mention growing interest in purchasing experiences, in the music industry or otherwise. Choice D is incorrect. Neither text establishes a cause/effect relationship between the demand for festivals and the demand for streaming platforms. Text 1 does not mention streaming platforms at all, and Text 2 does not imply that streaming platforms benefit from the popularity of festivals.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 8b46bb51

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 8b46bb51

A journalist and well-respected art critic of nineteenth-century Britain, Lady Elizabeth Rigby Eastlake did not hesitate to publish reviews that went against popular opinion. One of her most divisive works was an essay questioning the idea of photography as an emerging medium for fine art: in the essay, Eastlake \_\_\_\_\_ that the value of photographs was informational rather than creative.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. exposed
- B. asserted
- C. discovered
- D. doubted

## ID: 8b46bb51 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Asserted" means "stated confidently." Eastlake "did not hesitate to publish reviews going against popular opinion," so we can assume that she was confident in sharing her opinions.

Choice A is incorrect. "Exposed" means "made visible by uncovering" and, when talking about ideas, tends to be used in relation to uncovering the truth. Eastlake was sharing an opinion, not uncovering a truth. Choice C is incorrect. "Discovered" means "found," but Eastlake was writing an opinion essay. She was writing her own opinion, not "discovering" a new universal truth. Choice D is incorrect. "Doubted" means "didn't believe in." We're told that Eastlake "questioned" the idea that photography could be fine art. Placing "doubted" in the blank would actually suggest that Eastlake argued that photos were valuable for creativity and not for information, which is the opposite of what we were told she believes.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID aaa3ee7c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: aaa3ee7c

Critics have asserted that fine art and fashion rarely \_\_\_\_\_ in a world where artists create timeless works for exhibition and designers periodically produce new styles for the public to buy. Luiseño/Shoshone-Bannock beadwork artist and designer Jamie Okuma challenges this view: her work can be seen in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and purchased through her online boutique.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. prevail
- B. succumb
- C. diverge
- D. intersect

## ID: aaa3ee7c Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion about the relationship between fine art and fashion. As used in this context, "intersect" means to connect or overlap. The text indicates that Jamie Okuma challenges the position held by critics because her work can be seen at an art museum and can be bought by the public from her online boutique. The text also presents the critics' view as being influenced by a perception that fine artists create works that are "timeless" and meant for exhibition, whereas fashion designers periodically produce new styles that are meant for purchase. This context suggests that the critics believe that fine art and fashion tend not to overlap—in other words, that they rarely intersect.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to say that critics contend that fine art and fashion rarely "prevail," or prove to be triumphant or widespread. The text indicates that Okuma is an example of an artist who demonstrates that it's possible to make fine art that is also available to the public as fashion. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to say that fine art and fashion rarely "succumb," or surrender. The text establishes that unlike what critics believe, Okuma creates works that are in art museums and available for the public to purchase, suggesting that critics believe fine art and fashion rarely overlap, not that they rarely succumb. Choice C is incorrect because saying that critics believe that fine art and fashion rarely "diverge," or disagree or move in different directions, wouldn't make sense in context. The text presents Okuma's work as both fine art and fashion, thereby undermining what the critics assert. This suggests that the critics believe that fine art and fashion rarely intersect rather than that the two rarely diverge.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 975b0602

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 975b0602

A number of Indigenous politicians have been elected to the United States Congress since 2000 as members of the country's two established political parties. In Canada and several Latin American countries, on the other hand, Indigenous people have formed their own political parties to advance candidates who will advocate for the interests of their communities. This movement has been particularly successful in Ecuador, where Guadalupe Llori, a member of the Indigenous party known as Pachakutik, was elected president of the National Assembly in 2021.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To trace the history of an Indigenous political movement and speculate about its future development
- B. To argue that Indigenous politicians in the United States should form their own political party
- C. To highlight two approaches to achieving political representation for Indigenous people

To consider how Indigenous politicians in the United States have influenced Indigenous politicians in Canada and Latin America

## ID: 975b0602 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to illustrate two approaches that Indigenous politicians have taken to achieve political representation for their communities. The text begins by explaining that one approach is exemplified by Indigenous politicians in the United States who, in an effort to ensure that the interests of their communities are represented in government, joined preexisting political parties and were subsequently elected to Congress. The text goes on to highlight a second approach adopted by Indigenous leaders in Canada and several Latin American countries: rather than joining established political parties, many Indigenous politicians in these countries have instead formed their own parties to promote candidates for office who support causes that are important to their communities.

Choice A is incorrect because the text's focus is on the contrasting approaches adopted by different Indigenous political movements in different countries; thus, it isn't accurate to say that the text traces the history of one political movement. Moreover, the text only discusses examples from 2000 to 2021, a relatively short period of time; therefore, it provides very little in the way of discussion of larger historical developments, nor does it make any predictions about how these movements might continue to develop in the future. Choice B is incorrect because the text never urges Indigenous politicians in the US to alter their strategy of striving for representation through the established political parties, nor does it suggest that this strategy is inferior to that of Indigenous politicians in Canada and Latin America, who have formed their own parties. In fact, the text notes that both strategies have resulted in the election of Indigenous politicians to national governments. Choice D is incorrect because the text never suggests that Indigenous politicians in the US have influenced those in Canada and Latin America; instead, it stresses how Indigenous politicians' approach toward achieving representation in the US government has differed from the approach Indigenous politicians have taken to achieve representation in national governments elsewhere in the Americas.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2b085bc6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 2b085bc6

The following text is adapted from Paul Laurence Dunbar's 1902 novel *The Sport of the Gods*. Joe and some of his family members have recently moved to New York City.

[Joe] was wild with enthusiasm and with a desire to be a part of all that the metropolis meant. In the evening he saw the young fellows passing by dressed in their spruce clothes, and he wondered with a sort of envy where they could be going. Back home there had been no place much worth going to, except church and one or two people's houses.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It illustrates a character's reaction to a new environment.
- B. It explains why a character has traveled to a city.
- C. It compares a character's thoughts about an event at two different times of day.
- D. It presents a character feeling regret over leaving home.

## ID: 2b085bc6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The narrator describes how Joe responds to being in "the metropolis": he's excited and "wild with enthusiasm." He also envies the young fellows who walk by because, dressed as they are, they look as if they have somewhere special to go. The text contrasts this new place with the place Joe comes from, where apparently there wasn't as much to do. Thus, the main purpose of the text is to illustrate Joe's reaction to a new environment.

Choice B is incorrect because the text makes no reference to why Joe has moved. The narrator indicates that Joe is enthusiastic about being in a city, but there's no explanation provided for the move. Choice C is incorrect because the text makes no reference to how Joe thinks about an event. The narrator describes young men passing by in the evening and then recalls places worth going to at home—church and a few people's houses—but there's no explicit comparison made nor is a time of day mentioned for these events back home. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't support the idea that Joe feels regret over leaving home. Instead, Joe is described as "wild with enthusiasm" at being in the city. Joe's home is mentioned, but only to compare it unfavorably with the city.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 213a25d1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 213a25d1

The following text is from Paul Laurence Dunbar's 1913 poem "The Poet and His Song."

A song is but a little thing, And yet what joy it is to sing! In hours of toil it gives me zest, And when at eve I long for rest;  
When cows come home along the bars, And in the fold I hear the bell, As Night, the shepherd, herds his stars,  
I sing my song, and all is well.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To convey how engaging in song makes the speaker feel
- B. To compare the speaker to a singing shepherd
- C. To portray the speaker's excitement about farming
- D. To describe the pieces of music the speaker enjoys hearing

## ID: 213a25d1 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it accurately states the main purpose of the text. The text begins by declaring that although a song is "but a little thing," or seemingly insignificant, singing it brings joy and gives the speaker of the text "zest," or excitement, in "hours of toil." The remainder of the text explores the idea that as night is falling, singing allows the speaker to feel that "all is well." Thus, the main purpose of the text is to convey how engaging in song makes the speaker feel.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text mentions a shepherd, it neither indicates that the shepherd is singing nor does it compare the shepherd to the speaker. Choice C is incorrect. The text indicates that the speaker works hard, engaging in "hours of toil," and it can be inferred that the speaker likely lives in a rural area, since cows and a cowbell can be heard nearby. However, the text does not suggest that the speaker is a farmer or feels excited about farming. Moreover, the shepherd in the text is not a literal reference to someone who herds sheep but instead a figurative description of the moon as the shepherd of the stars. Choice D is incorrect because in the text, the speaker is singing a song, not listening to others sing one. Moreover, the text describes the feelings that the speaker has when singing a song, not the song itself.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a06c434d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: a06c434d

The work of Kiowa painter T.C. Cannon derives its power in part from the tension among his \_\_\_\_\_ influences: classic European portraiture, with its realistic treatment of faces; the American pop art movement, with its vivid colors; and flatstyle, the intertribal painting style that rejects the effect of depth typically achieved through shading and perspective.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. complementary
- B. unknown
- C. disparate
- D. interchangeable

## ID: a06c434d Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the artistic styles that have influenced Cannon's work. As used in this context, "disparate" means distinct or dissimilar. The text indicates that a tension exists among the styles that have influenced Cannon's work and goes on to describe how those styles differ: classic European portraiture favors realism, American pop art uses vivid colors, and intertribal flatstyle rejects the use of shading and perspective to achieve depth. This context suggests that the styles that have influenced Cannon's work are disparate.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that there is a tension among the influences on Cannon's artwork, so it wouldn't make sense to say that the influences are "complementary," or that they complete one another or make up for one another's deficiencies. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to characterize Cannon's influences as "unknown," or not familiar; it's clear that the influences are known because the text goes on to list them. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that there is a tension among the influences on Cannon's work, not that they are "interchangeable," or capable of being used in one another's place.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c7265342

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: c7265342

The following text is from the 1895 poem "Marshlands" by Emily Pauline Johnson, a Kanienkahagen (Mohawk) writer also known as Tekahionwake.

Among the wild rice in the still lagoon, In monotone the lizard shrills his tune.  
The wild goose, homing, seeks a sheltering, Where rushes grow, and oozing lichens cling.  
Late cranes with heavy wing, and lazy flight, Sail up the silence with the nearing night.  
And like a spirit, swathed in some soft veil, Steals twilight and its shadows o'er the swale.  
Hushed lie the sedges, and the vapours creep, Thick, grey and humid, while the marshes sleep.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It names animal species found in a place, then names plant species there.
- B. It sketches a setting by presenting a series of images of nature.
- C. It makes an extended comparison of nature to human emotions.
- D. It identifies a location, then refers to a person living there.

## ID: c7265342 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best describes the overall structure of the text. The text first establishes the setting, a "still lagoon," and then goes on to provide more details about the lagoon by presenting several descriptive images of nature, including a lizard that "shrills his tune," "oozing lichens," and "thick, grey and humid" vapors.

Choice A is incorrect. Instead of simply naming species, the text presents descriptive images of nature; further, instead of naming animals and then moving on to name plants, the text refers first to a plant ("the wild rice"), then to two animals ("the lizard," "the wild goose"), then to another plant ("rushes"), and so on. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not draw any comparison between nature and human emotions; it does not refer to human emotions at all. Choice D is incorrect. While the text does begin by identifying a specific location, a "still lagoon," it makes no mention of a person living there.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID b411eb09

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

**ID: b411eb09**

New and interesting research conducted by Suleiman A. Al-Sweedan and Moath Alhaj is inspired by their observation that though there have been many studies of the effect of high altitude on blood chemistry, there is a \_\_\_\_\_ studies of the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level, such as the California towns of Salton City and Seeley.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. quarrel about
- B. paucity of
- C. profusion of
- D. verisimilitude in

**ID: b411eb09 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically and precisely completes the text's discussion of altitude's effect on blood chemistry. In this context, "paucity of" means lack of. In describing the inspiration behind Al-Sweidan and Alhaj's research, the text uses the word "though" to suggest a contrasting relationship between two types of studies: those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living at a high altitude and those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. This contrasting relationship and the text's use of the word "many" provide context suggesting that there are few, if any, examples of the second type of study, whereas there are numerous examples of the first type.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context for there to be a "quarrel about," or open disagreement about, studies of the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. The text's use of the words "though" and "many" suggests a contrasting relationship in terms of amount between two types of studies: those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living at a high altitude and those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. There's nothing in the text to suggest that the contrast between the two types of studies involves the extent to which researchers broadly agree or disagree about the contents of either type. Choice C is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context for there to be a "profusion of," or great abundance of, studies of the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. The text's use of the words "though" and "many" suggests a contrasting relationship in terms of amount between two types of studies: those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living at a high altitude and those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. Rather than logically completing this contrast, "profusion of" would indicate that the two types of studies are similar in terms of amount, with many examples existing of both types. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context for there to be a "verisimilitude in," or appearance of truth in, studies of the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. The text's use of the words "though" and "many" suggests a contrasting relationship in terms of amount between two types of studies: those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living at a high altitude and those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. There's nothing in the text to suggest that the contrast between the two types of studies involves the extent to which either type of study presents an appearance of truth.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8963273a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 8963273a

Musician Joni Mitchell, who is also a painter, uses images she creates for her album covers to emphasize ideas expressed in her music. For the cover of her album *Turbulent Indigo* (1994), Mitchell painted a striking self-portrait that closely resembles Vincent van Gogh's *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear* (1889). The image calls attention to the album's title song, in which Mitchell sings about the legacy of the postimpressionist painter. In that song, Mitchell also hints that she feels a strong artistic connection to Van Gogh—an idea that is reinforced by her imagery on the cover.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It presents a claim about Mitchell, then gives an example supporting that claim.
- B. It discusses Van Gogh's influence on Mitchell, then considers Mitchell's influence on other artists.
- C. It describes a similarity between two artists, then notes a difference between them.
- D. It describes the songs on *Turbulent Indigo*, then explains how they relate to the album's cover.

## ID: 8963273a Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it accurately describes the organization of the elements within the text. The text begins with the claim that Joni Mitchell's album covers use images she creates in order to emphasize ideas embedded in her albums. It then goes on to provide an example of how Mitchell's self-portrait on the cover of *Turbulent Indigo* resembles a painting by Van Gogh, which the text indicates helps emphasize the strong connection Mitchell feels toward Van Gogh, a connection that is also expressed in the album's title song.

Choice B is incorrect because there are no references in the text to artists other than Joni Mitchell and Van Gogh. Choice C is incorrect because there is nothing in the text that calls attention to any similarities or differences between Joni Mitchell and Van Gogh. Instead, it mentions that Mitchell feels a strong "artistic connection" to Van Gogh. Choice D is incorrect because the text discusses the cover before referring to any songs, and it only references one song from the album not all the songs.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c4900368

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: c4900368

The following text is from the 1924 poem “Cycle” by D’Arcy McNickle, who was a citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

There shall be new roads wending,  
A new beating of the drum—  
Men’s eyes shall have fresh seeing,  
Grey lives reprise their span—  
But under the new sun’s being,  
Completing what night began,  
There’ll be the same backs bending,  
The same sad feet shall drum—  
When this night finds its ending  
And day shall have come.....

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To consider how the repetitiveness inherent in human life can be both rewarding and challenging
  - To question whether activities completed at one time of day are more memorable than those completed at another time
- B. of day
- C. To refute the idea that joy is a more commonly experienced emotion than sadness is
- D. To demonstrate how the experiences of individuals relate to the experiences of their communities

## ID: c4900368 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it accurately states the main purpose of the text. The text begins by discussing the promise of the future, with positive references to renewal such as “new roads,” “new beating of the drum,” and “fresh seeing.” But with the “new sun,” the text continues, there will still be “the same backs bending” and “the same sad feet” drumming, indicating that these difficulties will follow people into this new day. The poem thus considers both the rewards and challenges associated with the repetitiveness of human life.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t say anything about how memorable activities are, let alone compare the memorability of activities completed at different times of the day. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text contrasts hope with difficulty, it does not compare the relative frequency of joyful feelings with that of sad feelings. Choice D is incorrect because the text makes no distinction between the experiences of individuals and the experiences of their communities.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 422c5068

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 422c5068

Generally it takes Tule geese about four days to migrate south for the winter. From their summer breeding grounds in Cook Inlet, Alaska, the birds begin by flying over the Gulf of Alaska, keeping about 100 miles from the Canadian shore. They pause to rest on the Pacific Ocean, then fly toward Summer Lake, Oregon, before finally arriving at their winter destination of Sacramento Valley, California. In 2020, however, it took the geese over twice as long to make their way from Cook Inlet to Sacramento Valley. According to researchers, the reason was airborne pollutants.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It illustrates a change in Tule geese's usual flight behavior.
- B. It suggests an explanation for why Tule geese breed in Alaska.
- C. It describes part of the Tule geese's typical winter migration journey.
- D. It compares Tule geese to other birds that migrate south for the winter.

## ID: 422c5068 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best states how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence states that Tule geese typically take four days to migrate south. Then in the next sentence, which contains the underlined portion, the text describes the first part of that journey, which begins with the geese flying over the Gulf of Alaska while keeping about 100 miles from the Canadian shore. The rest of the text details the remainder of the geese's typical journey and then mentions circumstances in 2020 that resulted in the geese taking an unusually long time to complete it. Thus, the underlined portion describes part of the Tule geese's typical winter migration journey.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text concludes by stating that in 2020, Tule geese took twice as long to complete their typical migration, which suggests a change in their usual flight behavior, the underlined portion doesn't discuss this. Instead, the underlined portion describes the first part of the Tule geese's typical winter migration journey over the Gulf of Alaska. Choice B is incorrect. Although the sentence containing the underlined portion mentions that Tule geese breed in Alaska, the underlined portion doesn't explain why the geese breed in that location. Rather, the text mentions Alaska to explain that it's the starting point of the Tule geese's typical winter migration. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn't discuss any other birds that migrate south for the winter. In fact, the text is only concerned with the migration of Tule geese.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 74446089

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 74446089

For his 1986 album *Keyboard Fantasies*, Beverly Glenn-Copeland wrote songs grounded in traditional soul and folk music, then accompanied them with futuristic synthesizer arrangements featuring ambient sounds and complex rhythms. The result was so strange, so unprecedented, that the album attracted little attention when first released. In recent years, however, a younger generation of musicians has embraced the stylistic experimentation of *Keyboard Fantasies*. Alternative R&B musicians Blood Orange and Moses Sumney, among other contemporary recording artists, cite the album as an influence.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It urges contemporary musicians to adopt the unique sound of *Keyboard Fantasies*.
- B. It responds to criticism of *Keyboard Fantasies* by some younger musicians.
- C. It offers examples of younger musicians whose work has been impacted by *Keyboard Fantasies*.
- D. It contrasts *Keyboard Fantasies* with the recordings of two younger musicians.

## ID: 74446089 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole. The text's subject is Beverly Glenn-Copeland's 1986 album *Keyboard Fantasies*, notable for its innovative, experimental arrangements. According to the text, the album was not initially admired, but in recent years it has become popular among younger musicians. The underlined portion of the text mentions two of those musicians, Blood Orange and Moses Sumney, who "cite the album as an influence." Therefore, the underlined portion of the text offers examples of younger musicians whose work has been impacted by *Keyboard Fantasies*.

Choice A is incorrect because even though the underlined sentence states that Blood Orange and Moses Sumney were influenced by *Keyboard Fantasies*, it doesn't say that all other musicians should also embrace the album's experimental style. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text states that *Keyboard Fantasies* was not admired on its first release, the text doesn't present any criticism of the album by younger musicians: it only presents two younger musicians who cite it as an influence. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn't mention any differences between *Keyboard Fantasies* and the work of Blood Orange and Moses Sumney.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2e8ab360

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 2e8ab360

Eighteenth-century historian Edward Gibbon thought the only character defect of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius was his mild temperament—though the emperor was widely considered virtuous, his overly permissive nature led him to \_\_\_\_\_ the vices of those who surrounded him.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. indulge
- B. despise
- C. moderate
- D. criticize

## ID: 2e8ab360 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius. In this context, "indulge" means treat with excessive leniency. The text states that according to historian Edward Gibbon, Marcus Aurelius, who was widely considered virtuous, had only a single character flaw: his mild temperament. The text suggests that because of this flaw, Marcus Aurelius had an overly permissive nature. This context, in turn, supports the idea that Marcus Aurelius treated the vices, or evils, of those around him with excessive leniency, indulging rather than punishing those vices.

Choice B is incorrect. While the text does state that Marcus Aurelius was widely considered virtuous, it gives no indication that he was inclined to "despise," or hate, others' vices. Rather, the text suggests that he showed undue tolerance for these vices because of his overly permissive nature—that is, his inclination to allow others to do as they wished. Choice C is incorrect because the text's description of Marcus Aurelius as overly permissive suggests that he showed undue tolerance for others' vices, not that he tried to "moderate" those vices, or lessen their intensity. Choice D is incorrect because the text's description of Marcus Aurelius as overly permissive suggests that he showed undue tolerance for others' vices, not that he attempted to "criticize," or speak disapprovingly of, those vices.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c14daa3c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: c14daa3c

Close analysis of the painting *Girl with a Flute*, long attributed to the seventeenth-century Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer, has revealed subtle deviations from the artist's signature techniques. These variations suggest that the work may be that of a student under Vermeer's tutelage—potentially \_\_\_\_\_ our understanding of Vermeer as a solitary artist.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. negating
- B. prefiguring
- C. entrenching
- D. substantiating

## ID: c14daa3c Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Negating" means "reversing" or "making invalid." Proving that Vermeer worked with students would reverse the view of him as a solitary artist.

Choice B is incorrect. "Prefiguring" means "being an early indicator of." There already existed views of Vermeer as a solitary painter, so a new painting would not be an early indicator of those views. Rather, a painting proving that Vermeer had a student would contradict those earlier views. Choice C is incorrect. "Entrenching" means "solidifying." A painting proving that Vermeer had a student would not solidify views of him as solitary, but would rather contradict those views. Choice D is incorrect. "Substantiating" means "supporting with proof." A painting proving that Vermeer had a student would not support views of him as solitary, but would rather contradict those views.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d3ca5d59

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: d3ca5d59

Stephen Hannock's luminous landscape paintings are appealing to viewers but have elicited little commentary from contemporary critics, a phenomenon that may be due to the very fact that the paintings seem so \_\_\_\_\_. Many critics focus their attention on art that is cryptic or overtly challenging.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. innovative
- B. subversive
- C. profound
- D. accessible

## ID: d3ca5d59 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. When talking about a thing, “accessible” means “easy to understand.” This sets up the contrast in the next sentence, which tells us that critics mostly focus on art that is “cryptic or challenging” (meaning not easy to understand).

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn’t fit the logic of the text. The next sentence tells us that critics focus on art that is mysterious and challenging. If Hannock’s paintings are “innovative” (meaning advanced and original), then critics probably would comment on them. Choice B is incorrect. This doesn’t fit the logic of the text. The next sentence tells us that critics focus on art that is mysterious and challenging. If Hannock’s paintings are “subversive” (meaning disruptive and revolutionary), then critics probably would comment on them. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn’t fit the logic of the text. The next sentence tells us that critics focus on art that is mysterious and challenging. If Hannock’s paintings are “profound” (meaning very deep and insightful), then critics probably would comment on them.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c5b1afe5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: c5b1afe5

Bicycle sharing systems allow users to rent a bicycle at one location within a city and return it to any other designated location in that city, which can cause serious problems of bicycle supply and user demand within the city's system. Tohru Ikeguchi uses open-source data and statistical modeling to identify when a high number of users making one-way trips is likely to leave some locations within the system \_\_\_\_\_ bicycles and other areas with insufficient supply.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. susceptible to
- B. contingent on
- C. saturated with
- D. depleted of

## ID: c5b1afe5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Ikeguchi's model of bicycle supply. In this context, "saturated with" means thoroughly or completely supplied with. The text explains a problem encountered by some bicycle-sharing programs: users can return bicycles to different locations than where the users picked up the bicycles to start, which can result in a mismatch between bicycle supply (that is, where the bicycles are currently located) and user demand (that is, the locations where users are hoping to pick up bicycles). The text goes on to explain that Ikeguchi developed a way to identify when this mismatch is likely to occur. This context suggests that Ikeguchi's method will show when it is likely that some locations have an insufficient supply and other locations, by implicit contrast, are saturated with bicycles.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that some locations are "susceptible to," or sensitive to or easily influenced by, bicycles. The text describes the phenomenon of bicycles being redistributed away from locations where users want them, not anything about those locations being influenced by the bicycles. Choice B is incorrect because the text describes situations in which some locations have an insufficient supply of bicycles because the bicycles have been relocated elsewhere, which suggests that the other locations have many bicycles, not that the other locations are "contingent on," or dependent on, the bicycles. Nothing in the text suggests that the locations themselves depend on the bicycles for anything. Choice D is incorrect because it would not make sense in context to say that some locations are "depleted of," or empty of, bicycles while others have an insufficient supply. The text describes situations in which bicycles have been relocated such that there is a mismatch between bicycle supply and user demand—the bicycles are no longer at the locations where users want to pick them up. This means that some locations do not have enough bicycles, while other locations must have many bicycles, not be depleted of bicycles.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 84dbd633

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: 84dbd633

## Text 1

The Cretaceous-Paleogene (K-Pg) mass extinction event is usually attributed solely to an asteroid impact near Chicxulub, Mexico. Some scientists argue that volcanic activity was the true cause, as the K-Pg event occurred relatively early in a long period of eruption of the Deccan Traps range that initially produced huge amounts of climate-altering gases. These dissenters note that other mass extinctions have coincided with large volcanic eruptions, while only the K-Pg event lines up with an asteroid strike.

## Text 2

In a 2020 study, Pincelli Hull and her colleagues analyzed ocean core samples and modeled climate changes around the K-Pg event. The team concluded that Deccan Traps gases did affect global conditions prior to the event, but that the climate returned to normal well before the extinctions began—extinctions that instead closely align with the Chicxulub impact.

Based on the texts, how would Hull's team (Text 2) most likely respond to the argument in the underlined portion of Text 1?

- A. By agreeing that the Chicxulub impact changed the climate and that the Deccan Traps eruption caused the K-Pg event
- B. By declaring that the changes in climate caused by the Deccan Traps eruption weren't the main cause of the K-Pg event
- C. By questioning why those scientists assume that the Chicxulub impact caused the Deccan Traps eruption

By asserting that the Deccan Traps eruption had a more significant effect on global conditions than those scientists claim

ID: 84dbd633 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it describes how Hull's team would most likely respond to the argument in the underlined portion of Text 1, which asserts that volcanic activity in the Deccan Traps range led to changes in the climate and caused the K-Pg mass extinction event. According to Text 2, although Hull's team found that activity in the Deccan Traps did indeed alter the climate before the K-Pg event, the team determined that the climate had returned to normal before mass extinctions began. This finding and the observation that the K-Pg extinctions closely align with the Chicxulub asteroid impact suggest that Hull's team would likely dispute the claim in the underlined portion of Text 1 and say that the climate changes caused by the Deccan Traps activity were not the main cause of the extinctions.

Choice A is incorrect because Text 2 describes how Hull's team found that the climate had recovered from the changes brought about by the Deccan Traps activity before the K-Pg event occurred, which suggests that Hull's team would disagree that the Deccan Traps activity caused the K-Pg event. Additionally, the claim in the underlined portion of Text 1 says nothing about how the Chicxulub impact changed the climate, so while Hull's team might believe that the impact did in fact change the climate, they could not be said to agree with the claim in Text 1 on this point. Choice C is incorrect because there is no indication in either text that any scientists assume that the Chicxulub impact caused the Deccan Traps activity, so there is no reason to conclude that Hull's team would question why the scientists referred to in Text 1 make such an assumption. Choice D is incorrect because Text 2 describes how Hull's team found that the climate had recovered from the changes brought about by the Deccan Traps activity before the K-Pg event occurred, which suggests that Hull's team would say that the Deccan Traps activity had a less enduring effect on global conditions than the scientists referenced in Text 1 believe, not that the effect on global conditions was more significant than those scientists claim.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 81a3a607

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 81a3a607

In the Indigenous intercropping system known as the Three Sisters, maize, squash, and beans form an \_\_\_\_\_ web of relations: maize provides the structure on which the bean vines grow; the squash vines cover the soil, discouraging competition from weeds; and the beans aid their two “sisters” by enriching the soil with essential nitrogen.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. indecipherable
- B. ornamental
- C. obscure
- D. intricate

## ID: 81a3a607 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the Three Sisters intercropping system. As used in this context, “intricate” would mean made up of complexly related elements. The text indicates that in the Three Sisters system, maize, squash, and beans form a “web of relations” in which the crops interact in various ways. The text’s description of these interactions—the bean vines growing on the maize stalks, the squash vines keeping weeds away, and the beans adding nutrients that the maize and squash use—provides context suggesting that this “web of relations” is intricate.

Choice A is incorrect because describing the relationship among the crops in the Three Sisters system as “indecipherable,” or impossible to comprehend, would not make sense in context. Although the text presents the relationship as complex, the text’s description of the role that each crop plays makes it clear that the relationship is well understood, not indecipherable. Choice B is incorrect because the text discusses the practical benefits that each plant in the Three Sisters system provides to other members of the system, showing that the relationship among the crops that make up the system is not “ornamental,” or mainly serving a decorative purpose. Choice C is incorrect because describing the relationship among the crops in the Three Sisters system as “obscure,” or unknown or poorly understood, would not make sense in context. Although the text presents the relationship as complex, the text’s description of the role that each crop plays makes it clear that the relationship is well understood, not obscure.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 85083d4d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 85083d4d

Disproving the common misconception of Native art as \_\_\_\_\_, the painters whose work appears in the collection at the National Museum of the American Indian employ a range of styles. There are artists working in the traditional arts of their specific tribal communities, artists working in European modernist or American abstract expressionist art traditions, and artists blending various traditions into something wholly new.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. uncontroversial
- B. individualistic
- C. theoretical
- D. homogeneous

## ID: 85083d4d Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the art at the National Museum of the American Indian. In this context, "homogenous" means uniform or highly similar. The text explains that the painters whose works are included in this museum's collection employ an array of artistic styles, both Native and non-Native, traditional and new. Given this high degree of stylistic diversity, it is a misconception that Native art is uniform, or homogenous.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't consider whether Native art is controversial, or causes disagreement or discussion; instead, the text discusses the stylistic diversity of the collection of the National Museum of the American Indian. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text indicates that some of the artists whose work is represented in the collection of the National Museum of the American Indian blend various artistic traditions into highly individual styles of their own, this is not the primary focus of the text. Instead, the text is concerned with how Native art is often mistakenly perceived as uniform, when in fact it is stylistically diverse. Choice C is incorrect because the text never implies that people mistakenly conceive of Native art as theoretical, or concerned with philosophical or abstract issues; instead, the text's discussion of Native art is framed around this art's stylistic diversity versus the misconception of it as homogenous.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 3566120b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 3566120b

The following text is adapted from Oscar Wilde's 1895 play *The Importance of Being Earnest*. CECILY: Have we got to part?

ALGERNON: I am afraid so. It's a very painful parting.

CECILY: It is always painful to part from people whom one has known for a very brief space of time. The absence of old friends one can endure with equanimity. But even a momentary separation from anyone to whom one has just been introduced is almost unbearable.

As used in the text, what does the word "endure" most nearly mean?

- A. Regret
- B. Persist
- C. Tolerate
- D. Encourage

## ID: 3566120b Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text, "endure" most nearly means tolerate. In the text, Cecily and Algernon discuss parting, or saying goodbye. Cecily remarks on the deep pain of saying goodbye to people whom one has only known briefly and then comments on the equanimity, or calm steadiness, one experiences when separated from old friends. The text sets up an ironic contrast: one can easily tolerate, or put up with, the absence of close friends, but even a very short separation from a new acquaintance is unbearable.

Choice A is incorrect. Nothing in the text suggests that Cecily associates regret, or a feeling of sorrow, with the absence of old friends. Rather, the text sets up an ironic contrast between the feeling of calm steadiness one feels when separated from old friends and the unbearable pain of being separated from new acquaintances. Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts "endure" can mean persist, or proceed stubbornly, it doesn't have that meaning in this context because what is being endured is the absence of old friends. Whereas one can persist despite the absence of someone else, one can't persist the absence itself. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't convey that Cecily encourages, or urges, old friends to be absent. Although it may be that Cecily prefers new acquaintances to friends she has known for a long time, the text focuses on her feelings as a result of others' absences, not on her treatment of others.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f2c48e47

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: f2c48e47

The following text is from Charlotte Perkins Gilman's 1910 poem "The Earth's Entail." No matter how we cultivate the land, Taming the forest and the prairie free; No matter how we irrigate the sand, Making the desert blossom at command, We must always leave the borders of the sea; The immeasureable reaches Of the windy wave-wet beaches, The million-mile-long margin of the sea.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The speaker argues against interfering with nature and then gives evidence supporting this interference.
- B. The speaker presents an account of efforts to dominate nature and then cautions that such efforts are only temporary.
- C. The speaker provides examples of an admirable way of approaching nature and then challenges that approach.
- D. The speaker describes attempts to control nature and then offers a reminder that not all nature is controllable.

## ID: f2c48e47 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This best describes the overall structure of the text. In the first half of the text, the speaker describes our attempts to control nature: cultivating, taming, and irrigating different kinds of land. In the second half, the speaker states that we can never tame the sea or the beach.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn't describe the overall structure of the text. The speaker never argues that we should not interfere with nature. Rather, the speaker says that we are able to tame many different kinds of land, but we are unable to tame the sea or beaches. Choice B is incorrect. This doesn't describe the overall structure of the text. The speaker never describes our cultivation, taming, and irrigation of land as "temporary." Rather, the speaker says that we are able to tame many different kinds of land, but we are unable to tame the sea or beaches. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn't describe the overall structure of the text. The speaker never describes our cultivation, taming, and irrigation of land as an "admirable" approach to nature." Rather, the speaker says that we are able to tame many different kinds of land, but we are unable to tame the sea or beaches.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f1c9d2c1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

**ID: f1c9d2c1**

## Text 1

Stage lighting theorist Adolphe Appia was perhaps the first to argue that light must be considered alongside all the various elements of a stage to create a single, unified performance. Researcher Kelly Bremner, however, has noted that Appia lacked technical expertise in the use of light in the theater. As a result of Appia's inexperience, Bremner argues, Appia's theory of light called for lighting practices that weren't possible until after the advent of electricity around 1881.

## Text 2

Adolphe Appia was not an amateur in the practice of lighting. Instead, it is precisely his exposure to lighting techniques at the time that contributed to his theory on the importance of light. When working as an apprentice for a lighting specialist in his youth, Appia observed the use of portable lighting devices that could be operated by hand. This experience developed his understanding of what was possible in the coordination of elements on the stage.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the claim about Appia's level of technical expertise made by Bremner in Text 1?

- A. Many lighting technicians dismissed Appia's ideas about light on the stage.
- B. Appia likely gained a level of technical expertise during his time as an apprentice.
- C. Theater practitioners who worked with Appia greatly admired his work.
- D. Appia was unfamiliar with the use of music and sound in theater.

**ID: f1c9d2c1 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The author of Text 2 directly contradicts Bremner's claim that Appia lacked technical expertise by stating that Appia was "not an amateur in the practice of lighting." His experience as a lighting specialist's apprentice would have, the author of Text 2 argues, allowed Appia to "[develop] his understanding of what was possible" with the elements of theatrical design.

Choice A is incorrect. Neither text describes how other lighting technicians responded to Appia's ideas. Furthermore, this claim isn't relevant to Bremner's evaluation of Appia's technical expertise. Choice C is incorrect. Neither text mentions anything about the opinions of theater practitioners who worked with Appia, so this answer choice does not relate to the claim about Appia's level of technical expertise made by Bremner in Text 1. Choice D is incorrect. Neither text mentions anything about Appia's familiarity with or ignorance of the use of music and sound in theater. Both focus on his expertise (or lack thereof) in lighting.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID dc234d74

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: dc234d74

The recently observed gamma ray burst GRB 230307A lasted for 200 seconds, \_\_\_\_\_ for a burst generated by the merger of neutron stars. Bursts caused by neutron mergers typically last fewer than 2 seconds.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. a coincidence
- B. a reprieve
- C. an incident
- D. an oddity

## ID: dc234d74 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the duration of gamma ray burst GRB 230307A. In this context, "an oddity" is something that is odd or unusual. The text explains that the burst lasted for 200 seconds and that other bursts generated by neutron mergers have usually lasted fewer than 2 seconds. In other words, the duration of gamma ray burst GRB 230307A was unusual.

Choice A is incorrect because the text focuses on a difference between the duration of gamma ray burst GRB 230307A and the typical duration of bursts caused by neutron mergers, not "a coincidence," or a point of correspondence, between them; the text indicates that GRB 230307A lasted much longer than what is typical of other bursts. Choice B is incorrect. In this context, "a reprieve" would be either a temporary relief from something or a delay of a punishment, neither of which would make sense as something that the duration of a gamma ray burst could provide to the burst itself. Choice C is incorrect. Although it would make sense to refer to gamma ray burst GRB 230307A itself as "an incident," or a thing that occurred, the missing word describes the duration of the burst, and it doesn't make much sense to describe a length of time as an incident. Further, the sentence emphasizes that the burst's duration was very unusual, not simply that the burst occurred.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 34d7bb25

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 34d7bb25

According to Indian economist and sociologist Radhakamal Mukerjee (1889–1968), the Eurocentric concepts that informed early twentieth-century social scientific methods—for example, the idea that all social relations are reducible to struggles between individuals—had little relevance for India. Making the social sciences more responsive to Indians' needs, Mukerjee argued, required constructing analytical categories informed by India's cultural and ecological circumstances. Mukerjee thus proposed the communalist “Indian village” as the ideal model on which to base Indian economic and social policy.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- The text recounts Mukerjee’s early training in the social scientific disciplines and then lists social policies whose A. implementation Mukerjee oversaw.
- The text mentions some of Mukerjee’s economic theories and then traces their impact on other Indian social scientists of B. the twentieth century.
- The text presents Mukerjee’s critique of the social sciences and then provides an example of his attempts to address C. issues he identified in his critique.
- The text explains an influential economic theory and then demonstrates how that theory was more important to D. Mukerjee’s work than other social scientists have acknowledged.

## ID: 34d7bb25 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text does indeed present Mukerjee’s critique of the social sciences—that they were too Eurocentric—and then provides an example of how he attempted to address the issues he identified: by suggesting a social science model based on the Indian village.

Choice A is incorrect. The text doesn’t discuss Mukerjee’s early training or his oversight of the implementation of social policies at all. Choice B is incorrect. The text never discusses any other Indian social scientists. Choice D is incorrect. The text never mentions other social scientists’ responses to Mukerjee’s work.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c0e1b70a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: c0e1b70a

The following text is adapted from Etsu Inagaki Sugimoto's 1925 memoir *A Daughter of the Samurai*. As a young woman, Sugimoto moved from feudal Japan to the United States.

The standards of my own and my adopted country differed so widely in some ways, and my love for both lands was so sincere, that sometimes I had an odd feeling of standing upon a cloud in space, and gazing with measuring eyes upon two separate worlds. At first I was continually trying to explain, by Japanese standards, all the queer things that came every day before my surprised eyes; for no one seemed to know the origin or significance of even the most familiar customs, nor why they existed and were followed.

Which choice best describes the main purpose of the text?

- A. To convey the narrator's experience of observing and making sense of differences between two cultures she embraces
  - B. To establish the narrator's hope of forming connections with new companions by sharing customs she learned as a child
- To reveal the narrator's recognition that she is hesitant to ask questions about certain aspects of a culture she is newly encountering
- C. encountering
  - D. had expected
- To emphasize the narrator's wonder at discovering that the physical distance between two countries is greater than she

## ID: c0e1b70a Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The narrator asserts that she loves both her “own” country (Japan) and her “adopted country” (the United States) even though the two countries differ “widely.” She also indicates that, at first, she would try to explain unfamiliar experiences that she had in the United States using the standards ingrained in her from growing up in Japan. Thus, the main purpose of the text is to convey the narrator’s experience of observing and making sense of the differences between two cultures she embraces.

Choice B is incorrect because the text makes no reference to possible companions. Although the text does indicate that the narrator sometimes used the cultural framework she acquired growing up in Japan to explain some experiences she’s had, there is no suggestion that this was in service of making friends. And although “no one seemed to know” strongly implies that the narrator has interacted with other people in the United States, there is no indication that these conversations involved her discussing Japanese customs. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the narrator was hesitant to ask questions. In fact, the narrator indicates that “no one seemed to know the origin” of various customs, which provides evidence that, rather than being hesitant, she sought information from several people. Choice D is incorrect because the text makes no reference to the physical distance between Japan and the United States. Although the narrator indicates that the two countries differ “widely” and likens them to “two separate worlds,” these descriptions relate to cultural aspects of the countries and the narrator’s feelings about the two countries, not the physical distance between them.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f631132b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: f631132b

In the *Here and Now Storybook* (1921), educator Lucy Sprague Mitchell advanced the then controversial idea that books for very young children should imitate how they use language, since toddlers, who cannot yet grasp narrative or abstract ideas, seek reassurance in verbal repetition and naming. The most enduring example of this idea is Margaret Wise Brown's 1947 picture book *Goodnight Moon*, in which a young rabbit names the objects in his room as he drifts off to sleep. Scholars note that the book's emphasis on repetition, rhythm, and nonsense rhyme speaks directly to Mitchell's influence.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

The text outlines a debate between two authors of children's literature and then traces how that debate shaped theories  
A. on early childhood education.

The text summarizes an argument about how children's literature should be evaluated and then discusses a contrasting  
B. view on that subject.

The text lists the literary characteristics that are common to many classics of children's literature and then indicates the  
C. narrative subjects that are most appropriate for young children.

The text presents a philosophy about what material is most suitable for children's literature and then describes a book  
D. influenced by that philosophy.

## ID: f631132b Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text starts by introducing Mitchell's philosophy about using simple, repetitive language in books for young children. Then it describes a book influenced by that philosophy, *Goodnight Moon*.

Choice A is incorrect. Although two authors are mentioned in the text, they both agree about the type of language that should be contained in books for young children. Choice B is incorrect. The text never discusses the evaluation of children's literature. It does provide one view of how children's books should be written, but never introduces a competing view. Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn't mention "many classics of children's literature." Instead, it describes an educational theory and identifies one example of a famous children's book that was influenced by that theory.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e7d37666

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: e7d37666

It is by no means \_\_\_\_\_ to recognize the influence of Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch on Ali Banisadr's paintings; indeed, Banisadr himself cites Bosch as an inspiration. However, some scholars have suggested that the ancient Mesopotamian poem *Epic of Gilgamesh* may have had a far greater impact on Banisadr's work.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. substantial
- B. satisfying
- C. unimportant
- D. appropriate

## ID: e7d37666 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the sentence about the influences on Banisadr's work. In context, "It is by no means" followed by "unimportant" conveys how it is relevant to recognize Bosch's influence on Banisadr. The text points out that the artist himself cites Bosch as an inspiration, and then goes on to claim that *The Epic of Gilgamesh* has had a more significant influence than Bosch.

Choice A is incorrect because "substantial," which means weighty or meaningful, incorrectly suggests that it wouldn't be meaningful to acknowledge Bosch's influence on Banisadr. The phrase "indeed, Banisadr himself cites Bosch as an inspiration" doesn't support this suggestion. Choice B is incorrect because "satisfying," which means pleasing, incorrectly suggests that it wouldn't be pleasing to acknowledge Bosch's influence on Banisadr. The phrase "indeed, Banisadr himself cites Bosch as an inspiration" doesn't support this suggestion. Choice D is incorrect because "appropriate," which means suitable, incorrectly suggests that it wouldn't be proper to acknowledge Bosch's influence on Banisadr. The phrase "indeed, Banisadr himself cites Bosch as an inspiration" doesn't support this suggestion.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 570970cd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 570970cd

The following text is adapted from *Indian Boyhood*, a 1902 memoir by Ohiyesa (Charles A. Eastman), a Santee Dakota writer. In the text, Ohiyesa recalls how the women in his tribe harvested maple syrup during his childhood.

Now the women began to test the trees—moving leisurely among them, axe in hand, and striking a single quick blow, to see if the sap would appear. The trees, like people, have their individual characters; some were ready to yield up their life-blood, while others were more reluctant. Now one of the birchen basins was set under each tree, and a hardwood chip driven deep into the cut which the axe had made. From the corners of this chip—at first drop by drop, then more freely—the sap trickled into the little dishes.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It portrays the range of personality traits displayed by the women as they work.
- B. It foregrounds the beneficial relationship between humans and maple trees.
- C. It demonstrates how human behavior can be influenced by the natural environment.
- D. It elaborates on an aspect of the maple trees that the women evaluate.

## ID: 570970cd Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text's overall portrayal of how the women in Ohiyesa's tribe harvested maple syrup. The text states that the women used an axe to strike the maple trees in order to find out which ones would produce sap. The underlined sentence compares the trees to people, with the sap described as the trees' "life-blood." Some of the trees are ready to give out their sap, while others are unwilling to do so. Using personification, the sentence provides greater detail about the aspect of the maple trees—their potential to give sap—that the women are evaluating.

Choice A is incorrect because the personalities of the women are not discussed in the text. Although the underlined sentence does mention "individual characters," this reference is not to the women in the text but rather to the maple trees, which the sentence compares to people with individual character traits. Choice B is incorrect because the underlined sentence focuses on the trees' willingness or refusal to yield sap, not on the beneficial relationship between the women and the trees. Additionally, although the text does suggest that the women and their tribe benefit from the maple trees since the trees allow the women to harvest syrup, there is nothing in the text to suggest that the trees benefit from this relationship in turn. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined sentence is comparing maple trees to humans, not addressing the influence of the natural environment on how the actual humans in the text, the women, behave.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID eae66bf9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

**ID: eae66bf9**

## Text 1

In 2021, a team led by Amir Siraj hypothesized that the Chicxulub impactor—the object that struck the Yucatán Peninsula sixty-six million years ago, precipitating the mass extinction of the dinosaurs—was likely a member of the class of long-period comets. As evidence, Siraj cited the carbonaceous chondritic composition of samples from the Chicxulub impact crater as well as of samples obtained from long-period comet Wild 2 in 2006.

## Text 2

Although long-period comets contain carbonaceous chondrites, asteroids are similarly rich in these materials. Furthermore, some asteroids are rich in iridium, as Natalia Artemieva points out, whereas long-period comets are not. Given the prevalence of iridium at the crater and, more broadly, in geological layers deposited worldwide following the impact, Artemieva argues that an asteroid is a more plausible candidate for the Chicxulub impactor.

Based on the texts, how would Artemieva likely respond to Siraj’s hypothesis, as presented in Text 1?

- A. By insisting that it overestimates how representative Wild 2 is of long-period comets as a class
- B. By arguing that it does not account for the amount of iridium found in geological layers dating to the Chicxulub impact
- C. By praising it for connecting the composition of Chicxulub crater samples to the composition of certain asteroids
- D. By concurring that carbonaceous chondrites are prevalent in soil samples from sites distant from the Chicxulub crater

**ID: eae66bf9 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Siraj’s hypothesis is that the Chicxulub impactor was a long-period comet. But Artemieva points to the iridium found in the crater and in “geological layers that were deposited worldwide after the impact” as evidence that it was actually an asteroid, not a long-period comet.

Choice A is incorrect. We can’t infer that this is how Artemieva would respond to Siraj’s hypothesis. Text 2 never discusses whether Wild 2 is representative of long-period comets in general. Rather, Text 2 presents Artemieva’s argument that the Chicxulub impactor was an asteroid, not a long-term comet. Choice C is incorrect. We can’t infer that this is how Artemieva would respond to Siraj’s hypothesis. Siraj’s hypothesis doesn’t make this connection: rather, Siraj hypothesizes that the Chicxulub impactor was a long-term comet. Choice D is incorrect. We can’t infer that this is how Artemieva would respond to Siraj’s hypothesis. “Soil samples from sites distant from the Chicxulub crater” is too vague. Only soil samples from sites that are connected to the impact in some way are involved in either hypothesis.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a1ff8ce3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: a1ff8ce3

As discussed by scholar Anna Mladentseva, many artworks produced in the mid-1990s to the early 2000s exclusively for exhibition on the internet, such as Sinae Kim's *Genesis* (2001), have become inaccessible because viewing them requires the use of \_\_\_\_\_ software (most notably Adobe Flash, discontinued in 2021).

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. defunct
- B. arcane
- C. ubiquitous
- D. extraneous

## ID: a1ff8ce3 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of artworks that were produced for exhibition on the internet. In this context, "defunct" means no longer existing or functioning. According to the text, many artworks that were produced in the mid-1990s to the early 2000s for exhibition on the internet have become inaccessible due to their reliance on certain software. As an example, the text cites Sinae Kim's *Genesis*, which relied on software that was discontinued in 2021. This context supports the idea that the software is defunct.

Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that viewing artworks produced in the mid-1990s to the early 2000s for exhibition on the internet requires the use of software. Artists generally want their works to be seen by many people, so it wouldn't make sense for creators of internet art to require the use of software that is "arcane," or known or knowable to only a few people. Moreover, the text states that a prominent example of software used to view these artworks is Adobe Flash, which was discontinued in 2021, meaning it's now defunct. Choice C is incorrect because "ubiquitous" would mean found everywhere, which wouldn't make sense in this context. The text indicates that the reason why many artworks that were produced in the mid-1990s to the early 2000s for exhibition on the internet have become inaccessible has to do with the software required for viewing them. According to the text, one example of such software is Adobe Flash, which was discontinued in 2021, meaning it's now defunct. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the software used to view artworks produced in the mid-1990s to the early 2000s for exhibition on the internet is "extraneous," or irrelevant. Instead, the text indicates that use of specific software is required to view certain artworks from this period and that the discontinuation of the software renders the works inaccessible.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 7b4dde72

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 7b4dde72

In 1891, design artist William Morris cofounded the Kelmscott Press, which printed editions of books using preindustrial methods. Historians argue that Morris's repudiation of industrialization is \_\_\_\_\_ the Kelmscott editions' use of handmade materials and intricate ornamentation reminiscent of medieval manuscripts: these meticulously handcrafted elements exemplify the artistry involved.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. insensible to
- B. manifest in
- C. scrutinized by
- D. complicated by

## ID: 7b4dde72 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the Kelmscott Press's books. In this context, "manifest in" means evident or apparent from. The text states that the Kelmscott Press, which was cofounded by William Morris, produced its books using preindustrial methods. The text notes the similarity between those methods, which include the use of handmade materials and intricate ornamentation, and methods used in the creation of medieval manuscripts. This context suggests that Morris's repudiation of industrialization is apparent from, or manifest in, the methods and materials his company employed.

Choice A is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to suggest that Morris's repudiation of industrialization is "insensible to," or unaware of or lacking perception of, the use of handmade materials and intricate ornamentation in the production of the Kelmscott editions. Instead, the text suggests that the methods and materials used to produce the Kelmscott editions are evidence of Morris's repudiation of industrialization. Choice C is incorrect because it would not make sense to say that Morris's repudiation of industrialization was "scrutinized by," or examined closely by, the Kelmscott editions' use of handmade materials and intricate ornamentation. Although creating the Kelmscott editions may have involved examining the books closely, the text does not mention this aspect of Morris's work, and in any case, the action of using certain materials to create those editions cannot scrutinize Morris's attitude toward industrialization. Choice D is incorrect because the text gives no indication that Morris's repudiation of industrialization is "complicated by," or made more complex or difficult by, the Kelmscott Press's use of preindustrial methods and handcrafted elements to produce books. Instead, the text presents those methods as exemplifying Morris's repudiation of industrialization.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c8a2af72

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: c8a2af72

## Text 1

French Impressionist artist Edgar Degas insisted that his paintings be kept in their original frames after they were sold. Like many Impressionist painters, Degas used painted frames that stood in contrast to the gold frames frequently seen at the Paris Salon, a prestigious art exhibition that was sponsored by the French government and promoted traditional painting styles. Impressionist painters likely chose these colorful frames to distinguish themselves from what was considered conventional at the time.

## Text 2

Impressionist painters often focused on the interplay of color and light in their works. As such, those Impressionists who placed their works in painted frames instead of the more traditional gold ones did so for aesthetic reasons: a frame's color was likely chosen because it would harmonize with the colors or subjects in a painting. Gold, conversely, could distract from the subtleties in a painted scene.

Based on the texts, both authors would most likely agree with which statement?

- A. Gold frames were considered especially desirable by those who purchased works from Impressionist painters.
- B. The colors in an Impressionist painting were often chosen to complement the colors of the frame it would be placed in.
- C. Many Impressionist painters were intentional about the frames they selected for their works.
- D. Degas's preferred framing style was different from that of most Impressionist painters.

ID: c8a2af72 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents the statement about the use of painted frames in Impressionist painting that both authors would be most likely to agree with. Text 1 discusses painter Edgar Degas's insistence that his works remain in their original painted frames, which contrasted with the gold frames that were typical of the Paris art scene at the time. The text then argues that the preference of Degas and other French Impressionist painters for colorful frames can likely be attributed to their desire "to distinguish themselves from what was considered conventional at the time." Text 2 also notes that Impressionist painters "placed their works in painted frames" but argues that they probably did so for a purely aesthetic reason: to ensure that "the frame's color...would harmonize with the colors or subjects in a painting." Though differing on Impressionist painters' rationale for using painted frames, the authors of both texts would agree that many Impressionist painters were intentional about the frames they selected for their works.

Choice A is incorrect because neither text suggests that gold frames were considered desirable by those purchasing Impressionist works. Indeed, it can be inferred from the fact that Impressionist painters used painted frames that those who purchased those works wouldn't have had a strong preference for gold frames. Choice B is incorrect because neither text suggests that Impressionist painters chose colors for their paintings based on planned frame colors. Indeed, Text 2 states that frame colors were chosen to "harmonize with the colors or subjects in a painting," implying that the color scheme of paintings predated and took precedence over the choice of the colors of frames. Choice D is incorrect because Text 1 presents Degas's preference for painted frames as being typical of Impressionist painters' attitudes toward the framing of their works. Moreover, although Text 2 doesn't specifically discuss Degas, it concurs with Text 1's assertion that these painters preferred painted frames. Thus, both texts position painted frames as a hallmark of French Impressionist painting, not as a deviation from it.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a60b0004

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: a60b0004

Scholarly discussions of gender in Shakespeare's comedies often celebrate the rebellion of the playwright's characters against the rigid expectations \_\_\_\_\_ by Elizabethan society. Most of the comedies end in marriage, with characters returning to their socially dictated gender roles after previously defying them, but there are some notable exceptions.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. interjected
- B. committed
- C. illustrated
- D. prescribed

## ID: a60b0004 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of gender roles in Shakespeare's comedies. As used in this context, "prescribed" would mean laid down as rules. The text indicates that the characters in the comedies often defy gender roles that are "socially dictated" (even if most characters do return to those roles eventually) and that scholars have been very interested in these acts of defiance. This context indicates that what the characters are rebelling against are standards of behavior prescribed by the society of the time.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that expectations about gender were "interjected," or suddenly inserted between other things, wouldn't make sense in context. There's no suggestion in the text that the issue of gender roles was inserted between other things or was an interruption in a larger discussion. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that Shakespeare depicts characters rebelling against expectations about gender that have been "socially dictated," not expectations that society has "committed," or carried out, entrusted, or promised. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that Shakespeare depicts characters rebelling against expectations about gender that have been "socially dictated," not expectations that have been "illustrated," or clarified with examples. Although it's possible for expectations about gender roles to be illustrated, there's nothing in the text to indicate that characters in Shakespeare's comedies rebel against illustrations of gender expectations.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 03080769

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: 03080769

## Text 1

Philosopher G.E. Moore's most influential work entails the concept of common sense. He asserts that there are certain beliefs that all people, including philosophers, know instinctively to be true, whether or not they profess otherwise: among them, that they have bodies, or that they exist in a world with other objects that have three dimensions. Moore's careful work on common sense may seem obvious but was in fact groundbreaking.

## Text 2

External world skepticism is a philosophical stance supposing that we cannot be sure of the existence of anything outside our own minds. During a lecture, G.E. Moore once offered a proof refuting this stance by holding out his hands and saying, "Here is one hand, and here is another." Many philosophers reflexively reject this proof (Annalisa Coliva called it "an obviously annoying failure") but have found it a challenge to articulate exactly why the proof fails.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 1 most likely respond to proponents of the philosophical stance outlined in Text 2?

- By agreeing with those proponents that Moore's treatment of positions that contradict his own is fundamentally A. unserious
- By suggesting that an instinctive distaste for Moore's position is preventing external world skeptics from constructing a B. sufficiently rigorous refutation of Moore
- By arguing that if it is valid to assert that some facts are true based on instinct, it is also valid to assert that some proofs C. are inadequate based on instinct
- By pointing out that Moore would assert that external world skepticism is at odds with other beliefs those proponents D. must unavoidably hold

ID: 03080769 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. According to the author of Text 1, Moore's definition of common sense—things we instinctively know are true—includes the belief that we all "exist in a world with other objects." The author of Text 1 describes this notion as both "obvious" and "groundbreaking." So it's safe to infer that the author would observe that Moore would respond to external world skeptics by arguing that since everyone instinctively knows that things exist outside of their own minds, then external world skepticism must be wrong.

Choice A is incorrect. We can't infer that the author of Text 1 would respond this way to external world skeptics. If anything, the author of Text 1 seems to agree with Moore. Choice B is incorrect. We can't infer that the author of Text 1 would respond this way to external world skeptics. The author of Text 1 never mentions external world skeptics directly, let alone why they have a hard time refuting Moore's position. Choice C is incorrect. We can't infer that the author of Text 1 would respond this way to external world skeptics. Text 1's presentation of Moore's concept of common sense only includes the idea that some facts are true based on instinct—it doesn't mention the idea that some proofs are inadequate based on instinct.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 749f3334

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

**ID: 749f3334**

The following text is from Charlotte Forten Grimké's 1888 poem "At Newport."

Oh, deep delight to watch the gladsome waves  
Exultant leap upon the rugged rocks;  
Ever repulsed, yet ever rushing on—  
Filled with a life that will not know defeat;  
To see the glorious hues of sky and sea.  
The distant snowy sails, glide spirit like,  
Into an unknown world, to feel the sweet  
Enchantment of the sea thrill all the soul,  
Clearing the clouded brain, making the heart  
Leap joyous as it own bright, singing waves!

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It portrays the surroundings as an imposing and intimidating scene.
- B. It characterizes the sea's waves as a relentless and enduring force.
- C. It conveys the speaker's ambivalence about the natural world.
- D. It draws a contrast between the sea's waves and the speaker's thoughts.

**ID: 749f3334 Answer**

**Correct Answer: B**

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The text presents the speaker's experience of viewing the sea. In the underlined portion, the speaker focuses on the idea that the waves hitting rocks on the shore are a relentless and enduring force: they are constantly pushed back ("ever repulsed") but always return ("ever rushing on"), as though they have an energy that can't be overcome ("a life that will not know defeat").

Choice A is incorrect. Although the underlined portion characterizes the waves as a relentless force (always "repulsed" but still "rushing on" and never being defeated), the speaker doesn't suggest that the surroundings are intimidating. Instead, the speaker presents the scene in a positive way, describing the "deep delight" of the "gladsome," or cheerful, waves and feeling "the heart / Leap joyous" while viewing the sea. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn't suggest that the speaker is ambivalent, or has mixed feelings about, the natural world. Instead, it presents a single view of one part of the immediate surroundings: the speaker characterizes the sea's waves as an unstoppable force, since they are constantly pushed back but always return ("ever repulsed, yet ever rushing on"). Choice D is incorrect. Although the text later suggests the speaker's view of her own thoughts by referring to a "clouded brain" and a heart that leaps joyously, this reference neither occurs within the underlined portion nor establishes a clear contrast with the relentless determination of the waves. The underlined portion addresses only the speaker's view of the waves and doesn't suggest what her own thoughts might be.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID fce80a36

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: fce80a36

In 2008 a complete set of ancient *pessoi* (glass game pieces) was uncovered from beneath a paving stone in modern-day Israel. Due to their small size, *pessoi* were easily misplaced, making a whole set a rare find. This has led some experts to suggest that the set may have been buried intentionally; however, without clear evidence, archaeologists are left to \_\_\_\_\_ what happened.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. speculate about
- B. dismiss
- C. expand on
- D. catalog

## ID: fce80a36 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Speculate" means "to form a theory or guess without any clear evidence." This makes sense because, due to the lack of "clear evidence," the archaeologists can only guess how the *pessoi* set might have come to be there.

Choice B is incorrect. "Dismiss" can mean "send away" or "treat as unworthy of consideration." The text implies that the archaeologists are trying to figure out the truth—they wouldn't "dismiss" what really happened. Choice C is incorrect. "Expand on" means "give more details about," but there aren't any details to give. Without any "clear evidence," the archaeologists can't give any more details. Choice D is incorrect. "Catalog" means "carefully record" or "make a list of." However, there's no "clear evidence," so there's no real information to "catalog."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e4e2aeb3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: e4e2aeb3

## Text 1

Like the work of Ralph Ellison before her, Toni Morrison's novels feature scenes in which characters deliver sermons of such length and verbal dexterity that for a time, the text exchanges the formal parameters of fiction for those of oral literature. Given the many other echoes of Ellison in Morrison's novels, both in structure and prose style, these scenes suggest Ellison's direct influence on Morrison.

## Text 2

In their destabilizing effect on literary form, the sermons in Morrison's works recall those in Ellison's. Yet literature by Black Americans abounds in moments where interpolated speech erodes the division between oral and written forms that literature in English has traditionally observed. Morrison's use of the sermon is attributable not only to the influence of Ellison but also to a community-wide strategy of resistance to externally imposed literary conventions.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely characterize the underlined claim in Text 1?

As failing to consider Ellison's and Morrison's equivalent uses of the sermon within the wider cultural context in which

A. they wrote

B. As misunderstanding the function of sermons in novels by Black American writers other than Ellison and Morrison

C. As disregarding points of structural and stylistic divergence between the works of Ellison and those of Morrison

As being indebted to the tradition of resisting literary conventions that privilege written forms, such as novels, over

D. sermons and other oral forms

ID: e4e2aeb3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The author of Text 2 argues that Morrison's use of the sermon is not only influenced by Ellison, but also by a "community-wide strategy of resistance" to literary conventions practiced by Black American authors. Ellison, Text 2 alleges, is only one of many influences on Morrison.

Choice B is incorrect. Neither text specifically mentions sermons in works by authors other than Morrison or Ellison, only a tendency towards eroding "the division between oral and written forms" among Black American writers. Choice C is incorrect. Both texts describe similarities between the works of Ellison and Morrison, and neither points out instances of divergence. Text 2 simply suggests that Morrison was influenced by more than just Ellison. Choice D is incorrect. While Text 2 does discuss Morrison's resistance to certain literary conventions, it's unclear what it would mean for the underlined claim to be "indebted" to that tradition. This choice recycles language from the text, but not in a way that makes any coherent point.

Question Difficulty: Hard

# Question ID 6a1dc7c5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: 6a1dc7c5

## Text 1

Virginia Woolf's 1928 novel *Orlando* is an oddity within her body of work. Her other major novels consist mainly of scenes of everyday life and describe their characters' interior states in great detail, whereas *Orlando* propels itself through a series of fantastical events and considers its characters' psychology more superficially. Woolf herself sometimes regarded the novel as a minor work, even admitting once that she "began it as a joke."

## Text 2

Like Woolf's other great novels, *Orlando* portrays how people's memories inform their experience of the present. Like those works, it examines how people navigate social interactions shaped by gender and social class. Though it is lighter in tone—more entertaining, even—this literary "joke" nonetheless engages seriously with the themes that motivated the four or five other novels by Woolf that have achieved the status of literary classics.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the assessment of *Orlando* presented in Text 1?

By conceding that Woolf's talents were best suited to serious novels but asserting that the humor in *Orlando* is often  
A. effective

By agreeing that *Orlando* is less impressive than certain other novels by Woolf but arguing that it should still be regarded  
B. as a classic

By acknowledging that *Orlando* clearly differs from Woolf's other major novels but insisting on its centrality to her body of  
C. work nonetheless

By concurring that the reputation of *Orlando* as a minor work has led readers to overlook this novel but maintaining that  
D. the reputation is unearned

ID: 6a1dc7c5 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it reflects how the author of Text 2 would most likely respond to the assessment of *Orlando* in Text 1. Both authors agree that *Orlando* is unusual for Woolf: Text 1 states that the novel examines its characters' psychologies more superficially than Woolf's other novels do, and Text 2 describes it as being lighter in tone. However, while Text 1 calls *Orlando* an "oddity" and mentions that Woolf "began it as a joke," Text 2 asserts that *Orlando* engages the same themes as Woolf's other great novels. Hence, the author of Text 2 would most likely accept that *Orlando* differs from Woolf's other novels but would also insist on its importance in the context of Woolf's work as a writer.

Choice A is incorrect. Text 2 does suggest that the humor in *Orlando* is effective. However, there's nothing in Text 2 to suggest that the author would agree that Woolf's talents were best suited to serious novels. Rather, the author of Text 2 compares *Orlando* favorably to other novels by Woolf that are implied to be darker in tone. Choice B is incorrect because the author of Text 2 does not indicate that *Orlando* is less impressive than Woolf's other novels, but instead points out that it engages the same themes as other novels by Woolf that are considered classics. Choice D is incorrect because there's nothing in Text 1 or Text 2 to suggest that readers have generally ignored *Orlando* because of its reputation.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5dce6cab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 5dce6cab

Given that the conditions in binary star systems should make planetary formation nearly impossible, it's not surprising that the existence of planets in such systems has lacked \_\_\_\_\_ explanation. Roman Rafikov and Kedron Silsbee shed light on the subject when they used modeling to determine a complex set of factors that could support planets' development.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. a discernible
- B. a straightforward
- C. an inconclusive
- D. an unbiased

## ID: 5dce6cab Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's description of efforts to explain the existence of planets in binary star systems. As used in this context, describing an explanation as "a straightforward" one would mean that the explanation is direct and uncomplicated. The text asserts that since it should be "nearly impossible" for planets to form in binary star systems, it's "not surprising" that there isn't a straightforward explanation for the existence of planets in such systems; the fact that one potential approach involves "complex" factors offers further contextual support for this idea.

Choice A is incorrect because it would not make sense in context to say that there isn't "a discernible" explanation—meaning an explanation capable of being perceived—for the existence of planets in binary star systems. The text discusses just such an explanation offered by Roman Rafikov and Kedron Silsbee, which indicates that their explanation can be discerned. Choice C is incorrect because the text emphasizes how difficult it is to explain the existence of planets in binary star systems, suggesting that the situation isn't marked by the lack of "an inconclusive" explanation—an explanation that does not resolve the issue—but rather that if any explanations have been offered, they've likely been inconclusive ones. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that there is a lack of "an unbiased," or impartial and unprejudiced, explanation for the existence of planets in binary star systems. The text indicates that it's difficult to explain the existence of planets in such systems and it describes one attempt to do so, but there is no evidence that explanations from Roman Rafikov and Kedron Silsbee or others are biased.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d4e8662d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: d4e8662d

The percentage of US forest land that a 2023 federal report identified as being either mature or old growth exceeds other recent estimates. Given how little \_\_\_\_\_ there is among scientists regarding the scope of these categories, this discrepancy shouldn't be surprising: forest researchers regularly dispute one another's classifications.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. deliberation
- B. vigilance
- C. interest
- D. consensus

## ID: d4e8662d Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of US forest land classifications. In this context, "consensus" means agreement. The text indicates that a percentage given in a US forest land report differs from other estimates and that this discrepancy isn't surprising, given that forest researchers regularly dispute one another's classifications of parts of US forest land as either mature or old growth. This context conveys that there is little agreement when it comes to these categories.

Choice A is incorrect because the text states that there is often dispute among forest researchers about classifications of US forest land as either mature or old growth, which directly indicates that when it comes to these categories, there is much "deliberation," or discussion and consideration, not little deliberation. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that there is often dispute among forest researchers about classifications of US forest land as either mature or old growth; this doesn't imply that there is little "vigilance," or careful attention, among researchers when it comes to these categories but rather conveys that researchers do pay attention to forest land classifications and question one another's decisions. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that there is often dispute among forest researchers about classifications of US forest land as either mature or old growth; this doesn't imply that there is little "interest," or concern, among researchers when it comes to these categories but rather conveys that researchers are concerned with forest land classifications and pay attention to one another's classifications.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f99847ed

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: f99847ed

For her 2021 art installation *Anthem*, Wu Tsang joined forces with singer and composer Beverly Glenn-Copeland to produce a piece that critics found truly \_\_\_\_: they praised Tsang for creatively transforming a museum rotunda into a dynamic exhibit by projecting filmed images of Glenn-Copeland onto a massive 84-foot curtain and filling the space with the sounds of his and other voices singing.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. restrained
- B. inventive
- C. inexplicable
- D. mystifying

ID: f99847ed Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the art installation *Anthem*. In this context, "inventive" means characterized by invention and creativity. The text explains that critics' responses to the installation involved praise for Tsang's creative transformation of a space into a dynamic exhibit with huge images and lots of sound. This context conveys that the critics found the piece particularly creative.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that critics praised the installation for being dynamic and including huge images and lots of sound, and it wouldn't make sense to describe such an exhibit as "restrained," or limited and not extravagant or showy. Choice C is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that critics found the installation "inexplicable," or incapable of being explained or interpreted, since the critics were able to explain their praise for the installation's transformation of a space with huge images and lots of sound. Choice D is incorrect because the text focuses on the idea that critics praised Tsang for creatively transforming a space into a dynamic exhibit, not that they found the installation "mystifying," or bewildering and hard to understand. Nothing in the text suggests that the critics couldn't understand the piece.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5e101c70

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

**ID: 5e101c70**

## Text 1

Most animals can regenerate some parts of their bodies, such as skin. But when a three-banded panther worm is cut into three pieces, each piece grows into a new worm. Researchers are investigating this feat partly to learn more about humans' comparatively limited abilities to regenerate, and they're making exciting progress. An especially promising discovery is that both humans and panther worms have a gene for early growth response (EGR) linked to regeneration.

## Text 2

When Mansi Srivastava and her team reported that panther worms, like humans, possess a gene for EGR, it caused excitement. However, as the team pointed out, the gene likely functions very differently in humans than it does in panther worms. Srivastava has likened EGR to a switch that activates other genes involved in regeneration in panther worms, but how this switch operates in humans remains unclear.

Based on the texts, what would the author of Text 2 most likely say about Text 1's characterization of the discovery involving EGR?

- It is reasonable given that Srivastava and her team have identified how EGR functions in both humans and panther worms.
- B. It is overly optimistic given additional observations from Srivastava and her team.
- C. It is unexpected given that Srivastava and her team's findings were generally met with enthusiasm.
- D. It is unfairly dismissive given the progress that Srivastava and her team have reported.

**ID: 5e101c70 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it reflects how the author of Text 2 would most likely respond to Text 1 based on the information provided. Text 1 discusses the discovery of a regeneration-linked gene, EGR, in both three-banded panther worms (which are capable of full regeneration) and humans (who have relatively limited regeneration abilities). Text 1 characterizes this discovery as “especially promising” and a sign of “exciting progress” in understanding human regeneration. The author of Text 2, on the other hand, focuses on the fact that the team that reported the EGR finding pointed out that while EGR’s function in humans isn’t yet known, it’s likely very different from its function in panther worms.

Therefore, the author of Text 2 would most likely say that Text 1’s enthusiasm about the EGR discovery is overly optimistic given Srivastava’s team’s observations about EGR in humans.

Choice A is incorrect because the author of Text 2 explains that Srivastava and her team explicitly reported that they haven’t yet identified how EGR functions in humans; therefore, the author of Text 2 wouldn’t say that Text 1’s excitement is reasonable for the stated reason. Instead, the author of Text 2 would likely characterize Text 1’s excitement as premature and overly optimistic. Choice C is incorrect because Text 1 does treat Srivastava’s team’s findings with enthusiasm; it describes the discovery of EGR in both three-banded panther worms and humans as promising and exciting. It would be illogical for the author of Text 2 to say that because most others treat the discovery with enthusiasm, Text 1’s enthusiastic characterization of the discovery is unexpected. Choice D is incorrect because Text 1 isn’t at all dismissive of Srivastava’s team’s findings; instead, Text 1 is optimistic about the EGR discovery, characterizing it as promising and exciting. There’s nothing in Text 2 to suggest that the author of Text 2 would say that Text 1’s praise for the discovery is dismissive, or disdainful.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID df45f0eb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: df45f0eb

Several studies have found negligible electoral consequences for governments that impose fiscal austerity measures, yet some European governments recently suffered electorally due to their austerity programs. Evelyne Huebscher and colleagues attribute this incongruity to governments' tendency—not followed in the recent European cases—to implement austerity programs strategically to avoid electoral costs (e.g., setting spending cuts to take effect only after the next election), which has obscured the inherent political risks of austerity measures in the election data scholars have examined.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

It explains a discrepancy between what has been observed in study settings and what has been observed in real-world

- A. settings that the text goes on to assert is attributable to the studies not using real-world data.

It identifies a conflict between research findings and recent events that the text goes on to suggest is a consequence of a

- B. complicating factor in the data used to generate those findings.

It presents a long-standing divergence in research findings that the text goes on to say is due to different groups of

- C. researchers using data that derive from different electoral circumstances.

It describes a recent exception to a general pattern in research findings that the text goes on to explain is a result of

- D. researchers underestimating the significance of inconsistencies in the data they've analyzed.

## ID: df45f0eb Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The underlined sentence explains that contrary to what several studies would suggest, recent European governments suffered electorally after the launch of fiscal austerity programs. The text goes on to indicate that the researchers generated their findings from data that didn't reveal the true political risk of austerity measures because the data were based on cases in which governments had set austerity programs to take effect after the next election, a practice the European governments that recently suffered electorally didn't adhere to, thus introducing a complicating factor resulting in a conflict between the research findings and recent events.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn't indicate that the discrepancy described in the text is between observations made in study settings and observations made in real-world settings. Rather, the underlined sentence indicates that the outcome of recent events is contrary to what would be expected based on the findings of several studies.

Additionally, there is nothing in the text to suggest that the studies mentioned did not use real-world data; instead, the text indicates that the data used was generated under potentially different circumstances than the recent events. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn't present a long-standing divergence in research findings but rather a discrepancy between past research findings and recent events that the text goes on to attribute to researchers' use of data that didn't reveal the true political risk of austerity measures. Choice D is incorrect because while the underlined sentence notes that there have been some recent exceptions to a general pattern observed in several research studies, it does not go on to attribute this exception to the researchers underestimating inconsistencies in the data. Rather, the text goes on to attribute this to a circumstance (fiscal austerity measures being implemented before an election rather than after) which adds a complicating factor into the data not accounted for in past studies.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2d77660e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 2d77660e

In the late 1800s, Spanish-language newspapers flourished in cities across Texas. San Antonio alone produced eleven newspapers in Spanish between 1890 and 1900. But El Paso surpassed all other cities in the state. This city produced twenty-two newspapers in Spanish during that period. El Paso is located on the border with Mexico and has always had a large population of Spanish speakers. Thus, it is unsurprising that this city became such a rich site for Spanish-language journalism.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To compare Spanish-language newspapers published in Texas today with ones published there during the late 1800s
- B. To explain that Spanish-language newspapers thrived in Texas and especially in El Paso during the late 1800s
  - To argue that Spanish-language newspapers published in El Paso influenced the ones published in San Antonio during
- C. the late 1800s
- D. To explain why Spanish-language newspapers published in Texas were so popular in Mexico during the late 1800s

## ID: 2d77660e Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The text begins by stating that there were many Spanish-language newspapers in cities across Texas in the late 1800s, citing San Antonio as a city that produced eleven such newspapers. The text then goes on to note that in El Paso, there were twenty-two newspapers published in Spanish in the late 1800s, more than any other Texas city. The text then concludes by explaining that the reason for this large number of Spanish-language newspapers was likely El Paso's location near Mexico and its large population of Spanish speakers. Therefore, the main purpose of the text is to explain that Spanish-language newspapers thrived in Texas cities, especially in El Paso, in the late 1800s.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss Spanish-language newspapers published in Texas today, let alone compare them with newspapers that were published in the 1800s. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text characterizes El Paso as a particularly rich site for Spanish-language journalism in the late 1800s, the text doesn't discuss whether newspapers published in El Paso influenced the newspapers published in other cities across Texas, including San Antonio. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't mention whether Spanish-language newspapers published in Texas were also widely read in Mexico. The text only focuses on the popularity of Spanish-language newspapers within Texas, and especially in El Paso.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 12d81fc1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: 12d81fc1

## Text 1

Because literacy in Nahuatl script, the writing system of the Aztec Empire, was lost after Spain invaded central Mexico in the 1500s, it is unclear exactly how meaning was encoded in the script's symbols. Although many scholars had assumed that the symbols signified entire words, linguist Alfonso Lacadena theorized in 2008 that they signified units of language smaller than words: individual syllables.

## Text 2

The growing consensus among scholars of Nahuatl script is that many of its symbols could signify either words or syllables, depending on syntax and content at any given site within a text. For example, the symbol signifying the word *huipil* (blouse) in some contexts could signify the syllable "pil" in others, as in the place name "Chipiltepec." Thus, for the Aztecs, reading required a determination of how such symbols functioned each time they appeared in a text.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely characterize Lacadena's theory, as described in Text 1?

- A. By praising the theory for recognizing that the script's symbols could represent entire words
- B. By arguing that the theory is overly influenced by the work of earlier scholars
- C. By approving of the theory's emphasis on how the script changed over time
- D. By cautioning that the theory overlooks certain important aspects of how the script functioned

ID: 12d81fc1 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Lacadena's theory is that Nahuatl script symbols signified syllables, but the consensus described in Text 2 is that they can signify either symbols or full words, depending on the context. So the author of Text 2 would likely consider Lacadena's theory too simplistic: it's missing the importance of the context in determining the meaning of a symbol.

Choice A is incorrect. This conflicts with Text 1's description of Lacadena's theory. Lacadena's theory is that Nahuatl script symbols signified syllables. Choice B is incorrect. This conflicts with Text 1's description of Lacadena's theory. Text 1 states that Lacadena's theory differed from what earlier scholars believed. Choice C is incorrect. We can't infer that this is how the author of Text 2 would characterize Lacadena's theory. Neither text mentions how or even if the script changed over time.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID af43b0bd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: af43b0bd

Researchers have long hypothesized that woolly mammoths were hunted to extinction in North America by humans using spears with grooved tips known as Clovis points. One anthropologist set out to test this hypothesis. Using a mechanical spear-thrower, he launched spears with Clovis points into mounds of clay—substitutes for the animals' large bodies. The projectiles generally penetrated only a few inches into the clay, an amount insufficient to have harmed most woolly mammoths. This led the anthropologist to conclude that hunters using spears with Clovis points likely weren't the principal drivers of the extinction.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To argue for the significance of new findings amid an ongoing debate among researchers
- B. To discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the method used in an experiment
- C. To summarize two competing hypotheses and a major finding associated with each one
- D. To describe an experiment whose results cast doubt on an established hypothesis

## ID: af43b0bd Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main purpose of the text, which is to describe an experiment whose results cast doubt on an established hypothesis. The text begins by noting that researchers have long believed that woolly mammoths were hunted to extinction in North America by humans using spears with Clovis points. The text then describes an experiment conducted by an anthropologist to test this hypothesis. According to the text, the results of the experiment led the anthropologist to conclude that hunters using spears with Clovis points likely weren't the primary cause of the extinction. The anthropologist's results cast doubt on the long-held hypothesis presented at the beginning of the text and suggest that woolly mammoths may have become extinct in North America due to some other cause.

Choice A is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that researchers have been involved in an ongoing debate. On the contrary, the text suggests that most researchers agree on the cause of the woolly mammoth's extinction in North America. Choice B is incorrect because the text never mentions any advantages or disadvantages of the method used in the experiment, focusing instead on the results achieved using that method. Choice C is incorrect because the text addresses only one hypothesis, that mammoths were hunted to extinction in North America by humans using spears with Clovis points. Rather than present a competing hypothesis, the text explains how one anthropologist designed an experiment to test this long-held hypothesis.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5127fc1e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 5127fc1e

The north celestial pole (NCP)—the fixed point around which stars in the Northern Hemisphere (including the Sun) appear to rotate—is discernible only at night. Inspired by the navigational strategies of some insects and birds, researchers devised a method for locating the NCP in daytime using skylight polarization, which occurs as atmospheric particles scatter sunlight. A polarimetric camera captures images of polarization patterns, which rotate as the Sun's position in the sky changes; temporal variances across images can then be used to determine an observer's latitude and bearing relative to the NCP.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

It illustrates how most navigational tools utilize the NCP, recounts how researchers discovered that certain animals are able to navigate without using the NCP, and then proposes that this discovery could be used to avoid problems in  
A. navigation associated with reliance on the NCP.

It presents a celestial-based method of navigation, enumerates the comparative benefits of an alternative method used by certain animals that is based on an unrelated natural occurrence, and then indicates how researchers assessed the  
B. relative accuracy of the two methods.

It explains how the NCP is typically located, emphasizes a key difference between how humans and certain animals use the NCP for navigation, and then suggests an alternative way of using the NCP to improve existing navigational  
C. instruments.

It notes an obstacle to observing an astronomical phenomenon, mentions a navigational ability of certain animals that  
D. inspired a solution to that obstacle, and then explains how researchers used an optical device to mimic that ability.

## ID: 5127fc1e Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it accurately describes the overall structure of the text. The text begins by pointing out an obstacle to observing the astronomical phenomenon of the NCP: the NCP is visible only at night. The text then indicates that, inspired by the ability of some insects and birds to navigate using visualizations of polarized sunlight, researchers devised a way to locate the NCP during daylight. The text then indicates that the researchers mimicked the insects' and birds' polarized-light visualization capabilities using a polarimetric camera. Thus, the text notes an obstacle to observing an astronomical phenomenon, mentions a navigational ability of certain animals that inspired a solution to that obstacle, and then explains how researchers used an optical device to mimic that ability.

Choice A is incorrect. Although it's reasonable to conjecture that humans have used the NCP for navigation, the text doesn't indicate this is the case, let alone that the NCP is relevant to a majority of navigational tools. Furthermore, the text doesn't state that researchers discovered that insects and birds navigate without the NCP; rather, it indicates that it's known that some animals navigate by using skylight polarization to locate the NCP during the day and that this knowledge inspired the method the researchers devised. Choice B is incorrect. Although it's reasonable to conjecture that humans have used the NCP for navigation, the text doesn't state that this is the case. Furthermore, the text discusses how some animals' use of navigational strategies based on the same celestial occurrence served as the inspiration for the researchers' polarized-light approach, not as the basis for a comparison of the relative effectiveness of animal and human methods of navigation. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text implies that humans have typically been able to locate the NCP visually at night and indicates that some animals use the NCP to navigate, the text doesn't state that humans use the NCP for navigation. The text therefore doesn't emphasize a difference between how humans and animals use the NCP for this purpose. Furthermore, the text doesn't suggest that existing navigational instruments will be augmented with polarimetric technologies.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 6ae393f7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 6ae393f7

Asteroid 6478 Gault has experienced intermittent mass loss since at least 2013, but in contrast to some other asteroids with repeated mass-loss episodes, 6478 Gault has not lost mass at its perihelion (the closest point of its orbit to the Sun), and thus the loss is not attributable to solar energy–driven ice vaporization. And as Jane X. Luu et al. point out, the singular nature of impact ejection makes it untenable as an account of multiple loss episodes of similar duration over several years. Instead, Luu et al. are likely correct that 6478 Gault is shedding mass due to rotational instability.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

It presents a scientific observation, describes a contrast between that observation and other observations, and then

- A. explains why those other observations should not be considered credible.

It describes an astronomical finding, discusses competing theories about that finding that the author regards as flawed,

- B. and then describes new evidence that supports an alternative theory.

It introduces a natural phenomenon, refutes two potential explanations for that phenomenon, and then presents a third

- C. explanation for that phenomenon that the author regards as plausible.

It discusses a physical process, evaluates possible causes of that process, and then states that a persuasive account of

- D. the process has yet to be put forward.

## ID: 6ae393f7 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall structure of the text. The text begins by introducing the natural phenomenon of intermittent mass loss with regard to Asteroid 6478 Gault and notes that it curiously has not lost mass at its perihelion like other asteroids typically do. The text then refutes "solar energy–driven ice vaporization" and "the singular nature of impact ejection" as two possible explanations for Asteroid 6478 Gault's intermittent mass loss. Finally, the text presents Luu et al.'s explanation that "6478 Gault is shedding mass due to rotational instability," which the author says is "likely correct." Thus, the overall structure of the text is that it introduces a natural phenomenon, refutes two potential explanations for that phenomenon, and then presents a third explanation for that phenomenon that the author regards as plausible.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't distinguish between multiple observations. It focuses on the single observation that Asteroid 6478 Gault is losing mass and evaluates multiple explanations for the phenomenon. The text also asserts that Luu et al.'s explanation is credible and "likely correct." Choice B is incorrect because the text describes a natural phenomenon, not a specific astronomical finding. In addition, although the text does note flawed reasons for Asteroid 6478 Gault's intermittent mass loss, it doesn't mention that Asteroid 6478 Gault's intermittent mass loss is based on new evidence. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text does evaluate explanations for the cause of Asteroid 6478 Gault's intermittent mass loss, the text also asserts that Luu et al.'s explanation that they have put forth is persuasive and "likely correct."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID e4f312c5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: e4f312c5

While most animals are incapable of passing somatic mutations—genetic alterations that arise in an organism's nonreproductive cells—on to their offspring, elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*) presents an intriguing \_\_\_\_: in a 2022 study, researchers found that elkhorn coral produced offspring that inherited somatic mutations from a parent.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. hypothesis
- B. affinity
- C. anomaly
- D. corroboration

## ID: e4f312c5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. An "anomaly" is something that deviates from norms or expectations. In this case, the elkhorn coral is an anomaly because it can pass on somatic mutations, whereas most other animals can't.

Choice A is incorrect. A "hypothesis" is "a theory about something," but no theories are provided about elkhorn coral in this text, just facts. Choice B is incorrect. "Affinity" represents "an inclination or liking toward something." As genetic mutations tend to occur without any conscious effort, you can't really have an inclination toward passing on somatic mutations. Choice D is incorrect. "Corroboration" means "evidence to support or prove something." Because elkhorn coral do the opposite of what most animals do, they do not provide corroboration of the theory that somatic mutations can't be passed onto offspring. Rather, they show the opposite.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID e37b9e34

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: e37b9e34

Some researchers believe that the genes that enable groundhogs and certain other mammals to hibernate through the winter by slowing their breathing and heart rates and lowering their body temperature may be \_\_\_\_\_ in humans: present yet having essentially no effect on our bodily processes.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. decisive
- B. lacking
- C. variable
- D. dormant

## ID: e37b9e34 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it logically completes the text's discussion about genes related to hibernation. In this context, "dormant" means inactive. The text explains that the same genes that enable certain nonhuman mammal species to hibernate during the winter by altering their bodily processes are also found in our species but have "essentially no effect" on humans' bodily processes. In other words, these genes don't function in humans.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "decisive" means has the power to affect the outcome of something, but the text states that genes related to hibernation are instead inactive in humans—that is, the genes don't affect humans' bodily processes, although they are present in their bodies. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "lacking" means missing, but the text states that the genes are present in humans, though inactive. Choice C is incorrect because "variable" means characterized by the potential to change, but the text indicates that these genes don't change in their effect on humans' bodily processes; instead, the genes are consistently inactive in humans.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f0ae0da3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-text Connections	

ID: f0ae0da3

## Text 1

When companies in the same industry propose merging with one another, they often claim that the merger will benefit consumers by increasing efficiency and therefore lowering prices. Economist Ying Fan investigated this notion in the context of the United States newspaper market. She modeled a hypothetical merger of Minneapolis-area newspapers and found that subscription prices would rise following a merger.

## Text 2

Economists Dario Focarelli and Fabio Panetta have argued that research on the effect of mergers on prices has focused excessively on short-term effects, which tend to be adverse for consumers. Using the case of consumer banking in Italy, they show that over the long term (several years, in their study), the efficiency gains realized by merged companies do result in economic benefits for consumers.

Based on the texts, how would Focarelli and Panetta (Text 2) most likely respond to Fan's findings (Text 1)?

A. They would recommend that Fan compare the near-term effect of a merger on subscription prices in the Minneapolis area with the effect of a merger in another newspaper market.

B. They would argue that over the long term the expenses incurred by the merged newspaper company will also increase.

C. They would encourage Fan to investigate whether the projected effect on subscription prices persists over an extended period.

D. They would claim that mergers have a different effect on consumer prices in the newspaper industry than in most other industries.

ID: f0ae0da3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because, based on the information presented in the texts, it represents how Focarelli and Panetta would most likely respond to Fan's findings. Text 1 indicates that Fan found that a newspaper merger would result in a rise in subscription prices. This rise wouldn't benefit customers, who would have to pay more for news after a merger. Text 2 presents Focarelli and Panetta's argument that merger research tends to focus too much on what happens immediately after the merger. Text 2 goes on to describe their finding that mergers can be economically beneficial for consumers over the long term. This suggests that Focarelli and Panetta would encourage Fan to investigate the long-term effect of the hypothetical newspaper merger on subscription prices.

Choice A is incorrect because Text 2 doesn't indicate that Focarelli and Panetta connect the effects of mergers to specific locations. Instead, Focarelli and Panetta focus on the length of time over which the effects of mergers should be evaluated. Choice B is incorrect because Text 2 indicates that Focarelli and Panetta found that merged companies experience "efficiency gains" over the long term, meaning that their expenses go down relative to their output, not that their expenses increase. Choice D is incorrect because there's no indication in Text 2 that Focarelli and Panetta believe that the newspaper industry is different from any other industry when it comes to the effects of mergers. Although their own research was about consumer banking, Text 2 suggests that they view their conclusions as applicable to mergers in general.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 54c6128b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 54c6128b

When ancient oak planks were unearthed during subway construction in Rome, Mauro Bernabei and his team examined the growth rings in the wood to determine where these planks came from. By comparing the growth rings on the planks to records of similar rings in oaks from Europe, the team could trace the wood to the Jura region of France, hundreds of kilometers from Rome. Because timber could only have been transported from distant Jura to Rome by boat, the team's findings suggest the complexity of Roman trade routes.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It presents a conclusion about Roman trade routes based on the team's findings.
- B. It questions how the team was able to conclude that the planks were used to build a boat.
- C. It explains why the planks were made from oak rather than a different kind of wood.
- D. It describes common methods used in Roman subway construction.

## ID: 54c6128b Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence explains that Bernabei and his team studied growth rings to obtain information about the ancient oak planks found during a construction project in Rome. The next sentence presents what the researchers learned: the wood from the planks came from France's Jura region, which is far from Rome. The underlined sentence then presents the implications of the findings about the planks: the wood must have been brought to Rome by boat, a difficult task that suggests Roman trade routes were complex. Thus, the underlined sentence mainly functions to present a conclusion about Roman trade routes based on the team's findings.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the team thought the ancient planks were used in the construction of a boat, nor does the underlined sentence question that conclusion. Instead, the text states that the wood could only have been transported from Jura to Rome in a boat. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined sentence simply offers a conclusion drawn from the team's findings about the likely place of origin of the ancient planks; the text never mentions why oak was chosen for the planks instead of other wood. Choice D is incorrect because neither the underlined sentence nor the text as a whole addresses any methods that Romans used in constructing subways. Instead, the underlined sentence offers a conclusion drawn from the team's findings about the likely place of origin of the ancient wooden planks discovered.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 79fe7550

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 79fe7550

Researcher Haesung Jung led a 2020 study showing that individual acts of kindness can \_\_\_\_\_ prosocial behavior across a larger group. Jung and her team found that bystanders who witness a helpful act become more likely to offer help to someone else, and in doing so, can inspire still others to act.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. require
- B. remember
- C. foster
- D. discourage

## ID: 79fe7550 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Jung and her team's study of acts of kindness. In this context, "foster" means encourage or promote the development of. The text indicates that Jung and her team found that seeing a helpful (or prosocial) act makes a bystander more likely to help someone else, which can in turn inspire additional people to help others. That is, the team showed that single acts of kindness can foster additional prosocial acts across a group.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Jung and her team found that single acts of kindness "require," or depend on or make obligatory, broader prosocial (or helpful) behavior across a group. There's no suggestion in the text that individual acts of kindness can only occur if other prosocial acts have already occurred, and the text indicates only that an act of kindness *can* inspire additional helpful acts, not that it necessarily will do so. Choice B is incorrect because the text focuses on a possible direct effect of individual acts of kindness, or single helpful actions, and it wouldn't make sense to suggest that actions can "remember," or hold a memory of, something. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that Jung and her team found that single acts of kindness can "discourage," or hinder, prosocial (or helpful) behavior across a group. On the contrary, the text states that Jung and her team found that seeing a helpful act makes a bystander *more* likely to help someone else, which can in turn inspire even more people to help others.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 0a04cac5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 0a04cac5

The following text is adapted from Jane Austen's 1814 novel *Mansfield Park*. The speaker, Tom, is considering staging a play at home with a group of his friends and family.

We mean nothing but a little amusement among ourselves, just to vary the scene, and exercise our powers in something new. We want no audience, no publicity. We may be trusted, I think, in choosing some play most perfectly unexceptionable; and I can conceive no greater harm or danger to any of us in conversing in the elegant written language of some respectable author than in chattering in words of our own.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To offer Tom's assurance that the play will be inoffensive and involve only a small number of people
- B. To clarify that the play will not be performed in the manner Tom had originally intended
- C. To elaborate on the idea that the people around Tom lack the skills to successfully stage a play
- D. To assert that Tom believes the group performing the play will be able to successfully promote it

## ID: 0a04cac5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately portrays the main purpose of the text. At the beginning of the text, Tom asserts that he and the other people staging the play are doing so only for "a little amusement among ourselves" and aren't interested in attracting an audience or any attention with the production. Then, Tom promises that the play they chose is modest and appropriate, and he further reasons that using the well-written prose of "some respectable author" is better than using their own words. Overall, the main purpose of the text is to convey Tom's promise that the play will be inoffensive and involve only a few people.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that Tom had earlier intentions for the play's performance or that anything has changed since the group first decided to stage a play. Instead, the text focuses on how harmless the entire endeavor will be. Choice C is incorrect. Although Tom mentions that using the words of a "respectable author" will be better than using their own words, he never addresses the idea that the people around him generally aren't skilled enough to stage a play. Choice D is incorrect because in the text Tom specifically says that they "want no audience, no publicity," which indicates that they don't plan on promoting the play at all.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 1fa751f1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 1fa751f1

Handedness, a preferential use of either the right or left hand, typically is easy to observe in humans. Because this trait is present but less \_\_\_\_\_ in many other animals, animal-behavior researchers often employ tasks specially designed to reveal individual animals' preferences for a certain hand or paw.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. recognizable
- B. intriguing
- C. significant
- D. useful

## ID: 1fa751f1 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion about handedness in animals. As used in this context, "recognizable" means apparent or identifiable. The text indicates that handedness is "easy to observe in humans," but that animal-behavior researchers use special tasks to determine handedness in other animals. This context and the use of "less" before the blank indicate that compared with handedness in humans, handedness in other animals is less recognizable.

Choice B is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that handedness is less "intriguing," or fascinating, in nonhuman animals than it is in humans. The text focuses on how easy it is to observe handedness in humans as compared with other animals; the text doesn't suggest that handedness is more fascinating in humans. Choice C is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that handedness is less "significant," or important or meaningful, in nonhuman animals than it is in humans. The text focuses on how easy it is to observe handedness in humans as compared with other animals; the text doesn't suggest that handedness is more significant in humans. Choice D is incorrect because "useful," or functional or helpful, wouldn't make sense in context. The text focuses on the ease with which researchers can determine whether an animal or person is right- or left-handed, not on how useful handedness in nonhuman animals is compared with handedness in humans.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1f2d6173

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 1f2d6173

Scholarly accounts of the Chicano movement—a movement that advocated for the social, political, and cultural empowerment of Mexican Americans and reached its zenith in the 1960s and 1970s—tend to focus on the most militant, outspoken figures in the movement, making it seem uniformly radical. Geographer Juan Herrera has shown, however, that if we shift our focus toward the way the movement manifested in comparatively low-profile neighborhood institutions and projects, we see participants espousing an array of political orientations and approaches to community activism.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- It presents a trend in scholarship on the Chicano movement that the text claims has been reevaluated by researchers in  
A. light of Herrera's work on the movement's participants.
- It identifies an aspect of the Chicano movement that the text implies was overemphasized by scholars due to their own  
B. political orientations.
- It describes a common approach to studying the Chicano movement that, according to the text, obscures the ideological  
C. diversity of the movement's participants.
- It summarizes the conventional method for analyzing the Chicano movement, which the text suggests creates a  
D. misleading impression of the effectiveness of neighborhood institutions and projects.

## ID: 1f2d6173 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The text begins by mentioning scholarly accounts of the Chicano movement, which the underlined portion describes as tending "to focus on the most militant, outspoken figures in the movement," making the movement as a whole seem uniformly radical. The text then indicates that the work of geographer Juan Herrera shows that focusing less on such militant figures and instead paying more attention to manifestations of the Chicano movement in less widely known neighborhood institutions and projects would reveal that the movement's participants embraced a range of political orientations and approaches. Thus, the underlined portion describes a common approach to studying the Chicano movement that, according to the text, obscures the ideological diversity of the movement's participants.

Choice A is incorrect. Though the underlined portion does present a trend in scholarship on the Chicano movement, the text does not indicate that other scholars have reevaluated their methods in light of Herrera's work. It only indicates that Herrera's work suggests that the work of those other scholars does not provide a complete picture of the Chicano movement. Choice B is incorrect. Though the underlined portion does identify an aspect of the Chicano movement that the text indicates has been overemphasized, the text does not discuss the political orientations of the scholars whose work is mentioned in the text. Choice D is incorrect. Though the underlined portion does summarize the conventional method for analyzing the Chicano movement, the rest of the text does not address the effectiveness of "comparatively low-profile neighborhood institutions and projects." Instead, the text suggests that those projects were led by people with a variety of approaches to community activism.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 62a18353

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 62a18353

The following text is adapted from Zora Neale Hurston's 1921 short story "John Redding Goes to Sea." John wants to travel far beyond the village where he lives near his mother, Matty.

[John] had on several occasions attempted to reconcile his mother to the notion, but found it a difficult task. Matty always took refuge in self-pity and tears. Her son's desires were incomprehensible to her, that was all.

As used in the text, what does the phrase "reconcile his mother to" most nearly mean?

- A. Get his mother to accept
- B. Get his mother to apologize for
- C. Get his mother to match
- D. Get his mother to reunite with

## ID: 62a18353 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The expression "reconcile to" means "to cause (a person) to accept something difficult or disagreeable." The text suggests that John wants his mother to accept his desire to travel, even though she doesn't like that idea.

Choice B is incorrect. This doesn't make sense. John doesn't want his mother to apologize for his own desire to travel—he wants her to accept his desire to travel. Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn't suggest that John wants his mother to match his desire to travel. Rather, he wants her to accept his desire to travel even though she doesn't like it. Choice D is incorrect. This is tempting, because it seems to pick up on the idea of people "reconciling" after a fight, but it actually doesn't make sense. The text never suggests that John's mother was "united with" the idea of him traveling in the past—if anything, it seems like she's always been against it. Besides, it would be strange to say that a person "reunites with" a notion.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4eee64fa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 4eee64fa

Space scientists Anna-Lisa Paul, Stephen M. Elardo, and Robert Ferl planted seeds of *Arabidopsis thaliana* in samples of lunar regolith—the surface material of the Moon—and, serving as a control group, in terrestrial soil. They found that while all the seeds germinated, the roots of the regolith-grown plants were stunted compared with those in the control group. Moreover, unlike the plants in the control group, the regolith-grown plants exhibited red pigmentation, reduced leaf size, and inhibited growth rates—indicators of stress that were corroborated by postharvest molecular analysis.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- It describes an experiment that addressed an unresolved question about the extent to which lunar regolith resembles A. terrestrial soils.
- B. It compares two distinct methods of assessing indicators of stress in plants grown in a simulated lunar environment.
- C. It presents evidence in support of the hypothesis that seed germination in lunar habitats is an unattainable goal.
- D. It discusses the findings of a study that evaluated the effects of exposing a plant species to lunar soil conditions.

## ID: 4eee64fa Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text describes an experiment wherein space scientists compared plant growth in terrestrial and lunar soil conditions. It then discusses the findings of the study, including the fact that all the seeds germinated but that the plants grown in lunar soil exhibited signs of stress.

Choice A is incorrect. The text doesn't address this question, and never describes any specific characteristics of either soil. It merely describes the outcome of an experiment that exposed a plant species to lunar soil conditions. Choice B is incorrect. The text never compares methods of assessing indicators of stress—instead, it simply mentions several stress indicators observed in the study (red pigmentation, reduced leaf size, and inhibited growth rates). Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn't present any evidence that we could never achieve seed germination in lunar habitats, and in fact states that the seeds in the lunar soil did germinate.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a70cbc53

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: a70cbc53

Raymond Antrobus, an accomplished poet and writer of prose, recently released his debut spoken word poetry album, *The First Time I Wore Hearing Aids*, in collaboration with producer Ian Brennan. The album contains both autobiographical and reflective pieces combining Antrobus's spoken words with Brennan's fragmented audio elements and pieces of music to convey how people who are deaf may experience sound, both its presence and absence. Some critics suggest that the album questions the function of sound in the world, highlighting that the experience of sound is multifaceted.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

It introduces a collaborative spoken word poetry project, details the approach taken to produce the work, and then

- A. provides an example of critique the album received upon release.

It mentions a collection of spoken word poems, distinguishes one poem as being an exemplar on the album, and then

- B. offers a summary of the subject matter of the whole collection.

It summarizes the efforts to produce a collection of spoken word poems, presents biographies of two people who

- C. worked on the album, and speculates about the meaning behind the poetry.

It connects two artists to the same spoken word poetry project, explains the extent of their collaboration on each poem,

- D. and then provides an overview of the technique used to produce the work.

## ID: a70cbc53 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text first introduces the album as being a collaboration between Antrobus and Brennan, then describes the approach taken to produce it, then mentions how critics have said that it calls into question the function of sound.

Choice B is incorrect. While the text does mention a collection of spoken word poems, it doesn't single out one poem as being particularly noteworthy. Additionally, the text doesn't simply summarize the subject matter—it goes into detail about the content and production of the album. Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn't provide biographical information about the two artists, and the text doesn't speculate about the meaning behind the poetry—instead, it relays what some critics have said about the album. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't provide just an overview of the production techniques used but instead goes into more detail about the content and audio elements of the album, as well as critical response to the album.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3d658a5a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 3d658a5a

Some foraging models predict that the distance bees travel when foraging will decline as floral density increases, but biologists Shalene Jha and Claire Kremen showed that bees' behavior is inconsistent with this prediction if flowers in dense patches are \_\_\_\_: bees will forage beyond patches of low species richness to acquire multiple resource types.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. depleted
- B. homogeneous
- C. immature
- D. dispersed

## ID: 3d658a5a Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Jha and Kremen's finding about bees' foraging behavior. In this context, "homogeneous" means uniform or of the same kind. The text indicates that some models predict that the distance that bees travel when they're foraging declines as the density of flowers increases. The text goes on to say, however, that Jha and Kremen identified a circumstance in which bees don't behave this way. Specifically, if bees encounter "patches of low species richness"—that is, patches in which the flowers are largely from the same species—they'll travel beyond those patches to get varied food resources. This context thus suggests that bees don't behave as some models predict if the dense patches of flowers the bees encounter are homogeneous.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that Jha and Kremen found that bees will behave differently than some models predict if the bees encounter flower patches that are not rich in species, not if the flowers are "depleted," or emptied or reduced in quality or quantity. Although it could be true that bees are likely to leave depleted patches in search of more resources, the text doesn't indicate that Jha and Kremen investigated that possibility. Choice C is incorrect because there's no information in the text suggesting that bees will not behave as some models predict if flowers in patches are "immature," or not fully developed. Instead, the text indicates that Jha and Kremen found that bees will behave contrary to some models' predictions if the flower patches are not rich in species. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that bees' behavior will be inconsistent with the predictions of some models if the flower patches that the bees encounter are of low species richness, not if the flowers are in patches that are "dispersed," or widely scattered. Although the text does describe bees as leaving patches that are not rich in species to forage elsewhere, there's no suggestion that Jha and Kremen found that the distance between dense flower patches affects whether the bees behave as some models predict.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID cd2ce51f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: cd2ce51f

Like the 1945 play it reimagines—Federico García Lorca’s *The House of Bernarda Alba*—Marcus Gardley’s 2014 play *The House That Will Not Stand* prominently features women. In both plays, the all-female cast \_\_\_\_\_ an array of female characters, including a strong mother and several daughters dealing with individual struggles.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. engulfs
- B. encourages
- C. comprises
- D. provokes

## ID: cd2ce51f Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Gardley’s play. In this context, “comprises” means constitutes or makes up the totality of, and the text indicates that *The House That Will Not Stand* had an “all-female cast” that stands in some relationship to “an array of female characters” in the play. Because all cast members are female, the characters must be played by these female cast members; therefore the cast constitutes, or comprises, the collection of characters.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, “engulfs” would mean encloses or overwhelms, and although it is fairly common to describe an actor as embodying (or personifying realistically) a character, there is nothing in the text to suggest that the cast members enclosed or overwhelmed the characters they played. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, “encourages” would mean inspires with courage or hope. Although the text does mention “a strong mother and several daughters dealing with individual struggles,” which might suggest that there are moments of encouragement among the characters during the play, there is nothing to suggest that the cast members encouraged the characters they portrayed. Choice D is incorrect because, in this context, “provokes” would mean instigates or incites to anger. Nothing in the text addresses provocation or what it might mean for actors to provoke the characters they are playing.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 17bf10de

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: 17bf10de

## Text 1

Despite its beautiful prose, *The Guns of August*, Barbara Tuchman's 1962 analysis of the start of World War I, has certain weaknesses as a work of history. It fails to address events in Eastern Europe just before the outbreak of hostilities, thereby giving the impression that Germany was the war's principal instigator. Had Tuchman consulted secondary works available to her by scholars such as Luigi Albertini, she would not have neglected the influence of events in Eastern Europe on Germany's actions.

## Text 2

Barbara Tuchman's *The Guns of August* is an engrossing if dated introduction to World War I. Tuchman's analysis of primary documents is laudable, but her main thesis that European powers committed themselves to a catastrophic outcome by refusing to deviate from military plans developed prior to the conflict is implausibly reductive.

Which choice best describes a difference in how the authors of Text 1 and Text 2 view Barbara Tuchman's *The Guns of August*?

The author of Text 1 argues that Tuchman should have relied more on the work of other historians, while the author of A. Text 2 implies that Tuchman's most interesting claims result from her original research.

The author of Text 1 believes that the scope of Tuchman's research led her to an incorrect interpretation, while the author B. of Text 2 believes that Tuchman's central argument is overly simplistic.

The author of Text 1 asserts that the writing style of *The Guns of August* makes it worthwhile to read despite any perceived deficiency in Tuchman's research, while the author of Text 2 focuses exclusively on the weakness of Tuchman's C. interpretation of events.

The author of Text 1 claims that Tuchman would agree that World War I was largely due to events in Eastern Europe, while the author of Text 2 maintains that Tuchman would say that Eastern European leaders were not committed to D. military plans in the same way that other leaders were.

ID: 17bf10de Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Both texts are critical of *The Guns of August*, but for different reasons: the author of Text 1 argues that Tuchman missed an important factor leading up to the war because she didn't consult secondary sources, and the author of Text 2 argues that Tuchman's main thesis is "reductive," which is a close synonym for "overly simplistic."

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn't accurately describe the difference. This choice's summary of Text 1 is accurate, but Text 2 never says that Tuchman's most interesting claims result from her original research. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn't accurately describe the difference. Text 1 never says that *The Guns of August* is worthwhile to read despite its research weaknesses. Text 2 does call out a weakness of Tuchman's interpretation of events, but it also praises her analysis of primary sources. Choice D is incorrect. This doesn't accurately describe the difference. Text 1 actually says that Tuchman "fails to address" the influence of events in Eastern Europe, while Text 2 says that Tuchman's thesis was that European powers (not Eastern European leaders) were committed to military plans.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b4c6cff6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: b4c6cff6

The following text is adapted from Karel Čapek's 1920 play *R.U.R.* (*Rossum's Universal Robots*), translated by Paul Selver and Nigel Playfair in 1923. Fabry and Busman are telling Miss Glory why their company manufactures robots.

FABRY: One Robot can replace two and a half *workmen*. The human machine, Miss Glory, was terribly *imperfect*. It had to be removed sooner or later.

BUSMAN: It was too expensive.

FABRY: It was not *effective*. It no longer answers the requirements of *modern engineering*. Nature has no idea of keeping pace with *modern labor*.

As used in the text, what does the word "answers" most nearly mean?

- A. Explains
- B. Rebutts
- C. Defends
- D. Fulfils

## ID: b4c6cff6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, "answers" most nearly means fulfills. In the text, Fabry and Busman claim that the robots manufactured by their company are more efficient than human workers, which they refer to as "the human machine." Fabry observes that the human machine "no longer answers the requirements of *modern engineering*." That is, human workers are incapable of meeting the rigorous needs of modern, industrialized workplaces.

Choice A is incorrect. Although in some contexts "answers" can mean explains, it doesn't have that meaning in this context because the topic under discussion is human beings' inability to perform labor efficiently, not their inability to engage in discussion or explanation. Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts "answers" can mean rebuts, or proves a claim or argument to be false, it wouldn't make sense to speak of proving requirements to be false; requirements might or might not be reasonable, but they can't be verified as truthful or untruthful, as claims or accusations can. Choice C is incorrect. Although in some contexts, "answers" can mean defends against criticism, or justifies, it doesn't have that meaning in this context because the opinion that Fabry expresses is that human workers can no longer fulfill the requirements of modern workplaces, not that they have ceased to justify those requirements or to defend them against criticism; indeed, there is no suggestion in the text that workers ever defended those requirements.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d8d1ecaa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: d8d1ecaa

Business researcher Melanie Brucks and colleagues found that remote video conference meetings may be less conducive to brainstorming than in-person meetings are. The researchers suspect that video meeting participants are focused on staring at the speaker on the screen and don't allow their eyes or mind to wander as much, which may ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ creativity.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. recommend
- B. criticize
- C. impede
- D. construct

## ID: d8d1ecaa Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The first sentence tells us that video meetings are “less conducive to” (meaning less good for) brainstorming. This suggests that the video meeting participants’ focus is bad for their creativity. “Impede” means “delay” or “prevent,” which works perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice is too positive to fit the context. The first sentence tells us that video meetings are “less conducive to” (meaning less good for) brainstorming. This suggests that the video meeting participants’ focus is bad for their creativity. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t make sense. The participants’ intense focus on the screen is the subject of the missing verb. It wouldn’t make sense to say that their over-focusing “criticizes” their creativity. Choice D is incorrect. “Construct” means “build” or “make,” which is too positive to fit the context. The first sentence tells us that video meetings are “less conducive to” (meaning less good for) brainstorming. This suggests that the video meeting participants’ focus is bad for their creativity.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d0198544

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: d0198544

## Text 1

In 2007, a team led by Alice Storey analyzed a chicken bone found in El Arenal, Chile, dating it to 1321–1407 CE—over a century before Europeans invaded the region, bringing their own chickens. Storey also found that the El Arenal chicken shared a unique genetic mutation with the ancient chicken breeds of the Polynesian Islands in the Pacific. Thus, Polynesian peoples, not later Europeans, probably first introduced chickens to South America.

## Text 2

An Australian research team weakened the case for a Polynesian origin for the El Arenal chicken by confirming that the mutation identified by Storey has occurred in breeds from around the world. More recently, though, a team led by Agusto Luzuriaga-Neira found that South American chicken breeds and Polynesian breeds share other genetic markers that European breeds lack. Thus, the preponderance of evidence now favors a Polynesian origin.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1?

- By broadly agreeing with the claim but objecting that the timeline it presupposes conflicts with the findings of the genetic analysis conducted by Storey's team
- By faulting the claim for implying that domestic animals couldn't have been transferred from South America to the Polynesian Islands as well
- By critiquing the claim for being based on an assumption that before the European invasion of South America, the chickens of Europe were genetically uniform
- By noting that while the claim is persuasive, the findings of Luzuriaga-Neira's team provide stronger evidence for it than the findings of the genetic analysis conducted by Storey do

ID: d0198544 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it accurately describes how the author of Text 2 would most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1. Text 1 indicates that Storey found a genetic mutation in South American chickens from before the European invasion and in Polynesian chickens, which implies that chickens were first brought to South America by Polynesian people. Text 2 explains that the genetic mutation Storey found is in chickens from all over the world, thus undercutting the mutation as evidence of a Polynesian origin. However, Text 2 goes on to say “[m]ore recently” Luzuriaga-Neira and colleagues found multiple genetic markers shared by South American and Polynesian chickens but “that European breeds lack,” which strongly suggests a Polynesian origin for the South American chickens. This indicates that the author of Text 2 believes Luzuriaga-Neira’s evidence for a Polynesian origin is compelling while Storey’s evidence has been undermined. Thus, the author of Text 2 would most likely agree with the underlined statement and believes Luzuriaga-Neira and colleagues’ evidence for the statement is stronger than Storey’s evidence is.

Choice A is incorrect because both texts indicate that chickens were introduced to South America before the arrival of Europeans. Text 1 states that the El Arenal chicken bone dates from “1321–1407 CE—over a century before Europeans invaded the region” and concludes that these chickens were likely brought to South America by Polynesians. While Text 2 is not as explicit about the time period as Text 1 is, nothing in Text 2 undermines the timing of events ascribed to Storey’s account in Text 1. Choice B is incorrect because both texts agree that chickens were first brought to South America by Polynesian peoples (the underlined claim), and nothing in Text 2 suggests that this claim is in any way deficient because the possibility that animals could have been transferred from South America to Polynesia was not explicitly addressed. Choice C is incorrect because the criticism that Text 2 raises about the ideas in Text 1 is specifically about whether the single genetic mutation cited by Storey in fact supports the idea of a Polynesian origin for South American chickens. There is nothing in Text 2 to suggest that the underlined sentence (Storey’s conclusion) is deficient because it is based on an assumption about the genetic uniformity of European chickens.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a2be625e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: a2be625e

The following text is from Sarah Orne Jewett's 1899 short story "Martha's Lady." Martha is employed by Miss Pyne as a maid.

Miss Pyne sat by the window watching, in her best dress, looking stately and calm; she seldom went out now, and it was almost time for the carriage. Martha was just coming in from the garden with the strawberries, and with more flowers in her apron. It was a bright cool evening in June, the golden robins sang in the elms, and the sun was going down behind the apple-trees at the foot of the garden. The beautiful old house stood wide open to the long-expected guest.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To convey the worries brought about by a new guest
- B. To describe how the characters have changed over time
- C. To contrast the activity indoors with the stillness outside
- D. To depict the setting as the characters await a visitor's arrival

## ID: a2be625e Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately reflects the main purpose of the text. The text portrays Miss Pyne as awaiting the arrival of a carriage while Martha brings strawberries and flowers from the garden into the house. The text also describes the surroundings of the scene, stating that Miss Pyne looks "stately and calm," the evening is bright and cool, and birds are singing in the garden as the sun sets. Then the last sentence states that the house was "wide open to the long-expected guest," which strongly suggests that Miss Pyne's anticipation and Martha's activities were in preparation for the guest who is expected to arrive in the carriage. Thus, the text depicts the setting and conveys what these characters are doing as they await the arrival of their visitor.

Choice A is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to indicate that the characters feel any worry about the guest's arrival. The text indicates that the guest was "long-expected," but characterizing Miss Pyne as "stately and calm" conflicts with the idea that the characters are worried about the guest. Choice B is incorrect because the text describes a moment in time when two characters are awaiting the arrival of a visitor rather than an extended period over which characters could be seen changing. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text describes the activity indoors (Miss Pyne sitting calmly), it describes a higher level of activity, not stillness, outside (Martha bringing fruit and flowers and birds singing).

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ab56a107

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

## ID: ab56a107

### Text 1

Digital art, the use of digital technology to create or display images, isn't really art at all. It doesn't require as much skill as creating physical art. "Painting" with a tablet and stylus is much easier than using paint and a brush: the technology is doing most of the work.

### Text 2

The painting programs used to create digital art involve more than just pressing a few buttons. In addition to knowing the fundamentals of art, digital artists need to be familiar with sophisticated software. Many artists will start by drawing an image on paper before transforming the piece to a digital format, where they can apply a variety of colors and techniques that would otherwise require many different traditional tools.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the claims of the author of Text 1?

- A. By arguing that a piece of art created digitally can still be displayed traditionally
- B. By explaining that it's actually much harder to use a tablet and stylus to create art than to use paint and a brush
- C. By insisting that digital art requires artistic abilities and skill even if it employs less traditional tools
- D. By admitting that most digital artists don't think fundamental drawing skills are important

## ID: ab56a107 Answer

Correct Answer: C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it reflects how the author of Text 2 would respond to the claims in Text 1. Both texts address skills needed to produce digital art. Text 1 claims that digital art doesn't require the same amount of skill as creating physical art and that "the technology is doing most of the work." Text 2 states that digital art requires "knowing the fundamentals of art" and that many digital artists begin their work on paper and then transfer it to a digital format using "sophisticated software" and "a variety of colors and techniques." Therefore, the author of Text 2 would most likely insist that digital art requires artistic abilities even if it employs less traditional tools.

Choice A is incorrect because neither text discusses nondigital means of displaying art. Choice B is incorrect because the author of Text 2 doesn't address whether it's harder to use a tablet and stylus than it is to use paint and a brush. Text 2 does argue that digital art requires skills that aren't part of the traditional methods for producing art, but the text doesn't address relative difficulty. Choice D is incorrect because the author of Text 2 states that digital artists still need to know "the fundamentals of art" and that many digital artists begin their work by drafting on paper before transferring the work to a digital format.

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID f653b273

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: f653b273

## Text 1

A tiny, unusual fossil in a piece of 99-million-year-old amber is of the extinct species *Oculudentavis khaungraae*. The *O. khaungraae* fossil consists of a rounded skull with a thin snout and a large eye socket. Because these features look like they are avian, or related to birds, researchers initially thought that the fossil might be the smallest avian dinosaur ever found.

## Text 2

Paleontologists were excited to discover a second small fossil that is similar to the strange *O. khaungraae* fossil but has part of the lower body along with a birdlike skull. Detailed studies of both fossils revealed several traits that are found in lizards but not in dinosaurs or birds. Therefore, paleontologists think the two creatures were probably unusual lizards, even though the skulls looked avian at first.

Based on the texts, what would the paleontologists in Text 2 most likely say about the researchers' initial thought in Text 1?

It is understandable because the fossil does look like it could be related to birds, even though *O. khaungraae* is probably a

A. lizard.

B. It is confusing because it isn't clear what caused the researchers to think that *O. khaungraae* might be related to birds.

C. It is flawed because the researchers mistakenly assumed that *O. khaungraae* must be a lizard.

It is reasonable because the *O. khaungraae* skull is about the same size as the skull of the second fossil but is shaped

D. differently.

ID: f653b273 Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it reflects what the paleontologists in Text 2 would most likely say about what the researchers in Text 1 initially thought. Text 1 focuses on the discovery of a strange fossil consisting of the skull of the extinct species *Oculudentavis khaungraae*. According to Text 1, the fossil has features that appear to be avian, or related to birds, which led researchers to initially think that the fossil might be a very small avian dinosaur. Text 2 begins by noting the discovery of a second fossil similar to the one discussed in Text 1, then explains that based on detailed studies of both fossils, paleontologists think that the two creatures were probably unusual lizards, even though the skulls appeared avian at first. This suggests that the paleontologists in Text 2 recognize that the fossils do indeed look like they could be related to birds. For this reason, the paleontologists in Text 2 would most likely say that the initial thought of the researchers in Text 1—that the fossil was avian—is understandable, even if the fossil is probably not avian but rather is from a lizard.

Choice B is incorrect because Text 2 indicates that the fossils initially looked avian, so the paleontologists described in Text 2 wouldn't be confused by the researchers in Text 1 initially thinking that *O. khaungraae* might be related to birds. The paleontologists would find that initial thought understandable, not confusing. Choice C is incorrect because Text 1 never mentions lizards, so it wouldn't make sense for the paleontologists in Text 2 to say that the researchers in Text 1 mistakenly assumed that *O. khaungraae* must be a lizard. Choice D is incorrect. Although the paleontologists in Text 2 might agree that the initial thought of the researchers in Text 1 was reasonable, nothing in Text 2 suggests that the two skulls were shaped differently.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7afb470b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 7afb470b

Diadromous fish migrate between freshwater and marine biomes during their life cycle. The migration's obligate nature is why diadromous fish can be \_\_\_\_\_ those that are merely euryhaline (able to tolerate high salinity): the euryhaline blackchin tilapia can survive high salinity, but its life cycle does not involve relocation to a different biome, as does that of the diadromous wild salmon.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. demarcated from
- B. reconstituted as
- C. conflated with
- D. derived from

## ID: 7afb470b Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of diadromous fish. In this context, "demarcated from" means separate or set apart from. The text indicates that diadromous fish differ from euryhaline fish in that diadromous fish "migrate between freshwater and marine biomes during their life," whereas euryhaline fish do not relocate to a different biome because they can tolerate higher salinity environments. Therefore, this context suggests that because of differences between their migration patterns, diadromous fish are distinct and can be demarcated from euryhaline fish.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text states that diadromous fish migrate and relocate, the text does not suggest that diadromous fish would be "reconstituted as," or formed again as, anything new. Only their environments change and not the fish themselves. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not suggest that diadromous fish can be "conflated with," or combined with, euryhaline fish. Instead, the text distinguishes the two types of fish by pointing out their differences with regard to migration and tolerance for salinity. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that based on migration habits and tolerance for salinity, diadromous fish are different from euryhaline fish; so it would not make logical sense to say that diadromous fish would be "derived from," or be an extension of or result from, euryhaline fish.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d9e55268

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: d9e55268

The following text is adapted from Louise Erdrich's 2020 novel *The Night Watchman*. Louis Pipestone is collecting signatures for a petition from fellow members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa on the tribe's reservation in North Dakota.

Louis Pipestone tended the petition like a garden. He kept it with him at all times. In town, his eyes sharpened when he noticed a tribal member who hadn't yet signed. Wherever they were—at the gas pump, mercantile [general store], at Henry's [Café], on the road, or outside the clinic and hospital—Louis cornered them. If they were waiting for a baby to be born, he'd have them sign. If they were laughing, if they were arguing. If they were taking a child home from school, they signed.

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Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To suggest that some tribal members refuse to sign the petition because they dislike Louis Pipestone
- B. To show that attitudes toward the petition within the tribal community change over time
- C. To demonstrate that most tribal members are enthusiastic about signing the petition
- D. To portray Louis Pipestone's strong commitment to collecting signatures for the petition

## ID: d9e55268 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the text's main purpose. The text indicates that Louis always had his petition with him, asked everyone he encountered to sign it if they hadn't already, and lists several comical circumstances in which he might try to get someone to sign. Thus, the main purpose of the text is to illustrate Louis's dedicated focus on getting people to sign the petition.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text suggests that Louis was aggressive in seeking signatures for the petition—for example, saying that he "cornered" people—nothing in the text addresses how those people feel toward Louis, let alone that they are refusing his request. Choice B is incorrect because, other than portraying Louis's commitment to gathering signatures, the text doesn't discuss community members' attitudes toward Louis or the petition. Choice C is incorrect because the text never mentions the attitudes of the people Louis approaches toward the petition, but the text does indicate that he "cornered" prospective signatories, strongly suggesting that their enthusiasm was neither needed nor considered.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID faee8ec7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: faee8ec7

## Text 1

It seems clear that emotional contagion (the unintentional transfer of an emotional state from one person to another) requires physical interaction and the observation of body language. After all, research shows that talking to someone who is smiling and expressing positive feelings often causes people to respond in a comparably positive way. Similarly, displays of nervous fidgeting have been found to prompt others to begin behaving more nervously, too.

## Text 2

In an experiment using a social networking service, Zeyao Yang and Emilio Ferrara found evidence of emotional contagion in text-based online interactions. The researchers discovered that reading social media posts that expressed a positive outlook led people to make more positive posts themselves, while posts with a negative emotional tone led people to make more negative posts.

Based on the texts, what would the researchers in Text 2 most likely say about the claim underlined in Text 1?

- It perpetuates a flawed understanding of emotional contagion, because there isn't enough evidence to suggest that
- A. smiling is a sign of emotional contagion.
- It reflects an incomplete view of emotional contagion, because this phenomenon can occur even without in-person
- B. interaction.
- It's fairly persuasive, because studies attempting to identify emotional contagion in situations without in-person
- C. interaction have thus far yielded unclear results.
- It's mostly accurate, because the social networking study confirmed that emotional contagion primarily occurs in
- D. response to negative emotions like nervousness.

ID: faee8ec7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it represents how the researchers in Text 2 would most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1. Text 1 begins by asserting that the unintended transfer of feelings from one person to another, known as emotional contagion, seems to rely on both people being physically present and able to observe body language. Text 1 then references research that supports this assertion. Text 2 describes an experiment conducted by the researchers Yang and Ferrara in which they found evidence of emotional contagion in the absence of physical interaction, namely through text-based interactions on social media. The researchers in Text 2 wouldn't completely agree with what is asserted in the underlined portion of Text 1 (that emotional contagion seems to require physical proximity), because their study, which used a social media networking service, found that physical interaction isn't the only way that emotional contagion can take place. Thus, the researchers in Text 2 would most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1 by stating that it reflects an incomplete view of emotional contagion, because the phenomenon can occur without an in-person interaction.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the researchers in Text 2 would likely agree that the underlined statement in Text 1 perpetuates a flawed conclusion that emotional contagion requires physical interaction, Text 2 doesn't address what the researchers thought about smiling as a sign of emotional contagion. Choice C is incorrect because the researchers in Text 2 wouldn't say that the underlined claim in Text 1 is fairly persuasive. According to Text 2, the researchers conducted a study that found emotional contagion didn't require physical interaction, because they found evidence of it in text-based online interactions. Choice D is incorrect because neither of the texts claim that emotional contagion primarily occurs when a person is exposed to negativity. Instead, Text 1 claims that physical interaction is required for emotional contagion to occur, and Text 2 describes a study that suggests emotional contagion can occur in text-based online interactions.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c19b2f77

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: c19b2f77

## Text 1

Little is known about how plate tectonics—wherein slabs of Earth’s crust move over, under, away from, and against one another—began. Some researchers contend that tectonic movements began around 3 billion years ago, often noting that computer models of Earth’s mantle temperature at the time indicate that the mantle would have been sufficiently molten to enable the plates to move.

## Text 2

Ultimately, any plausible claim about the inception of tectonic movement must rest on empirical evidence from the geological record. Researcher Wriju Chowdhury and his team analyzed the geochemistry of zircon crystals to gain insight into the chemical composition of the magma from which the crystals formed and, based on the data, compellingly argue that plate tectonics may have been occurring as early as 4.2 billion years ago.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to what “some researchers contend” as described in Text 1?

By suggesting that the temperature of Earth’s mantle 3 billion years ago was likely insufficient to allow for the level of  
A. tectonic movement predicted by computer models

By distinguishing between computer models of Earth’s mantle temperature that reliably predict the onset of plate  
B. tectonics and those that do not

By indicating that computer models of Earth’s mantle temperature are still being improved such that new models tend to  
C. be much more reliable than their predecessors

By asserting that a more definitive form of evidence than the computer models suggests a different timeline for the  
D. onset of plate tectonics on Earth

ID: c19b2f77 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it reflects how the author of Text 2 would most likely respond to what the researchers mentioned in Text 1 contend. Text 1 discusses the lack of knowledge of how plate tectonics on Earth began. Text 1 also mentions researchers who contend that movements of tectonic plates began around 3 billion years ago. As support for this assertion, these researchers cite computer models (which are simulations, not empirical evidence) of the temperature in Earth's mantle that show that at that time, the mantle would have been sufficiently molten for plates to move. However, the author of Text 2 asserts that empirical evidence from the geological record is necessary to make plausible claims about when tectonic movement began. Text 2 mentions an analysis performed by Wriju Chowdhury and his team of the geochemistry of zircon crystals (which would constitute empirical evidence). Chowdhury and his team argue, based on this analysis, that tectonic plates may have begun to move as early as 4.2 billion years ago. Therefore, since the author of Text 2 would consider Chowdhury et al.'s empirical evidence to be more conclusive than the computer models cited in Text 1, the author of Text 2 would most likely assert that a more definitive form of evidence than the computer models suggests a different timeline for the onset of plate tectonics on Earth.

Choice A is incorrect because the author of Text 2 makes no claims about the temperature of Earth's mantle and therefore wouldn't argue that the temperature of Earth's mantle 3 billion years ago was insufficient to allow tectonic movement. Choice B is incorrect because the author of Text 2 claims that empirical evidence is needed to fix the earliest date of tectonic movement. Computer models are simulations, not empirical evidence, so the author of Text 2 wouldn't distinguish between different kinds of computer models but would instead argue that no computer models can reliably predict the onset of plate tectonics. Choice C is incorrect because the author of Text 2 wouldn't consider any computer model to be able to provide evidence to support a plausible claim about tectonic movement, no matter how much such models were improved. The author of Text 2 would only accept empirical evidence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 14b7dced

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 14b7dced

The following text is from Walt Whitman's 1860 poem "Calamus 24."

I HEAR it is charged against me that I seek to destroy institutions; But really I am neither for nor against institutions  
(What indeed have I in common with them?—Or what with the destruction of them?),  
Only I will establish in the Mannahatta [Manhattan] and in every city of These States, inland and seaboard,  
And in the fields and woods, and above every keel [ship] little or large, that dents the water,  
Without edifices, or rules, or trustees, or any argument, The institution of the dear love of comrades.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The speaker questions an increasingly prevalent attitude, then summarizes his worldview.
- B. The speaker regrets his isolation from others, then predicts a profound change in society.
- C. The speaker concedes his personal shortcomings, then boasts of his many achievements.
- D. The speaker addresses a criticism leveled against him, then announces a grand ambition of his.

## ID: 14b7dced Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it best describes the overall structure of the text. The speaker begins by stating that he has heard that others are accusing him of seeking to destroy institutions. The speaker then addresses this criticism by stating that he is "neither for nor against institutions." Instead, the speaker states that his ultimate goal is to instill "the institution of the dear love of comrades" everywhere in the country. Therefore, the overall structure of the text is best described as an address of criticism followed by an announcement of a grand ambition.

Choice A is incorrect. While the speaker does address an opinion of him that he believes to be untrue, he doesn't indicate that this attitude has become increasingly prevalent. The speaker also concludes by explaining his goal for the future rather than his current worldview. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't portray the speaker as isolated or regretful, and the speaker gestures toward a hope for societal change but doesn't offer an explicit prediction that it will happen. Choice C is incorrect because the speaker addresses a criticism of him that he believes to be false; he doesn't admit any personal shortcomings. Moreover, the speaker concludes by stating a goal he has rather than showcasing his achievements.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e56b66e5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: e56b66e5

Set in a world where science fiction tropes exist as everyday realities, Charles Yu's 2010 novel *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe* traces a time traveler's quest to find his father. Because the journey at the novel's center is so \_\_\_\_\_, with the protagonist ricocheting chaotically across time, the reader often wonders whether the pair will ever be reunited.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. haphazard
- B. premeditated
- C. inspirational
- D. fruitless

## ID: e56b66e5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Yu's novel. In this context, "haphazard" means marked by a lack of plan or order. The text indicates that the quest featured in the novel, which involves the protagonist bouncing across time, is chaotic and causes the reader to often wonder what will happen. This context suggests that the protagonist's journey seems to be marked by a lack of order.

Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that the journey featured in Yu's novel involves a character "ricocheting chaotically," or bouncing in a disordered way, across time and causes the reader to often wonder what will happen. It wouldn't make sense to say that a chaotic journey seems "premeditated," or characterized by forethought and planning. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't give any indication that readers regard the journey in Yu's novel as "inspirational," or as causing extraordinarily creative or brilliant thoughts or actions; instead, the text focuses on the idea that the protagonist's journey is chaotic, or disordered, and doesn't give readers a clear sense of what will happen. Choice D is incorrect. Rather than suggesting that the journey featured in Yu's novel is "fruitless," or has an unsuccessful outcome, the text focuses on the idea that while reading about the protagonist's chaotic movements across time, readers are often unsure of what will happen—that is, they don't know whether the protagonist will be successful in finding his father.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID bce627d9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: bce627d9

Mineralogical differences are detectable in samples collected from two locations on the near-Earth asteroid Ryugu, but such differences may not indicate substantial compositional variations in the asteroid. Cosmochemist Kazuhide Nagashima and colleagues note that at the small scale of the samples, the distribution of minerals is unlikely to be \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. neglected
- B. redundant
- C. ongoing
- D. uniform

## ID: bce627d9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text tells us that the samples are too "small scale" to reflect the composition of the asteroid, which probably doesn't show the same variation on a large scale. This suggests that the mineral composition of the samples are unlikely to be exactly the same from sample to sample.

Choice A is incorrect. "Neglected" means "suffering a lack of proper care" or "abandoned," which doesn't work here. The text never suggests that the distribution of minerals in the samples would be neglected, so this statement doesn't logically follow. Choice B is incorrect. "Redundant" means "not or no longer useful or needed," which is too strong. The text doesn't suggest that the variation between the samples isn't a useful finding at all—just that we can't assume that the large-scale composition of the asteroid will show the same variation. But the composition of the samples might be useful for something else. Choice C is incorrect. "Ongoing" means "still in progress," which doesn't make sense: the distribution of minerals in a sample can't be "ongoing."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f83f0aab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: f83f0aab

Some scientists have suggested that mammals in the Mesozoic era were not a very \_\_\_\_\_ group, but paleontologist Zhe-Xi Luo's research suggests that early mammals living in the shadow of dinosaurs weren't all ground-dwelling insectivores. Fossils of various plant-eating mammals have been found in China, including species like *Vilevolodon diplomylos*, which Luo says could glide like a flying squirrel.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. predatory
- B. obscure
- C. diverse
- D. localized

## ID: f83f0aab Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the kinds of mammals alive during the Mesozoic era. As used in this context, "diverse" means to have a significant amount of variety. The text indicates that some scientists have suggested that Mesozoic mammals can't be characterized in a certain way, then contrasts the view put forward by those scientists with Luo's research, which shows that Mesozoic mammals "weren't all ground-dwelling insectivores" and instead were "various." This context suggests that some scientists have viewed Mesozoic mammals as being all alike, or not a very diverse group.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that some scientists have suggested that Mesozoic mammals weren't very "predatory," or that they didn't prey on other animals, since the text establishes a contrast between what some scientists have suggested and Luo's research showing that Mesozoic mammals "weren't all ground-dwelling insectivores." This context suggests that some scientists have regarded Mesozoic mammals as all being insectivores, or animals that prey on insects, not that some scientists have suggested that Mesozoic mammals didn't prey on other animals. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that some scientists have suggested that Mesozoic mammals weren't very "obscure," or concealed or not well known, since the text establishes a contrast between what some scientists have suggested and Luo's research showing that Mesozoic mammals were a varied group. There's no contrast between saying that the mammals weren't concealed or well known and the mammals being varied. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that some scientists have suggested that Mesozoic mammals weren't very "localized," or confined to a particular area, since the text establishes a contrast between what some scientists have suggested and Luo's research showing that Mesozoic mammals were a varied group. There's no contrast between saying that the mammals weren't localized and the mammals being varied. Although the text mentions mammal fossils found in China, nothing in the discussion of Luo's research addresses the limits of Mesozoic mammal habitats.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 1fbf276a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 1fbf276a

Interruptions in the supply chain for microchips used in personal electronics have challenged an economist's assertion that retailers can expect robust growth in sales of those devices in the coming months. The delays are unlikely to \_\_\_\_\_ her projection entirely but will almost certainly extend its time frame.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. dispute
- B. withdraw
- C. underscore
- D. invalidate

## ID: 1fbf276a Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the economist's claim about sales of personal electronic devices. In this context, "invalidate" most nearly means nullify or make invalid. The text indicates that interruptions in the supply of microchips for personal electronics "have challenged" the economist's claim that sales of personal electronics will show strong growth in the coming months. The text goes on to clarify the effect of the delays on the economist's projection, stating that the delays are very likely to extend the time frame over which the projected growth in sales will occur. This context suggests that the delays are unlikely to invalidate the economist's projection entirely—the delays will probably alter the time frame of the projection, not nullify it or make it invalid.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that the delays are unlikely to "dispute," or argue against, the economist's projection wouldn't make sense. Since the delays are an inanimate circumstance, they couldn't argue against a prediction about the sales of personal electronics. Choice B is incorrect because saying that the delays are unlikely to "withdraw," or remove from consideration, the economist's projection wouldn't make sense. Although the economist could withdraw her projection because of the delays, the delays themselves couldn't withdraw her projection since they're an inanimate circumstance and thus can't choose to remove something from consideration. Choice C is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that the delays will "underscore," or emphasize, the economist's projection. Instead, the text suggests that the delays are likely to extend the time frame of the economist's projection but not to undermine the projection entirely.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f4166aae

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: f4166aae

In addition to being an accomplished psychologist himself, Francis Cecil Sumner was a \_\_\_\_\_ increasing the opportunity for Black students to study psychology, helping to found the psychology department at Howard University, a historically Black university, in 1930.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. proponent of
- B. supplement to
- C. beneficiary of
- D. distraction for

## ID: f4166aae Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Francis Cecil Sumner. As used in this context, "proponent of" means supporter of. The text says that Sumner helped to found the psychology department at historically Black Howard University in 1930. This is evidence that Sumner supported increasing the opportunity for Black students to study psychology.

Choice B is incorrect because the phrase "supplement to," or addition to, wouldn't make sense in context. The text discusses Sumner's efforts to increase the number of Black psychology students, but it doesn't make sense to describe him as an addition to his efforts. Choice C is incorrect because Sumner was already an accomplished psychologist himself when he helped to found the Howard University psychology department. While Black students were the beneficiaries of his efforts—that is, they received help because of his efforts—it wouldn't make sense in this context to describe Sumner as a "beneficiary of" opportunities, because he was the one doing the helping. Choice D is incorrect because founding a psychology department at Howard University wouldn't be a "distraction for" Sumner's aim to increase the opportunity for Black students to study psychology—that is, it wouldn't be something that draws Sumner's attention away from that goal, but rather the opposite.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 6d44060a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 6d44060a

Works of moral philosophy, such as Plato's *Republic* or Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, are partly concerned with how to live a morally good life. But philosopher Jonathan Barnes argues that works that present a method of living such a life without also supplying a motive are inherently useful only to those already wishing to be morally good—those with no desire for moral goodness will not choose to follow their rules. However, some works of moral philosophy attempt to describe what constitutes a morally good life while also proposing reasons for living one.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

It provides a characterization about a field of thought by noting two works in it and then details a way in which some  
A. works in that field are more comprehensive than others.

It mentions two renowned works and then claims that despite their popularity it is impossible for these works to serve  
B. the purpose their authors intended.

It summarizes the history of a field of thought by discussing two works and then proposes a topic of further research for  
C. specialists in that field.

D. It describes two influential works and then explains why one is more widely read than the other.

## ID: 6d44060a Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text starts by stating what moral philosophy is concerned with and naming two examples of works in the field. Then it describes a shortcoming of some works in that field (they say how but not why), and finally it states that other works try to avoid that shortcoming (by including both how and why to live a morally good life).

Choice B is incorrect. This is too extreme. The text never mentions whether the two works are popular or not, and it never argues that these works don't serve their intended purpose of describing how to live a morally good life. Rather, the text claims that works of moral philosophy that don't include both how and why to be moral are not useful to readers who don't already want to be moral. Choice C is incorrect. This isn't the overall structure. The text never discusses the history of moral philosophy at all, and it doesn't propose any topic for further research. Choice D is incorrect. This isn't the overall structure. The text never discusses which of the two works is more widely read.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 590f0ad2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 590f0ad2

Industrial activity is often assumed to be a threat to wildlife, but that isn't always so. Consider the silver-studded blue butterfly (*Plebejus argus*): as forest growth has reduced grasslands in northern Germany, many of these butterflies have left meadow habitats and are now thriving in active limestone quarries. In a survey of multiple active quarries and patches of maintained grassland, an ecologist found silver-studded blue butterflies in 100% of the quarries but only 57% of the grassland patches. Moreover, butterfly populations in the quarries were four times larger than those in the meadows.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It challenges a common assumption about the species under investigation in the research referred to in the text.
- B. It introduces discussion of a specific example that supports the general claim made in the previous sentence.
- C. It suggests that a certain species should be included in additional studies like the one mentioned later in the text.
- D. It provides a definition for an unfamiliar term that is central to the main argument in the text.

## ID: 590f0ad2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence presents the general claim that industrial activity is not always a threat to wildlife. The underlined portion of the sentence that follows suggests that the silver-studded blue butterfly is an example of wildlife thriving in areas of industrial activity: active limestone quarries. Thus, the function of the underlined portion is to introduce a specific example in support of the general claim in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the first sentence indicates that "industrial activity is often assumed" to harm wildlife, in the case of the silver-studded blue butterfly the text mentions neither an assumption about this species nor any challenge to such an assumption. Choice C is incorrect because the text mentions only one study: the "survey." Additional studies are not mentioned in the text. Choice D is incorrect because neither the underlined portion nor any other portion of the text provides a definition for any of the terms used in the text's argument.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 19688783

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 19688783

The following text is from Lucy Maud Montgomery's 1908 novel *Anne of Green Gables*. Anne, an eleven-year-old girl, has come to live on a farm with a woman named Marilla in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Anne reveled in the world of color about her.

"Oh, Marilla," she exclaimed one Saturday morning, coming dancing in with her arms full of gorgeous boughs, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. It would be terrible if we just skipped from September to November, wouldn't it? Look at these maple branches. Don't they give you a thrill—several thrills? I'm going to decorate my room with them."

"Messy things," said Marilla, whose aesthetic sense was not noticeably developed. "You clutter up your room entirely too much with out-of-doors stuff, Anne. Bedrooms were made to sleep in."

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To demonstrate that Anne has a newly developed appreciation of nature
- B. To describe an argument that Anne and Marilla often have
- C. To emphasize Marilla's disapproval of how Anne has decorated her room
- D. To show that Anne and Marilla have very different personalities

## ID: 19688783 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The text begins by noting that Anne “reveled in the world of color about her”—that is, she takes great delight in colorful things. It then relates a scene when she enthusiastically enters the house with autumn foliage and announces that she will decorate her room with it. The focus of the text then shifts to Marilla, who has an undeveloped “aesthetic sense,” or appreciation of beauty, as can be seen when she dismisses the maple leaves as “messy things” and criticizes Anne for cluttering her room with objects from outside. This episode thus illustrates that Anne and Marilla differ in their appreciation of beauty and, more generally, in their basic character: Anne is exuberant and joyful, while Marilla is stern and critical. Therefore, the purpose of the text is to show that Anne and Marilla have very different personalities.

Choice A is incorrect because the text presents Anne’s appreciation of nature as a basic personality trait, not as a newfound enthusiasm, and never indicates how recently she developed that appreciation. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text portrays Anne and Marilla as having different personalities and attitudes toward natural beauty and home decoration, it doesn’t show them engaging in an argument about this difference or suggest that they often argue about it. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text does indicate that Marilla disapproves of how Anne plans to decorate her room, Marilla’s disapproval is a supporting detail that serves to develop her personality, which the text as a whole contrasts with Anne’s personality.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1107e7dc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 1107e7dc

Economists often assert that countries looking to increase their reliance on solar energy should expand their capacity for storage; having an ample reserve of stored energy can mitigate the effects of \_\_\_\_\_ solar energy collection caused by unpredictable shifts in cloud cover and haze.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. developments of
- B. fluctuations in
- C. calibrations with
- D. incentives for

## ID: 1107e7dc Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of solar energy collection and storage. In this context, "fluctuations in" means irregular changes in. The text notes that economists recommend that countries that want to rely more on solar energy (energy captured from sunlight) should attempt to expand their storage capacity. The text goes on to explain that having a large amount of stored solar energy can lessen the negative effect of "unpredictable shifts in cloud cover and haze"—that is, unpredictable changes in environmental conditions that at times limit sunlight. This context suggests that having ample solar energy stored and ready to use can mitigate the issue of fluctuations in solar energy collection caused by irregular patterns of sunlight availability.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "developments of solar energy collection" would most clearly refer to the creation of ways to collect solar energy (energy captured from sunlight). The text focuses on collection and the idea that having stored energy can mitigate, or make less bad, the effects of a problem caused by unpredictable changes that affect sunlight ("cloud cover and haze"); there's no reason to think that the creation of new collection methods would be viewed as a problem that would need to be mitigated. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "calibrations with" would most clearly refer to precise adjustments for a particular purpose. The text focuses on the collection of solar energy (energy captured from sunlight) and the idea that having stored energy can mitigate, or make less bad, the effects of a problem caused by unpredictable changes that affect sunlight ("cloud cover and haze"); there's no reason to think that precision in something related to solar energy collection would be viewed as a problem that would need to be mitigated. Choice D is incorrect. The text focuses on the collection of solar energy (energy captured from sunlight) and the idea that having stored energy can mitigate, or make less bad, the effects of a problem caused by unpredictable changes that affect sunlight ("cloud cover and haze"); nothing in the text suggests that "incentives for," or rewards for, solar energy collection would be viewed as a problem that would need to be mitigated, especially in countries that want to rely more on solar energy than they already do.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d7dccee7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: d7dccee7

In a 2019 study, Jeremy Gunawardena and colleagues found that the single-celled protozoan *Stentor roeseli* not only uses strategies to escape irritating stimuli but also switches strategies when one fails. This evidence of protozoans sophisticatedly “changing their minds” demonstrates that single-celled organisms may not be limited to \_\_\_\_\_ behaviors.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. aggressive
- B. rudimentary
- C. evolving
- D. advantageous

## ID: d7dccee7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of single-celled organism behavior. As used in this context, “rudimentary” means basic or unsophisticated. According to the text, a study of the single-celled protozoan *Stentor roeseli* showed that the organisms can switch strategies for escaping certain stimuli, “sophisticatedly ‘changing their minds’” and using new strategies should other strategies fail. This context suggests that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behaviors that are basic or rudimentary, since the study showed that single-celled protozoans can respond complexly to irritating stimuli.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behavior that is “aggressive,” or threatening. Rather, the text suggests that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behaviors that are basic, since the study of *Stentor roeseli* showed that single-celled protozoans can respond complexly to irritating stimuli. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behavior that is “evolving,” or advancing. Rather, the text suggests that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behaviors that are basic, since the study of *Stentor roeseli* showed that single-celled protozoans can respond complexly to irritating stimuli. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behavior that is “advantageous,” or helpful. Rather, the text suggests that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behaviors that are basic, since the study of *Stentor roeseli* showed that single-celled protozoans can respond complexly to irritating stimuli.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d69bc408

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: d69bc408

The following text is adapted from Aphra Behn's 1689 novel *The Lucky Mistake*. Atlante and Rinaldo are neighbors who have been secretly exchanging letters through Charlot, Atlante's sister.

[Atlante] gave this letter to Charlot; who immediately ran into the balcony with it, where she still found Rinaldo in a melancholy posture, leaning his head on his hand: She showed him the letter, but was afraid to toss it to him, for fear it might fall to the ground; so he ran and fetched a long cane, which he cleft at one end, and held it while she put the letter into the cleft, and stayed not to hear what he said to it. But never was man so transported with joy, as he was at the reading of this letter; it gives him new wounds; for to the generous, nothing obliges love so much as love.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It describes the delivery of a letter, and then portrays a character's happiness at reading that letter.  
It establishes that a character is desperate to receive a letter, and then explains why another character has not yet written that letter.
- C. It presents a character's concerns about delivering a letter, and then details the contents of that letter.  
It reveals the inspiration behind a character's letter, and then emphasizes the excitement that another character feels upon receiving that letter.

## ID: d69bc408 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall structure of the text. The narrator begins by explaining how Charlot carefully delivers Atlante's letter to Rinaldo, and then relates that Rinaldo feels "transported with joy" after reading the letter. Therefore, the overall structure of the text is best described as a description of the delivery of a letter followed by the portrayal of a character's happiness after reading the letter.

Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that the letter has been written; there's no explanation why another character hasn't written one. In addition, the text's description of Rinaldo "in a melancholy posture" suggests that he's sad and thoughtful, not that he's desperate to receive the letter. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text states that Charlot won't toss the letter to Rinaldo because she doesn't want it to fall, the text doesn't refer to the contents of the letter. Instead, the text describes how happy Rinaldo feels after reading it. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text does describe Rinaldo's reaction to the letter, the text doesn't begin by discussing Atlante's inspiration for writing the letter. Instead, the text begins by discussing the delivery of the letter.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a1d2c4d0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: a1d2c4d0

Pteropods are small swimming snails with thin, delicate calcium carbonate shells. These animals are thought to be especially vulnerable to ocean acidification due to calcium carbonate's susceptibility to dissolution at lower pH values. Victoria L. Peck and colleagues recently found that the periostracum (a protective coating on pteropods' outer shells) prevents this dissolution when intact. Moreover, the team was surprised to discover that even when the periostracum is breached, pteropods can still mitigate damage by rebuilding the inner shell wall.

Which choice best describes the main purpose of the text?

- A. To call for additional research on biological mechanisms that improve pteropod survival rates
- B. To discuss a conclusion drawn in a study of calcium carbonate's role in protecting the periostracum of pteropods
- C. To address some of the ways ocean acidification has altered pteropod behavior over time

To present findings that suggest that a concern about the effects of ocean acidification on pteropod shells may be unwarranted

## ID: a1d2c4d0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to present findings that suggest a previously held concern about the effects of ocean acidification on pteropod shells may be unwarranted. The text introduces the concern that pteropods are thought to be particularly vulnerable to ocean acidification, or lower pH levels, due to the susceptibility of their calcium carbonate shells to dissolution at lower pH levels. However, the text then describes findings from a recent study that suggest this concern may be unjustified, insofar as the protective periostracum coating on a pteropod's shell prevents dissolution, and even when the coating is breached, a pteropod can rebuild the inner shell wall, reducing the damage.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't call for additional research or suggest that more research is needed on biological mechanisms that improve pteropod survival rates. Instead, the text discusses a recent study showing that pteropods may not be as vulnerable to ocean acidification as is feared. Choice B is incorrect because the study discussed in the text doesn't address calcium carbonate's role in protecting the periostracum of pteropods. According to the text, the study addresses the periostracum's role in protecting pteropods' calcium carbonate shells from dissolution due to ocean acidification. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't address how ocean acidification has altered pteropod behavior over time. Instead, the text focuses on the potential effects of ocean acidification on pteropods' shells and the mechanisms protecting against those effects.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 27d9bb69

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: 27d9bb69

## Text 1

Many studies in psychology have shown that people seek out information even when they know in advance that they have no immediate use for it and that they won't directly benefit from it. Such findings support the consensus view among researchers of curiosity: namely, that curiosity is not instrumental but instead represents a drive to acquire information for its own sake.

## Text 2

While acknowledging that acquiring information is a powerful motivator, Rachit Dubey and colleagues ran an experiment to test whether emphasizing the usefulness of scientific information could increase curiosity about it. They found that when research involving rats and fruit flies was presented as having medical applications for humans, participants expressed greater interest in learning about it than when the research was not presented as useful.

Based on the texts, how would Dubey and colleagues (Text 2) most likely respond to the consensus view discussed in Text 1?

- A. By suggesting that curiosity may not be exclusively motivated by the desire to merely acquire information
  - By conceding that people may seek out information that serves no immediate purpose only because they think they can use it later
- B. use it later
- C. By pointing out that it is challenging to determine when information-seeking serves no goal beyond acquiring information
- D. By disputing the idea that curiosity can help explain apparently purposeless information-seeking behaviors

ID: 27d9bb69 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The researchers in Text 2 recognize that acquiring information is a powerful motivator, but showed that this motivation can still be affected by other factors, like whether or not the information is expected to be useful or not. This suggests that other desires may play a part in driving people to acquire information.

Choice B is incorrect. The consensus view in Text 1 is that people acquire information regardless of whether they think they can use it later. Dubey and colleagues acknowledge this fact (so they don't claim people seek out information "only" because it might be useful later). Choice C is incorrect. This choice misreads the results of Dubey and colleagues' study in Text 2. Neither text discusses the difficulty of determining the motivation for information-seeking. Choice D is incorrect. This choice contradicts Text 2, which starts with Dubey and colleagues "acknowledging that acquiring information is a powerful motivator" (i.e., agreeing that curiosity explains the seeking of apparently purposeless information). The research in Text 2 simply suggests that more than just curiosity can motivate information-seeking behavior when the information has a purpose.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c885c38b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

**ID: c885c38b**

## Text 1

Conventional wisdom long held that human social systems evolved in stages, beginning with hunter-gatherers forming small bands of members with roughly equal status. The shift to agriculture about 12,000 years ago sparked population growth that led to the emergence of groups with hierarchical structures: associations of clans first, then chiefdoms, and finally, bureaucratic states.

## Text 2

In a 2021 book, anthropologist David Graeber and archaeologist David Wengrow maintain that humans have always been socially flexible, alternately forming systems based on hierarchy and collective ones with decentralized leadership. The authors point to evidence that as far back as 50,000 years ago some hunter-gatherers adjusted their social structures seasonally, at times dispersing in small groups but also assembling into communities that included esteemed individuals.

Based on the texts, how would Graeber and Wengrow (Text 2) most likely respond to the “conventional wisdom” presented in Text 1?

- By conceding the importance of hierarchical systems but asserting the greater significance of decentralized collective A. societies
- B. By disputing the idea that developments in social structures have followed a linear progression through distinct stages
- C. By acknowledging that hierarchical roles likely weren’t a part of social systems before the rise of agriculture
- D. By challenging the assumption that groupings of hunter-gatherers were among the earliest forms of social structure

**ID: c885c38b Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it describes the most likely way that Graeber and Wengrow (Text 2) would respond to the “conventional wisdom” presented in Text 1. According to Text 1, the conventional wisdom about human social systems is that they developed through stages, beginning with hunter-gatherer bands, then moving to clan associations, then chiefdoms, and finally arriving at states with bureaucratic structures. Text 2 indicates that Graeber and Wengrow believe that human social systems have been flexible, shifting between different types of structures, including both hierarchical and collective systems, and that these shifts may have even occurred seasonally. This suggests that Graeber and Wengrow would dispute the idea that developments in social structures have followed a linear progression through distinct stages.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in Text 2 suggests that Graeber and Wengrow believe that decentralized collective societies are more significant than hierarchical systems. Text 2 is focused on Graeber and Wengrow’s view that humans have flexibly shifted among various social structures, not on the importance of particular structures relative to others. Choice C is incorrect because Text 2 doesn’t include any information suggesting that Graeber and Wengrow believe that hierarchies didn’t emerge until after the rise of agriculture. In fact, Text 2 indicates that Graeber and Wengrow cite evidence suggesting that some hunter-gatherer groups formed social structures with hierarchical elements (“communities that included esteemed individuals”) 50,000 years ago, long before the rise of agriculture, which Text 1 says occurred around 12,000 years ago. Choice D is incorrect because there’s no information in Text 2 suggesting that Graeber and Wengrow would challenge the assumption that groupings of hunter-gatherers were among the earliest forms of social structure. Although Text 1 does indicate that hunter-gatherer groups are assumed to be the earliest human social system, Text 2 says only that Graeber and Wengrow believe that some hunter-gatherer groups made use of different social structures at different times. Text 2 doesn’t imply that Graeber and Wengrow doubt that hunter-gatherer groups preceded most other social structures.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID de2c2f57

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: de2c2f57

Text 1

The fossil record suggests that mammoths went extinct around 11 thousand years (kyr) ago. In a 2021 study of environmental DNA (eDNA)—genetic material shed into the environment by organisms—in the Arctic, Yucheng Wang and colleagues found mammoth eDNA in sedimentary layers formed millennia later, around 4 kyr ago. To account for this discrepancy, Joshua H. Miller and Carl Simpson proposed that arctic temperatures could preserve a mammoth carcass on the surface, allowing it to leach DNA into the environment, for several thousand years.

Text 2

Wang and colleagues concede that eDNA contains DNA from both living organisms and carcasses, but for DNA to leach from remains over several millennia requires that the remains be perpetually on the surface. Scavengers and weathering in the Arctic, however, are likely to break down surface remains well before a thousand years have passed.

Which choice best describes how Text 1 and Text 2 relate to each other?

Text 1 discusses two approaches to studying mammoth extinction without advocating for either, whereas Text 2

- A. advocates for one approach over the other.

Text 1 presents findings by Wang and colleagues and gives another research team's attempt to explain those findings,

- B. whereas Text 2 provides additional detail that calls that explanation into question.

Text 1 describes Wang and colleagues' study and a critique of their methodology, whereas Text 2 offers additional details

- C. showing that methodology to be sound.

Text 1 argues that new research has undermined the standard view of when mammoths went extinct, whereas Text 2

- D. suggests a way to reconcile the standard view with that new research.

ID: de2c2f57 Answer

Correct Answer: B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Text 1 introduces Wang and colleagues' study and its surprising results, and then mentions Miller and Simpson's hypothesis as a possible way to explain them. Text 2, however, challenges Miller and Simpson's hypothesis by pointing out the difficulties of preserving mammoth carcasses on the surface for thousands of years: "scavengers and weathering" are the additional details that complicate the Miller/Simpson hypothesis.

Choice A is incorrect. Neither text compares two different approaches for studying mammoth extinction. Text 1 describes one study and one hypothesis pertaining to it. Text 2 critiques that hypothesis. Choice C is incorrect. Text 1 does not describe a critique of Wang and colleagues' methodology, but rather an interpretation of their results by Miller and Simpson. Text 2 does not offer additional details showing that methodology to be sound, but rather casts doubt on the Miller/Simpson explanation. Choice D is incorrect. Both components mentioned here (the new "undermining" research and the theory for reconciling this discovery) are contained in Text 1. Text 2 then shows how the attempt to reconcile the standard view and new research is flawed, and still fails to explain the discrepancy.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3f753a8e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 3f753a8e

Investigating whether shared false visual memories—specific but inaccurate and widely held recollections of images such as product logos—are caused by people's previous \_\_\_\_\_ incorrect renditions of the images, researchers Deepasri Prasad and Wilma Bainbridge found that, in fact, such memories are often not explained by familiarity with erroneous versions of the images.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. compliance with
- B. exposure to
- C. criteria for
- D. forfeiture of

## ID: 3f753a8e Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Exposure to" means "having contact with." It makes sense that Prasad and Bainbridge were investigating whether seeing false versions of images was a cause of false visual memories. Notice how "exposure to incorrect renditions" matches the idea of "familiarity with erroneous versions," which appears later in the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect. "Compliance with" means "going along with a command or directive." False versions of images can't give commands or directives, so this doesn't apply. Choice C is incorrect. "Criteria" means "standards by which to judge something." It's not clear how people would come to have standards for the wrong version of an image in the first place, let alone how those standards would cause them to falsely remember the correct version. In other words, this choice would result in a confusing, unclear sentence. Choice D is incorrect. "Forfeiture of" means "a giving up of something." It wouldn't make sense to say that false memories of an image might be caused by giving up the wrong version of the image.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6c64a8f3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 6c64a8f3

Ecologist Exequiel Ezcurra and colleagues found that the inhabitants of the Mexica empire used natural landmarks to track time with a high degree of \_\_\_\_\_. By observing the sun's position in relation to various points on the mountains surrounding the Basin of Mexico, the Mexica were able to precisely identify the dates when significant events such as solstices occurred.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. precariousness
- B. exactitude
- C. resilience
- D. inconspicuousness

## ID: 6c64a8f3 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the method the inhabitants of the Mexica empire used to track time. In this context, "exactitude" means precision. The text indicates that the Mexica used the sun's position relative to various natural landmarks to track the passage of time, explaining that such methods allowed the Mexica to accurately determine the dates of important events such as solstices. This context supports the idea that the Mexica people were able to track time with a high degree of precision, or exactitude.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context "precariousness" would mean instability, and there's nothing in the text to suggest that the method used by the Mexica people to track time was unstable or produced unstable results. Rather, the text indicates that the method yielded precise results, allowing the Mexica to accurately determine the dates of significant events. Choice C is incorrect because in this context "resilience" would mean persistence, and there's nothing in the text to suggest that the Mexica worked stubbornly in spite of obstacles in order to track time. Choice D is incorrect because in this context "inconspicuousness" would mean discreetness, and there's nothing in the text to suggest that the Mexica wanted to track time without being noticed.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d7807ec8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

**ID: d7807ec8**

Political blogs with conspicuous ideological alignments became an integral component of US media in the early 2000s. While some commentators lauded this development, asserting that such blogs had a welcome transparency missing from traditional news, less \_\_\_\_\_ observers countered that such blogs tended to ideological extremes that exacerbated political polarization to problematic levels.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. sanguine
- B. recalcitrant
- C. misanthropic
- D. earnest

**ID: d7807ec8 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of political blogs. In this context, "sanguine" means optimistic. The text begins by noting the rise of political blogs with readily identifiable ideological alignments in the early 2000s. The text then indicates that some commentators saw this as a positive development, citing a reason why (their difference from traditional news). Finally, the text goes on to contrast those commentators with others who have a negative opinion of the rise of political blogs (because they increase political polarization among their readers). This context supports the idea that the second group of commentators is less positive than the first: thus, the second group of commentators is less optimistic, or sanguine.

Choice B is incorrect because it would not make sense in this context to describe those commentators who have a negative opinion of political blogs as less "recalcitrant," or obstinately uncooperative, than those commentators who supported political blogs. Choice C is incorrect because the text gives no indication that those commentators who have a negative opinion of political blogs are less "misanthropic," or less contemptuous of humankind, than those commentators who have a positive opinion of political blogs—there is no indication in the text that those commentators who like political blogs would be contemptuous of humankind at all. Choice D is incorrect because there is no evidence that those commentators who have a negative opinion of political blogs are less "earnest," or sincere, than those who have a positive opinion of such blogs—presumably, both groups of commentators hold their beliefs with equal conviction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 97360a00

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

**ID: 97360a00**

The following text is adapted from Gwendolyn Bennett's 1926 poem "Street Lamps in Early Spring."

Night wears a garment  
All velvet soft, all violet blue...  
And over her face she draws a veil  
As shimmering fine as floating dew...  
And here and there  
In the black of her hair  
The subtle hands of Night  
Move slowly with their gem-starred light.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It presents alternating descriptions of night in a rural area and in a city.
- B. It sketches an image of nightfall, then an image of sunrise.
- C. It makes an extended comparison of night to a human being.
- D. It portrays how night changes from one season of the year to the next.

**ID: 97360a00 Answer**

**Correct Answer: C**

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall structure of the text. Throughout the text, the speaker characterizes nighttime as if it were a person who wears clothing ("a garment" that is "velvet soft" and "violet blue") and a veil "over her face" and who moves her hands "slowly with their gem-starred light" through her dark hair. Thus, the text is structured as an extended comparison of night to a human being.

Choice A is incorrect because the text never mentions any particular location; instead, it focuses on presenting a single description of night as a person with certain clothing and features. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't make any reference to the sun or sunrise; instead, it focuses on presenting a single image of night as a person with certain clothing and features. Choice D is incorrect. Rather than describing how nighttime changes seasonally (or in any other way), the text presents a single image of night as a person with certain clothing and features.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9c35759f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 9c35759f

Novelist N. K. Jemisin declines to \_\_\_\_\_ the conventions of the science fiction genre in which she writes, and she has suggested that her readers appreciate her work precisely because of this willingness to thwart expectations and avoid formulaic plots and themes.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. question
- B. react to
- C. perceive
- D. conform to

## ID: 9c35759f Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Jemisin's writing. In this context, "conform to" means to act in accordance with something. The text suggests that in her science fiction writing, Jemisin's willingness to go against expectations and not use plots and themes that seem to follow a formula reflects how she treats the standard practices of the genre. This context conveys that Jemisin chooses not to act in accordance with those conventions.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, "question" would mean doubt or object to. The text indicates that Jemisin is willing to go against expectations and not use formulaic plots and themes in her science fiction writing, suggesting that she may actually object to those conventions of the genre, not that she chooses not to question them. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that in her science fiction writing, Jemisin is willing to go against expectations and not use formulaic plots and themes. Rather than suggesting that Jemisin chooses not to "react to," or act in response to, the standard practices of the genre, this context suggests that she is acting in response to such conventions by deliberately avoiding them. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "perceive" would mean become aware of or understand. The text indicates that in her science fiction writing, Jemisin is willing to go against expectations and not use formulaic plots and themes. This context conveys that Jemisin is aware of and deliberately avoids those conventions of the genre, not that she chooses not to be aware of them.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 6a1194e8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 6a1194e8

Rydra Wong, the protagonist of Samuel R. Delany's 1966 novel *Babel-17*, is a poet, an occupation which, in Delany's work, is not \_\_\_\_: nearly a dozen of the characters that populate his novels are poets or writers.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. infallible
- B. atypical
- C. lucrative
- D. tedious

## ID: 6a1194e8 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Samuel R. Delany's character Rydra Wong. As used in this context, "atypical" would mean unrepresentative or not common. The text indicates that Wong is one of "nearly a dozen" characters in Delany's novels who are poets or writers. This context conveys that being a poet isn't an atypical occupation for a character in one of Delany's works.

Choice A is incorrect because "infallible" means to be accurate or without fault, which wouldn't make sense in context. The text focuses on the fact that Delany has written many characters who are poets and writers. This context suggests that the occupation isn't atypical for Delany, not that the occupation isn't infallible, or problematic. Choice C is incorrect because "lucrative" means to be profitable, which wouldn't make sense in context. If writing poet characters weren't profitable, it wouldn't be logical to explain this by citing that Delany gave many of his characters the same occupation. Choice D is incorrect because "tedious" means to be boring, which wouldn't make sense in context. The text focuses on the fact that Delany has written many characters who are poets and writers. This context suggests that the occupation isn't atypical for Delany, not that the occupation isn't tedious.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 490b205f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 490b205f

In editor Lisa Yaszek's introduction to her anthology *The Future Is Female! More Classic Science Fiction Stories by Women*, Yaszek identifies an increasing sense of \_\_\_\_\_ feminist mode of writing in the 1970s, in contrast to many woman-authored science fiction stories of the 1920s to 1960s whose politics were less deliberately signaled.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. a prudently
- B. an overtly
- C. a cordially
- D. an inadvertently

## ID: 490b205f Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Yaszek's introduction to her science fiction anthology. In this context "overtly" means openly or without concealment. The text draws a contrast between the lack of "deliberately signaled" political themes in woman-authored science fiction from the 1920s to the 1960s and what Yaszek notes about woman-authored science fiction from the 1970s. This contrast implies that the work from the 1970s did clearly reflect feminist political themes. In other words, the text indicates that unlike women who wrote science fiction in the 1920s to the 1960s, the women who wrote science fiction in the 1970s expressed overtly feminist themes.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context "prudently" would mean cautiously, which might plausibly describe the women who wrote science fiction from the 1920s to the 1960s, in that they tended to avoid revealing their political views; however, the text contrasts these authors with the women writing science fiction in the 1970s, thereby suggesting that the authors writing in the 1970s were not restrained in that way. Choice C is incorrect because in this context "cordially" would mean politely, and nothing in the text indicates that politeness was a significant factor for women writing science fiction either from the 1920s to the 1960s or in the 1970s. The text draws a contrast between the lack of "deliberately signaled" political themes in woman-authored science fiction from the 1920s to the 1960s and what Yaszek notes about woman-authored science fiction from the 1970s. It's unclear how "less deliberately signaled" politics and an increasing sense of politeness toward feminism would constitute a meaningful contrast. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "inadvertently" would mean unintentionally, and nothing in the text suggests that Yaszek thought the feminist elements of the woman-authored science fiction from the 1970s arose without deliberate effort.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4fa7e50e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 4fa7e50e

According to a US tax policy expert, state taxes are \_\_\_\_\_ other factors when considering an interstate move. Even significant differences in state taxation have almost no effect on most people's decisions, while differences in employment opportunities, housing availability, and climate are strong influences.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. consistent with
- B. representative of
- C. overshadowed by
- D. irrelevant to

## ID: 4fa7e50e Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the factors that influence peoples' decisions to move to a different state. As used in this context, "overshadowed by" means to be surpassed by or caused to seem less important than other factors affecting a move. The text indicates that, according to a US tax policy expert, when people think about an interstate move, state taxes have little effect on their decisions, while employment opportunities, housing availability, and climate have a very strong effect. This context suggests that people consider these other factors to be more important than state taxes.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that state taxes aren't as important a consideration as other factors when people are thinking of moving to another state. The context doesn't suggest that state taxes are "consistent with," or in agreement with these other factors. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to say that state taxes are "representative of," or typical of, other factors. Taxes aren't an example of employment opportunities, housing availability, and climate, which are the other factors listed in the text. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to say that state taxes are "irrelevant to," or unconnected or unimportant to other factors. State taxes are irrelevant to peoples' decisions, not to other factors. In other words, although the text suggests that state taxes may be irrelevant to people considering a move to another state, the other factors mentioned in the text, such as employment opportunities, are unable to have an opinion about state taxes. Furthermore, the text indicates that significant differences in state taxes have almost no effect on peoples' choices to move, but they aren't completely unimportant.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID aa7fc89b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: aa7fc89b

The following text is adapted from Susan Glaspell's 1912 short story "Out There." An elderly shop owner is looking at a picture that he recently acquired and hopes to sell.

It did seem that the picture failed to fit in with the rest of the shop. A persuasive young fellow who claimed he was closing out his stock let the old man have it for what he called a song. It was only a little out-of-the-way store which subsisted chiefly on the framing of pictures. The old man looked around at his views of the city, his pictures of cats and dogs, his flaming bits of landscape. "Don't belong in here," he fumed.

And yet the old man was secretly proud of his acquisition. There was a hidden dignity in his scowling as he shuffled about pondering the least ridiculous place for the picture.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To reveal the shop owner's conflicted feelings about the new picture
- B. To convey the shop owner's resentment of the person he got the new picture from
- C. To describe the items that the shop owner most highly prizes
- D. To explain differences between the new picture and other pictures in the shop

## ID: aa7fc89b Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The text begins by stating that the new picture "failed to fit in" with the other items that the shop owner has. The text goes on to illustrate that point by describing the other pictures the shop owner has, indicating that the shop owner is fuming because he doesn't think the new picture belongs in the store. In the second paragraph, however, the text indicates that the shop owner is "secretly proud of his acquisition." The main purpose of the text is thus to reveal the shop owner's conflicted feelings about the new picture.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the shop owner resents the young man who sold him the new picture; in fact, the text gives no indication of the owner's feelings about the young man at all. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text indicates that the new picture is different from the other items in the shop, there's no suggestion that the shop owner prizes either the new picture or the pictures of the city, pets, and landscapes more than he prizes any other items. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't describe what the new picture looks like; rather, the text identifies some of the other kinds of images that the shop owner has and states that they're different from the new picture without explaining how they're different.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e23f50b9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: e23f50b9

The people of medieval Europe have traditionally been seen as uninterested in cleanliness and hygiene, but modern research has shown that this is largely a myth. According to historian Eleanor Janega, most medieval towns in Europe had at least one public bathhouse, which often offered both full-immersion baths and—more affordably—steam baths. While such amenities were available mainly to town dwellers, regular bathing in rivers and streams or daily sponge baths at home were common practices throughout medieval Europe.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion?

- A. It asserts that in medieval Europe steam baths were more popular in rural areas than in urban ones.
- B. It describes a limitation of earlier historians' studies of medieval European bathing habits.
- C. It concedes that not all people in medieval Europe had access to public bathhouses.
- D. It explains why Janega decided to study the popularity of public bathhouses in medieval Europe.

## ID: e23f50b9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively describes the function of the underlined portion. The text discusses the long-standing misconception that people in medieval Europe were uninterested in cleanliness and hygiene. As evidence that this idea is false, the text cites historian Eleanor Janega's assertion that in medieval Europe, towns usually had at least one bathhouse, where people could take immersion baths or steam baths for a fee. The underlined portion then notes that mainly town dwellers had access to these bathhouses. The remainder of the text explains that those who lacked such access were nonetheless able to bathe in outdoor waterways or take sponge baths at home. Therefore, the underlined portion concedes that some people in medieval Europe lacked access to public bathhouses.

Choice A is incorrect. The underlined portion establishes that amenities such as steam baths were mainly available to town dwellers, which suggests in turn that steam baths were largely unavailable to people in rural areas. Thus, the distinction made by the underlined portion is not between the popularity of steam baths in towns versus their lack of popularity in rural areas but instead between their presence in towns and absence in rural areas. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text does explain that recent historians have disproved the idea that medieval Europeans rarely bathed, it doesn't attribute that misconception to earlier historians of medieval Europe or suggest that their research was subject to limitations. Moreover, the underlined portion addresses a limitation of life in medieval Europe, not of historical research. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn't address why historian Eleanor Janega decided to study the popularity of public bathhouses in medieval Europe—nor does any portion of the text. The text mentions Janega in passing, but it doesn't go into detail about why she decided to study the popularity of public bathhouses in medieval Europe.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 48555763

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

**ID: 48555763**

The following text is from Herman Melville's 1854 novel *The Lightning-rod Man*.

The stranger still stood in the exact middle of the cottage, where he had first planted himself. His singularity impelled a closer scrutiny. A lean, gloomy figure. Hair dark and lank, mattedly streaked over his brow. His sunken pitfalls of eyes were ringed by indigo halos, and played with an innocuous sort of lightning: the gleam without the bolt. The whole man was dripping. He stood in a puddle on the bare oak floor: his strange walking-stick vertically resting at his side.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined sentence in the overall structure of the text?

- A. It elaborates on the previous sentence's description of the character.
- B. It introduces the setting that is described in the sentences that follow.
- C. It establishes a contrast with the description in the previous sentence.
- D. It sets up the character description presented in the sentences that follow.

**ID: 48555763 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This best states the function of the underlined sentence. The sentence basically says: "He stood out, so I looked more closely at him." Then the rest of the text describes him in detail.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn't state the function of the underlined sentence. The previous sentence basically says: "He was still standing in the middle of the cottage"—it doesn't include any description of the character himself. Choice B is incorrect. This doesn't state the function of the underlined sentence. The following sentences describe the character, not the setting. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn't state the function of the underlined sentence. The underlined sentence basically says: "He stood out, so I looked more closely at him." The previous sentence basically says: "He was still standing in the middle of the cottage." There's no contrast between these two sentences.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e7247766

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

**ID: e7247766**

Horizontal gene transfer occurs when an organism of one species acquires genetic material from an organism of another species through nonreproductive means. The genetic material can then be transferred “vertically” in the second species—that is, through reproductive inheritance. Scientist Atma Ivancevic and her team have hypothesized infection by invertebrate parasites as a mechanism of horizontal gene transfer between vertebrate species: while feeding, a parasite could acquire a gene from one host, then relocate to a host from a different vertebrate species and transfer the gene to it in turn.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It explains why parasites are less susceptible to horizontal gene transfer than their hosts are.
- B. It clarifies why some genes are more likely to be transferred horizontally than others are.
- C. It contrasts how horizontal gene transfer occurs among vertebrates with how it occurs among invertebrates.
- D. It describes a means by which horizontal gene transfer might occur among vertebrates.

**ID: e7247766 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text defines horizontal gene transfer and then gives one possibility for how it happens in vertebrates (via infection by parasites). The underlined part describes how that mechanism could work.

Choice A is incorrect. The underlined portion doesn’t do this. Parasites are only described as the mechanism that does the transferring, not the species that gives or receives the genes. Choice B is incorrect. The underlined portion doesn’t do this. The text never discusses which genes are more likely to be transferred. Choice C is incorrect. The underlined portion doesn’t do this. The text never discusses how horizontal gene transfer occurs among invertebrates.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ae2b3112

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: ae2b3112

By combining Indigenous and classical music, Cree composer and cellist Cris Derksen creates works that reflect the diverse cultural landscape of Canada. For her album *Orchestral Powwow*, Derksen composed new songs in the style of traditional powwow music that were accompanied by classical arrangements played by an orchestra. But where an orchestra would normally follow the directions of a conductor, the musicians on *Orchestral Powwow* are led by the beat of a powwow drum.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To examine how Derksen's musical compositions blend cultures
- B. To argue that Derksen should be recognized for creating a new style of music
- C. To describe the difficulties Derksen encountered when producing her album
- D. To establish a contrast between Derksen's classical training and her Cree heritage

## ID: ae2b3112 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to discuss how Derksen's compositions incorporate elements from both Indigenous and classical music. After introducing Derksen, the text describes how the songs Derksen composed for her album *Orchestral Powwow* feature aspects of the two musical traditions. Specifically, the text notes that Derksen wrote songs in the style of traditional powwow music but accompanied them with classical arrangements played by an orchestra that followed the beat of a powwow drum rather than the directions of a conductor. In this way, Derksen's compositions blend different cultures.

Choice B is incorrect because although the text suggests that Derksen's songs contain innovative elements since they blend styles from two different musical traditions, it doesn't discuss whether her compositions constitute a new style of music, let alone whether Derksen should be recognized for creating a new style of music. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't mention any difficulties Derksen encountered when producing her album. Rather, the text describes how the songs on the album exemplify how Derksen combines music from two different cultures. Choice D is incorrect because although the text mentions Derksen's Cree heritage and suggests that she relies on knowledge of both Indigenous and classical music when she composes her songs, it doesn't discuss her musical training. Additionally, the text is primarily focused on how Derksen combines different cultural traditions, not on contrasting Derksen's training with her heritage.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 94eb800d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 94eb800d

For a 2020 exhibition, photographer and neurobiologist Okunola Jeyifous \_\_\_\_\_ a series of new images based on a series of alphabet posters from the 1970s known as the “Black ABCs,” which featured Black children from Chicago. Jeyifous photographed the now-adult models and layered the photos over magnified images of the models’ cells, resulting in what he called “micro and macro portraiture.”

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. validated
- B. created
- C. challenged
- D. restored

## ID: 94eb800d Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically and precisely completes the text’s discussion of Jeyifous’s series of images for the 2020 exhibition. In this context, “created” means produced. The text explains that Jeyifous, a photographer and neurobiologist, photographed adults who had appeared as children in posters from the 1970s, then combined those photographs with magnified images of the adults’ cells—a process that resulted in what he called “micro and macro portraiture.” This context suggests that Jeyifous drew on his dual interests in photography and neurobiology to produce the images for display in the exhibition.

Choice A is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text to suggest that Jeyifous “validated,” or corroborated, the series of images. The text describes Jeyifous’s process for composing the images but doesn’t describe Jeyifous making an effort to evaluate the images for their artistic or scientific legitimacy. Choice C is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text to suggest that Jeyifous “challenged,” or disputed, an aspect of the images; rather, the focus of the text is on the inspiration behind the images and the method Jeyifous used to achieve them. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that Jeyifous made the images himself using a combination of photography and magnified pictures of cells, not that he “restored,” or reconditioned, the images from a deteriorated state.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c218cd98

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

**ID: c218cd98**

In 1776, the United States sent Benjamin Franklin to France to try to win the country's support in the United States' fight for independence from Great Britain. Franklin was very popular in France. This \_\_\_\_\_ surely helped him to convince France to assist the United States.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. thoughtfulness
- B. esteem
- C. controversy
- D. sincerity

**ID: c218cd98 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Benjamin Franklin's popularity in France. In this context, "esteem" means high regard. The text indicates that Franklin was very popular, or highly regarded, in France, where he sought the country's support for the United States in its fight for independence, and indicates that his status helped him achieve his goal. The context therefore suggests that being held in high regard by the people likely helped Franklin convince France to help the United States.

Choice A is incorrect because the text directly indicates that it was Franklin's popularity that likely helped him convince France to help the United States, not his "thoughtfulness" (which in this context would mean either his careful reasoning and attention or his kind consideration of others' needs). Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that there was any "controversy," or dispute, about Franklin's presence in France; instead, the text states that Franklin was very popular in France and directly indicates that this status likely helped him convince France to help the United States. Choice D is incorrect because the text directly indicates that it was Franklin's popularity that likely helped him convince France to help the United States, not his "sincerity," or his honesty.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 8bc66f89

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 8bc66f89

Part of the Atacama Desert in Peru has surprisingly rich plant life despite receiving almost no rainfall. Moisture from winter fog sustains plants once they're growing, but the soil's tough crust makes it hard for seeds to germinate in the first place. Local birds that dig nests in the ground seem to be of help: they churn the soil, exposing buried seeds to moisture and nutrients. Indeed, in 2016 Cristina Rengifo Faiffer found that mounds of soil dug up by birds were far more fertile and supported more seedlings than soil in undisturbed areas.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It elaborates on the idea that the top layer of Atacama Desert soil forms a tough crust.
- B. It describes the process by which seeds are deposited into Atacama Desert soil.
- C. It identifies the reason particular bird species dig nests in Atacama Desert soil.
- D. It explains how certain birds promote seed germination in Atacama Desert soil.

## ID: 8bc66f89 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first two sentences establish a natural phenomenon: there is a richness of plant life found in the Atacama Desert despite the hard soil that makes it challenging for seeds to germinate. The next sentence, which contains the underlined portion, offers a potential explanation for the phenomenon: local birds dig ground nests exposing seeds to moisture and materials in the soil necessary for germination. The last sentence summarizes a study that compared the fertility of mounds of dirt dug up by birds to mounds that were undisturbed to support the explanation in the underlined portion. Thus, the underlined portion mainly functions to explain how certain birds promote seed germination in the Atacama Desert soil.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn't address the topic of the soil's tough crust or its formation. Instead, the text elaborates on the idea that local birds that build ground nests may help seeds germinate in the hard soil. Choice B is incorrect because the underlined portion describes how some birds may support seed germination in Atacama Desert soil but doesn't describe how the seeds are deposited into the soil before germination begins. Choice C is incorrect because neither the underlined portion nor the text as a whole identifies a reason that a particular bird species may choose to dig ground nests in the Atacama Desert soil.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7a0e31ea

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 7a0e31ea

The following text is from Betty Smith's 1943 novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Francie, a young girl, visits the library often.

Francie thought that all the books in the world were in that library and she had a plan about reading all the books in the world. She was reading a book a day in alphabetical order and not skipping the dry ones. She remembered that the first author had been Abbott. She had been reading a book a day for a long time now and she was still in the B's. Already she had read about bees and buffaloes, Bermuda vacations and Byzantine architecture. For all her enthusiasm, she had to admit that some of the B's had been hard going. But Francie was a reader.

©1947 by Betty Smith

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To illustrate Francie's enjoyment of an unusual topic
- B. To explain why Francie prefers reading over other activities
- C. To portray Francie's determination to meet a goal
- D. To describe a book that Francie greatly admires

## ID: 7a0e31ea Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to portray Francie's determination to reach her goal of reading all the books in the world. The text indicates that to achieve this aim, Francie works systematically and persistently: she reads all the books in the library in alphabetical order and devotes much time and effort to the project, finishing one book per day over a long period of time. The text then suggests that even though she progresses slowly ("she was still in the B's") and that she struggled with some books ("some of the B's had been hard going"), she doesn't give up because she thinks of herself as "a reader." These details show Francie's resolve.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text mentions several topics (bees and buffaloes, Bermuda vacations, and Byzantine architecture) that Francie has read about, it doesn't indicate that any of these topics are unusual or that she especially enjoyed reading about one of these topics in particular. If anything, the text suggests that she may have found some of these topics to be dull, saying that she even read the "dry ones"—that is, the boring books—and that some of the books were "hard going," meaning they were difficult to get through. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss Francie's involvement in other activities, only her dedication to reading. Although it's possible that Francie dedicates herself to reading because she prefers it to other activities, the text doesn't indicate whether this is the case. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text mentions one author (Abbott) whose book Francie has read as well as several topics (bees and buffaloes, Bermuda vacations, and Byzantine architecture) she has encountered, the text doesn't say whether Francie admires any of the books she's read so far. Instead, the text focuses on the time and effort she devotes to reaching her goal of reading all the books in the world—even ones she doesn't enjoy.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID cce2f8dc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: cce2f8dc

In 2023 literary scholar Jeremy Douglass cautioned technology investors and enthusiasts who predict conventional books' ultimate displacement by newer forms of media. Douglass observed that the concept of an “interactive” text is much older than technologists assume, extending back to the first time readers scratched notes into a text’s margins. In addition, newer media, such as video games, haven't replaced older forms of entertainment, such as comic books, but rather exist alongside them. Douglass believes that rather than supplanting books, technology is simply making new forms of expression possible.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It challenges the stance of the investors and enthusiasts who are mentioned earlier in the text.
- B. It explains the basis for the claim made by the technologists mentioned in the text.
- C. It suggests that academics are better suited than investors to see the potential uses of contemporary interactive texts.
- D. It provides a historical anecdote about the technological challenges involved in reading the earliest interactive texts.

## ID: cce2f8dc Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence of the text introduces literary scholar Jeremy Douglass's warning to technology investors and enthusiasts against predicting the displacement of conventional books by newer media forms. The next sentence, which is underlined in part, presents Douglass's observation that interactive texts are hardly new; they have been available for longer than technologists assume, beginning with the first time readers wrote notes in texts' margins. Thus, the function of the underlined portion is to challenge the stance of the technology investors and enthusiasts mentioned earlier in the text. As the remainder of the text points out, newer media doesn't necessarily replace older media, but rather, as Douglass believes, leads to new forms of expression.

Choice B is incorrect because the underlined portion challenges the position taken by investors and enthusiasts; it doesn't provide context for their claims. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn't mention academics or compare them to investors regarding their ability to see potential in using contemporary interactive texts; instead, the underlined portion challenges the position of investors and enthusiasts who predict that conventional books will be replaced by newer forms of media. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn't address technological challenges; instead, it disputes the stance taken by investors and enthusiasts, suggesting that conventional books haven't been displaced by traditional interactions with texts, such as writing in the margins, and won't be supplanted by newer forms of media either.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6977d22b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: 6977d22b

## Text 1

Ecologists have long wondered how thousands of microscopic phytoplankton species can live together near ocean surfaces competing for the same resources. According to conventional wisdom, one species should emerge after outcompeting the rest. So why do so many species remain? Ecologists' many efforts to explain this phenomenon still haven't uncovered a satisfactory explanation.

## Text 2

Ecologist Michael Behrenfeld and colleagues have connected phytoplankton's diversity to their microscopic size. Because these organisms are so tiny, they are spaced relatively far apart from each other in ocean water and, moreover, experience that water as a relatively dense substance. This in turn makes it hard for them to move around and interact with one another. Therefore, says Behrenfeld's team, direct competition among phytoplankton probably happens much less than previously thought.

Based on the texts, how would Behrenfeld and colleagues (Text 2) most likely respond to the "conventional wisdom" discussed in Text 1?

- A. By arguing that it is based on a misconception about phytoplankton species competing with one another
  - By asserting that it fails to recognize that routine replenishment of ocean nutrients prevents competition between
- B. phytoplankton species
- C. By suggesting that their own findings help clarify how phytoplankton species are able to compete with larger organisms
  - By recommending that more ecologists focus their research on how competition among phytoplankton species is
- D. increased with water density

ID: 6977d22b Answer

Correct Answer: A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because based on Text 2, it represents how Behrenfeld and colleagues would most likely respond to the “conventional wisdom” discussed in Text 1. The conventional wisdom cited holds the opinion that when there is species diversity within a phytoplankton population, “one species should emerge after outcompeting the rest”—that is, after being so successful in competing for resources that the other species vanish from the population. However, Text 2 explains that according to Behrenfeld and colleagues, phytoplankton are so small and spaced so far apart in the water that there is “much less” direct competition for resources within phytoplankton populations than scientists had previously thought.

Choice B is incorrect because Text 2 never discusses whether routine replenishment of ocean nutrients affects competition between phytoplankton species. Choice C is incorrect because the interspecies competition discussed in both texts is specifically between phytoplankton species, and neither text considers whether phytoplankton compete for resources with larger nonphytoplankton species. Choice D is incorrect because according to Text 2, Behrenfeld and colleagues argue that water density decreases, not increases, competition between phytoplankton species.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6bc0ba75

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 6bc0ba75

The mimosa tree evolved in East Asia, where the beetle *Bruchidius terrenus* preys on its seeds. In 1785, mimosa trees were introduced to North America, far from any *B. terrenus*. But evolutionary links between predators and their prey can persist across centuries and continents. Around 2001, *B. terrenus* was introduced in southeastern North America near where botanist Shu-Mei Chang and colleagues had been monitoring mimosa trees. Within a year, 93 percent of the trees had been attacked by the beetles.

Which choice best describes the function of the third sentence in the overall structure of the text?

- A. It states the hypothesis that Chang and colleagues had set out to investigate using mimosa trees and *B. terrenus*.
- B. It presents a generalization that is exemplified by the discussion of the mimosa trees and *B. terrenus*.
- C. It provides context that clarifies why the species mentioned spread to new locations.
- D. It offers an alternative explanation for the findings of Chang and colleagues.

## ID: 6bc0ba75 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the third sentence within the overall structure of the text. The third sentence makes a generalization, asserting that evolutionary links between predators and prey can persist across great expanses of time and distance. This generalization is exemplified by the text's discussion of the relationship between mimosa trees and *B. terrenus* beetles. When mimosa trees were introduced to North America in 1785, no *B. terrenus* beetles were present, so the relationship between the trees and the beetles that exists in their native East Asia was disrupted. When the beetles were introduced to North America more than 200 years later, however, they quickly attacked mimosa trees, illustrating the generalization that links between predators and prey "can persist across centuries and continents."

Choice A is incorrect because the third sentence doesn't indicate that Chang and colleagues were investigating any hypothesis. According to the text, Chang and colleagues were simply monitoring mimosa trees when the beetles happened to be introduced to the area. Choice C is incorrect because the third sentence doesn't discuss any particular species, let alone the species mentioned elsewhere in the text, nor does the sentence explain why species spread to new locations. Choice D is incorrect because the third sentence offers a generalization about the relationship between predators and prey, not an explanation for the findings by Chang and colleagues that's an "alternative" to an explanation presented elsewhere in the text.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b4d29611

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: b4d29611

Michelene Pesantubbee, a historian and citizen of the Choctaw Nation, has identified a dilemma inherent to research on the status of women in her tribe during the 1600s and 1700s: the primary sources from that era, travel narratives and other accounts by male European colonizers, underestimate the degree of power conferred on Choctaw women by their traditional roles in political, civic, and ceremonial life. Pesantubbee argues that the Choctaw oral tradition and findings from archaeological sites in the tribe's homeland supplement the written record by providing crucial insights into those roles.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- It details the shortcomings of certain historical sources, then argues that research should avoid those sources
- A. altogether.
- It describes a problem that arises in research on a particular topic, then sketches a historian's approach to addressing that problem.
- B. that problem.
- C. It lists the advantages of a particular research method, then acknowledges a historian's criticism of that method.
- It characterizes a particular topic as especially challenging to research, then suggests a related topic for historians to pursue instead.
- D. pursue instead.

## ID: b4d29611 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text begins by stating a problem with research on the status of Choctaw women in the 1600s and 1700s: written primary sources underestimate the power they had in their traditional roles. Then it presents one historian's solution: looking to oral tradition and archeological findings for more insight into these roles.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn't the overall structure. The text never says that research should avoid written primary sources, just that research should also use oral tradition and archeological sites as sources. Choice C is incorrect. This isn't the overall structure. The text never mentions the advantages of using written primary sources. Choice D is incorrect. This isn't the overall structure. The text never says that the status of Choctaw women during the 1600s and 1700s is too challenging to research. And it doesn't mention any other topics to research instead.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d3104a68

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

**ID: d3104a68**

Birds sing to communicate over potentially great distances. For this reason, many researchers believe that birds in densely vegetated habitats generally sing at lower frequencies than birds living in comparatively sparse habitats, since dense vegetation tends to \_\_\_\_\_ the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. exceed
- B. diminish
- C. encompass
- D. conceal

**ID: d3104a68 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of birdsong. In this context, "diminish" means reduce or lessen. The text establishes that birds sing to communicate over potentially large distances and that researchers believe that birds that live in densely vegetated habitats sing at lower frequencies than birds that live in comparatively sparsely vegetated habitats. The text then explains that researchers hold this belief due to some effect of dense vegetation on the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel. If birds sing to communicate over long distances, it would be logical to conclude that researchers believe that birds in densely vegetated habitats sing at lower frequencies than birds in relatively sparse habitats do because dense vegetation diminishes the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that dense vegetation can "exceed," or surpass or go beyond, the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel. The text suggests that dense vegetation reduces the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel, not that dense vegetation goes farther than that distance. Choice C is incorrect because it would not be sensible to say that dense vegetation can "encompass," or enclose or encircle, the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel. The distance that sounds can travel is not an object that can be enclosed or encircled by vegetation. Choice D is incorrect because there is no information in the text indicating that dense vegetation can "conceal," or hide or keep from being observed, the distance that high-frequency sounds travel. Instead, the text suggests that dense vegetation reduces the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f6352bd3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: f6352bd3

Many archaeologists assume that large-scale engineering projects in ancient societies required an elite class to plan and direct the necessary labor. However, recent discoveries, such as the excavation of an ancient canal near the Gulf Coast of Alabama, have complicated this picture. Using radiocarbon dating, a team of researchers concluded that the 1.39-kilometer-long canal was most likely constructed between 576 and 650 CE by an Indigenous society that was relatively free of social classes.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It describes a common view among archaeologists, then discusses a recent finding that challenges that view.
- B. It outlines a method used in some archaeological fieldwork, then explains why an alternative method is superior to it.
- C. It presents contradictory conclusions drawn by archaeologists, then evaluates a study that has apparently resolved that contradiction.
- D. It identifies a gap in scientific research, then presents a strategy used by some archaeologists to remedy that gap.

## ID: f6352bd3 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text starts by introducing a common view among archaeologists about the need for an elite class to direct large-scale engineering projects. Then, it discusses the discovery of a large canal most likely built by a society without an elite class, which challenges the first view.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text discusses carbon dating as an archaeological method, it doesn't compare it to any other alternative methods. Choice C is incorrect. The study doesn't resolve any contradictions—rather, it introduces a contradiction to the one view presented at the beginning of the text. Choice D is incorrect. The text never identifies any gaps in scientific research.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5444db38

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 5444db38

To demonstrate that the integrity of underground metal pipes can be assessed without unearthing the pipes, engineer Aroba Saleem and colleagues \_\_\_\_\_ the tendency of some metals' internal magnetic fields to alter under stress: the team showed that such alterations can be measured from a distance and can reveal concentrations of stress in the pipes.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. hypothesized
- B. discounted
- C. redefined
- D. exploited

## ID: 5444db38 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of using magnetism to detect stress in buried metal pipes. In this context, "exploited" means made productive use of. The text indicates that the magnetic fields of some metals change under stress and that Saleem and colleagues showed that it is possible to measure those changes from a distance, thereby demonstrating that the integrity of underground metal pipes can be evaluated without having to unearth them. This context thus indicates that Saleem and colleagues made productive use of, or exploited, this tendency of the metals' magnetic fields.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "hypothesized" would mean made a tentative assumption to be evaluated in a study or experiment. Although Saleem and colleagues may have had one or more hypotheses for these experiments, the text presents the information about the tendency of some metals' magnetic fields to change under stress as a known fact that the researchers made productive use of, not as a hypothesis to be evaluated. The text after the colon indicates that the researchers were not evaluating whether such changes occur but whether those changes can be measured at a distance. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "discounted" would mean downplayed or ignored, but the text does not suggest that Saleem and colleagues minimized or ignored the tendency of the magnetic fields of some metals to change under stress. Rather, the text indicates that this tendency is the basis for Saleem and colleagues' method of assessing the pipes' integrity. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text indicates that Saleem and colleagues "redefined," or reevaluated or reformulated, the tendency of some metals' magnetic fields to change under stress. Instead, the text indicates that the researchers made use of that tendency to demonstrate that it is possible to evaluate the integrity of underground pipes without unearthing them.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6017ae31

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 6017ae31

In 2016, Gabriela González and team announced that a chirping sound captured by Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory antennas was direct evidence of gravitational waves, which skeptics had argued would be too faint for detection. Detailed statistical analysis helped preclude claims of the event's \_\_\_\_\_, confirming the signal at a confidence level of over 99%.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. inconspicuousness
- B. discretion
- C. ambiguity
- D. probability

## ID: 6017ae31 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Gabriela González and team's detection of gravitational waves. In this context, "ambiguity" means uncertainty or doubtfulness. The text explains that although skeptics had thought that direct evidence of gravitational waves would be too faint to be detected, researchers led by González claimed that a chirping sound captured by Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory antennas nevertheless provided such evidence. The text goes on to say that detailed statistical analysis confirmed the observation of gravitational waves with a high degree of confidence—that is, with near certainty—a finding that helped to preclude, or rule out, any claims that the signal's attribution to gravitational waves might be ambiguous or doubtful.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, "inconspicuousness" would mean the quality of being unnoticeable or difficult to detect. Although the text indicates that skeptics had doubted whether gravitational waves could be observed directly because of their presumed faintness (which suggests that gravitational waves were expected to be difficult to detect), the blank portion of the text isn't referring to the possibility that gravitational waves are unnoticeable or undetectable. Instead, the focus of the last sentence is González's team's observation of a chirping sound that they attributed to gravitational waves, and it wouldn't make sense to say that through statistical analysis, they ruled out the possibility that the sound they observed was undetectable. Rather, the skeptical view presented in the text suggests that there could be some ambiguity about the source of the chirping, but statistical analysis virtually eliminated this uncertainty. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "discretion" would mean good judgment, and it wouldn't make sense to say that an event, such as the detection of gravitational waves, would show judgment, much less that the event's capacity to exercise good judgment would be precluded by statistical analysis confirming its attribution. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "probability" would mean likelihood, and the text states that statistical analysis, which confirmed the signal with a high degree of confidence, suggests the likelihood that the chirping sound was produced by gravitational waves, not that the analysis helped to preclude this likelihood.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 571cf537

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 571cf537

The author's claim about the relationship between Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens* is \_\_\_\_\_, as it fails to account for several recent archaeological discoveries. To be convincing, his argument would need to address recent finds of additional hominid fossils, such as the latest Denisovan specimens and *Homo longi*.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. disorienting
- B. tenuous
- C. nuanced
- D. unoriginal

## ID: 571cf537 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the author's claim about the relationship between Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens*. As used in this context, "tenuous" means lacking substance. The end of the first sentence states that the author's claim didn't consider certain key pieces of evidence—"recent archaeological discoveries"—and is therefore weak.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to refer to the author's claim as "disorienting," or confusing. The text suggests that the author's claim is insubstantial, not that it's difficult to grasp. Choice C is incorrect because referring to the claim as "nuanced," or subtle, wouldn't make sense in context. According to the text, the claim is incomplete because it didn't consider certain key information about recent archaeological finds; it doesn't suggest that what's in the claim lacks precision. Choice D is incorrect because saying that the claim is "unoriginal," or imitative, wouldn't make sense in context. The text faults the claim because it doesn't consider certain key information about recent archaeological finds; it doesn't suggest that the author's claim lacks originality.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID dba9eaf8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: dba9eaf8

Within baleen whale species, some individuals develop an accessory spleen—a seemingly functionless formation of splenic tissue outside the normal spleen. Given the formation's greater prevalence among whales known to make deeper dives, some researchers hypothesize that its role isn't \_\_\_\_; rather, the accessory spleen may actively support diving mechanisms.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. replicable
- B. predetermined
- C. operative
- D. latent

## ID: dba9eaf8 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of baleen whale accessory spleens. In this context, "latent" means dormant or functionless. The text sets up a contrast between the idea that baleen whale accessory spleens appear not to have a function and the research indicating that the accessory spleen may actually have a role in supporting the whales' diving mechanisms. This context therefore conveys the idea that the assumption that baleen whale accessory spleens are latent may be incorrect.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that the role of the accessory spleen is "replicable," or capable of being reproduced. The text indicates that the role of the accessory spleen seems to have no function, but some researchers think it does have a role; the text doesn't address whether the role of the accessory spleen could or couldn't be reproduced. Choice B is incorrect because suggesting that the role of the accessory spleen is "predetermined," or decided in advance, wouldn't make sense in context. Although the researchers may agree that the role of the accessory spleen or any other organ hasn't been determined in advance, the text focuses on the idea that the accessory spleen was thought to have been functionless but may in fact serve an active role for baleen whales. Choice C is incorrect because it's the opposite of what the context of the text is conveying. The second sentence of the text indicates that baleen whale accessory spleens may not be useless, not that they aren't "operative," or functional.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a756aa95

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

**ID: a756aa95**

The province of Xoconochco was situated on the Pacific coast, hundreds of kilometers southeast of Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec Empire. Because Xoconochco's location within the empire was so \_\_\_\_\_, cacao and other trade goods produced there could reach the capital only after a long overland journey.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. unobtrusive
- B. concealed
- C. approximate
- D. peripheral

**ID: a756aa95 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the location of the province of Xoconochco within the Aztec Empire. As used in this context, "peripheral" means situated toward the outer bounds rather than the center. The text indicates that Xoconochco was located on a coast, hundreds of kilometers away from the capital of the Aztec Empire. The text also states that trade between the province and the capital required "a long overland journey." This context suggests that Xoconochco was situated toward an edge of the empire's territory rather than near its center.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to refer to Xoconochco's location within the Aztec Empire as "unobtrusive," or not blatant or undesirably prominent; it's not clear how a province's physical location would or wouldn't be blatant. Instead of focusing on how noticeable Xoconochco's location was, the text emphasizes the province's distance from the capital of the empire, pointing out that because of this distance trade between the two required "a long overland journey." Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that the province of Xoconochco was located on a coast far from the capital of the Aztec Empire, not that it was "concealed," or kept out of sight or hidden from view. Nothing in the text suggests that Xoconochco was actually hidden such that people couldn't see it, and being hidden wouldn't necessarily result in trade between the province and the capital requiring "a long overland journey." Choice C is incorrect because to say that Xoconochco's location within the Aztec Empire was "approximate" would mean that the location either wasn't precisely correct or was close to some other location. Neither of these meanings would make sense in context because the text indicates that Xoconochco's location is known and that it was far from the empire's capital, so there's no reason to characterize the location as either not precisely correct or close to another location.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 0ed8f24f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 0ed8f24f

K.D. Leka and colleagues found that the Sun's corona provides an advance indication of solar flares—intense eruptions of electromagnetic radiation that emanate from active regions in the Sun's photosphere and can interfere with telecommunications on Earth. Preceding a flare, the corona temporarily exhibits increased brightness above the region where the flare is \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. antecedent
- B. impending
- C. innocuous
- D. perpetual

## ID: 0ed8f24f Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of advance indications of solar flares. In this context the word "impending" means imminent or approaching. The text mentions a study by Leka and colleagues that found that the Sun's corona provides an advance indication of solar flares. The text then points out why such an advance indication would be useful—solar flares can interfere with communications on Earth—and concludes by describing the characteristic of the corona that gives warning of a solar flare. The text indicates that this characteristic—increased brightness in a particular region of the corona—comes before the appearance of the flare. Therefore, in context, the best answer would indicate that the flare is approaching, or impending.

Choice A is incorrect. The best answer would be one that indicates that the increased brightness of the Sun's corona precedes the appearance of the flare. But if the flare were "antecedent," or previous, then the flare would instead precede the appearance of the increased brightness of the corona, a statement that is logically inconsistent. Choice C is incorrect. The word "innocuous," or harmless, does not logically complete the text; since solar flares can interfere with communications on Earth, they cannot reasonably be described as innocuous. Choice D is incorrect. If the solar flares have an advance indication of their appearance, then there must therefore be a time before the appearance of the flares when they do not exist. But the word "perpetual," or never-ending, would in context indicate that the flare exists at the same time as the advance indication provided by the Sun's corona, which would not make logical sense.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8889d6e2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

**ID: 8889d6e2**

## Text 1

An excavation in Chiquihuite Cave in central Mexico has upended the belief that approximately 13,000 years ago, a group known as the Clovis people were the first human inhabitants of North America. More than 200 crude stone tools were found embedded in a layer of earth that is up to 33,150 years old, revealing that humans occupied the cave thousands of years before the Clovis people reached the continent.

## Text 2

The objects uncovered in Chiquihuite Cave are intriguing, but it is premature to characterize them as tools. The stone pieces are so roughly shaped that they may have simply fractured from rocks during natural geological activity in the cave. Moreover, their unearthing has thus far not been accompanied by discoveries of other signs of human activity or even traces of human DNA from surfaces.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1?

- By suggesting that it draws a plausible connection between two groups of people but will need to be confirmed with A. further study
- B. By asserting that it rests on an assumption about the stone pieces that is not sufficiently supported by available evidence
- C. By acknowledging that it will most likely be proved correct when the stone pieces undergo more detailed analysis
- By pointing out that it fails to account for evidence that the Clovis people were active on the continent as early as is D. commonly thought

**ID: 8889d6e2 Answer**

**Correct Answer: B**

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it reflects how the author of Text 2 would most likely respond to the underlined claim about the Clovis people in Text 1. Text 1 explains that the idea that the Clovis people were the first human inhabitants of North America has been overturned by the unearthing of stone tools in Chiquihuite Cave in Mexico. The tools were found in a layer of earth that is over 33,000 years old—much older than the Clovis people’s arrival 13,000 years ago. The text ends with the claim that the tools reveal that humans lived in the cave long before the Clovis people reached the continent. Text 2, on the other hand, disputes the idea that the stone pieces are definitely tools. Text 2 states that the pieces are so roughly shaped that they may have simply naturally broken off from rocks and, moreover, that no other signs of human activity have been found in the cave. In other words, Text 2 argues that there is no proof yet that humans made the pieces as tools or were even present in the cave. Therefore, the author of Text 2 would most likely say that the claim that humans occupied Chiquihuite Cave long before the Clovis people reached North America rests on an assumption about the stone pieces—that they are human-made tools—that is not sufficiently supported by available evidence.

Choice A is incorrect because Text 1 doesn’t claim that human inhabitants of Chiquihuite Cave and the Clovis people had any connection; the author of Text 1 focuses only on the timing of each group’s presence in North America. Further, the author of Text 2 makes no mention of the Clovis people and indicates that it isn’t clear yet that any human group did inhabit Chiquihuite Cave. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in Text 2 suggests that the author believes the stone pieces probably are human-made tools and will be confirmed as such by further analysis; instead, the author of Text 2 emphasizes the current lack of evidence of human activity in the cave. Choice D is incorrect because Text 2 focuses on the issue of characterizing the stone pieces as tools made by humans, not on the timing of any particular group’s activity in North America; further, Text 1 seems to support the common belief that the Clovis people reached North America 13,000 years ago and challenges only the idea that they were the continent’s first inhabitants. Therefore, there’s no reason to think the author of Text 2 would say that the author of Text 1 overlooks evidence that the Clovis people were active as early as is commonly thought.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 03eeecf3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 03eeecf3

The following text is from H.D.'s 1916 poem "Mid-Day." In the poem, the speaker is on a path in an outdoor setting.

A slight wind shakes the seed-pods— my thoughts are spent as the black seeds. My thoughts tear me, I dread their fever. I am scattered in its whirl. I am scattered like the hot shrivelled seeds.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

It illustrates a change in the natural environment that the speaker implies is responsible for the growing misgivings  
A. described in the text.

It establishes an example of consistency in the natural landscape that the speaker then contrasts with the  
B. unpredictability of human emotions.

It presents an observation of an occurrence in the natural world that the speaker then expands on to convey a sense of a  
C. turbulent interior state.

It evokes the ordinariness of an event in nature to suggest that the critical self-evaluation the speaker engages in is a  
D. common pursuit.

## ID: 03eeecf3 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole. In the text, the speaker mentions the occurrence in nature of seedpods being shaken by a slight wind. The speaker then goes on to compare the black seeds to thoughts, using language that indicates that the speaker's state of mind is unsettled (e.g., "my thoughts are spent"; "My thoughts tear me, I dread their fever"). The text concludes with a comparison between the speaker's "scattered" state of mind and the "hot shrivelled seeds." Thus, the underlined portion of the text presents an observation of an occurrence in the natural world that the speaker then expands on to convey a sense of a turbulent interior state.

Choice A is incorrect because the text does not indicate that the seedpods are the cause of the speaker's state of mind; thus, they could not be responsible for any misgivings the speaker has. Choice B is incorrect because the text does not contrast the natural landscape with the speaker's state of mind or describe the wind shaking the seedpods as consistent; rather, the text suggests that the state of the natural world and the speaker's state of mind are similar in that both are unsettled. Choice D is incorrect because there is no indication in the text that the speaker regularly engages in critical self-evaluation, only that in this particular instance the speaker's state of mind is turbulent.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f878693b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: f878693b

## Text 1

In 1954 George Balanchine choreographed a production of *The Nutcracker*, a ballet by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. It has since become a tradition for hundreds of dance companies in North America to stage *The Nutcracker* each year. But the show is stuck in the past, with an old-fashioned story and references, so it should no longer be produced. Ballet needs to create new traditions if it wants to stay relevant to contemporary audiences.

## Text 2

*The Nutcracker* is outdated, but it should be kept because it's a holiday favorite and provides substantial income for some dance companies. Although it can be behind the times, there are creative ways to update the show. For example, Debbie Allen successfully modernized the story. Her show *Hot Chocolate Nutcracker* combines ballet, tap, hip-hop, and other styles, and it has been gaining in popularity since it opened in 2009.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1?

By questioning the idea that the story of *The Nutcracker* is stuck in the past and by rejecting the suggestion that

- A. contemporary audiences would enjoy an updated version

By agreeing that contemporary audiences have largely stopped going to see performances of *The Nutcracker* because it's

- B. so old-fashioned

By pointing out that most dance companies could increase their incomes by offering modernized versions of *The*

- C. *Nutcracker*

By suggesting that dance companies should consider offering revised versions of *The Nutcracker* instead of completely

- D. rejecting the show

ID: f878693b Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it reflects how the author of Text 2 would most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1. Text 1 begins by noting the success of *The Nutcracker* but then claims that the ballet is "stuck in the past" and should "no longer be produced." Text 2 begins by conceding that *The Nutcracker* is indeed outdated but argues that it should continue to be performed, states that the show can be updated to include more contemporary dance styles, and provides an example of one such modernized version, *Hot Chocolate Nutcracker*. Hence, the author of Text 2 would most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1 by suggesting that dance companies should consider offering revised versions of *The Nutcracker* instead of completely rejecting the show.

Choice A is incorrect because the author of Text 2 advocates for using creative ways to update *The Nutcracker* and therefore wouldn't respond to the underlined claim by rejecting the suggestion that contemporary audiences would enjoy an updated version. Choice B is incorrect because although the authors of both texts claim that *The Nutcracker* is outdated, neither text suggests that contemporary audiences have largely stopped attending productions of the show. On the contrary, Text 2 states that *The Nutcracker* is a holiday favorite and generates substantial income for some dance companies. Choice C is incorrect because although Text 2 provides an example of a contemporized version of *The Nutcracker*, the text doesn't suggest that offering modernized versions is a way to increase income for most dance companies. Rather, the author of Text 2 suggests that offering modernized versions is a way to make the ballet discussed in Text 1 feel less outdated.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 35e21b06

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

ID: 35e21b06

## Text 1

Dominique Potvin and colleagues captured five Australian magpies (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) to test a new design for attaching tracking devices to birds. As the researchers fitted each magpie with a tracker attached by a small harness, they noticed some magpies without trackers pecking at another magpie's tracker until it broke off. The researchers suggest that this behavior could be evidence of magpies attempting to help another magpie without benefiting themselves.

## Text 2

It can be tempting to think that animals are deliberately providing help when we see them removing trackers and other equipment from one another, especially when a species is known to exhibit other cooperative behaviors. At the same time, it can be difficult to exclude the possibility that individuals are simply interested in the equipment because of its novelty, curiously pawing or pecking at it until it detaches.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the researchers' perspective in Text 1 on the behavior of the magpies without trackers?

- A. That behavior might have been due to the novelty of the magpies' captive setting rather than to the novelty of the tracker.

That behavior likely indicates that the magpies were deliberately attempting to benefit themselves by obtaining the tracker.

That behavior may not be evidence of selflessness in *Gymnorhina tibicen* because not all the captured magpies demonstrated it.

That behavior might be adequately explained without suggesting that the magpies were attempting to assist the other magpie.

ID: 35e21b06 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it reflects how the author of Text 2 would most likely respond to the researchers' perspective in Text 1 on the behavior of the magpies without trackers. According to Text 1, Dominique Potvin and colleagues observed magpies without trackers pecking at a tracker on another magpie until the device fell off. The researchers suggested that the birds might have been attempting to help the other bird, with no benefit to themselves. Text 2 generally discusses scenarios in which animals have been observed removing trackers from each other. The text cautions that it shouldn't be assumed that these animals are helping one another deliberately, since they might simply be pecking at trackers out of curiosity, causing them to fall off eventually. Therefore, the author of Text 2 would most likely respond to Potvin and colleagues' perspective in Text 1 by saying that the behavior of the magpies without trackers could be adequately explained without suggesting that they were attempting to assist the other magpie.

Choice A is incorrect because Text 2 never discusses the novelty, or the newness and unusual quality, of the captive settings in which animals have been observed to remove trackers from other animals, nor does it suggest that such novelty might account for this behavior. Instead, the text suggests that it's the novelty of the tracking equipment itself that might cause the behavior: interested in the trackers because they're unusual, animals might paw or peck at them until they fall off. Choice B is incorrect because Text 2 never suggests that when animals remove trackers from other animals, they do so because they wish to obtain the trackers for themselves. Instead, Text 2 argues that animals paw or peck at trackers because they are merely curious about them. Choice C is incorrect because Text 2 doesn't argue that when captured animals are observed removing trackers from each other, their behavior should be regarded as selfless only if all of them participate in it. Instead, the text argues that the behavior may not be selfless at all and may instead be attributed to animals' curiosity about the new and unusual trackers.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 9b01bcf4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 9b01bcf4

The 1967 release of Harold Cruse's book *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual* isolated him from almost all other scholars and activists of the American Civil Rights Movement—though many of those thinkers disagreed with each other, he nonetheless found ways to disagree with them all. He thought that activists who believed that Black people such as himself should culturally assimilate were naïve. But he also sharply criticized Black nationalists such as Marcus Garvey who wanted to establish independent, self-contained Black economies and societies, even though Cruse himself identified as a Black nationalist.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It describes a direction that Cruse felt the Civil Rights Movement ought to take.
- B. It indicates that Cruse's reputation as a persistent antagonist of other scholars is undeserved.
- C. It describes a controversy that Cruse's work caused within the Black nationalist movement.
- D. It helps explain Cruse's position with respect to the community of civil rights thinkers.

## ID: 9b01bcf4 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text as a whole claims that Cruse disagreed with virtually all other Civil Rights scholars and activists. The underlined sentence describes one way that Cruse both did and didn't fit in with those thinkers: he criticized Black nationalists, even though he identified as one.

Choice A is incorrect. The underlined sentence doesn't do this. It describes Cruse's criticisms—it never mentions what Cruse did want the movement to do instead. Choice B is incorrect. This conflicts with the text, which argues that Cruse did disagree with almost all other scholars of the Civil Rights Movement. Choice C is incorrect. This is a step too far. The text never says that Cruse's work caused controversy within the Black nationalist movement.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f52cc78c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Cross-Text Connections	

## ID: f52cc78c

### Text 1

Polar bears sustain themselves primarily by hunting seals on the Arctic sea ice, but rising ocean temperatures are causing the ice to diminish, raising concerns about polar bear population declines as these large predators' seal-hunting habitats continue to shrink. A 2020 study examining polar bear populations across the Arctic concluded that populations affected by sea-ice loss are at great risk of extinction by the end of the twenty-first century.

### Text 2

Monitoring carried out by researchers from the Norwegian Polar Institute shows that the polar bear population on the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard remains stable and well nourished despite rapidly declining sea ice in recent years. The researchers attribute this population's resilience in part to a shift in feeding strategies: in addition to hunting seals, the Svalbard polar bears have begun relying on a diet of reindeer meat and birds' eggs.

Based on the texts, how would the researchers in Text 2 most likely respond to the conclusion presented in the underlined portion of Text 1?

- A. By noting that it neglects the possibility of some polar bear populations adapting to changes in their environment
  - By suggesting that it is likely incorrect about the rates at which warming ocean temperatures have caused sea ice to melt
  - B. in the Arctic
- C. By asserting that it overlooks polar bear populations that have not yet been affected by loss of seal-hunting habitats
- D. By arguing that it fails to account for polar bears' reliance on a single seal-hunting strategy

## ID: f52cc78c Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Text 2 describes how the Svalbard polar bears have adapted to the loss of sea ice by diversifying their diet and feeding on reindeer and seabird eggs, resulting in a "stable and well nourished" population despite environmental challenges. This counters the underlined claim that polar bears facing a loss of sea ice are at "great risk of extinction" by the end of the century.

Choice B is incorrect. Text 2 does not challenge the fact that sea ice is rapidly declining in the Arctic due to warming ocean temperatures. In fact, it states that the Svalbard polar bears have faced "rapidly declining sea ice in recent years." Choice C is incorrect. The claim in Text 1 is specific to polar bear populations affected by the loss of seal hunting habitats, so unaffected populations are irrelevant to the claim. Also, Text 2 doesn't mention any polar bear populations that haven't yet been affected by loss of seal hunting habitats. It focuses on a population that has been affected by sea-ice loss but has managed to survive and thrive nevertheless. Choice D is incorrect. Text 2 doesn't imply that polar bears rely on a single seal-hunting strategy. In fact, the researcher in Text 2 would say that Text 1 fails to account for polar bears' ability to develop other hunting strategies and food sources.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 8634bf4a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: 8634bf4a

Diego Velázquez was the leading artist in the court of King Philip IV of Spain during the seventeenth century, but his influence was hardly \_\_\_\_\_ Spain: realist and impressionist painters around the world employed his techniques and echoed elements of his style.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. derived from
- B. recognized in
- C. confined to
- D. repressed by

## ID: 8634bf4a Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the discussion of the artist Diego Velázquez's influence outside Spain. As used in this context, "confined to" means restricted to. The text says that Velázquez was the leading artist in the Spanish court during the seventeenth century, but it also notes that other painters around the world were influenced by his techniques and style. Thus, Velázquez's influence was hardly (or almost not) confined to, or restricted to, Spain.

Choice A is incorrect because if Velázquez was a leading artist in Spain, it doesn't make logical sense to claim that his influence was hardly (or almost not) derived from, or obtained from, Spain. Moreover, the other painters around the world who employed Velázquez's techniques would by definition be influenced by Spanish style. Choice B is incorrect because if Velázquez was a leading artist in the court of King Philip IV of Spain, then his influence must have been widely recognized, or acknowledged, rather than being hardly (or almost not) recognized. Choice D is incorrect because the text gives no indication that deliberately limiting Velázquez's influence outside Spain was ever considered by anyone. Thus, even if it is true that his influence was not repressed, or restrained, it doesn't make logical sense to say so in this context.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1090b367

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: 1090b367

Today composer Scott Joplin is mainly celebrated for his catchy ragtime pieces “Maple Leaf Rag” and “The Entertainer.” However, by overlooking his less famous works, listeners will miss the full range of Joplin’s creativity. For instance, his waltz “Pleasant Moments” and his opera *Treemonisha* skillfully blend ragtime and classical music. These masterpieces deserve as much fame as Joplin’s biggest hits.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To describe the similarities and differences between ragtime music and opera
- B. To argue that more attention should be given to Joplin’s lesser-known works
- C. To encourage music lovers to listen to music by many different composers
- D. To explain how Joplin learned to compose and perform ragtime music

## ID: 1090b367 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best states the main purpose of the text, which is to make a case for the importance of Scott Joplin’s less famous works. The text begins by introducing Joplin’s most popular works and then goes on to assert that gaining a full understanding of Joplin’s creativity requires a consideration of his lesser-known pieces as well. The text concludes by characterizing the lesser-known works “Pleasant Moments” and *Treemonisha* as masterpieces that deserve to be famous. These details indicate that the text’s main purpose is to argue that more attention should be given to Joplin’s lesser-known works.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text discusses some of the ragtime music and an opera that Joplin composed, it does not compare the two types of music in general. Instead, the text argues that Joplin’s lesser-known works, including his opera, deserve as much attention as his more famous ragtime pieces receive. Choice C is incorrect because the text discusses only Joplin’s music and does not ask music lovers to listen to a variety of composers. Instead, the text encourages listeners to pay attention to Joplin’s lesser-known works in order to gain a full understanding of his creativity. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not discuss how Joplin learned to compose and perform ragtime music. Instead, the text focuses on Joplin’s less famous works and makes a case for their importance.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d168e7c5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	

## ID: d168e7c5

The following text is from Annie Dillard's 1987 autobiographical novel *An American Childhood*. The narrator is a young girl living in Pittsburgh.

I walked. My mother had given me the freedom of the streets as soon as I could say our telephone number. I walked and memorized the neighborhood. I made a mental map and located myself upon it. At night in bed I rehearsed the small world's scheme and set challenges: Find the store using backyards only. Imagine a route from the school to my friend's house.

©1987 by Annie Dillard

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It describes the narrator trying to memorize her telephone number.
- B. It provides examples of what the narrator thinks about at night.
- C. It gives directions to the narrator's favorite local store.
- D. It portrays the narrator's relationship with her mother.

## ID: d168e7c5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. In the text, the narrator explains that she walks around her neighborhood, making a "mental map" of the area that she imagines herself navigating through. She then states that she rehearses "the small world's scheme"—that is, imagines moving through her mental map—and challenges herself to use the map in her mind while lying in bed at night. The underlined portion presents two such challenges (getting to the store through backyards and traveling from school to a friend's house) and thus provides examples of what the narrator thinks about at night.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined portion makes no mention of memorizing a telephone number. Although the narrator mentions that she had to learn the home telephone number before her mother would give her permission to walk around the neighborhood, there is nothing in the underlined portion or the rest of the text about memorizing the telephone number. Choice C is incorrect. Although the underlined portion refers to navigation tasks like finding a route to a store only through backyards, the text contains no specific directions to any store, nor is any store identified as the narrator's favorite. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined portion makes no mention of the narrator's mother and doesn't address the narrator's relationship with her. Although the narrator mentions that her mother gave her permission as a child to walk around the neighborhood, there is nothing in the underlined portion or the rest of the text about the mother or her relationship to her child.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e8fb0744

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: e8fb0744

As an undergraduate researcher in anthropology, Jennifer C. Chen contributed to a groundbreaking study challenging the accepted view that among prehistoric peoples, female participation in hunting was \_\_\_\_\_. The research team's review of data from late Pleistocene and early Holocene burials in the Americas revealed that, in fact, as many as half of the hunters in those populations were female.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. inevitable
- B. satisfactory
- C. negligible
- D. commonplace

ID: e8fb0744 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the study of female participation in hunting among prehistoric peoples. In this context, "negligible" means not significant enough to be worth considering. The text says that the study challenged the accepted view of female participation in hunting among prehistoric peoples. The text goes on to say that the researchers found that "in fact, as many as half" the hunters in the groups studied were female. The phrase "in fact" establishes a contrast indicating that the finding that as many as half the hunters were female differs from the accepted view. This context suggests, then, that the accepted view is that female participation in hunting was negligible.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that the study challenged the accepted view by showing that as many as half of hunters among prehistoric peoples were female, which suggests that the accepted view is that female participation was low, not that female participation was "inevitable," or unavoidable. Nothing in the text suggests that the accepted view is that prehistoric peoples could not avoid female participation in hunting. Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the accepted view of female participation in hunting among prehistoric peoples is that such participation was "satisfactory," or sufficient to meet a requirement or demand. There is no information in the text about any demands or requirements regarding female participation in hunting, let alone any information about how much female participation in hunting would be enough to satisfy those demands or requirements. Instead, the text indicates that the study challenged the accepted view by showing that as many as half the hunters in the groups studied were female, suggesting that the accepted view is that female participation in hunting was low. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that the study challenged the accepted view by showing that as many as half of hunters among the prehistoric peoples studied were female, which suggests that the accepted view is that female participation was low, not that female participation was "commonplace," or ordinary or unremarkable. Although the study under discussion suggests that female participation may have been commonplace, that study is presented as challenging the accepted view, not as reinforcing the accepted view.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c843d63c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

## ID: c843d63c

The artisans of the Igbo Eronmwon guild in Benin City, Nigeria, typically \_\_\_\_\_ the bronze- and brass-casting techniques that have been passed down through their families since the thirteenth century, but they don't strictly observe every tradition; for example, guild members now use air-conditioning motors instead of handheld bellows to help heat their forges.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. experiment with
- B. adhere to
- C. improve on
- D. grapple with

## ID: c843d63c Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of bronze- and brass-casting techniques used by the Igbo Eronmwon guild. In this context "adhere to" would mean to act in accordance with. The text states that although members of the Igbo Eronmwon guild typically do something with techniques that have been passed down since the thirteenth century, they "don't strictly observe every tradition." By establishing a contrast with not always following traditions, the context suggests that guild members do typically adhere to traditional techniques.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context "experiment with" would mean to do something new with. Although using motors rather than manual bellows is presented as a new approach, the text establishes a contrast between what the guild members typically do with techniques that have been passed down over centuries and the idea that the members "don't strictly observe every tradition." The phrase "experiment with" wouldn't support the contrast because regularly trying new things with the techniques would be an example of not strictly following all traditions. Choice C is incorrect because in this context "improve on" would mean to make better. Although using motors rather than manual bellows might be an improved approach, the text establishes a contrast between what the guild members typically do with techniques that have been passed down over centuries and the idea that the members "don't strictly observe every tradition." The phrase "improve on" wouldn't support the contrast because regularly making changes to the techniques would be an example of not strictly following all traditions. Choice D is incorrect because in this context "grapple with" would mean to try hard to solve a difficult problem. Although bronze- and brass-casting are likely challenging tasks, nothing in the text suggests that the guild members have any particular difficulties with the techniques passed down since the thirteenth century.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2b08f514

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 2b08f514

The prime meridian, the global indicator of zero degrees longitude established in 1884, was originally determined using astronomically derived coordinates. \_\_\_\_\_ as decades passed, new calculations would reveal increasingly precise coordinates, yet the prime meridian remained unchanged; it wasn't until the 1980s that, spurred by improved geodetic data, the prime meridian was officially moved—roughly one hundred meters east.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. To that end,
- C. Again and again,
- D. Granted,

## ID: 2b08f514 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Again and again" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that new calculations revealed increasingly precise coordinates for the location of the prime meridian—refers to events that occurred multiple times in the decades after the establishment of the prime meridian in 1884 (which is described in the preceding sentence).

Choice A is incorrect because "specifically" illogically signals that the information in this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the description of the prime meridian's establishment in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence indicates that increasingly precise coordinates were revealed on multiple occasions in the decades following the meridian's establishment. Choice B is incorrect because "to that end" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a means of accomplishing a goal established in the previous sentence about the prime meridian's establishment. Instead, the sentence indicates that increasingly precise coordinates were revealed on multiple occasions in the decades following the meridian's establishment. Choice D is incorrect because "granted" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is in opposition to the information about the prime meridian's establishment in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence indicates that increasingly precise coordinates were revealed on multiple occasions in the decades following the meridian's establishment.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID afec1a70

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

## ID: afec1a70

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

As engineered structures, many bird nests are uniquely flexible yet cohesive.

A research team led by Yashraj Bhosale wanted to better understand the mechanics behind these structural properties.

Bhosale's team used laboratory models that simulated the arrangement of flexible sticks into nest-like structures.

The researchers analyzed the points where sticks touched one another.

When pressure was applied to the model nests, the number of contact points between the sticks increased, making the structures stiffer.

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

Bhosale's team wanted to better understand the mechanics behind bird nests' uniquely flexible yet cohesive structural

- A. properties.

The researchers used laboratory models that simulated the arrangement of flexible sticks and analyzed the points where

- B. sticks touched one another.

After analyzing the points where sticks touched, the researchers found that the structures became stiffer when pressure

- C. was applied.

- D. As analyzed by Bhosale's team, bird nests are uniquely flexible yet cohesive engineered structures.

## ID: afec1a70 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 4d2736f0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 4d2736f0

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

ID: 4d2736f0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

## Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 39ccb463

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

## ID: 39ccb463

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

The *Atlantic Monthly* magazine was first published in 1857. The magazine focused on politics, art, and literature.

In 2019, historian Cathryn Halverson published the book *Faraway Women and the "Atlantic Monthly."*

Its subject is female authors whose autobiographies appeared in the magazine in the early 1900s.

One of the authors discussed is Juanita Harrison.

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

Cathryn Halverson's *Faraway Women and the "Atlantic Monthly"* discusses female authors whose autobiographies

A. appeared in the magazine in the early 1900s.

B. A magazine called the *Atlantic Monthly*, referred to in Cathryn Halverson's book title, was first published in 1857.

*Faraway Women and the "Atlantic Monthly"* features contributors to the *Atlantic Monthly*, first published in 1857 as a

C. magazine focusing on politics, art, and literature.

An author discussed by Cathryn Halverson is Juanita Harrison, whose autobiography appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly* in

D. the early 1900s.

## ID: 39ccb463 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b46e0c8a

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

## ID: b46e0c8a

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

Organisms release cellular material into their environment by shedding substances such as hair or skin.

The DNA in these substances is known as environmental DNA, or eDNA.

Researchers collect and analyze eDNA to detect the presence of species that are difficult to observe.

Geneticist Sara Oyler-McCance's research team analyzed eDNA in water samples from the Florida Everglades to detect invasive constrictor snake species in the area.

The study determined a 91% probability of detecting Burmese python eDNA in a given location.

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

Sara Oyler-McCance's researchers analyzed eDNA in water samples from the Florida Everglades for evidence of invasive  
A. constrictor snakes, which are difficult to observe.

B. An analysis of eDNA can detect the presence of invasive species that are difficult to observe, such as constrictor snakes.

Researchers found Burmese python eDNA, or environmental DNA, in water samples; eDNA is the DNA in released cellular  
C. materials, such as shed skin cells.

Sara Oyler-McCance's researchers analyzed environmental DNA (eDNA)—that is, DNA from cellular materials released by  
D. organisms—in water samples from the Florida Everglades.

## ID: b46e0c8a Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 48d0bb34

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

## ID: 48d0bb34

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

Sam Maloof (1916–2009) was an American woodworker and furniture designer.

He was the son of Lebanese immigrants.

He received a “genius grant” from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in 1985.

The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts, owns a rocking chair that Maloof made from walnut wood.

The armrests and the seat of the chair are sleek and contoured, and the back consists of seven spindle-like slats.

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

With its sleek, contoured armrests and seat, the walnut rocking chair in Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts is just one piece of A. furniture created by American woodworker Sam Maloof.

Sam Maloof was born in 1916 and died in 2009, and during his life, he made a chair that you can see if you visit the B. Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Furniture designer Sam Maloof was a recipient of one of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s “genius C. grants.”

D. The rocking chair is made from walnut, and it has been shaped such that its armrests and seat are sleek and contoured.

## ID: 48d0bb34 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID aa7e10d0

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

## ID: aa7e10d0

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

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

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

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

## ID: aa7e10d0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e3edc138

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: e3edc138

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: e3edc138 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a40c7aa3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: a40c7aa3

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: a40c7aa3 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 00221c00

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

**ID: 00221c00**

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

**ID: 00221c00 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID af89fa02

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: af89fa02

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: af89fa02 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4c43bf61

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

## ID: 4c43bf61

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

- The International Center for the Arts of the Americas (ICAA) is directed by Mari Carmen Ramírez.  
Ramírez oversaw an initiative to create an online archive of historical documents related to the history of Latin American and Latino visual art.  
The ICAA digitized over 10,000 documents, including the writings of Latin American and Latino artists and critics.  
The creation of the archive didn't require historical documents to be removed from their countries of origin.  
Scholars now have more access to these documents.

The student wants to explain an advantage of the ICAA's archive being digital. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Over 10,000 documents related to the history of Latin American and Latino visual art are part of the ICAA archive.  
By offering online versions of historical documents, the ICAA's archive provides more access to these materials without  
B. removing them from their countries of origin.  
C. Among the historical documents in the ICAA's archive are the writings of Latin American and Latino artists and critics.  
The ICAA's director, Mari Carmen Ramírez, oversaw the creation of an online archive of historical documents related to  
D. Latin American and Latino visual art.

## ID: 4c43bf61 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence explains an advantage of the ICAA's archive being digital, noting that the archive provides more access to historical documents since they don't have to be removed from their countries of origin.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the number of documents in the ICAA archive; it doesn't explain an advantage of the archive being digital. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence notes the types of historical documents the ICAA's archive contains; it doesn't explain an advantage of the archive being digital. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence identifies who oversaw the creation of the ICAA's online archive; it doesn't explain an advantage of the archive being digital.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 16631d34

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

## ID: 16631d34

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

The Million Song Dataset (MSD) includes main audio features and descriptive tags for popular songs.

Audio features include acoustic traits such as loudness and pitch intervals.

Many algorithms use these audio features to predict a new song's popularity.

These algorithms may fail to accurately identify main audio features of a song with varying acoustic traits.

Algorithms based on descriptive tags that describe fixed traits such as genre are more reliable predictors of song popularity.

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

- A. Many popularity-predicting algorithms are based on a song's audio features, such as loudness and pitch intervals.

Algorithms based on audio features may misidentify the main features of a song with varying acoustic traits, making  
B. such algorithms less reliable predictors of popularity than those based on fixed traits.

Audio features describe acoustic traits such as pitch intervals, which may vary within a song, whereas descriptive tags  
C. describe fixed traits such as genre, which are reliable predictors of popularity.

- D. The MSD's descriptive tags are reliable predictors of a song's popularity, as the traits they describe are fixed.

## ID: 16631d34 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

Choice A is incorrect. This choice only states a fact about the algorithms without evaluating their reliability or accuracy.

Choice C is incorrect. This choice only describes the difference between audio features and descriptive tags without indicating why this difference matters for predicting popularity. Choice D is incorrect. This choice only mentions descriptive tags, which are not the focus of the student's rhetorical goal.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d9dad012

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: d9dad012

The Inca of South America used intricately knotted string devices called quipus to record countable information, like population data and payments. \_\_\_\_\_ they may have used quipus to record more complex information, like stories and myths, according to researchers.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. In other words,
- C. In addition,
- D. For example,

## ID: d9dad012 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "In addition" logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that the Inca of South America may have used quipus to record more complex information—is an additional point related to the previous statement about the Inca using quipus to record countable information.

Choice A is incorrect because "as a result" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is a consequence or result of the previous statement about the Inca using quipus to record countable information. Instead, the possibility that the Inca used quipus to record more complex information is an additional point about how the quipus were used. Choice B is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is merely a paraphrase or restatement of the previous statement about the Inca using quipus to record countable information. Instead, the possibility that the Inca used quipus to record more complex information is an additional point about how the quipus were used. Choice D is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence exemplifies the previous statement about the Inca using quipus to record countable information. Instead, the possibility that the Inca used quipus to record more complex information is an additional point about how the quipus were used.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 601b9d18

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 601b9d18

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 601b9d18 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 60917233

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

**ID: 60917233**

In the 1880s, inventor Lewis Latimer improved upon Thomas Edison's design for the electric light bulb. \_\_\_\_\_ Latimer made the light bulb more durable by placing cardboard around its carbon filament. With this innovation, Latimer became the first Black inventor to contribute to the electrification of the world.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Soon,
- B. Regardless,
- C. However,
- D. Specifically,

**ID: 60917233 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Specifically" logically signals that the information in this sentence—Latimer making the light bulb more durable—provides a specific detail elaborating on the more general claim in the previous sentence that Latimer improved the light bulb.

Choice A is incorrect because "soon" illogically signals that the information in this sentence occurred shortly after Latimer improved the light bulb. Instead, Latimer making the bulb more durable was the specific improvement. Choice B is incorrect because "regardless" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous claim about Latimer. Instead, the information about Latimer making the bulb more durable provides a specific detail elaborating on that claim. Choice C is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous claim about Latimer. Instead, the information about Latimer making the bulb more durable provides a specific detail elaborating on that claim.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ec3d7605

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: ec3d7605

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: ec3d7605 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a819d8b6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: a819d8b6

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: a819d8b6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 84e108cf

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

## ID: 84e108cf

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

Platinum is a rare and expensive metal. It is used as a catalyst for chemical reactions.

Platinum catalysts typically require a large amount of platinum to be effective.

Researcher Jianbo Tang and his colleagues created a platinum catalyst that combines platinum with liquid gallium.

Their catalyst was highly effective and required only trace amounts of platinum (0.0001% of the atoms in the mixture).

The student wants to explain an advantage of the new platinum catalyst developed by Jianbo Tang and his colleagues.

Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Researcher Jianbo Tang and his colleagues created a platinum catalyst that combines platinum, a rare and expensive metal, with liquid gallium.

B. Like other platinum catalysts, the new platinum catalyst requires a particular amount of the metal to be effective.

Platinum is a rare and expensive metal that is used as a catalyst for chemical reactions; however, platinum catalysts

C. typically require a large amount of platinum to be effective.

While still highly effective, the new platinum catalyst requires far less of the rare and expensive metal than do other

D. platinum catalysts.

## ID: 84e108cf Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 42e6cc83

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 42e6cc83

In hindsight, given the ideas about the natural world circulating among British scientists in the 1800s, the theory of natural selection was an obvious next step. It may not have been a coincidence, \_\_\_\_\_ that Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace arrived at the concept independently. Indeed, contrary to the popular myth of the lone genius, theirs is not the first paradigm-shifting theory to have emerged from multiple scholars working in parallel.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. however,
- B. then,
- C. moreover,
- D. for example,

## ID: 42e6cc83 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Then" signals that this sentence's claim about Darwin and Wallace follows logically from the previous information. In other words, both scientists independently arriving at the theory of natural selection was, arguably, an expected outcome of the circumstances mentioned in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence contrasts with the previous information about the ideas circulating among British scientists in the 1800s. Instead, this claim follows logically from that information. Choice C is incorrect because "moreover" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence merely adds to the previous information about the ideas circulating among British scientists in the 1800s. Instead, this claim follows logically from that information. Choice D is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that this sentence provides an example supporting the previous information about the ideas circulating among British scientists in the 1800s. Instead, it presents a claim that follows logically from that information.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 326017ce

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

**ID: 326017ce**

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

**ID: 326017ce Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 441f0505

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

## ID: 441f0505

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

A lever is a simple machine consisting of a rigid beam and a fulcrum.

The fulcrum is the point about which the beam pivots. The input force (effort) is the force applied to the lever.

The output force (load) is the force that the lever exerts on another object.

In first-class levers, the fulcrum is located between the effort and the load.

In second-class levers, the load is located between the effort and the fulcrum.

The student wants to contrast first-class levers and second-class levers. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. In levers, the effort is the force applied to the lever; the load, in contrast, is the force that the lever exerts on another object.

B. In first-class and second-class levers, the fulcrum and the load are in different locations.

C. Second-class levers.

D. In first-class levers, the fulcrum is located between the effort and the load, but in second-class levers, the load is located between the effort and the fulcrum.

## ID: 441f0505 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence contrasts first-class levers and second-class levers, explaining that the fulcrum in a first-class lever is between the effort and the load, whereas in a second-class lever the load is between the effort and the fulcrum.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence defines two terms associated with levers; it doesn't contrast first-class levers and second-class levers. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence seems to acknowledge a general difference in fulcrum and load locations between first-class and second-class levers, it does not specify what this difference is. Moreover, the sentence could be read as emphasizing a similarity—that in both types of levers, the fulcrum and load are in different locations. The sentence thus fails to effectively contrast the two types of levers. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence describes a similarity between first-class and second-class levers; it doesn't contrast them.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 6c9df5d1

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

## ID: 6c9df5d1

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

Some powerful works of literature have so influenced readers that new legislation has been passed as a result.

*The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (1789) is the autobiography of a man who endured slavery on both sides of the Atlantic.

Equiano's book contributed to the passage of the Slave Trade Act of 1807.

*The Jungle* (1906) is a fictional work by Upton Sinclair that describes unsanitary conditions in US meatpacking plants.

Sinclair's book contributed to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906.

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

Although both are powerful works of literature that contributed to new legislation, Equiano's book is an autobiography,

A. while Sinclair's is fictional.

B. They may have written about different topics, but Equiano and Sinclair both influenced readers.

The 1807 Slave Trade Act resulted in part from a book by Equiano, while the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act resulted in part

C. from a book by Sinclair.

*The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* and *The Jungle* are two works of literature that contributed to new

D. legislation (concerning the slave trade and food safety, respectively).

## ID: 6c9df5d1 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 4b99b481

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

## ID: 4b99b481

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

Scientists have developed a “freeze-thaw” battery that can retain 92% of its charge after twelve weeks.

The battery contains molten salt (a type of salt that liquifies when heated and solidifies at room temperature).

When the salt is in a liquid state, energy flows through the battery.

When the salt is in a solid state, energy stops flowing and is stored in the battery.

The stored (frozen) energy can be used by reheating (thawing) the battery.

The student wants to specify how the salt enables energy storage. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Scientists have developed a freeze-thaw battery that contains molten salt, which liquifies when heated and solidifies at A. room temperature.

B. The stored energy in a freeze-thaw battery, which contains molten salt, can be used by reheating the battery.

When the molten salt in a freeze-thaw battery solidifies at room temperature, energy stops flowing and can be stored in C. the battery.

D. Molten salt allows a freeze-thaw battery to retain 92% of its charge after twelve weeks.

## ID: 4b99b481 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence specifies how the salt in a freeze-thaw battery enables energy storage, explaining that energy stops flowing and can be stored when the salt solidifies at room temperature.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence explains some properties of molten salt; it doesn’t specify how that salt enables energy storage. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence indicates how the energy in a freeze-thaw battery can be released; it doesn’t specify how the salt in the battery enables energy storage. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence specifies how much charge the freeze-thaw battery retains when storing energy; it doesn’t specify how the salt in the battery enables energy storage.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 221ecf0f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 221ecf0f

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 221ecf0f Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a4366255

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

**ID: a4366255**

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

Musicians around the world have used protest songs to raise awareness about human rights violations.

US folk singer Aunt Molly Jackson released the protest song "Poor Miner's Farewell" in 1932.

It exposed the unlivable wages and dangerous working conditions coal miners faced in Kentucky during the 1920s and 1930s.

South African singer-songwriter Hugh Masekela released the protest song "Bring Him Back Home" in 1987.

It called on the South African government to free Nelson Mandela, an anti-apartheid leader who'd been unjustly imprisoned.

The student wants to contrast the song "Poor Miner's Farewell" with the song "Bring Him Back Home." Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The songs "Poor Miner's Farewell" and "Bring Him Back Home" both raised awareness about human rights violations.

While both are protest songs, "Poor Miner's Farewell" is about coal miners in Kentucky, whereas "Bring Him Back Home" B. is about the anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela.

Hugh Masekela's song "Bring Him Back Home," released in 1987, called on the South African government to free Nelson C. Mandela.

Released in 1932 by Aunt Molly Jackson, the song "Poor Miner's Farewell" was a protest against the unlivable wages and D. dangerous working conditions faced by Kentucky coal miners.

**ID: a4366255 Answer**

**Correct Answer: B**

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence contrasts the two songs, noting that "Poor Miner's Farewell" is about coal miners in Kentucky, whereas "Bring Him Back Home" is about Nelson Mandela.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between "Poor Miner's Farewell" and "Bring Him Back Home"; it doesn't contrast the two songs. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides a description of the song "Bring Him Back Home," it doesn't mention "Poor Miner's Farewell" or contrast the two songs. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence provides a description of the song "Poor Miner's Farewell," it doesn't mention "Bring Him Back Home" or contrast the two songs.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a965c6ed

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: a965c6ed

A turtle shell appears external to the animal, protecting its body like armor. \_\_\_\_\_ the shell is often incorrectly assumed to be an exoskeleton, a rigid outer casing like that of a crustacean or an insect, when in fact it is an endoskeleton, a part of the turtle's internal bone structure, more akin to a spine or a pair of ribs.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. That being said,
- B. However,
- C. For instance,
- D. Hence,

## ID: a965c6ed Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Hence" logically signals that the information in this sentence about turtle shells—that people incorrectly assume they are exoskeletons—is a consequence of the shells appearing external to the animal.

Choice A is incorrect because "that being said" illogically signals that this sentence qualifies or contrasts with the previous information about turtle shells appearing external to the animal. Instead, it presents a consequence of that information. Choice B is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that this sentence contrasts with the previous information about turtle shells appearing external to the animal. Instead, it presents a consequence of that information. Choice C is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that this sentence provides an example supporting the previous information about turtle shells appearing external to the animal. Instead, it presents a consequence of that information.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 97e2e364

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 97e2e364

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

ID: 97e2e364 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7d5c32e6

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

## ID: 7d5c32e6

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

The fifth Solvay Conference on Physics was held in 1927.

It brought together twenty-nine of the era's preeminent scientists to discuss the emerging field of quantum theory.

The conference famously featured a debate between physicists Albert Einstein and Niels Bohr.

Bohr proposed that subatomic entities like electrons had only probable realities until they were observed.

Einstein argued that subatomic entities like electrons had a reality independent of observation.

Bohr's position, later called the Copenhagen interpretation, remains the most widely accepted theory of quantum mechanics.

The student wants to place Einstein's argument within its historical context. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

During the dawn of quantum theory, Einstein maintained the independent reality of some subatomic entities, although

- A. Bohr's opposing interpretation would become the widely accepted view.

At the 1927 Solvay Conference on Physics, Einstein disagreed with Bohr's argument that subatomic entities like electrons

- B. had a reality independent of observation.

The attendees of the 1927 Solvay Conference were among the preeminent scientists of their era, including Einstein, who

- C. opposed Bohr's proposal.

In 1927, Einstein and Bohr engaged in a famous debate; Bohr's argument, later called the Copenhagen interpretation,

- D. would remain popular decades after.

## ID: 7d5c32e6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence places Einstein's argument within the historical context of the development of quantum theory, noting that his argument—made during the dawn of the field—conflicted with Bohr's argument, which became the widely accepted view.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence misrepresents information from the notes, attributing the argument that electrons had a reality independent of observation to Bohr, not Einstein. In addition, while the sentence provides the date of the conference, it doesn't place Einstein's argument in the context of the development of quantum theory. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence indicates that Einstein attended the 1927 Solvay Conference; it doesn't identify Einstein's argument or place it in the historical context of the development of quantum theory. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence explains that Einstein and Bohr had a famous debate in 1927 and that Bohr's argument remained popular decades afterward; it doesn't identify Einstein's argument or place it in the context of the development of quantum theory.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 883493d5

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

## ID: 883493d5

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

Allan Houser was a Chiricahua Warm Springs Apache sculptor, illustrator, and painter.

Many of his sculptures featured Native American figures.

He depicted this subject matter using abstract, modernist forms, developing a distinctive style that influenced many other artists.

His well-known sculpture *Sacred Rain Arrow* was pictured on the State of Oklahoma license plate.

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

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

## ID: 883493d5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 11df9b99

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 11df9b99

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 11df9b99 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2bf05ae9

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

## ID: 2bf05ae9

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

In the midst of the US Civil War, Susie Taylor escaped slavery and fled to Union-army-occupied St. Simons Island off the Georgia coast.

She began working for an all-Black army regiment as a nurse and teacher.

In 1902, she published a book about the time she spent with the regiment.

Her book was the only Civil War memoir to be published by a Black woman.

It is still available to readers in print and online.

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

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

## ID: 2bf05ae9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 335bbe3e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 335bbe3e

In his painting *At the Cycle-Race Track*, Jean Metzinger aims to depict a bike race in four-dimensional space. Of course, Metzinger's painting doesn't technically represent a fourth dimension; humans can only see in three dimensions. \_\_\_\_\_ by depicting the race through multiple, simultaneous perspectives, Metzinger offers a fascinating glimpse at what this other universe might look like.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Moreover,
- B. That said,
- C. In other words,
- D. For example,

## ID: 335bbe3e Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "That said" logically signals that the statement in this sentence—that Metzinger offers a glimpse of four-dimensional space by depicting multiple, simultaneous perspectives—is true despite the point in the previous sentence (that Metzinger's painting doesn't technically represent a fourth dimension because humans can only see in three dimensions).

Choice A is incorrect because "moreover" illogically signals that the information in this sentence merely adds to the previous point about Metzinger's painting. Instead, it provides information that is true despite that previous point. Choice C is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous point about Metzinger's painting. Instead, it provides information that is true despite that previous point. Choice D is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in this sentence provides an example that supports the previous point about Metzinger's painting. Instead, it provides information that is true despite that previous point.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e876e395

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

## ID: e876e395

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

- The melting rate of glaciers varies based on air temperature.
- In the warm summer months, massive glaciers on the coast of Greenland melt into the surrounding water.
- The melting glaciers contribute to rising sea levels each summer.
- Huge icebergs also break off Greenland's glaciers into the water and melt.
- In 2017, geoscientist Twila Moon found that the iceberg melting rate depends not on air temperature but on water temperature.
- Because water temperature is consistent, melting icebergs contribute to rising sea levels all year.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between glaciers and icebergs in Greenland. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Because icebergs break off Greenland's glaciers into the water, their melting rate depends on water temperature.
- B. Greenland's glaciers and icebergs both melt during the year, contributing to rising sea levels.
- C. Geoscientist Twila Moon found that the melting rate of Greenland's icebergs, unlike that of glaciers, does not depend on air temperature.
- D. Glaciers on the coast of Greenland melt during the warm summer months into the surrounding water, the temperature of which remains consistent throughout the year.

## ID: e876e395 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between glaciers and icebergs in Greenland, noting that both melt and thereby contribute to rising sea levels.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence provides information about the melting rate of icebergs in Greenland; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between glaciers and icebergs in Greenland. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference between glaciers and icebergs in Greenland, noting that their melting rates depend on different factors; it doesn't emphasize a similarity. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence explains the conditions under which glaciers in Greenland melt; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between glaciers and icebergs in Greenland.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 8fe4f4ab

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

## ID: 8fe4f4ab

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

One of history's greatest libraries was the House of Wisdom in Baghdad, Iraq.

It was founded in the eighth century with the goal of preserving all the world's knowledge.

Scholars at the House of Wisdom collected ancient and contemporary texts from Greece, India, and elsewhere and translated them into Arabic.

Writings included those of the Greek philosopher Aristotle and the Indian mathematician Aryabhata.

The House of Wisdom used Chinese papermaking technology to create paper versions to be studied and shared.

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

A. The House of Wisdom was known for bringing together knowledge from around the world, including from Greece, India, A. and China.

B. Founded in Iraq in the eighth century, the House of Wisdom employed many scholars as translators.

C. Writings from the Greek philosopher Aristotle and the Indian mathematician Aryabhata were preserved at the House of Wisdom.

D. The House of Wisdom collected writings from different countries and created paper versions in Arabic to be studied and shared.

## ID: 8fe4f4ab Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID bb275f0d

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

## ID: bb275f0d

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

Cities tend to have a wide range of flowering vegetation in parks, yards, and gardens.

This vegetation provides a varied diet for honeybees, strengthening bees' immune systems.

On average, 62.5 percent of bees in an urban area will survive a harsh winter.

Rural areas are often dominated by monoculture crops such as corn or wheat.

On average, only 40 percent of honeybees in a rural area will survive a harsh winter.

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

Cities tend to have a wider range of flowering vegetation than do rural areas, which are often dominated by monoculture A. crops.

In urban areas, over 60 percent of honeybees, on average, will survive a harsh winter, whereas in rural areas, only 40 B. percent will.

The strength of honeybees' immune systems depends on what the bees eat, and a varied diet is more available to bees in C. an urban area than to those in a rural area.

Honeybees are more likely to thrive in cities than in rural areas because the varied diet available in urban areas D. strengthens the bees' immune systems.

## ID: bb275f0d Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 30438650

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

**ID: 30438650**

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

**ID: 30438650 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** C

## Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 6249b173

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

**ID: 6249b173**

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

In 2018 researchers Adwait Deshpande, Shreejata Gupta, and Anindya Sinha were observing wild macaques in India's Bandipur National Park.

They saw macaques calling out to and gesturing at humans who were eating or carrying food.

They designed a study to find out if the macaques were intentionally communicating to try to persuade the humans to share their food.

In the study trials, macaques frequently called out to and gestured at humans holding food.

In the study trials, macaques called out to and gestured at empty-handed humans less frequently.

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

Macaques in the study called out to and gestured more frequently at humans holding food than at empty-handed

A. humans.

In 2018, researchers who had observed macaques in India's Bandipur National Park calling out to and gesturing at

B. humans designed a study.

The researchers hoped to find out if the macaques were intentionally communicating to try to persuade humans to share

C. their food.

D. The researchers studied how macaques behaved around both humans holding food and empty-handed humans.

**ID: 6249b173 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

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

Choice B is incorrect. This choice describes the background and motivation of the study but not the outcome or findings.

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 3b02e88a

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

## ID: 3b02e88a

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

The ancient Arab dhow was a sailing vessel distinguishable by its triangular sails and stitched hull construction.

Dhows were used primarily for trade along the coasts of Arab, South Asian, and East African countries.

Contemporary shipbuilders in Oman use a mix of modern and traditional materials to build replicas of ancient dhows.

Most of the materials used are traditional.

Replica hulls are stitched together using the same traditional coconut palm fiber rope used on the hulls of ancient dhows.

The student wants to make a generalization about the materials used in dhow replicas. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A traditional material that was used to stitch together the hulls of ancient dhows, coconut palm fiber rope is still used by A. shipbuilders.

B. The ancient Arab dhow was a sailing vessel used primarily for trade and distinguishable by its triangular sails.

C. Although most materials used in dhow replicas are traditional, some modern materials are used.

Contemporary shipbuilders in Oman build replicas of the dhow, which was an ancient sailing vessel with a stitched hull D. construction.

## ID: 3b02e88a Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence makes a generalization about the materials used in dhow replicas, noting that while some modern materials are used, most of the materials are traditional.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence provides an example of a traditional material used in ancient dhows; it doesn't indicate that the material is used in dhow replicas or make any other generalization about materials used in those replicas. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence explains what an ancient dhow was; it doesn't make a generalization about materials used to make dhow replicas. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence introduces the construction of dhow replicas to an audience unfamiliar with the vessel; it doesn't make a generalization about the materials used in those replicas.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID fd24f48f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: fd24f48f

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: fd24f48f Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1a8126aa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 1a8126aa

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

ID: 1a8126aa Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 63a4fa29

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

## ID: 63a4fa29

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

In 2013, archaeologists studied cat bone fragments they had found in the ruins of Quanhucun, a Chinese farming village.

The fragments were estimated to be 5,300 years old.

A chemical analysis of the fragments revealed that the cats had consumed large amounts of grain.

The grain consumption is evidence that the Quanhucun cats may have been domesticated.

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

As part of a 2013 study of cat domestication, a chemical analysis was conducted on cat bone fragments found in A. Quanhucun, China.

A 2013 analysis of cat bone fragments found in Quanhucun, China, suggests that cats there may have been B. domesticated 5,300 years ago.

C. In 2013, archaeologists studied what cats in Quanhucun, China, had eaten more than 5,000 years ago.

D. Cat bone fragments estimated to be 5,300 years old were found in Quanhucun, China, in 2013.

## ID: 63a4fa29 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 42301836

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 42301836

In her 2012 analysis of tree rings from Japan's Yaku Island, cosmic ray physicist Fusa Miyake noted an anomalous carbon-14 spike dating to 774–775 CE, indicating that a massive burst of radiation reached Earth during that time. \_\_\_\_\_ this unprecedented radiocarbon surge was dubbed a "Miyake event" in honor of its discoverer.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Fittingly,
- B. Similarly,
- C. However,
- D. In other words,

## ID: 42301836 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Fittingly" logically signals that the naming of an unprecedented radiocarbon surge for Fusa Miyake is appropriate to the situation, since Miyake is the person who identified the surge (through her Yaku Island tree-ring analysis).

Choice B is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about Miyake's identification of a massive radiation burst through tree-ring analysis. Instead, the naming of the event for its discoverer is a fitting and appropriate outcome. Choice C is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous information about Miyake's identification of a massive radiation burst through tree-ring analysis. Instead, the naming of the event for its discoverer is a fitting and appropriate outcome. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about Miyake's identification of a massive radiation burst through tree-ring analysis. Instead, the naming of the event for its discoverer is a fitting and appropriate outcome.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID dd11e5ab

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

## ID: dd11e5ab

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

Muckrakers were journalists who sought to expose corruption in US institutions during the Progressive Era (1897–1920).

Ida Tarbell was a muckraker who investigated the Standard Oil Company.

She interviewed Standard Oil Company executives, oil industry workers, and public officials.

She examined thousands of pages of the company's internal communications, including letters and financial records.

Her book *The History of the Standard Oil Company* (1904) exposed the company's unfair business practices.

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

Ida Tarbell not only interviewed Standard Oil executives, oil industry workers, and public officials but also examined

- A. thousands of pages of the company's internal communications.

Ida Tarbell, who investigated the Standard Oil Company, was a muckraker (a journalist who sought to expose corruption

- B. in US institutions during the Progressive Era, 1897–1920).

- C. As part of her investigation of the Standard Oil Company, muckraker Ida Tarbell conducted interviews.

Published in 1904, muckraker Ida Tarbell's book *The History of the Standard Oil Company* exposed the company's unfair

- D. business practices.

## ID: dd11e5ab Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 8112b7e3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

**ID: 8112b7e3**

Ugandan American professor Peter Nazareth believed that Elvis Presley's music is best understood not as a homogeneous collection but as an anthology (because Elvis showcased the contributions of a wide range of gospel, blues, and rock artists). \_\_\_\_\_ Nazareth entitled his college course on Elvis and his music, which focused on Elvis's many musical influences, "Elvis as Anthology."

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. To that end,
- B. In sum,
- C. That is,
- D. In addition,

**ID: 8112b7e3 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "To that end" logically signals that the activity described in this sentence—Nazareth titling his course "Elvis as Anthology"—is meant to further Nazareth's goal of helping others understand Presley's music as an anthology with a wide range of influences.

Choice B is incorrect. "In sum" illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence summarizes Nazareth's view of Presley's music as an anthology. Instead, titling his course "Elvis as Anthology" is a way for him to promote this view. Choice C is incorrect. "That is" illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence is a clarification or interpretation of Nazareth's view of Presley's music as an anthology. Instead, titling his course "Elvis as Anthology" is a way for him to promote this view. Choice D is incorrect. "In addition" illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence is merely an additional fact about Nazareth. Instead, titling his course "Elvis as Anthology" is a way for him to promote his view of Presley's music as an anthology.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 74149724

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

## ID: 74149724

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

John Carver was one of the 41 signatories of the Mayflower Compact.

The Mayflower Compact was a legal agreement among the pilgrims that immigrated to Plymouth Colony.

It was created in 1620 to establish a common government.

It states that the pilgrims who signed it wanted to “plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia” under King James.

Carver became the first governor of Plymouth Colony.

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

Stating that its signatories wanted to “plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia,” the Mayflower Compact was

- A. a legal agreement among the pilgrims that immigrated to Plymouth Colony.

Created in 1620, the Mayflower Compact states that the pilgrims wanted to “plant the first colony in the northern parts of

- B. Virginia.”

The Mayflower Compact was created to establish a common government among the pilgrims that immigrated to

- C. Plymouth Colony.

- D. The Mayflower Compact had 41 signatories, including John Carver, the first governor of Plymouth Colony.

## ID: 74149724 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 25361ec6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 25361ec6

Scientists long debated the origins of chondrules, tiny glass beads that formed in meteors billions of years ago. For decades, different theories were proposed, from lightning strikes to powerful rock collisions, but none had sufficient evidentiary support. \_\_\_\_\_ scientists found strong evidence that chondrules were formed by shock waves in nearby nebulae.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. Therefore,
- C. Similarly,
- D. Finally,

## ID: 25361ec6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Finally" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that scientists found evidence that chondrules were formed by shock waves in nearby nebulae—indicates a conclusion to the scientific debate mentioned in the previous sentences.

Choice A is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information about the evidence for chondrule formation in this sentence exemplifies the information about the scientific debate regarding chondrule formation in the previous sentences. Instead, it indicates a conclusion to the debate. Choice B is incorrect because "therefore" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the previous information about the scientific debate regarding chondrule formation. Instead, it indicates a conclusion to the debate. Choice C is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information that follows is similar to the information about the scientific debate regarding chondrule formation in the previous sentences. Instead, it indicates a conclusion to the debate.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f1d8550e

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

## ID: f1d8550e

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

Jordan Bennett is a Mi'Kmaq visual artist. The Mi'Kmaq are a First Nations people in North America.

Bennett's paintings pay homage to traditional Mi'Kmaq craftsmanship and have been displayed in over 75 exhibitions.

His 2017 exhibition *Wije'wi* was held at the Grenfell Art Gallery.

His 2018 exhibition *Ketu'elmita'jik* was held at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

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

- A. Jordan Bennett's 2017 exhibition *Wije'wi* was followed a year later by his exhibition *Ketu'elmita'jik*.

Jordan Bennett's paintings, some of which appeared in 2017 and 2018 exhibitions, pay homage to traditional Mi'Kmaq  
B. craftsmanship.

C. Mi'Kmaq visual artist Jordan Bennett has displayed his work in over 75 exhibitions, including *Wije'wi* and *Ketu'elmita'jik*.

Jordan Bennett's 2018 exhibition *Ketu'elmita'jik* was held at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia; another was held at the  
D. Grenfell Art Gallery.

## ID: f1d8550e Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ff8d2125

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

## ID: ff8d2125

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

Crown shyness is a phenomenon in which the tops (crowns) of neighboring trees grow close together but don't overlap.

To explain how this happens, Australian forester M.R. Jacobs proposes the mutual abrasion theory.

According to Jacobs's theory, when trees brush against one another, branches break off.

Malaysian scholar Francis S.P. Ng posits the mutual shade avoidance theory.

According to Ng's theory, when tree branches detect shade from nearby trees' branches, they stop growing.

The student wants to compare the causes of crown shyness proposed in the two theories. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

While Jacobs proposes that crown shyness is caused by neighboring tree branches brushing against one another, Ng A. posits that it occurs when branches detect shade from nearby trees' branches.

B. Both Jacobs and Ng have proposed theories to explain what causes crown shyness.

C. Ng posits the mutual shade avoidance theory, whereas Jacobs proposes an alternative theory.

Jacobs's mutual abrasion theory proposes that when neighboring trees brush against one another, branches break off, D. resulting in a phenomenon in which the tops of trees grow close together but don't overlap.

## ID: ff8d2125 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence compares the two proposed causes of crown shyness, noting the theories' differences: Jacobs cites branches brushing against one another as the cause, while Ng cites branches detecting shade from other branches as the cause.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence merely identifies the existence of two theories for crown shyness; it doesn't compare the causes proposed by each theory. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence merely indicates that there are two different theories for crown shyness; it doesn't compare the causes proposed by each theory. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence merely explains one theory for crown shyness; it doesn't compare two theories.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 23da9791

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

## ID: 23da9791

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

Scientists have long sought to determine the origin of glass in Chile's Atacama Desert.

A 2017 study concluded that ancient grass fires had melted the area's sandy soil into glass.

In 2021, a different study revealed that the mineral signatures of glass samples were consistent with the mineral signatures of comet samples collected by NASA.

That study concluded that the glass had formed as a result of a cometary explosion close to the desert's surface.

The student wants to describe how scientific understanding about the glass's origin has evolved. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Scientists have long sought to determine the origin of the glass, with one study concluding that it formed when ancient  
A. grass fires melted the area's sandy soil.

B. Studies in 2017 and 2021 offered different explanations for the origin of the glass.

Mineral signatures of glass samples are consistent with those of comet samples collected by NASA, according to new  
C. research.

A 2017 study concluded that ancient grass fires had caused the glass's formation, but new research suggests that the  
D. glass formed as a result of a cometary explosion close to the desert's surface.

## ID: 23da9791 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence describes how scientific understanding of the glass's origin has evolved, explaining that new research suggests the glass formed as a result of a cometary explosion instead of being caused by grass fires (as was previously believed).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence explains the conclusion of the older study; it doesn't describe how scientific understanding of the glass's origin has evolved. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that the two studies provided different explanations, it doesn't describe how scientific understanding of the glass's origin has evolved. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence references a recent finding but doesn't effectively describe how scientific understanding of the glass's origin has evolved.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 8e9677e6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 8e9677e6

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 8e9677e6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8432a140

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

## ID: 8432a140

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

Marine biologist Camille Jazmin Gaynus studies coral reefs.

Coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems that provide habitats to 25% of all marine species.

Reefs can include up to 8,000 species of fish, such as toadfish, seahorses, and clown triggerfish.

The Amazon Reef is a coral reef in Brazil. It is one of the largest known reefs in the world.

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

- A. Located in Brazil, the Amazon Reef is one of the largest known coral reefs in the world.

Marine biologist Camille Jazmin Gaynus studies coral reefs, vital underwater ecosystems that provide homes to 25% of all marine species.

Providing homes to 25% of all marine species, including up to 8,000 species of fish, coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems and thus of great interest to marine biologists.

As Camille Jazmin Gaynus knows well, coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems, providing homes to thousands of species of fish.

## ID: 8432a140 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4b7a84b0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 4b7a84b0

Mountain climbing routes that incorporate metal rungs and cables are known as via ferratas, from the Italian phrase for "iron path." As climbing these routes has shifted from a mode of travel to a sporting activity, modern via ferratas are rarely designed to simply reach a summit. \_\_\_\_\_ new routes favor recreation over utility, aiming to provide a challenging climb or showcase dramatic scenery.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Additionally,
- B. On the other hand,
- C. More often,
- D. Nonetheless,

## ID: 4b7a84b0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "More often" logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that new via ferratas favor recreation over utility—explains a difference between the new "sporting activity" routes and the older "mode of travel" routes. In so doing, it emphasizes and reinforces the previous claim ("modern via ferratas are rarely designed to simply reach a summit").

Choice A is incorrect because "additionally" illogically signals that this sentence's claim about new via ferratas adds a new, separate point to the previous claim ("modern via ferratas are rarely designed to simply reach a summit"). Instead, the second claim—that new routes favor recreation over utility—emphasizes and reinforces the previous one. Choice B is incorrect because "on the other hand" illogically signals that this sentence's claim about new via ferratas contrasts with or opposes the previous claim ("modern via ferratas are rarely designed to simply reach a summit"). Instead, the second claim—that new routes favor recreation over utility—emphasizes and reinforces the previous one. Choice D is incorrect because "nonetheless" illogically signals that this sentence's claim about new via ferratas is true despite the previous claim ("modern via ferratas are rarely designed to simply reach a summit"). Instead, the second claim—that new routes favor recreation over utility—emphasizes and reinforces the previous one.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6e0c60da

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 6e0c60da

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 6e0c60da Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 94f48106

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

## ID: 94f48106

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

In 2022, University of Miami researchers discovered brine pools in the Gulf of Aqaba.

A brine pool is an underwater lake that sits on the ocean floor.

The water in brine pools is three to eight times saltier than the surrounding ocean.

The extreme saltiness of this water makes it toxic to most sea life.

Some forms of bacteria are able to survive in brine pools.

The student wants to explain why brine pools are toxic to most sea life. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Though brine pools are toxic to most sea life, some bacteria can survive there.
- B. The water in brine pools is toxic to most sea life because it is three to eight times saltier than the surrounding ocean.
- C. The brine pools in the Gulf of Aqaba are toxic to most sea life and were discovered by researchers in 2022.
- D. Brine pools are salty underwater lakes that sit on the ocean floor.

## ID: 94f48106 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence explains why brine pools are toxic to most sea life, noting that the water in the pools is three to eight times saltier than the surrounding ocean.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence states that brine pools are toxic to most sea life, it doesn't explain why the pools are toxic. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence states that brine pools are toxic to most sea life, it doesn't explain why the pools are toxic. Choice D is incorrect because the sentence describes brine pools, mentioning that they are salty, but doesn't explain why they are toxic to most sea life.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 64e88c58

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

## ID: 64e88c58

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

In 1971, experimental musician Pauline Oliveros created *Sonic Meditations*.

*Sonic Meditations* is not music but rather a series of sound-based exercises called meditations.

Each meditation consists of instructions for participants to make, imagine, listen to, or remember sounds.

The instructions for Meditation V state, “walk so silently that the bottoms of your feet become ears.”

Those for Meditation XVIII state, “listen to a sound until you no longer recognize it.”

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

Sonic *Meditations* is not music but rather a series of sound-based meditations that consist of instructions; Meditation A. XVIII, for instance, instructs participants to “listen to a sound until you no longer recognize it.”

In 1971, Oliveros created *Sonic Meditations*, a series of meditations that consist of instructions for participants to make, B. imagine, listen to, or remember sounds.

“Walk so silently that the bottoms of your feet become ears” is one example of the instructions found in Oliveros’s *Sonic C. Meditations*.

While both meditations consist of instructions, Meditation XVIII instructs participants to “listen,” whereas Meditation V D. instructs participants to “walk.”

## ID: 64e88c58 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2c61e0b9

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

## ID: 2c61e0b9

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

British musicians John Lennon and Paul McCartney shared writing credit for numerous Beatles songs.

Many Lennon-McCartney songs were actually written by either Lennon or McCartney, not by both.

The exact authorship of specific parts of many Beatles songs, such as the verse for "In My Life," is disputed.

Mark Glickman, Jason Brown, and Ryan Song used statistical methods to analyze the musical content of Beatles songs.

They concluded that there is 18.9% probability that McCartney wrote the verse for "In My Life," stating that the verse is "consistent with Lennon's songwriting style."

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

A. Based on statistical analysis, Glickman, Brown, and Song claim that John Lennon wrote the verse of "In My Life."

There is only an 18.9% probability that Paul McCartney wrote the verse for "In My Life"; John Lennon is the more likely

B. author.

C. It is likely that John Lennon, not Paul McCartney, wrote the verse for "In My Life."

D. Researchers have used statistical methods to address questions of authorship within the field of music.

## ID: 2c61e0b9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 14037904

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

ID: 14037904

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

*The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present* is a history book by Ojibwe author David Treuer.

In a review, a critic for *The Economist* noted that “Treuer’s storytelling skills shine” and that the book is an “elegant handling of [a] complex narrative.”

A critic for *O, The Oprah Magazine* called it “a marvel of research and storytelling.”

A critic for the *Missoulian* dubbed it “a monumental achievement.”

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

A. Treuer’s book, which was widely reviewed, focuses on Native American history from 1890 to the present.

B. history.

C. Critics praised Treuer’s book for its compelling narrative, with *O, The Oprah Magazine* calling it “a marvel of research and storytelling” and *The Economist* likewise writing that “Treuer’s storytelling skills shine” and that the book is an “elegant handling of [a] complex narrative.”

D. While the *Missoulian* focused on the book’s broader achievement, *The Economist* zeroed in on Treuer’s storytelling skills.

ID: 14037904 Answer

Correct Answer: C

## Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Medium

# Question ID 29ae4d48

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 29ae4d48

In the early 1970s, Albert Popa took up graffiti art, spraying his work onto what was at the time an unconventional surface: concrete. \_\_\_\_\_ Albert's son David has chosen an unusual canvas for his new art project, *Fractured*. In this remarkable work, the artist draws charcoal faces onto fragmented ice floes in Finland, creating the visual effect of a face slowly fracturing.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. Indeed,
- C. Second,
- D. Likewise,

## ID: 29ae4d48 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Likewise" logically signals that the information about Albert's son David is similar to the previous information about Albert Popa. Both artists have used unconventional surfaces for their work: Albert used concrete, and David is using ice floes.

Choice A is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information about David contrasts with the previous information about Albert Popa. Instead, it is similar to the previous information about Albert Popa. Choice B is incorrect because "indeed" illogically signals that the information about David emphasizes or strengthens the previous point about Albert Popa. Instead, it is similar to the previous information; it highlights a similarity between father and son. Choice C is incorrect because "second" illogically signals that the information about David is a second point or reason separate from the previous information about Albert Popa. Instead, it is similar to the previous information; it highlights a similarity between father and son.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9dc4e640

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 9dc4e640

The mineral mtorolite is most commonly found in Zimbabwe. Mtorolite is cryptocrystalline, meaning that its crystalline structure is so fine that the individual crystals cannot be distinguished by the naked eye or even under a microscope. The crystals in microcrystalline minerals are also not visible to the naked eye; \_\_\_\_\_ they can usually be seen under a microscope.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. thus,
- B. for example,
- C. that said,
- D. similarly,

## ID: 9dc4e640 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because "that said" logically signals that the information that follows—that the crystals of microcrystalline minerals can be seen with a microscope—is an exception to the previous information about the crystalline structure of minerals not being visible under a microscope.

Choice A is incorrect because "thus" illogically signals that the information that follows is a direct result or consequence of the fact that the crystals of microcrystalline minerals aren't visible to the naked eye. Instead, the fact that they can be seen under a microscope is an exception to the previous information about crystalline minerals. Choice B is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information that follows exemplifies the fact that the crystals of microcrystalline minerals aren't visible to the naked eye. Instead, the fact that they can be seen under a microscope is an exception to the previous information about crystalline minerals. Choice D is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information that follows is similar or comparable to the fact that the crystals of microcrystalline minerals aren't visible to the naked eye. Instead, the fact that they can be seen under a microscope is an exception to the previous information about crystalline minerals.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 113f16da

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

## ID: 113f16da

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

Some animals have evolved to physically resemble another animal, plant, or object. This is known as mimicry.

Crab spiders mimic the appearance of flowers. This helps crab spiders ambush their prey.

Katydid mimics the appearance of leaves. This helps katydid hide from their predators.

The student wants to emphasize a difference in how katydids and crab spiders use mimicry. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Katydid mimics the appearance of flowers, and crab spiders mimic that of leaves.
- B. Katydid and crab spiders are two examples of animals that use mimicry.
- C. Unlike crab spiders, which use mimicry to ambush prey, katydids use mimicry to hide from predators.
- D. Animals that use mimicry have evolved to resemble another animal, plant, or object.

## ID: 113f16da Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence uses "unlike" to emphasize a difference in how katydids and crab spiders use mimicry, noting that crab spiders use mimicry to ambush prey while katydids use it to hide from predators.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence does contrast katydids and crab spiders, it misrepresents the information in the notes. Katydid mimics the appearance of leaves (not flowers), whereas crab spiders mimic the appearance of flowers (not leaves). Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that katydids and crab spiders use mimicry, it doesn't emphasize a difference in how they use it. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence describes what mimicry is; it doesn't emphasize a difference in how katydids and crab spiders specifically use mimicry.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 0c0d50e1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 0c0d50e1

The Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project is anticipated to generate 2.6 gigawatts of energy, enough to power almost one million homes. As its name indicates, the project—currently in development—consists of wind turbines located off the Virginia coast. \_\_\_\_\_ the project plan calls for 176 large turbines to be placed at a site 27 miles east of Virginia Beach.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. To be exact,
- B. In conclusion,
- C. As a result,
- D. In contrast,

## ID: 0c0d50e1 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "To be exact" logically signals that this sentence about the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project plan provides specific, precise details—number of turbines, location of site—elaborating on the more general information about the project in the previous sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because "in conclusion" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project plan concludes or summarizes the discussion of the project in the previous sentences. Instead, the sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous information. Choice C is incorrect because "as a result" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project plan is caused by, or occurs as a result of, the information about the project in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous information. Choice D is incorrect because "in contrast" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project plan contrasts with information about the project in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous information.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 129089b5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 129089b5

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 129089b5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID af88c47a

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

## ID: af88c47a

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

Freddie Wong (born 1985) is a director and special effects artist from the United States.

He is best known for the action-comedy web series *Video Game High School* (*VGHS*).

*VGHS* premiered in 2012 on RocketJump, a YouTube channel that Wong cocreated.

The series was celebrated for its inventive video game–centric world and high-quality special effects.

*VGHS* was nominated for a Producers Guild Award for Outstanding Digital Series.

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

A. In 2012, director and visual effects artist Freddie Wong launched a new action-comedy web series: *Video Game High A. School*.

B. *Video Game High School* was celebrated for its inventive video game–centric world and high-quality special effects, and it was nominated for a Producer's Guild Award for Outstanding Digital Series.

C. Wong, cocreator of the YouTube channel RocketJump, would go on to see his web series be nominated for a Producers Guild Award.

D. In 2012, *Video Game High School* premiered on RocketJump; it would later be nominated for an award.

## ID: af88c47a Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d6dec50e

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

## ID: d6dec50e

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

In 2019, Emily Shepard and colleagues in the UK and Germany studied the effect of wind on auks' success in landing at cliffside nesting sites.

They found as wind conditions intensified, the birds needed more attempts in order to make a successful landing.

When the wind was still, almost 100% of landing attempts were successful.

In a strong breeze, approximately 40% of attempts were successful.

In near-gale conditions, only around 20% of attempts were successful.

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

For a 2019 study, researchers from the UK and Germany collected data on auks' attempts to land at cliffside nesting sites

A. in different wind conditions.

Emily Shepard and her colleagues wanted to know the extent to which wind affected auks' success in landing at cliffside

B. nesting sites, so they conducted a study.

Knowing that auks often need multiple attempts to land at their cliffside nesting sites, Emily Shepard studied the birds'

C. success rate, which was only around 20% in some conditions.

Emily Shepard's 2019 study of auks' success in landing at cliffside nesting sites showed that as wind conditions

D. intensified, the birds' success rate decreased.

## ID: d6dec50e Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 94cb8720

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

## ID: 94cb8720

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

In 2020, theater students at Radford and Virginia Tech chose an interactive, online format to present a play about woman suffrage activists.

Their “Women and the Vote” website featured an interactive digital drawing of a Victorian-style house.

Audiences were asked to focus on a room of their choice and select from that room an artifact related to the suffrage movement.

One click took them to video clips, songs, artwork, and texts associated with the artifact.

The play was popular with audiences because the format allowed them to control the experience.

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

“Women and the Vote” featured a drawing of a Victorian-style house with several rooms, each containing suffrage

A. artifacts.

B. To access video clips, songs, artwork, and texts, audiences had to first click on an artifact.

C. The “Women and the Vote” format appealed to audiences because it allowed them to control the experience.

Using an interactive format, theater students at Radford and Virginia Tech created “Women and the Vote,” a play about  
D. woman suffrage activists.

## ID: 94cb8720 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ddb77846

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: ddb77846

My interest in old public libraries has led me to seek them out whenever I visit a new part of the United States. \_\_\_\_\_ I could visit every state in the US and still not find the oldest public library in the Western Hemisphere. That library, the Biblioteca Palafoxiana, is located in Puebla, Mexico.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. Nevertheless,
- C. Earlier,
- D. In other words,

## ID: ddb77846 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Nevertheless" logically signals that the claim in the sentence—that the speaker could visit every state in the US and not find the oldest public library in the Western Hemisphere—is true despite the previous claim about the speaker seeking out old public libraries.

Choice A is incorrect because "as a result" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is a consequence of the previous claim about the speaker seeking out old public libraries. Instead, the claim is true despite the previous claim. Choice C is incorrect because "earlier" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence occurs earlier in a chronological sequence of events than the previous claim about the speaker seeking out old public libraries. Instead, the claim is true despite the previous claim. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is merely a paraphrase or restatement of the previous claim about the speaker seeking out old public libraries. Instead, the claim is true despite the previous claim.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9551ef8b

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

## ID: 9551ef8b

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

The magnificent frigatebird (*fregata magnificens*) is a species of seabird that feeds mainly on fish, tuna, squid, and other small sea animals.

It is unusual among seabirds in that it doesn't dive into the water for prey.

One way it acquires food is by using its hook-tipped bill to snatch prey from the surface of the water.

Another way it acquires food is by taking it from weaker birds by force. This behavior is known as kleptoparasitism.

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

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

In addition to snatching prey from the water with its hook-tipped bill, a magnificent frigatebird takes food from other birds D. by force.

## ID: 9551ef8b Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 9502ec65

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 9502ec65

When soil becomes contaminated by toxic metals, it can be removed from the ground and disposed of in a landfill. \_\_\_\_\_ contaminated soil can be detoxified via phytoremediation: plants that can withstand high concentrations of metals absorb the pollutants and store them in their shoots, which are then cut off and safely disposed of, preserving the health of the plants.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Alternatively,
- B. Specifically,
- C. For example,
- D. As a result,

## ID: 9502ec65 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Alternatively” logically signals that the soil decontamination method described in this sentence—removing toxic metals from the soil via phytoremediation—offers an alternative to the previously described method (removing the contaminated soil from the ground).

Choice B is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the soil decontamination method described in this sentence specifies or elaborates on an aspect of the previously described method (removing the contaminated soil from the ground). Instead, phytoremediation is an alternative to that method. Choice C is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the soil decontamination method described in this sentence is an example of the previously described method (removing the contaminated soil from the ground). Instead, phytoremediation is an alternative to that method. Choice D is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the soil decontamination method described in this sentence is a result or consequence of the previously described method (removing the contaminated soil from the ground). Instead, phytoremediation is an alternative to that method.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6de02dfa

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

## ID: 6de02dfa

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

- Thailand's annual Songkran Water Festival is held each April. It marks Songkran, the traditional Thai New Year.
- People splash and spray each other for fun at the festival's community-wide water fights.
- In Bangkok, thousands gather along Silom Road for the city's largest water fight.
- In Chiang Mai, thousands gather at a historical monument called the Tha Phae Gate for the city's largest water fight.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity in how people in Bangkok and Chiang Mai celebrate Songkran. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- The largest water fight in Bangkok takes place along a city street, whereas the largest water fight in Chiang Mai takes A. place at a historical monument.
- B. In both Bangkok and Chiang Mai, thousands gather to celebrate Songkran with water fights.
- C. People in both Bangkok and Chiang Mai celebrate Songkran, but they don't do so in exactly the same way.
- D. Each April, people in Thailand celebrate Songkran, the traditional Thai New Year.

## ID: 6de02dfa Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity in how people in Bangkok and Chiang Mai celebrate Songkran, indicating that people in both cities gather to celebrate with water fights.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence notes the different locations of the largest water fight in Bangkok and the largest water fight in Chiang Mai; it doesn't emphasize a similarity in how people in Bangkok and Chiang Mai celebrate Songkran. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence indicates that people in Bangkok and Chiang Mai don't celebrate Songkran in exactly the same way; it doesn't emphasize a similarity in how people in the two cities celebrate Songkran. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence explains when people in Thailand celebrate Songkran; it doesn't emphasize a similarity in how people in Bangkok and Chiang Mai celebrate Songkran.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c92ea686

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

## ID: c92ea686

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

*The Ramayana* is a Sanskrit epic poem from ancient India.

In *The Ramayana*, the character Kaikeyi is often portrayed as a villain. *Kaikeyi* is a 2022 novel by Vaishnavi Patel.

The novel is a retelling of the epic poem from Kaikeyi's point of view. It often portrays Kaikeyi as heroic.

The student wants to emphasize whose point of view the novel is told from. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. From the point of view of *The Ramayana*, the character Kaikeyi is often a villain.
- B. Vaishnavi Patel often portrays the character as heroic.
- C. *Kaikeyi* is a retelling of *The Ramayana* from the character Kaikeyi's point of view.
- D. *The Ramayana* is an epic poem that features the character Kaikeyi.

## ID: c92ea686 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes whose point of view the novel *Kaikeyi* is told from: the character Kaikeyi's.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence does discuss point of view, it focuses on that of the epic poem rather than the novel. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence seems to be referring to Patel's novel, it doesn't establish whose point of view the novel is told from. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence discusses the character Kaikeyi in the context of the epic poem; it doesn't discuss the novel's point of view.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2df7b582

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 2df7b582

Plato believed material objects to be crude representations of unseen ideal forms. In his view, such abstract, nonmaterial forms are the ultimate source of knowledge. Aristotle disagreed, positing that knowledge is best obtained through direct engagement with the material world; \_\_\_\_\_ sensory experience of the material is the ultimate source of knowledge.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. regardless,
- B. admittedly,
- C. in other words,
- D. meanwhile,

## ID: 2df7b582 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “In other words” logically signals that the claim about sensory experience that follows—that sensory experience is the source of knowledge—is a restatement of Aristotle’s theory from earlier in the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the claim about sensory experience that follows is true in spite of Aristotle’s theory from earlier in the sentence. Instead, this claim is a restatement of his theory. Choice B is incorrect because “admittedly” illogically signals that the claim about sensory experience that follows is an exception to Aristotle’s theory from earlier in the sentence. Instead, this claim is a restatement of his theory. Choice D is incorrect because “meanwhile” illogically signals that the claim about sensory experience that follows is separate from (while occurring simultaneously with) Aristotle’s theory from earlier in the sentence. Instead, this claim is a restatement of his theory.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 1bb4aec8

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

## ID: 1bb4aec8

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

Meteorites found on Earth are divided into two categories.

A meteorite that was observed falling to Earth before being recovered is known as a meteorite fall.

All other meteorites found on Earth are known as meteorite finds.

There have been about 1,200 recorded meteorite falls. There have been over 60,000 recorded meteorite finds.

The student wants to contrast the number of meteorite falls with the number of meteorite finds. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A meteorite that was observed falling to Earth before being recovered is known as a meteorite fall; all others are known  
A. as meteorite finds.

B. Meteorites found on Earth are divided into two categories: meteorite falls and meteorite finds.

C. There have been about 1,200 recorded meteorite falls, or meteorites observed falling to Earth.

D. While there have been only about 1,200 recorded meteorite falls, there have been over 60,000 meteorite finds.

## ID: 1bb4aec8 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence contrasts the number of meteorite falls with the number of meteorite finds, noting that there have been over 60,000 meteorite finds but only about 1,200 recorded meteorite falls.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence explains the difference between meteorite falls and meteorite finds, it doesn't contrast the number of meteorite falls and meteorite finds. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence indicates the two categories of meteorites found on Earth; it doesn't contrast the number of meteorite falls and meteorite finds. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence notes the number of recorded meteorite falls, it doesn't contrast this with the number of meteorite finds.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 58281fc4

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

## ID: 58281fc4

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

Soo Sunny Park is a Korean American artist who uses light as her primary medium of expression.

She created her work *Unwoven Light* in 2013.

*Unwoven Light* featured a chain-link fence fitted with iridescent plexiglass tiles.

When light passed through the fence, colorful prisms formed.

The student wants to describe *Unwoven Light* to an audience unfamiliar with Soo Sunny Park. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Park's 2013 installation *Unwoven Light*, which included a chain-link fence and iridescent tiles made from plexiglass,

A. featured light as its primary medium of expression.

B. Korean American light artist Soo Sunny Park created *Unwoven Light* in 2013.

C. The chain-link fence in Soo Sunny Park's *Unwoven Light* was fitted with tiles made from iridescent plexiglass.

In *Unwoven Light*, a 2013 work by Korean American artist Soo Sunny Park, light formed colorful prisms as it passed

D. through a fence Park had fitted with iridescent tiles.

## ID: 58281fc4 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence effectively describes *Unwoven Light* to an audience unfamiliar with Park, noting that Soo Sunny Park is a Korean American artist and that the 2013 work consists of colorful prisms formed by light passing through iridescent tiles.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes aspects of *Unwoven Light* but doesn't mention who Park is; it thus doesn't effectively describe the work to an audience unfamiliar with Park. Choice B is incorrect. Although the sentence indicates when the work was created and who Park is, it lacks descriptive details and thus doesn't effectively describe *Unwoven Light*. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence mentions Park and describes an aspect of *Unwoven Light*—the chain-link fence—but doesn't effectively describe the overall work to an audience unfamiliar with the artist.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 17ec916d

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

## ID: 17ec916d

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

Bharati Mukherjee was an Indian-born author of novels and short stories.

She published the novel *The Holder of the World* in 1993.

A central character in the novel is a woman living in twentieth-century United States.

Another central character is a woman living in seventeenth-century India.

The student wants to introduce the novel *The Holder of the World* to an audience already familiar with Bharati Mukherjee. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Bharati Mukherjee's settings include both twentieth-century United States and seventeenth-century India.

In addition to her novel *The Holder of the World*, which was published in 1993, Indian-born author Bharati Mukherjee wrote  
B. other novels and short stories.

Bharati Mukherjee's novel *The Holder of the World* centers around two women, one living in twentieth-century United  
C. States and the other in seventeenth-century India.

D. *The Holder of the World* was not the only novel written by Indian-born author Bharati Mukherjee.

## ID: 17ec916d Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively introduces *The Holder of the World* to an audience already familiar with Mukherjee, explaining that the novel centers around two women and mentioning the author without providing any other identifying information.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence provides a detail about Mukherjee's settings; it doesn't introduce, or even mention, the novel. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence provides introductory information about Mukherjee; it doesn't effectively introduce her novel to an audience already familiar with the author. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence provides introductory information about Mukherjee; it doesn't effectively introduce her novel to an audience already familiar with the author.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d8aa8ba2

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

## ID: d8aa8ba2

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

In astronomy, the mass of stars can be described in units called solar masses.

One solar mass is roughly equal to the mass of the Sun.

The mass of the star Proxima Centauri is 0.122 solar masses. The mass of the star Sirius A is 2.063 solar masses.

The student wants to emphasize the mass of Sirius A. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The mass of stars, like Proxima Centauri, can be described in units called solar masses.

In astronomy, the mass of stars can be described in units called solar masses, and one solar mass is roughly equal to the mass of the Sun.

- C. The Sun is more massive than Proxima Centauri, which has a mass of 0.122 solar masses.

- D. With a mass of 2.063 solar masses, Sirius A is more massive than the Sun.

## ID: d8aa8ba2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the mass of Sirius A, noting that it has a mass of 2.063 solar masses and that it is larger than the Sun.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence makes a generalization about how the mass of stars can be measured; it doesn't emphasize the mass of Sirius A. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence introduces solar masses as a unit of measurement; it doesn't emphasize the mass of Sirius A. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the mass of Proxima Centauri, not the mass of Sirius A.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 24014c3f

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

## ID: 24014c3f

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

Severo Ochoa discovered the enzyme PNPase in 1955.

PNPase is involved in both the creation and degradation of mRNA.

Ochoa incorrectly hypothesized that PNPase provides the genetic blueprints for mRNA.

The discovery of PNPase proved critical to deciphering the human genetic code.

Deciphering the genetic code has led to a better understanding of how genetic variations affect human health.

The student wants to emphasize the significance of Ochoa's discovery. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Ochoa's 1955 discovery of PNPase proved critical to deciphering the human genetic code, leading to a better

A. understanding of how genetic variations affect human health.

B. Ochoa first discovered PNPase, an enzyme that he hypothesized contained the genetic blueprints for mRNA, in 1955.

C. In 1955, Ochoa discovered the PNPase enzyme, which is involved in both the creation and degradation of mRNA.

Though his discovery of PNPase was critical to deciphering the human genetic code, Ochoa incorrectly hypothesized that

D. the enzyme was the source of mRNA's genetic blueprints.

## ID: 24014c3f Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the significance of Ochoa's discovery, noting that it proved critical to deciphering the human genetic code, which resulted in a better understanding of how genetic variations affect human health.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence explains what Ochoa discovered, it doesn't emphasize the significance of the discovery. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence explains what Ochoa discovered, it doesn't emphasize the significance of the discovery. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that Ochoa's discovery was crucial, it emphasizes Ochoa's incorrect hypothesis, not the significance of the discovery.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 07456405

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

ID: 07456405

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

Malapportionment is the over- or underrepresentation (relative to population size) of electoral districts in a governing body.

It is a common feature of representative governments.

There are 169 seats in Norway's supreme legislature (the Storting).

Seats are distributed by a formula that awards 1 point per resident and 1.8 points per unit of land.

Less populated rural districts with large tracts of land receive a disproportionate number of seats compared to smaller but more populated urban districts.

The student wants to refute a claim that malapportionment in the Storting favors small urban districts. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- Less populated rural districts are disproportionately underrepresented in the Storting, creating an unfair advantage for
- A. smaller but more populated urban districts.

- It's untrue that malapportionment in the 169-seat Storting favors small urban districts; rather, the formula for distributing
- B. seats overrepresents more populated districts.

- A common feature of representative governments, malapportionment occurs when electoral districts are over- or
- C. underrepresented.

- Awarding more points per unit of land than points per resident, the formula for distributing Storting seats overrepresents
- D. less populated rural districts with large tracts of land.

ID: 07456405 Answer

Correct Answer: D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. By noting that the formula for distributing Storting seats overrepresents less populated rural districts, the sentence effectively refutes a claim that malapportionment in the Storting favors small urban districts.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence claims that malapportionment in the Storting favors small urban districts; it doesn't refute such a claim. Moreover, it misrepresents information in the notes. According to the notes, the formula for distributing seats overrepresents less populated, not more populated, districts. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence appears to refute a claim that malapportionment in the Storting favors small urban districts, it misrepresents information in the notes. According to the notes, the formula for distributing seats overrepresents less populated, not more populated, districts. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence explains what malapportionment is but doesn't address malapportionment in the Storting specifically.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID e2d97f10

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

## ID: e2d97f10

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

Pterosaurs were flying reptiles that existed millions of years ago.

In a 2021 study, Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan analyzed fragments of pterosaur jawbones located in the Sahara Desert.

She was initially unsure if the bones belonged to juvenile or adult pterosaurs.

She used advanced microscope techniques to determine that the bones had few growth lines relative to the bones of fully grown pterosaurs.

She concluded that the bones belonged to juveniles.

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

A. In 2021, Chinsamy-Turan studied pterosaur jawbones and was initially unsure if the bones belonged to juveniles or adults.

B. Pterosaur jawbones located in the Sahara Desert were the focus of a 2021 study.

C. In a 2021 study, Chinsamy-Turan used advanced microscope techniques to analyze the jawbones of pterosaurs, flying reptiles that existed millions of years ago.

D. In a 2021 study, Chinsamy-Turan determined that pterosaur jawbones located in the Sahara Desert had few growth lines relative to the bones of fully grown pterosaurs and thus belonged to juveniles.

## ID: e2d97f10 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence presents both the study and its findings, noting the study's date and the researcher's name as well as describing what the researcher determined about the jawbones and how she determined it.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence describes the study and the researcher's initial assessment, it doesn't present the study's findings. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence describes the study and its focus, it doesn't present the study's findings or the name of the researcher who conducted it. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the study's methodology and provides information about pterosaurs, it doesn't present the study's findings.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e1b00a70

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: e1b00a70

The more diverse and wide ranging an animal's behaviors, the larger and more energy demanding the animal's brain tends to be. \_\_\_\_ from an evolutionary perspective, animals that perform only basic actions should allocate fewer resources to growing and maintaining brain tissue. The specialized subtypes of ants within colonies provide an opportunity to explore this hypothesis.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Subsequently,
- B. Besides,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Thus,

## ID: e1b00a70 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Thus" logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that animals performing only basic actions should allocate relatively few resources to their brain tissue—is a consequence of the previous sentence's claim about the energy demands of animal brains (namely, that the more diverse an animal's behaviors, the more energy its brain needs).

Choice A is incorrect because "subsequently" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence occurs later in a chronological sequence of events than the previous sentence's claim about the energy demands of animal brains. Instead, the second claim is a consequence of the first. Choice B is incorrect because "besides" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence provides a separate point in addition to, or apart from, the previous sentence's claim about the energy demands of animal brains. Instead, the second claim is a consequence of the first. Choice C is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is true in spite of the previous sentence's claim about the energy demands of animal brains. Instead, the second claim is a consequence of the first.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID bce57278

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

## ID: bce57278

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

Some US reformers sought to improve society in the 1800s by building utopias.

A utopia is a community intended to represent a perfect society based on a specific set of principles.

One such community was Brook Farm near Boston, Massachusetts. It was founded in 1841 by writer George Ripley.

Ripley wrote in a letter that his goal for Brook Farm was “to guarantee the highest mental freedom, by providing all with labor, adapted to their tastes and talents, and securing to them the fruits of their industry.”

The student wants to explain the goal of Brook Farm using a quotation from George Ripley. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In a letter, writer George Ripley explained his goal to “guarantee the highest mental freedom.”

Utopias, such as Brook Farm, founded by George Ripley in 1841, were based on a specific set of principles intended to  
B. create a perfect society.

Founded by George Ripley near Boston, Massachusetts, Brook Farm was part of a trend in the 1800s, when reformers in  
C. the United States built utopias.

Established in 1841, Brook Farm was a utopian community created to “guarantee the highest mental freedom, by  
D. providing all with labor... [and] the fruits of their industry,” according to founder George Ripley.

## ID: bce57278 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This choice explains the goal of Brook Farm—to provide mental freedom to all by engaging individuals in labor suited to their interests—using a quotation from George Ripley.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice only mentions part of Ripley’s goal, and it doesn’t mention Brook Farm at all. Choice B is incorrect. This choice defines what a utopia is but doesn’t use Ripley’s words to describe his vision for Brook Farm. Choice C is incorrect. This choice provides some background information about Brook Farm, but it doesn’t explain its goals or include Ripley’s words.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2b89bfe5

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

## ID: 2b89bfe5

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

In 1999, astronomer Todd Henry studied the differences in surface temperature between the Sun and nearby stars.

His team mapped all stars within 10 parsecs (approximately 200 trillion miles) of the Sun.

The surface temperature of the Sun is around 9,800°F, which classifies it as a G star.

327 of the 357 stars in the study were classified as K or M stars, with surface temperatures under 8,900°F (cooler than the Sun).

11 of the 357 stars in the study were classified as A or F stars, with surface temperatures greater than 10,300°F (hotter than the Sun).

The student wants to emphasize how hot the Sun is relative to nearby stars. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

At around 9,800°F, which classifies it as a G star, the Sun is hotter than most but not all of the stars within 10 parsecs of A. it.

Astronomer Todd Henry determined that the Sun, at around 9,800°F, is a G star, and several other stars within a 10-parsec B. range are A or F stars.

Of the 357 stars within ten parsecs of the Sun, 327 are classified as K or M stars, with surface temperatures under C. 8,900°F.

While most of the stars within 10 parsecs of the Sun are classified as K, M, A, or F stars, the Sun is classified as a G star D. due to its surface temperature of 9,800°F.

## ID: 2b89bfe5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Noting that the Sun (9,800°F) is hotter than most stars within 10 parsecs of it, the sentence emphasizes how hot the Sun is relative to nearby stars.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence explains that astronomer Todd Henry determined the classifications for the Sun and several other stars nearby; it doesn't emphasize how hot the Sun is relative to nearby stars. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence explains that the majority of stars near the Sun are classified as K or M stars; it doesn't indicate the Sun's temperature or emphasize how hot it is relative to nearby stars. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that the Sun is classified differently than most nearby stars due to its surface temperature, it doesn't emphasize how hot the Sun is relative to nearby stars.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7572131d

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

## ID: 7572131d

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

Elizabeth Catlett's sculpture *Recognition* (1970) shows two African American figures with rounded, indistinct features.

The figures reach out to each other in a pose that symbolizes a close, supportive relationship.

Her sculpture *Students Aspire* (1978) shows two African American figures with sharply defined features.

The figures hold an equal sign above their heads with one hand and embrace each other with the other hand.

This pose symbolizes their support for each other in the pursuit of equality.

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

- A. Catlett's *Students Aspire* depicts two figures supporting each other in the pursuit of equality.
- B. *Recognition* and *Students Aspire* both show African American figures in poses that symbolize supportive relationships.
- C. Catlett completed *Recognition* in 1970 and *Students Aspire* in 1978.

The figures in *Recognition* have features that are rounded and indistinct, while the figures in *Students Aspire* have sharply defined features.

## ID: 7572131d Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the sculptures *Recognition* and *Students Aspire*, noting that both sculptures show African American figures in poses that symbolize supportive relationships.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes one of the sculptures; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two sculptures. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence specifies the different years the sculptures were completed in; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two sculptures. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the two sculptures, noting that the figures in the sculptures have different feature definition; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two sculptures.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 54c1b2dd

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

## ID: 54c1b2dd

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

In 1851, German American artist Emanuel Leutze painted *Washington Crossing the Delaware*.

His huge painting (149 × 255 inches) depicts the first US president crossing a river with soldiers in the Revolutionary War.

In 2019, Cree artist Kent Monkman painted *mistikôsiwak (Wooden Boat People): Resurgence of the People*.

Monkman's huge painting (132 × 264 inches) was inspired by Leutze's.

It portrays Indigenous people in a boat rescuing refugees.

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

- A. Monkman, a Cree artist, finished his painting in 2019; Leutze, a German American artist, completed his in 1851.

Although Monkman's painting was inspired by Leutze's, the people and actions the two paintings portray are very different.

- C. Leutze's and Monkman's paintings are both huge, measuring 149 × 255 inches and 132 × 264 inches, respectively.

- D. Leutze's painting depicts Revolutionary War soldiers, while Monkman's depicts Indigenous people and refugees.

## ID: 54c1b2dd Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the two paintings, noting that Leutze's painting (which measures 149 × 255 inches) and Monkman's painting (which measures 132 × 264 inches) are both very large.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence mentions that Monkman's painting was completed in 2019 and Leutze's was completed in 1851; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two paintings. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence acknowledges that one painting was inspired by the other, it emphasizes differences between the two paintings; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between them. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence mentions a difference between the two paintings; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between them.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5fa51c86

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

## ID: 5fa51c86

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

Ulaanbaatar is the capital of Mongolia. The city's population is 907,802.

Ulaanbaatar contains 31.98 percent of Mongolia's population. Hanoi is the capital of Vietnam.

The city's population is 7,781,631. Hanoi contains 8.14 percent of Vietnam's population.

The student wants to emphasize the relative sizes of the two capitals' populations. Which choice most effectively uses information from the given sentences to emphasize the relative sizes of the two capitals' populations?

A. Mongolia's capital is Ulaanbaatar, which has 907,802 people, and Vietnam's capital is Hanoi, which has 7,781,631 people.

Comparing Vietnam and Mongolia, 7,781,631 is 8.14 percent of Vietnam's population, and 907,802 is 31.98 percent of B. Mongolia's.

Even though Hanoi (population 7,781,631) is larger than Ulaanbaatar (population 907,802), Ulaanbaatar accounts for C. more of its country's population.

D. The populations of the capitals of Mongolia and Vietnam are 907,802 (Ulaanbaatar) and 7,781,631 (Hanoi), respectively.

## ID: 5fa51c86 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the relative sizes of the capital cities' populations, noting that even though Hanoi has more people overall, Ulaanbaatar accounts for a larger percentage of the people in its country.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence indicates the population size of each capital, it fails to emphasize their sizes relative to each other or to their countries' overall population sizes. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the population sizes of the two countries; it fails to mention the capitals. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence indicates the population size of each capital, it fails to emphasize their sizes relative to each other or to their countries' overall population sizes.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 08be6347

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 08be6347

In his 1925 book *The Morphology of Landscape*, US geographer Carl Sauer challenged prevailing views about how natural landscapes influence human cultures. \_\_\_\_\_ Sauer argued that instead of being shaped entirely by their natural surroundings, cultures play an active role in their own development by virtue of their interactions with the environment.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. Finally,
- C. Therefore,
- D. Specifically,

## ID: 08be6347 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Specifically” logically signals that the information in this sentence about Sauer’s argument—that, according to Sauer, cultures play a role in their own development, as opposed to being shaped solely by natural surroundings—provides specific, precise details elaborating on the more general information in the previous sentence about how Sauer challenged prevailing views about how natural landscapes influence human cultures.

Choice A is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Sauer’s argument is similar to, but separate from, the more general information in the previous sentence. Instead, it provides specific, precise details elaborating on that information. Choice B is incorrect because “finally” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Sauer’s argument indicates a last step in a process or a concluding summary. Instead, it provides specific, precise details elaborating on the general information in the previous sentence. Choice C is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Sauer’s argument is a result of the more general information in the previous sentence. Instead, it provides specific, precise details elaborating on that information.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5d3177aa

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

## ID: 5d3177aa

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

In the early 1960s, the US had a strict national-origins quota system for immigrants.

The number of new immigrants allowed from a country each year was based on how many people from that country lived in the US in 1890.

This system favored immigrants from northern Europe.

Almost 70% of slots were reserved for immigrants from Great Britain, Ireland, and Germany.

The 1965 Hart-Celler Act abolished the national-origins quota system.

The student wants to present the significance of the Hart-Celler Act to an audience unfamiliar with the history of US immigration. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Almost 70% of slots were reserved for immigrants from Great Britain, Ireland, and Germany at the time the Hart-Celler Act A. was proposed.

Prior to the Hart-Celler Act, new immigration quotas were based on how many people from each country lived in the US in B. 1890.

C. The quota system in place in the early 1960s was abolished by the 1965 Hart-Celler Act.

D. The 1965 Hart-Celler Act abolished the national-origins quota system, which favored immigrants from northern Europe.

## ID: 5d3177aa Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence presents the significance of the Hart-Celler Act to an audience unfamiliar with the history of US immigration, noting that the 1965 act abolished the national-origins quota system and explaining why that mattered, historically: because the old quota system had favored immigrants from northern Europe.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes an aspect of immigration policy at the time the Hart-Celler Act was proposed; it doesn't present the significance of the Hart-Celler Act to an audience unfamiliar with the history of US immigration. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence describes an aspect of immigration policy before the Hart-Celler Act; it doesn't describe or present the significance of the act to an audience unfamiliar with the history of US immigration. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that the Hart-Celler Act abolished the old quota system, it doesn't explain the act or the quota system to an audience unfamiliar with the history of US immigration.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7c9d0e38

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

## ID: 7c9d0e38

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

Roughly 96% of Australia's estimated 200,000 animal species are invertebrates.

Invertebrates of the order Hymenoptera, which consists of sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants, are estimated to total 14,800 species in Australia.

Invertebrates of the order Coleoptera, which consists of beetles and weevils, are estimated to total 28,200 species in Australia.

Some of these invertebrates' populations are threatened by invasive bird and fish species.

The student wants to emphasize the different orders in which Australia's invertebrate animals are classified. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. In Australia, 28,200 species are estimated to be beetles and weevils, both classified as invertebrates of the order Coleoptera.

B. Among Australia's many invertebrates, sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants belong to the order Hymenoptera, while beetles and weevils belong to the order Coleoptera.

C. Many sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants of the order Hymenoptera are threatened by some of Australia's invasive bird and fish species.

D. The order Hymenoptera is estimated to make up 14,800 of Australia's 200,000 animal species.

## ID: 7c9d0e38 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the different orders that Australia's invertebrates belong to, specifying that sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants belong to the order Hymenoptera, whereas beetles and weevils belong to the order Coleoptera.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence only mentions one order, Coleoptera; it doesn't emphasize the different orders that Australia's invertebrates belong to. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence only mentions one order, Hymenoptera; it doesn't emphasize the different orders that Australia's invertebrates belong to. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence only mentions one order, Hymenoptera; it doesn't emphasize the different orders that Australia's invertebrates belong to.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 35507eba

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

## ID: 35507eba

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

Pointillism is a painting technique in which small, distinct dots of color are applied in patterns to form an image.

Betty Acquah is an artist from Ghana who uses pointillism in her work.

"By extending dabs of color in the subject matter into the background and vice-versa, an illusion of movement is created," she says about pointillism.

Her work often portrays Ghanaian women, whom she sees as the "unsung heroines of the Ghanaian Republic."

Her pointillist painting "Exquisite" (2016) features five dancing women twirling their skirts.

The student wants to provide a quotation from Acquah that explains why she used pointillism in "Exquisite." Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

In painting "Exquisite," Acquah applied pointillism to create what she called an "illusion of movement" within the

A. painting's five dancing women and their twirling skirts.

B. Pointillism, the technique used in Acquah's "Exquisite," involves the application of small, distinct dots of color.

In "Exquisite," Acquah uses a technique that she says involves "extending dabs of color in the subject matter into the

C. background and vice-versa."

D. "Exquisite" portrays Acquah's fellow Ghanaian women as she sees them: the "unsung heroes of the Ghanaian Republic."

## ID: 35507eba Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence provides Acquah's quotation about pointillism's "illusion of movement" to explain that she used pointillism to create the illusion of movement in her painting of women dancing.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence explains pointillism and indicates that Acquah used the technique in her painting, but it doesn't provide a quotation or explain why. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides a quotation from Acquah about pointillism, the quotation merely describes a specific aspect of the technique; the sentence doesn't explain why Acquah used pointillism in her painting. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence provides a quotation from Acquah, the quotation illustrates Acquah's views on Ghanaian women; the sentence doesn't explain why Acquah used pointillism in her painting.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 3a715eca

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 3a715eca

In retrospect, one of the lessons of the 2003 Human Genome Project is that a gene is affected by many factors, not the least of which is its interactions with the protein products of other genes. \_\_\_\_\_ rather than just focusing on the human genome, efforts to better understand gene mutations related to disease have begun to consider the human proteome, the complete set of proteins expressed by human genes.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. That said,
- C. For example,
- D. Accordingly,

## ID: 3a715eca Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Accordingly" logically signals that this sentence states a result or consequence of the previous information about the 2003 Human Genome Project. Taking into account an important lesson of the 2003 project (that a gene is affected by interactions with the protein products of other genes), research has begun to consider the human proteome instead of just the genome.

Choice A is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about the 2003 Human Genome Project. Instead, this sentence states a result or consequence of that information. Choice B is incorrect because "that said" illogically signals that the information in this sentence qualifies or contrasts with the previous information about the 2003 Human Genome Project. Instead, this sentence states a result or consequence of that information. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that this sentence provides an example supporting the previous information about the 2003 Human Genome Project. Instead, this sentence states a result or consequence of that information.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f1631638

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

## ID: f1631638

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

Gaspar Enriquez is an artist. He specializes in portraits of Mexican Americans.

A portrait is an artistic representation of a person.

Enriquez completed a painting of the sculptor Luis Jimenez in 2003.

He completed a drawing of the writer Rudolfo Anaya in 2016.

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

The portraits, or artistic representations, of Luis Jimenez and Rudolfo Anaya were both completed by Enriquez in the  
A. early 2000s.

Enriquez has completed portraits of numerous Mexican Americans, including sculptor Luis Jimenez and writer Rudolfo  
B. Anaya.

While both are by Enriquez, the 2003 portrait of Luis Jimenez is a painting, and the 2016 portrait of Rudolfo Anaya is a  
C. drawing.

D. Luis Jimenez was a Mexican American sculptor, and Rudolfo Anaya was a Mexican American writer.

## ID: f1631638 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the portraits, noting that one is a painting and the other is a drawing.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the two portraits rather than a difference. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence makes a generalization about Enriquez's portraits; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the portraits of Jimenez and Anaya. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence notes a difference between Jimenez and Anaya, it doesn't emphasize a difference between, or even mention, their portraits.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID fdd9a360

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

## ID: fdd9a360

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

The popular wood-wide web theory posits that trees can communicate and exchange resources with one another via common mycorrhizal networks (CMNs) of fungi.

Ecologist Dr. Suzanne Simard first suggested this theory in 1997. She described trees as “super-cooperators.”

In the 2022 study “The Decay of the Wood-Wide Web?,” mycologist Dr. Justine Karst and colleagues evaluated dozens of CMN studies.

They write that CMNs “have captured the interest of broad audiences. We are concerned, however, that recent claims about CMNs in forests are disconnected from evidence.”

The student wants to use a quotation to emphasize a potential problem with the wood-wide web theory. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Describing trees as “super-cooperators,” Simard first suggested that trees can exchange resources with one another in A. 1997.

In “The Decay of the Wood-Wide Web?,” Karst and colleagues note that common mycorrhizal networks “have captured B. the interest of broad audiences.”

After evaluating dozens of CMN studies, Karst and colleagues expressed concern that recent claims about common C. mycorrhizal networks are “disconnected from evidence.”

Despite the concerns expressed in the 2022 study “The Decay of the Wood-Wide Web?,” the wood-wide web theory D. remains popular.

## ID: fdd9a360 Answer

**Correct Answer: C**

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This choice uses a quotation to convey the authors’ criticism and challenge to the wood-wide web theory due to an absence of evidence.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn’t emphasize a potential problem with the wood-wide web theory. It uses a quotation to introduce the theory and its originator. It doesn’t mention any criticism or challenge to the theory. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a quotation, but it doesn’t emphasize a potential problem with the wood-wide web theory. It uses a quotation to describe the appeal and interest of the theory, but it doesn’t indicate why the authors are concerned or what evidence they have. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn’t use a quotation at all. It paraphrases the main idea of the 2022 study, but it doesn’t include any specific words or phrases from the notes. It also doesn’t emphasize a potential problem with the theory, but rather its popularity.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 1b94a80a

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

## ID: 1b94a80a

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

- Wool is a natural—and economically important—fiber that is obtained from animals like sheep.
- Australia is a leading producer of wool. The thickness of wool fibers varies across sheep breeds.
- Merino sheep produce fine wool that is used for apparel.
- Rambouillet sheep produce fine wool that is used for apparel.
- Romney sheep produce thick wool that is used for rugs and blankets.

The student wants to emphasize how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Romney wool is just one of the many kinds of wools, each originating from a different breed of sheep.
- B. Sheep wool varies from breed to breed, so Romney wool will be different than other kinds of wool.

The fine wool produced by Merino and Rambouillet sheep is used for apparel, whereas the thicker wool of Romney sheep

- C. is used in rugs and blankets.

Wool is an economically important fiber—especially in Australia—that can be used to make apparel or even rugs and

- D. blankets.

## ID: 1b94a80a Answer

**Correct Answer: C**

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This choice most effectively emphasizes how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. It describes the difference in thickness and the difference in what they're used for.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. It doesn't mention Merino or Rambouillet wool at all. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. It doesn't mention Merino or Rambouillet wool at all. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. It doesn't mention Romney, Merino or Rambouillet wool at all.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 88308a39

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

## ID: 88308a39

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

Shaun Tan is an Australian author. In 2008, he published *Tales from Outer Suburbia*, a book of fifteen short stories.

The stories describe surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary suburban neighborhoods.

In 2018, he published *Tales from the Inner City*, a book of twenty-five short stories.

The stories describe surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary urban settings.

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

Shaun Tan's book *Tales from Outer Suburbia*, which describes surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary places,

A. contains fewer short stories than *Tales from the Inner City* does.

B. *Tales from Outer Suburbia* was published in 2008, and *Tales from the Inner City* was published in 2018.

C. Unlike *Tales from the Inner City*, Shaun Tan's book *Tales from Outer Suburbia* is set in suburban neighborhoods.

Shaun Tan's books *Tales from Outer Suburbia* and *Tales from the Inner City* both describe surreal events occurring in

D. otherwise ordinary places.

## ID: 88308a39 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence uses “both” to emphasize a thematic similarity between Tan’s two books, noting that both *Tales from Outer Suburbia* and *Tales from the Inner City* describe surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary places.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference (one contains fewer stories than the other), not a similarity, between the two books. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence indicates that Tan’s books were published ten years apart; it doesn’t emphasize a similarity between the two books. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence uses “unlike” to emphasize a difference between *Tales from Outer Suburbia* and *Tales from the Inner City*; it doesn’t emphasize a similarity between the two books.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a0da8114

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

## ID: a0da8114

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

Tibetan mastiffs are large dogs native to the Himalayas.

A mutation in their EPAS1 gene prevents excess hemoglobin production.

A mutation in their HBB gene boosts hemoglobin's oxygen-carrying ability.

These mutations enable the dogs to withstand hypoxic (low-oxygen) conditions at high altitudes.

In a 2016 study, Zhen Wang and colleagues noted that Tibetan wolves' DNA has the same EPAS1 and HBB mutations.

Wang and colleagues determined that the dogs first acquired these mutations by interbreeding with Tibetan wolves around 24,000 years ago.

The student wants to present the conclusion of Zhen Wang and colleagues' 2016 study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Like Tibetan mastiffs, Tibetan wolves can withstand hypoxic conditions at high altitudes.

- B. Both Tibetan mastiffs and Tibetan wolves have mutations in their EPAS1 and HBB genes, which prevent excess hemoglobin production and boost hemoglobin's oxygen-carrying ability, respectively.

- C. In addition to preventing excess hemoglobin production, a mutation in Tibetan mastiffs' HBB gene boosts hemoglobin's oxygen-carrying ability.

- D. By interbreeding with Tibetan wolves around 24,000 years ago, Tibetan mastiffs acquired the genetic mutations that enable them to withstand hypoxic conditions.

## ID: a0da8114 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence presents the conclusion of Zhen Wang and colleagues' 2016 study: Tibetan mastiffs are able to withstand hypoxic conditions due to their interbreeding with Tibetan wolves 24,000 years ago (which allowed the mastiffs to acquire the necessary genetic mutations).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between Tibetan mastiffs and Tibetan wolves; it doesn't present the conclusions of the 2016 study. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the genes of Tibetan mastiffs and Tibetan wolves; it doesn't present the conclusions of the 2016 study. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence misrepresents information from the notes by indicating that a mutation in mastiffs' HBB gene prevents excess hemoglobin production; moreover, it doesn't present the conclusions of the 2016 study.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 0fab0c90

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

## ID: 0fab0c90

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

The Gullah are a group of African Americans who have lived in parts of the southeastern United States since the 18th century.

Gullah culture is influenced by West African and Central African traditions.

Louise Miller Cohen is a Gullah historian, storyteller, and preservationist.

She founded the Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, in 2003.

Vermelle Rodrigues is a Gullah historian, artist, and preservationist.

She founded the Gullah Museum of Georgetown, South Carolina, in 2003.

The student wants to emphasize the duration and purpose of Cohen's and Rodrigues's work. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

At the Gullah Museums in Hilton Head Island and Georgetown, South Carolina, visitors can learn more about the Gullah

- A. people who have lived in the region for centuries.

Louise Miller Cohen and Vermelle Rodrigues have worked to preserve the culture of the Gullah people, who have lived in

- B. the United States since the 18th century.

C. Since 2003, Louise Miller Cohen and Vermelle Rodrigues have worked to preserve Gullah culture through their museums.

Influenced by the traditions of West and Central Africa, Gullah culture developed in parts of the southeastern United

- D. States in the 18th century.

## ID: 0fab0c90 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes both the duration (the length of time) and the purpose of Cohen's and Rodrigues's work by noting that the women have been working since 2003 to preserve Gullah culture.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence emphasizes what visitors to Cohen's and Rodrigues's museums can learn, it doesn't mention the duration or purpose of the women's work. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence emphasizes the purpose of Cohen's and Rodrigues's work, it doesn't mention the duration of that work (the length of time the women have been working to preserve Gullah culture). Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence emphasizes where and when Gullah culture developed, it doesn't mention the duration or purpose of Cohen's and Rodrigues's work.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 00e0170f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 00e0170f

Magnetic levitation (maglev) trains are suspended above a track by powerful electromagnets, reducing friction and thus allowing for much faster speeds. Though maglev advocates in the US have long imagined these trains crisscrossing the country, their dream remains unrealized. \_\_\_\_\_ of the handful of maglev trains currently in operation, all are in Asia.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In fact,
- B. To that end,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. That said,

## ID: 00e0170f Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This sentence emphasizes just how far maglev advocates' dreams are from coming true. "In fact" is a transition used to emphasize the truth of a statement that modifies the previous statement and therefore fits perfectly in this context.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn't make sense here. Maglev advocates' dream remaining unrealized would not cause there to be only a few maglev trains, all located in Asia. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition, which doesn't make sense here. In fact, this sentence agrees with the previous sentence—both talk about how maglev trains are far from becoming common in the US. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition, which doesn't make sense here. In fact, this sentence agrees with the previous sentence—both talk about how maglev trains are far from becoming common in the US.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 56cad44a

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

## ID: 56cad44a

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

- Mexican tetras are a fish species with two distinct populations.
- Surface-dwelling tetras live on the surface and are able to see.
- Cave-dwelling tetras live in total darkness and have lost the ability to see.
- Cave-dwelling tetras have asymmetrical skulls with more sensory receptors on one side than the other.
- These receptors help cave-dwelling tetras navigate in darkness.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras may belong to the same species, but they are quite different.
- B. Cave-dwelling tetras can no longer see but use sensory receptors on their skulls to navigate.
- C. Mexican tetras are a fish species with two distinct populations: surface-dwelling tetras and cave-dwelling tetras.
- D. Surface-dwelling tetras can see, whereas cave-dwelling tetras cannot.

## ID: 56cad44a Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras, noting that while surface-dwelling tetras can see, cave-dwelling tetras can't.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence notes that surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras are different, it doesn't emphasize any difference between the two populations of tetras. Choice B is incorrect because the sentence explains that cave-dwelling tetras use sensory receptors on their skulls to navigate; it doesn't emphasize a difference between surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence notes that there are two different populations of Mexican tetras, it doesn't emphasize any difference between the two populations.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c071eca2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: c071eca2

Iraqi artist Nazik Al-Malaika, celebrated as the first Arabic poet to write in free verse, didn't reject traditional forms entirely; her poem "Elegy for a Woman of No Importance" consists of two ten-line stanzas and a standard number of syllables. Even in this superficially traditional work, \_\_\_\_\_ Al-Malaika was breaking new ground by memorializing an anonymous woman rather than a famous man.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. therefore,
- B. in fact,
- C. moreover,
- D. though,

ID: c071eca2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The first sentence tells us that Al-Malaika sometimes used "traditional forms". The second tells us that even when she used traditional forms, Al-Malaika was "breaking new ground". To connect these ideas, we need a contrast word like "but." "Though" is a contrast word similar to "but."

Choice A is incorrect. This isn't a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that Al-Malaika sometimes used "traditional forms". The second tells us that even when she used traditional forms, Al-Malaika was "breaking new ground". To connect these ideas, we need a contrast word like "but." "Therefore" doesn't show contrast; it shows cause and effect. Choice B is incorrect. This isn't a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that Al-Malaika sometimes used "traditional forms". The second tells us that even when she used traditional forms, Al-Malaika was "breaking new ground". To connect these ideas, we need a contrast word like "but." "In fact" is a phrase that usually emphasizes the truth of the previous statement. Choice C is incorrect. This isn't a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that Al-Malaika sometimes used "traditional forms". The second tells us that even when she used traditional forms, Al-Malaika was "breaking new ground". To connect these ideas, we need a contrast word like "but." "Moreover" doesn't show contrast—it introduces additional information that continues or supports the previous idea.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID feb1e6da

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: feb1e6da

Biographer Michael Gorra notes that the novelist Henry James “lived in a world of second thoughts,” frequently tinkering with his novels and stories after their initial publication. However, the differences between the 1881 first edition and the 1908 edition of his novel *A Portrait of a Lady* are extreme, even by James’s standards; \_\_\_\_\_ some critics regard the two editions as two different novels altogether.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. by contrast,
- B. in fact,
- C. nevertheless,
- D. in other words,

## ID: feb1e6da Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "In fact" logically signals that the critics' claim at the end of this sentence—that the two editions are essentially two different novels altogether—offers additional emphasis in support of the previous claim that the differences between the editions are extreme.

Choice A is incorrect because "by contrast" illogically signals that the claim at the end of this sentence contrasts with the previous claim about the differences between the editions. Instead, the critics' opinion offers additional emphasis in support of that claim. Choice C is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the claim at the end of this sentence is true despite the previous claim about the differences between the two editions. Instead, the critics' opinion offers additional emphasis in support of that claim. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the claim at the end of this sentence is merely paraphrasing the previous claim about the differences between the two editions. The critics' opinion adds new information to the previous claim rather than simply paraphrasing it.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 176edca6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 176edca6

A 2017 study of sign language learners tested the role of iconicity—the similarity of a sign to the thing it represents—in language acquisition. The study found that the greater the iconicity of a sign, the more likely it was to have been learned. \_\_\_\_\_ the correlation between acquisition and iconicity was lower than that between acquisition and another factor studied: sign frequency.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In fact,
- B. In other words,
- C. Granted,
- D. As a result,

## ID: 176edca6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Granted” logically signals that the following information—that iconicity is not as highly correlated with acquisition as sign frequency—is true in spite of the information about the correlation between iconicity and acquisition in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “in fact” illogically signals that the sentence that follows either emphasizes or refutes the information in the previous sentence regarding the correlation between iconicity and acquisition. Instead, the sentence that follows provides additional information that is true in spite of the preceding information; it neither emphasizes nor refutes that information. Choice B is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the sentence that follows is a restatement of the information in the previous sentence; instead, the sentence that follows provides additional information that is true in spite of the preceding information. Choice D is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the sentence that follows is a result of the information in the previous sentence regarding the correlation between iconicity and acquisition; instead, the sentence that follows is true in spite of the preceding information.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 10cd0327

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

## ID: 10cd0327

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

A thermal inversion is a phenomenon where a layer of atmosphere is warmer than the layer beneath it.

In 2022, a team of researchers studied the presence of thermal inversions in twenty-five gas giants.

Gas giants are planets largely composed of helium and hydrogen.

The team found that gas giants featuring a thermal inversion were also likely to contain heat-absorbing metals.

One explanation for this relationship is that these metals may reside in a planet's upper atmosphere, where their absorbed heat causes an increase in temperature.

The student wants to present the study's findings to an audience already familiar with thermal inversions. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Heat-absorbing metals may reside in a planet's upper atmosphere.

B. The team studied thermal inversions in twenty-five gas giants, which are largely composed of helium and hydrogen.

Researchers found that gas giants featuring a thermal inversion were likely to contain heat-absorbing metals, which may

C. reside in the planets' upper atmospheres.

Gas giants were likely to contain heat-absorbing metals when they featured a layer of atmosphere warmer than the layer

D. beneath it, researchers found; this phenomenon is known as a thermal inversion.

## ID: 10cd0327 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. It describes the study's findings in a way that assumes the audience is already familiar with thermal inversions.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't fully describe the findings of the study, because it doesn't include anything about thermal inversions. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't describe the study's findings. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn't suited for an audience already familiar with thermal inversion. A familiar audience wouldn't need to have the term defined.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 4105f5ac

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 4105f5ac

When, in 2017, Cambridge University students Lucy Moss and Toby Marlow decided they wanted to develop a musical together, one of their goals was for their female actor friends to have good parts to play. \_\_\_\_\_ they created the show *Six*, a retelling of the history of King Henry VIII's wives in which each of the six queens has a starring role.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. In summary,
- C. For example,
- D. To that end,

## ID: 4105f5ac Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "To that end" logically signals that the information in this sentence—the students' creation of a show with six starring female roles—is the product of a goal or desire in the previous sentence (the students' wish to develop a musical with roles for female actors).

Choice A is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about the students' wish to develop a musical with roles for female actors. Instead, the students' show is the product of that desire. Choice B is incorrect because "in summary" illogically signals that the information in this sentence summarizes the previous information about the students' wish to develop a musical with roles for female actors. Instead, the students' show is the product of that desire. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely an example of the previous information about the students' wish to develop a musical with roles for female actors. Instead, the students' show is the direct product of that desire.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 388b45aa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 388b45aa

Establishing Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) is no easy task. Each month, readings of a single second from atomic clocks around the world are taken and sent to the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) in France. \_\_\_\_\_ BIPM metrologists perform the meticulous work of assembling these minutely disparate readings into a globally shared time standard.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. There,
- B. In particular,
- C. For example,
- D. Conversely,

## ID: 388b45aa Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "There" indicates that the work of calculating Coordinated Universal Time takes place at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in France. Because "there" indicates a location, it fits the context perfectly.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn't make sense here. This sentence is describing where the work of coordinating Coordinated Universal Time takes place, not giving an example of the work described in the previous sentence. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn't make sense here. This sentence is describing where the work of coordinating Coordinated Universal Time takes place, not giving an example of the work described in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn't disagree with the previous sentence. They both describe the work involved in calculating Coordinated Universal Time.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID dede8260

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

## ID: dede8260

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

When medical students mention their patients on social media, they may violate patient confidentiality.  
Terry Kind led a study to determine how many medical schools have student policies that mention social media use. Kind and her team reviewed 132 medical school websites, examining publicly available student policies. Only thirteen medical schools had guidelines that explicitly mention social media, and only five defined what constitutes acceptable social media use.

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

A. The student policies of 132 medical schools can be found online, according to research by Terry Kind.

To find out how many medical schools have guidelines about student social media use, Terry Kind and her team  
B. examined the student policies of 132 medical schools.

Out of 132 medical schools, only thirteen had student policies that mentioned social media, and only five specified what  
C. use was acceptable.

Terry Kind and her team wanted to know how many medical schools have student social media policies in place about  
D. protecting patient confidentiality.

## ID: dede8260 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence effectively emphasizes Kind's methodology: examining the student policies of 132 medical schools for guidelines about student social media use.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence specifies how many medical schools' student policies are available online; it doesn't emphasize the study's methodology. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the study's results, not the study's methodology. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the aim of the study, not the study's methodology.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 81315093

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

## ID: 81315093

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

- A marathon is a long-distance running race that is 26.2 miles long.
- An ultramarathon is a long-distance running race of more than 26.2 miles.
- The Kepler Challenge is a one-day, 37.3-mile ultramarathon in New Zealand.
- The Spreelauf is a six-day, 261-mile ultramarathon in Germany.

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

- Examples of ultramarathons include the 37.3-mile Kepler Challenge in New Zealand and the 261-mile Spreelauf in A. Germany.
- B. A marathon is 26.2 miles long, but the Spreelauf ultramarathon, at 261 miles, is far longer.
- C. Ultramarathons range widely in length, from a few dozen miles to a few hundred.
- D. While the Kepler Challenge is a one-day ultramarathon, the Spreelauf is a six-day ultramarathon.

## ID: 81315093 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This is the only choice that makes a generalization about ultramarathons.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice gives specific examples of ultramarathons but doesn't say anything about them as a category. Choice B is incorrect. This choice compares marathons in general to one specific ultramarathon but doesn't say anything about ultramarathons as a category. Choice D is incorrect. This choice contrasts two specific ultramarathons but doesn't say anything about them as a category.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1773fa73

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

**ID: 1773fa73**

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

A commodity chain is the series of links connecting the production and purchase of a commodity on the world market.

Chinese American anthropologist Anna Tsing studies the contemporary commodity chain of matsutake mushrooms.

At one end of the matsutake chain are mushroom pickers in Oregon.

At the other end are wealthy consumers who buy the costly matsutake in Japan.

According to Tsing, “Japanese traders began importing matsutake in the 1980s, when the scarcity of matsutake in Japan first became clear.”

The student wants to provide an overview of the matsutake commodity chain. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

The contemporary matsutake commodity chain has its origins in the 1980s when, according to Tsing, “the scarcity of A. matsutake in Japan first became clear.”

Commodity chains include the linked production and purchase of commodities, such as the matsutake mushroom, on B. the world market.

Decades after the Japanese import of matsutake began, a commodity chain now links matsutake pickers in Oregon with C. wealthy consumers of the costly mushrooms in Japan.

D. Wealthy consumers who buy the costly mushrooms in Japan are at one end of the matsutake commodity chain.

**ID: 1773fa73 Answer**

**Correct Answer: C**

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence provides an overview of the matsutake commodity chain, connecting the Oregon mushroom pickers at one end to the Japanese consumers at the other.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the matsutake commodity chain, it focuses only on its origins; it does not provide an overview. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence provides a general definition of commodity chains, not an overview of the matsutake chain. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the matsutake commodity chain, it focuses only on one end of the chain (the consumers); it does not provide an overview.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5b8b69a2

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

## ID: 5b8b69a2

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

Archaeologist Jon Erlandson and colleagues argue that humans first arrived in the Americas by sea.

They propose that humans traveled between Pacific Ocean islands and coastlines from northeast Asia to the Americas.

Many of these islands and coastal zones were later submerged as glaciers melted and sea levels rose.

The researchers think that “a coastal route, including kelp forests and estuaries, would have provided a rich mix of marine, estuarine, riverine, and terrestrial resources” such as seaweeds, fish, and birds.

This proposed scenario is known as the kelp highway hypothesis.

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

Pacific Ocean islands and coastlines likely contained “a rich mix of marine, estuarine, riverine, and terrestrial resources”

- A. such as seaweeds, fish, and birds, according to researchers.

One argument about how humans first arrived in the Americas is the kelp highway hypothesis proposed by Jon Erlandson

- B. and colleagues.

Humans may have first arrived in the Americas by sea, traveling between Pacific Ocean islands and coastlines and

- C. subsisting on a variety of resources.

- D. As glaciers melted and sea levels rose, many Pacific Ocean islands and coastal zones were submerged.

## ID: 5b8b69a2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This choice summarizes the main idea of the kelp highway hypothesis, providing a high-level overview of how the hypothesis explains human migration to the Americas.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice describes one aspect of the proposed scenario but doesn't discuss human migration, which is the main focus of the kelp highway hypothesis. Choice B is incorrect. This choice introduces the kelp highway hypothesis but doesn't explain what it entails. Choice D is incorrect. This choice describes one element of the proposed scenario but doesn't discuss human migration, which is the main focus of the kelp highway hypothesis.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 49fe306b

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

## ID: 49fe306b

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

From Earth, all the meteors in a meteor shower appear to originate from a single spot in the sky.

This spot is called the meteor shower's radiant.

The Perseid meteor shower is visible in the northern hemisphere in July and August.

Like many meteor showers, it is named for the location of its radiant.

Its radiant is located within the constellation Perseus.

The student wants to explain the origin of the Perseid meteor shower's name. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The Perseid meteor shower is named for the constellation Perseus, the location of the meteor shower's radiant.
- B. A meteor shower's name may be linked to a single spot in the sky.
- C. The Perseid meteor shower, which has a radiant, is visible in the northern hemisphere in July and August.
- D. From Earth, all the meteors in a meteor shower appear to originate from a radiant, such as the one within Perseus.

## ID: 49fe306b Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence explains the origin of the Perseid meteor shower's name: the constellation Perseus, where the meteor shower's radiant is located.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence makes a claim about meteor shower names in general; it doesn't explain the origin of the Perseid meteor shower's name specifically. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence indicates when and where the Perseid meteor shower is visible; it doesn't explain the origin of the meteor shower's name. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence discusses meteor showers in general; it doesn't explain the origin of the Perseid meteor shower's name.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5888712f

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

**ID: 5888712f**

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

Physicist Muluneh Abebe was working on a garment suited for both warm and cold conditions. He analyzed the emissivity, or ability to emit heat, of the materials he planned to use. Abebe found that reflective metal fibers emitted almost no heat and had an emissivity of 0.02. He found that silicon carbide fibers absorbed large amounts of heat and had an emissivity of 0.74. The amount of heat a material absorbs is equal to the amount of heat it emits.

The student wants to contrast the emissivity of reflective metal fibers with that of silicon carbide fibers. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

The ability of reflective metal fibers and silicon carbide fibers to emit heat was determined by an analysis of each A. material's emissivity.

B. The amount of heat a material absorbs is equal to the amount it emits, as evidenced in Abebe's analyses.

Though the reflective metal fibers and silicon carbide fibers had different rates of emissivity, Abebe planned to use both C. in a garment.

Whereas the reflective metal fibers had an emissivity of just 0.02, the silicon carbide fibers absorbed large amounts of D. heat, resulting in an emissivity of 0.74.

**ID: 5888712f Answer**

**Correct Answer: D**

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence uses “whereas” to contrast the emissivities of the two fibers, noting that the emissivity of the reflective metal fibers was just 0.02, far lower than that of the silicon carbide fibers (0.74).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the ability of reflective metal fibers and silicon carbide fibers to emit heat; it doesn't contrast the emissivities of the two fibers. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence states a law of thermodynamics: the amount of heat a material absorbs is equal to the amount it emits. The sentence doesn't contrast the emissivity of reflective metal fibers with that of silicon carbide fibers. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence includes a generalization about the emissivities of reflective metal fibers and silicon carbide fibers, it emphasizes Abebe's plans for their use in a garment; it doesn't contrast the emissivities of the two fibers.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 0acc26b2

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

## ID: 0acc26b2

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

Astronomers estimate that the number of comets orbiting the Sun is in the billions.

81P/Wild is one of many comets whose orbit has changed over time.

81P/Wild's orbit once lay between the orbits of Uranus and Jupiter.

The comet's orbit is now positioned between the orbits of Jupiter and Mars.

The student wants to make and support a generalization about the orbits of comets. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish these goals?

Astronomers estimate that the number of comets orbiting the Sun is in the billions; the comets' orbits may change over

A. time.

B. Like Uranus, Jupiter, and Mars, billions of comets orbit the Sun.

One example of a comet is 81P/Wild, whose orbit around the Sun once lay between Uranus's and Jupiter's orbits but is

C. now positioned between those of Jupiter and Mars.

A comet's orbit around the Sun may change over time: the orbit of comet 81P/Wild once lay between the orbits of Uranus

D. and Jupiter but is now positioned between those of Jupiter and Mars.

## ID: 0acc26b2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence makes a generalization—that a comet's orbit around the Sun may change over time—and supports the generalization with the example of the orbit of comet 81P/Wild, which once lay between the orbits of Uranus and Jupiter but is now positioned between the orbits of Jupiter and Mars.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the number of comets orbiting the Sun and makes a generalization about their orbits, but it doesn't support the generalization with an example. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence makes a generalization about comets and compares them to the planets Uranus, Jupiter, and Mars; it doesn't make and support a generalization about comets' orbits. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides an example of a comet whose orbit has changed, it doesn't make a generalization about the orbits of comets.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 1c6e1d55

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 1c6e1d55

Historically, most conductors of major orchestras and opera companies have been European men, but a new, more diverse generation of artists is stepping up to the podium. Mexico's Alondra de la Parra took over as conductor for the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in 2017, \_\_\_\_\_ and Colombia's Lina Gonzalez-Granados did the same for the Los Angeles Opera in 2022.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in addition,
- B. lastly,
- C. granted,
- D. for instance,

## ID: 1c6e1d55 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "For instance" logically signals that the details in this sentence—that Mexican conductor Alondra de la Parra and Colombian conductor Lina Gonzalez-Granados took new conducting positions—are examples supporting the previous claim about the new generation of artists.

Choice A is incorrect because "in addition" illogically signals that the details in this sentence about de la Parra and Gonzalez-Granados are merely additional facts related to the previous claim about the new generation of artists. Instead, they are examples supporting that claim. Choice B is incorrect because "lastly" illogically signals that the details in this sentence about de la Parra and Gonzalez-Granados are the last step or a concluding summary of the previous claim about the new generation of artists. Instead, they are examples supporting that claim. Choice C is incorrect because "granted" illogically signals that the details in this sentence about de la Parra and Gonzalez-Granados are exceptions to the previous claim about the new generation of artists. Instead, they are examples supporting that claim.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8622320e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 8622320e

Earth's auroras—colorful displays of light seen above the northern and southern poles—result, broadly speaking, from the Sun's activity. \_\_\_\_\_ the Sun releases charged particles that are captured by Earth's magnetic field and channeled toward the poles. These particles then collide with atoms in the atmosphere, causing the atoms to emit auroral light.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Hence,

## ID: 8622320e Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Specifically” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the Sun releases charged particles that later collide with atoms, resulting in auroral light—provides specific, precise details about how auroras result from the Sun’s activity.

Choice B is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the general information about auroras in the previous sentence. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details about how auroras form. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is despite the general information about auroras in the previous sentence. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details about how auroras form. Choice D is incorrect because “hence” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the general information about auroras in the previous sentence. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details about how auroras form.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9336f63b

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

## ID: 9336f63b

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

A small number of US Navy sailors of Filipino descent served during the US Civil War (1861–1865).

Stephen Amos was born in the Philippines around 1830. He enlisted in the US Navy in November 1863.

Raphael Ignases was born in the Philippines around 1834. He enlisted in the US Navy in July 1861.

The student wants to emphasize the historical significance of Stephen Amos's enlistment date. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Both Stephen Amos and Raphael Ignases were US Navy sailors of Filipino descent, but Amos enlisted in the Navy in A. 1863, two years later than Ignases.

Stephen Amos was a US Navy sailor of Filipino descent, along with Raphael Ignases, who was born in the Philippines B. around 1834.

Stephen Amos enlisted in the US Navy in 1863, making him one of the few sailors of Filipino descent to serve in the US C. Civil War (1861–1865).

When Stephen Amos enlisted in the US Navy in November 1863, he joined sailors such as Raphael Ignases, who had D. been born in the Philippines around 1834.

## ID: 9336f63b Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. Noting the time frame of the US Civil War and the fact that Amos enlisted during this time frame, the sentence emphasizes that Amos's enlistment date places him among the historically significant group of US Navy sailors of Filipino descent who served during the Civil War.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence identifies Amos and Ignases and notes that Amos's enlistment date was later than Ignases's; the sentence doesn't explain the historical significance of the date. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence identifies Amos and Ignases as US Navy sailors of Filipino descent, noting Ignases's birth year; the sentence doesn't provide Amos's enlistment date or its historical significance. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence provides Amos's enlistment date and mentions that he served alongside a sailor of Filipino descent; it doesn't explain the historical significance of the date.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 04397a63

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

**ID: 04397a63**

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

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy is a nearly 1,000-year-old alliance of six Native nations in the northeastern US.

The members are bound by a centuries-old agreement known as the Great Law of Peace.

Historian Bruce Johansen is one of several scholars who believe that the principles of the Great Law of Peace influenced the US Constitution.

This theory is called the influence theory.

Johansen cites the fact that Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson both studied the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

The student wants to present the influence theory to an audience unfamiliar with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Historian Bruce Johansen believes that the Great Law of Peace was very influential.

The influence theory is supported by the fact that Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson both studied the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

The influence theory holds that the principles of the Great Law of Peace, a centuries-old agreement binding six Native C. nations in the northeastern US, influenced the US Constitution.

Native people, including the members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, influenced the founding of the US in many D. different ways.

**ID: 04397a63 Answer**

**Correct Answer: C**

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively presents the influence theory to an audience unfamiliar with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, explaining the theory's position that the Great Law of Peace influenced the US Constitution while avoiding mention of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy itself.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence broadly emphasizes Johansen's ideas about the Great Law of Peace; it doesn't identify the influence theory or effectively present it. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes one fact that supports the influence theory; it doesn't effectively present the theory to an audience unfamiliar with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence makes a broad generalization about Native people's influence on the founding of the US; it doesn't effectively present the influence theory.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID de01ccef

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

## ID: de01ccef

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

The background colors of US and UK road signs are used to denote each sign's purpose.

Directional signs are a type of sign containing information such as route names, distance to a destination, etc.

Highways, major roadways, and minor roadways in the US generally use green for directional signs.

Highways in the UK generally use blue for directional signs.

Major roadways in the UK generally use green for directional signs.

The student wants to contrast how green backgrounds are used in US and UK road signs. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Blue backgrounds are generally used on directional highway signs in the UK, in contrast to the green highway signs used  
A. in the US.

In the US, green signs indicate directional information on both highways and major roadways, but in the UK, directional  
B. signs of this color generally appear only on major roadways.

Green road signs are used in both the US and UK to denote directional information on major roadways, like distance to a  
C. destination or route names.

D. Both the UK and the US use directional signs, which include information on route names and distance to a destination.

## ID: de01ccef Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence contrasts how green backgrounds are used in US and UK road signs, noting that the US uses them for both highways and major roadways while the UK uses them only for major roadways.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence does contrast US and UK road signs, the contrast focuses on the use of blue versus green backgrounds rather than on the use of green backgrounds specifically. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence indicates a similarity between the uses of green road signs in the US and the UK rather than contrasting them. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence indicates a similarity between road signs in the US and those in the UK; it doesn't contrast how green backgrounds are used in each country's signs.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 164a32e7

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

## ID: 164a32e7

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

Claude McKay (1889–1948) was a Jamaican American writer.

*Songs of Jamaica* (1912) and *Constab Ballads* (1912) are two acclaimed poetry collections that McKay published while living in Jamaica.

McKay moved to Harlem in New York City in 1914.

He is best known as a poet and novelist of the Harlem Renaissance, a literary and cultural movement of the 1920s and 1930s.

His most famous works include the poetry collection *Harlem Shadows* (1922) and the novel *Home to Harlem* (1928).

The student wants to emphasize Claude McKay's accomplishments before moving to Harlem. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Jamaican American writer Claude McKay is the author of works such as *Songs of Jamaica* (1912), *Constab Ballads* A. (1912), *Harlem Shadows* (1922), and *Home to Harlem* (1928).

Although he is best known as a Harlem Renaissance writer, Claude McKay had published two acclaimed poetry B. collections in 1912 while living in Jamaica: *Songs of Jamaica* and *Constab Ballads*.

In 1914, Claude McKay moved to Harlem, where he would become known as a poet and novelist of the Harlem C. Renaissance (a literary and cultural movement of the 1920s and 1930s).

Before moving to Harlem, Claude McKay—author of the poetry collection *Harlem Shadows* (1922) and the novel *Home to D. Harlem* (1928)—lived in Jamaica.

## ID: 164a32e7 Answer

**Correct Answer: B**

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice contrasts McKay's fame as a Harlem Renaissance writer with his earlier achievements as a Jamaican poet, and it names the two collections he published before moving to Harlem.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize McKay's accomplishments before moving to Harlem. It lists some of his works but doesn't distinguish between those he wrote in Jamaica and those he wrote in Harlem. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize McKay's accomplishments before moving to Harlem. It only mentions the year he moved and what he would become known for afterwards. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize McKay's accomplishments before moving to Harlem. It mentions that he lived in Jamaica, but it doesn't name any of the works he published there.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 0d088ae0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 0d088ae0

Observing that a fire in a closed container soon went out, leading eighteenth-century scientists did not conclude that fresh air (specifically, oxygen) is necessary for combustion; instead, many theorized that the container's air had become saturated with a substance called phlogiston. \_\_\_\_\_ when Joseph Priestley first isolated oxygen gas in 1774, he termed it "dephlogisticated air."

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. For this reason,
- C. Alternatively,
- D. Nevertheless,

## ID: 0d088ae0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "For this reason" logically signals that the reason Joseph Priestley termed oxygen "dephlogisticated air" was that he accepted the theory mentioned in the previous sentence—that the presence of phlogiston, rather than the absence of oxygen, causes fire in a closed container to go out.

Choice A is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information about Priestley terming oxygen "dephlogisticated air" is a restatement of the previous theory concerning phlogiston. Instead, Priestley chose the term as a result of this theory. Choice C is incorrect because "alternatively" illogically signals that Priestley termed oxygen "dephlogisticated air" as an alternative to the previous theory concerning phlogiston. Instead, Priestley chose the term as a result of this theory. Choice D is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that Priestley termed oxygen "dephlogisticated air" despite the previous theory concerning phlogiston. Instead, Priestley chose the term as a result of this theory.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 249508d9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 249508d9

With his room-sized installation *Unicorn/My Private Sky*, Norwegian artist Børre Sæthre succeeds in creating a whimsical yet perplexing experience. \_\_\_\_\_ when visitors set foot inside the fantastically blue room and encounter the life-sized stuffed unicorn preening at the far end of it, they are both dazzled and confused—as if stepping into a strange and enchanting new world.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 249508d9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Indeed" logically signals that the description of the art installation in this sentence—its blue room and preening unicorn that leave visitors "dazzled and confused"—offers additional emphasis in support of the previous sentence's claim about the installation's "whimsical yet perplexing experience."

Choice A is incorrect because "second" illogically signals that the description in this sentence is a second, separate claim from the previous sentence's claim about the installation's "whimsical yet perplexing experience." Instead, the specific details describing the installation emphasize and support the previous claim. Choice B is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that the description in this sentence is an alternative to the previous sentence's claim about the installation's "whimsical yet perplexing experience." Rather, the specific details describing the installation emphasize and support that claim. Choice D is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the description in this sentence is true despite the previous sentence's claim about the installation's "whimsical yet perplexing experience." Instead, the specific details describing the installation emphasize and support that claim.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID cfade68d

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

## ID: cfade68d

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

Marcela Guerrero is a curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

She curated the Whitney's 2018 exhibition *Pacha, Llaqta, Wasichay: Indigenous Space, Modern Architecture, New Art*.

This exhibition featured works by seven emerging Latino artists.

She curated the Whitney's 2020 exhibition *Vida Americana: Mexican Muralists Remake American Art, 1925–1945*.

This exhibition included nearly 200 works by twentieth-century Latino and Mexican artists.

The student wants to describe the exhibition that Guerrero curated in 2018. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Held at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the exhibition *Vida Americana: Mexican Muralists Remake American Art, A. 1925–1945* included nearly 200 works by twentieth-century Mexican and Latino artists.

*Pacha, Llaqta, Wasichay: Indigenous Space, Modern Architecture, New Art*, an exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art, featured works by seven emerging Latino artists.

C. In both 2018 and 2020, Marcela Guerrero curated exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

While one exhibition that Marcela Guerrero curated featured works by emerging artists, another included works by D. twentieth-century artists.

## ID: cfade68d Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence describes the 2018 exhibition Guerrero curated, noting that the exhibition, which was titled *Pacha, Llaqta, Wasichay: Indigenous Space, Modern Architecture, New Art*, featured the works of seven emerging Latino artists.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes the exhibition Guerrero curated in 2020; it doesn't describe her 2018 exhibition. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the two exhibitions Guerrero curated; it doesn't describe her 2018 exhibition. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the two exhibitions Guerrero curated; it doesn't describe her 2018 exhibition.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 9f1a0d91

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 9f1a0d91

“Tulip mania”—the rapid rise and sudden fall of the price of tulip bulbs in seventeenth-century Amsterdam—is often cited as an example of the perils of rampant market speculation. However, recent research has demonstrated that the episode was neither as frenzied nor as disastrous as has been thought. The popular myth surrounding it, \_\_\_\_\_ should be regarded with some skepticism.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. for example,
- B. by contrast,
- C. nevertheless,
- D. therefore,

## ID: 9f1a0d91 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This sentence is arguing that new evidence contradicting popular beliefs about “tulip mania” should cast doubt on those beliefs. “Therefore” is a cause-and-effect transition, which fits perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn’t make sense here. Skepticism about the popular beliefs is not an example of recent evidence contradicting those beliefs—rather, skepticism is an effect of that recent evidence. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. Instead, it connects a cause from the previous sentence (new evidence that tulip mania was not as disastrous as thought) to an effect (that we should look with skepticism upon the myth about its disastrousness). Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. Instead, it connects a cause from the previous sentence (new evidence that tulip mania was not as disastrous as thought) to an effect (that we should look with skepticism upon the myth about its disastrousness).

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a2bff07e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: a2bff07e

Economist Elinor Ostrom's studies of communities around the world have empirically demonstrated that common pool resources, such as grazing lands, can be sustainably managed by the people who use them (rather than through private entities or centralized governments). \_\_\_\_\_ Ostrom's work is a repudiation of the "tragedy of the commons," the view that individuals will inevitably overexploit a finite shared resource if given unfettered access to it.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. By contrast,
- B. For example,
- C. That said,
- D. As such,

## ID: a2bff07e Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "As such" correctly signals that the claim in this sentence—that Ostrom's work is a repudiation of the "tragedy of the commons" view—follows logically from the information about Ostrom's studies in the previous sentence. According to that sentence, Ostrom's studies demonstrate that common pool resources can in fact be sustainably managed by the people who use them.

Choice A is incorrect because "by contrast" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information about Ostrom's studies in the previous sentence. Instead, the claim that Ostrom's work repudiates the "tragedy of the commons" view follows logically from that information. Choice B is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence exemplifies the information about Ostrom's studies in the previous sentence. Instead, the claim that Ostrom's work repudiates the "tragedy of the commons" view follows logically from that information. Choice C is incorrect because "that said" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an exception or caveat to the information about Ostrom's studies in the previous sentence. Instead, the claim that Ostrom's work repudiates the "tragedy of the commons" view follows logically from that information.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 804928b6

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

## ID: 804928b6

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

Mary Kang is a Korean American portrait photographer. She is based in New York City and in Austin, Texas.

One of Kang's photographs features artist Dominique Fung. In the portrait, Fung is seated on the floor.

Five of Fung's paintings are resting against the wall behind her.

The student wants to describe where Fung is in the photograph to an audience already familiar with Kang and Fung. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Dominique Fung is in a photograph by Mary Kang, a portrait photographer based in New York City and Austin, Texas.
- B. Mary Kang is a photographer based in both New York City and Austin, Texas.
- C. Five paintings by artist Dominique Fung can be seen in the background of Mary Kang's photograph.
- D. In Kang's portrait of her, Fung is seated on the floor, with five of her paintings resting against the wall behind her.

## ID: 804928b6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence describes Fung's location in Kang's photograph, noting that Fung is seated on the floor. Additionally, because the sentence is intended for an audience already familiar with the artists, it omits the artists' first names and other biographical information about them.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence indicates that Fung appears in Kang's photograph; it doesn't describe Fung's location in Kang's photograph. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence identifies Kang and where she is based; it doesn't describe Fung's location in Kang's photograph. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence describes the background of Kang's photograph; it doesn't describe Fung's location in Kang's photograph.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 17e49403

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 17e49403

When, in the 1800s, geologists first realized that much of Earth had once been covered by great sheets of ice, some theorized that the phenomenon was cyclical, occurring at regular intervals. Each Ice Age is so destructive, though, that it largely erases the geological evidence of its predecessor. \_\_\_\_\_ geologists were unable to confirm the theory of cyclical Ice Ages until the 1960s.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Hence,
- B. Moreover,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Next,

## ID: 17e49403 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Hence” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that geologists couldn’t confirm the theory of cyclical Ice Ages until the 1960s—is a consequence of the previous information about the destructiveness of each Ice Age and the erasure of necessary geological evidence.

Choice B is incorrect because “moreover” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely additional to the previous information about the destructiveness of each Ice Age. Instead, the sentence identifies a specific consequence of that information. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous information about the destructiveness of each Ice Age. Instead, the sentence identifies a specific consequence of that information. Choice D is incorrect because “next” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is the next step in a process. Instead, the sentence identifies a specific consequence of the previous information.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5222ffab

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

## ID: 5222ffab

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

Neuroscientists Krishnan Padmanabhan and Zhen Chen sought to better understand the workings of the brain's olfactory system.

They devised a study using mathematical models.

They found that certain fibers allow the brain to toggle from one method of processing smells to another.

In one method, cells in the piriform cortex (where the perception of odor forms) capture olfactory information at a given moment.

In the other, the cells track changes in olfactory information over time.

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

To arrive at these findings, which describe dual methods of processing smells in the piriform cortex, Padmanabhan and A. Chen devised a study using mathematical models.

Padmanabhan and Chen showed that olfactory information is captured by cells in the piriform cortex, where the B. perception of odor forms.

Using mathematical models, Padmanabhan and Chen devised a study to better understand the workings of the brain's C. olfactory system.

According to Padmanabhan and Chen, the brain can toggle between capturing olfactory information at a given moment D. and tracking changes in that information over time.

## ID: 5222ffab Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence effectively summarizes the study's findings, explaining what Padmanabhan and Chen found: that the brain can toggle between one method of processing smells (capturing information at a given moment) and another (tracking changes in information over time).

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence mentions findings, it mainly focuses on Padmanabhan and Chen's methodology. It doesn't effectively summarize the study's findings. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence notes a fact about the olfactory system—that the perception of odor forms in the piriform cortex—but doesn't summarize the findings of Padmanabhan and Chen's study. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence presents the goal of Padmanabhan and Chen's study; it doesn't summarize the study's findings.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 4223d4a6

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

## ID: 4223d4a6

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

In 1965, Yale University historians claimed that a world map called the Vinland Map was drawn in the fifteenth century.

Since that time, the map's age has been the subject of debate.

In 2021, researchers conducted a study to analyze the elemental composition of the map's ink.

Their analysis revealed that the ink contains a titanium compound not used in inks until the 1920s.

The researchers concluded that the map was drawn in the twentieth century.

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

Given the debate about the Vinland Map's age, researchers in 2021 conducted a study to analyze the elemental  
A. composition of the map's ink.

A 2021 study of the Vinland Map's ink revealed that it contains a titanium compound not used in inks until the 1920s,  
B. indicating that the map was drawn in the twentieth century.

C. The Vinland Map, believed by some to have been drawn in the fifteenth century, was the focus of a 2021 study.

Aware that a certain titanium compound was not used in inks until the 1920s, researchers in 2021 studied the elemental  
D. composition of the Vinland Map's ink.

## ID: 4223d4a6 Answer

**Correct Answer: B**

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence effectively presents the study and its findings, providing relevant information: a 2021 study of the Vinland Map found that the map's ink contains a compound not used in inks until the twentieth century.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence introduces the study, it does not present the study's findings. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the study, it does not effectively present the study or its findings. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence introduces the study, it does not present the study's findings.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7aac173e

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

## ID: 7aac173e

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

Architect Julian Abele studied Gregorian and neo-Gothic architecture in Europe.

Abele worked for an architecture firm that was hired in 1924 to design buildings for Duke University's new campus.

Most of the buildings on Duke's campus were designed in the Gregorian or neo-Gothic architectural styles.

At the time, Abele was not formally credited with designing the buildings.

Based on the buildings' architectural styles, historians believe Abele designed most of the campus buildings.

The student wants to specify why historians believe Abele designed most of Duke's campus buildings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Given that most of the buildings on Duke's campus feature architectural styles that Abele had studied in Europe,

- A. historians believe Abele is the one who designed them.

Though Abele wasn't formally credited at the time, historians believe he designed most of the buildings on Duke's

- B. campus.

Most of Duke's campus buildings, which were designed by a firm Abele worked for, were designed in the Gregorian and

- C. neo-Gothic architectural styles.

Abele, an architect who studied Gregorian and neo-Gothic architecture in Europe, is believed to have designed most of

- D. the buildings on Duke's campus.

## ID: 7aac173e Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence specifies why historians believe Abele designed most of Duke's campus buildings, noting that most of the buildings feature architectural styles that Abele had studied.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence explains that historians believe Abele designed most of Duke's campus buildings, it doesn't specify why historians hold that belief. Choice C is incorrect because the sentence emphasizes the architectural styles of Duke's campus buildings; it doesn't specify why historians believe Abele designed the buildings. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence explains that Abele is believed to have designed most of the buildings on Duke's campus, it doesn't specify why historians believe that he designed the buildings.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 72ae9bca

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

## ID: 72ae9bca

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

In the early 1900s, suffragists organized marches for women's voting rights.

Suffragists in the United Kingdom marched from Edinburgh to London.

This march began on October 12, 1912, and ended on November 16, 1912.

Suffragists in the United States marched from New York City to Albany, New York.

This march began on December 16, 1912, and ended on December 28, 1912.

The student wants to emphasize the order in which the two marches occurred. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

After suffragists in the UK marched from Edinburgh to London, suffragists in the US marched from New York City to A. Albany, New York.

B. In the early 1900s, suffragists in the UK and the US marched for women's voting rights.

A march from New York City to Albany, New York, was followed by one that began in Edinburgh and ended in London.

C.

D. From October 12 to November 16, 1912, suffragists in the UK marched from Edinburgh to London.

## ID: 72ae9bca Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the order in which the two marches occurred, correctly indicating that the US march (December 16 to December 28, 1912) occurred after the march in the UK (October 12 to November 16, 1912).

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that both marches took place in the early 1900s, it doesn't emphasize the order in which the two marches occurred. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence does emphasize the order in which the two marches occurred, the order is incorrect. The UK march took place from October 12 to November 16, 1912, which was before the US march (December 1912). Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence specifies the dates of the UK march, it doesn't mention the US march or emphasize the order in which the two marches occurred.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 3dcc7140

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

## ID: 3dcc7140

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

Nissologists are scientists who study islands.

Some nissologists define an island as any piece of land surrounded by water.

Using that definition, they determined that Sweden has 221,000 islands.

Other nissologists define an island as being 1 kilometer square, a certain distance from the mainland, and having at least 50 permanent residents.

Using that definition, they determined that Sweden has 24 islands.

The student wants to make and support a generalization about nissologists' definition of an island. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish these goals?

- The definition of an island as any piece of land surrounded by water is supported by some nissologists, scientists who
- A. study islands.
  - B. Multiple counts of Sweden's islands have been based on different definitions of an island.
  - C. Based on a recent count, Sweden has a relatively small number of islands with at least 50 permanent residents.
  - D. Nissologists' different definitions can result in huge disparities in counts of islands, as the example of Sweden shows.

## ID: 3dcc7140 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence makes a generalization about nissologists' definition of an island—specifically, that the use of one definition rather than another can result in huge disparities in the number of islands counted—and supports that generalization by citing Sweden as an example.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence introduces one definition of an island to an audience unfamiliar with nissologists; it doesn't make a generalization about nissologists' definition of an island. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence synthesizes information from the notes about counts of Sweden's islands, it doesn't make and support a generalization about nissologists' definition of an island. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence makes an inference about islands in Sweden; it doesn't mention nissologists' definition of an island or make a generalization about it.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 1e31470f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

**ID: 1e31470f**

To perform a quad axel, a figure skater must leap into the air and complete four and a half rotations before landing, an extreme feat. \_\_\_\_\_ in 2022, when 17-year-old Ilia Malinin landed the first quad axel—considered the most difficult quad jump—in a high-level competition, the audience was left awestruck.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Moreover,
- B. Fittingly,
- C. Next,
- D. However,

**ID: 1e31470f Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Fittingly" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the audience was amazed when Malinin landed the first quad axel—describes a suitable or appropriate reaction to the completion of this extremely difficult jump.

Choice A is incorrect. "Moreover" illogically signals that the information in this sentence merely adds to the previous information about the difficulty of completing a quad axel. Instead, the audience's amazement is a suitable or appropriate reaction to this accomplishment. Choice C is incorrect. "Next" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is simply the next step in a process. Instead, the audience's amazement is a suitable or appropriate reaction to the accomplishment. Choice D is incorrect. "However" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is in contrast or an exception to the difficulty of completing a quad axel. Instead, the audience's amazement is a suitable or appropriate reaction to this accomplishment.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d54e16ee

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

**ID: d54e16ee**

Originally coined by economist Joan Robinson to refer to markets with multiple sellers of a product but only one buyer, the term “monopsony” can also refer to markets where demand for labor is limited. In a product monopsony, the single buyer can force sellers to lower their prices. \_\_\_\_\_ in a labor monopsony, employers can force workers to accept lower wages.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Earlier,
- B. Instead,
- C. Similarly,
- D. In particular,

**ID: d54e16ee Answer**

**Correct Answer:** C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Similarly” logically signals that the information in this sentence about a labor monopsony is similar to the information in the previous sentence about a product monopsony. In both types of markets, one party (an employer or a buyer) has the power to force another party (a worker or seller) to accept less money (for labor or products).

Choice A is incorrect because “earlier” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about a labor monopsony occurs earlier (in a chronological sequence) than the information about a product monopsony. Instead, it is similar to the information about a product monopsony. Choice B is incorrect because “instead” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about a labor monopsony is an alternative to the previous information about a product monopsony. Instead, it is similar to the information about a product monopsony. Choice D is incorrect because “in particular” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about a labor monopsony provides specific details elaborating on the previous information about a product monopsony. Instead, it is similar to the information about a product monopsony.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a1ca7ec4

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

## ID: a1ca7ec4

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

Cecilia Vicuña is a multidisciplinary artist.

In 1971, her first solo art exhibition, *Pinturas, poemas y explicaciones*, was shown at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Santiago, Chile.

Her poetry collection *Precario/Precarious* was published in 1983 by Tanam Press.

Her poetry collection *Instan* was published in 2002 by Kelsey St. Press.

She lives part time in Chile, where she was born, and part time in New York.

The student wants to introduce the artist's 1983 poetry collection. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Before she published the books *Precario/Precarious* (1983) and *Instan* (2002), Cecilia Vicuña exhibited visual art at the A. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Santiago, Chile.

Cecilia Vicuña is a true multidisciplinary artist whose works include numerous poetry collections and visual art B. exhibitions.

Published in 1983 by Tanam Press, *Precario/Precarious* is a collection of poetry by the multidisciplinary artist Cecilia C. Vicuña.

In 1971, Cecilia Vicuña exhibited her first solo art exhibition, *Pinturas, poemas y explicaciones*, in Chile, her country of D. birth.

## ID: a1ca7ec4 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively introduces the poetry collection *Precario/Precarious*, noting that it is a collection by Vicuña that was published in 1983 by Tanam Press.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the 1983 poetry collection *Precario/Precarious*, it focuses mainly on Vicuña's visual art. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence doesn't introduce the 1983 poetry collection *Precario/Precarious*; instead, it introduces Vicuña. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the location of Vicuña's 1971 exhibition *Pinturas, poemas y explicaciones*; it doesn't introduce the 1983 poetry collection *Precario/Precarious*.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 47e238be

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

**ID: 47e238be**

Seismologists Kaiqing Yuan and Barbara Romanowicz have proposed that the magma fueling Iceland's more than 30 active volcano systems emerges from deep within Earth. The great depths involved—nearly 3,000 km—mark Iceland's volcanoes as extreme outliers; \_\_\_\_\_ many of Earth's volcanoes are fed by shallow pockets of magma found less than 15 km below the surface.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. indeed,
- B. nevertheless,
- C. in addition,
- D. consequently,

**ID: 47e238be Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The second part of the sentence says that many volcanoes use shallow pockets of magma. This is an elaboration of the same underlying idea from the first part of the sentence, which says that the super deep magma of Icelandic volcanoes' makes them outliers. "Indeed" is a transition used for elaborating on the same idea, so it fits the context perfectly.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But these two parts of the sentence agree with each other, so "nevertheless" doesn't make sense. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of a new idea. But the second part of the sentence isn't adding a new idea: it's elaborating on the same idea expressed in the first part of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn't make sense here. The fact that Iceland's deep-magma volcanoes are outliers doesn't cause many other volcanoes to get fed by shallow pockets of magma.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 4c26f18a

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

## ID: 4c26f18a

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

By interlocking their bodies, ants can form bridges to help fellow ants cross gaps.

In 2020, Yasemin Ozkan-Aydin was inspired by ant behavior to design collaborative quadruped robots.

Over the course of a year, she designed, built, tested, and refined her robots.

Each robot is programmed to send a signal to another robot upon encountering a gap in a path.

The signaled robot connects to the back of the signaler robot via magnetic sensors and pushes it across the gap.

The student wants to begin a narrative about the creation of the robots. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

When one of Yasemin Ozkan-Aydin's robots encounters a gap in its path, it sends a signal to another robot; the signaled A. robot connects to the back of the signaler and pushes it across the gap.

B. After a year, Yasemin Ozkan-Aydin had designed, built, tested, and refined her robots.

Inspired by ants, which form bridges with their interlocked bodies to help fellow ants cross gaps, Yasemin Ozkan-Aydin C. set out to design quadruped robots capable of similarly collaborative behavior.

D. Ants, which have inspired the design of robots, form bridges by interlocking their bodies.

## ID: 4c26f18a Answer

**Correct Answer: C**

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively begins a narrative about the creation of the robots, explaining that ants' gap-crossing technique inspired Yasemin Ozkan-Aydin to "set out to design" robots that could collaborate in a similar manner.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes how the robots work together to cross gaps; it doesn't effectively begin a narrative about the creation of the robots. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence provides an overview of the steps Ozkan-Aydin took in creating the robots; it doesn't effectively begin a narrative about their creation. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence explains how ants form bridges; it doesn't effectively begin a narrative about the creation of the robots.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d7c5388f

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

## ID: d7c5388f

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

Planetary scientists classify asteroids based on their composition.

C-type asteroids are composed primarily of carbon. They account for roughly 75 percent of known asteroids.

S-type asteroids are primarily made up of silicate minerals. They account for roughly 17 percent of known asteroids.

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

- A. Planetary scientists classify asteroids into types, two of which are the C-type and the S-type.

Planetary scientists consider an asteroid's composition (such as whether the asteroid is composed mainly of silicate minerals or carbon) when classifying it.

B. minerals or carbon) when classifying it.

- C. asteroids.

D. C-type asteroids are mainly composed of carbon, whereas S-type asteroids are primarily made up of silicate minerals.

## ID: d7c5388f Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 6d883838

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 6d883838

According to Duverger's law, countries with single-ballot majoritarian elections for single-member districts tend to polarize into two-party systems, wherein dueling political parties consistently dominate the political system. \_\_\_\_\_ countries with proportional-representation electoral systems tend to support multi-partyism, under which power gets distributed among many political parties.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Subsequently,
- B. Conversely,
- C. For instance,
- D. In other words,

## ID: 6d883838 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Conversely" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that countries with proportional-representation electoral systems tend toward multi-partyism—contrasts with the previous information about countries with single-ballot majoritarian elections, which tend to have two-party systems.

Choice A is incorrect because "subsequently" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about countries with proportional-representation electoral systems occurs later in a chronological sequence of events than the information in the previous sentence. Instead, it contrasts with the previous information. Choice C is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about countries with proportional-representation electoral systems is an example supporting the previous statement about countries with single-ballot majoritarian elections. Instead, it contrasts with the previous statement. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about countries with proportional-representation electoral systems is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about countries with single-ballot majoritarian elections. Instead, it contrasts with the previous information.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 622a351d

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

## ID: 622a351d

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

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

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

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

## ID: 622a351d Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 0c13dea9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 0c13dea9

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 0c13dea9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4fde4454

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 4fde4454

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 4fde4454 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1872cd6d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 1872cd6d

When printing paper money for the colony of Pennsylvania in the 1730s, Benjamin Franklin—then a Philadelphia shop owner—took steps to combat the circulation of counterfeit notes, such as weaving blue threads and muscovite (a reflective mineral) into the paper he used. \_\_\_\_\_ he stamped the notes with detailed imprints of sage leaves that proved difficult for forgers to replicate.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 1872cd6d Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Moreover" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Franklin stamped imprints on paper money to make forgery more difficult—adds to the previous information by describing Franklin's other strategy for combatting forgers: weaving materials into the paper used for printing money.

Choice A is incorrect because "specifically" illogically signals that the information in this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous information about Franklin's other strategy for combatting forgers (weaving materials into paper). Instead, this information about stamping imprints on money adds new information. Choice B is incorrect because "that said" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an exception to the previous information about Franklin's other strategy for combatting forgers (weaving materials into paper). Instead, this information about stamping imprints on money adds new information. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in this sentence serves as an example of the previous information about Franklin's other strategy for combatting forgers (weaving materials into paper). Instead, this information about stamping imprints on money adds new information.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 34e1124f

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

## ID: 34e1124f

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

In geology, an Aeolian landform is one that has been created by the wind.

In Greek mythology, Aeolus is the keeper of the winds.

Aeolian landforms are created when the wind erodes, transports, or deposits material.

A mushroom rock is a rock formation in which the top is wider than the base.

A mushroom rock can be formed when the wind erodes the base and the top at different rates.

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

- A. Aeolian landforms are created by different wind-based processes; for example, some are created by wind erosion.

- B. erodes the base of the rock faster than the top.

- C. rocks.

- D. mythology.

## ID: 34e1124f Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7fd39a42

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

## ID: 7fd39a42

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

Circular particle accelerators known as synchrotrons radiate energy in the form of light.

Synchrotron light is among the brightest light ever produced.

Synchrotron light is an ideal tool for researchers investigating the structure of matter.

The first synchrotron created for the purpose of providing synchrotron light was built in 1968.

It was called Tantalus and was housed near the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

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

- A. Tantalus, the first synchrotron created for the purpose of providing synchrotron light, was built in 1968.

B. researchers investigating the structure of matter.

C. Wisconsin–Madison.

D. structure of matter.

## ID: 7fd39a42 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 96a86bce

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

## ID: 96a86bce

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

Cambodia's Angkor Wat was built in the 1100s to honor the Hindu god Vishnu.

It has been a Buddhist temple since the sixteenth century.

Decorrelation stretch analysis is a novel digital imaging technique that enhances the contrast between colors in a photograph.

Archaeologist Noel Hidalgo Tan applied decorrelation stretch analysis to photographs he had taken of Angkor Wat's plaster walls.

Tan's analysis revealed hundreds of images unknown to researchers.

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

- A. Tan photographed Angkor Wat's plaster walls and then applied decorrelation stretch analysis to the photographs.

- B. in a photograph.  
Decorrelation stretch analysis is a novel digital imaging technique that Tan used to enhance the contrast between colors

- C. Cambodian temple.  
Using a novel digital imaging technique, Tan revealed hundreds of images hidden on the walls of Angkor Wat, a

- D. on its plaster walls.  
Built to honor a Hindu god before becoming a Buddhist temple, Cambodia's Angkor Wat concealed hundreds of images

## ID: 96a86bce Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID db3ad406

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

## ID: db3ad406

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

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

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

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

## ID: db3ad406 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 973632d2

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

**ID: 973632d2**

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

In North America, woodlands have expanded into areas that were once grasslands.

Thomas Rogers and F. Leland Russell of Wichita State University investigated whether woodland expansion is related to changes in climate.

Rogers and Russell analyzed core samples from oak trees on a site that was not wooded in the past and indexed the age of the trees with historical climate data to see if tree populations and climate were correlated.

Tree population growth was associated with dry intervals. Droughts may have played a role in woodland expansion.

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

Thomas Rogers and F. Leland Russell, researchers at Wichita State University, wanted to know if woodland expansion is

A. related to changes in climate.

Thanks to the work done by Thomas Rogers and F. Leland Russell, we now know that droughts may have played a role in

B. woodland expansion.

C. Wichita State University researchers have determined that tree population growth was associated with dry intervals.

Thomas Rogers and F. Leland Russell analyzed core samples from oak trees on a site that was not wooded in the past,

D. indexing the age of the trees with historical climate data.

**ID: 973632d2 Answer**

**Correct Answer: A**

## Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f114cbf0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: f114cbf0

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: f114cbf0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID b7c404d1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: b7c404d1

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: b7c404d1 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d9d314d9

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

## ID: d9d314d9

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

Pinnipeds, which include seals, sea lions, and walruses, live in and around water.

Pinnipeds are descended not from sea animals but from four-legged, land-dwelling carnivores.

Canadian paleobiologist Natalia Rybczynski recently found a fossil with four legs, webbed toes, and the skull and teeth of a seal.

Rybczynski refers to her rare find as a “transitional fossil.”

The fossil illustrates an early stage in the evolution of pinnipeds from their land-dwelling ancestors.

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

Canadian paleobiologist Natalia Rybczynski’s fossil has the skull and teeth of a seal, which, like sea lions and walruses, is

A. a pinniped.

B. Pinnipeds are descended from four-legged, land-dwelling carnivores; a fossil that resembles both was recently found.

Having four legs but the skull and teeth of a seal, the rare fossil illustrates an early stage in the evolution of pinnipeds

C. from their land-dwelling ancestors.

D. A “transitional fossil” was recently found by paleobiologist Natalia Rybczynski.

## ID: d9d314d9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes the fossil Rybczynski found; it doesn’t emphasize the fossil’s significance.

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ad729337

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

**ID: ad729337**

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

**ID: ad729337 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5e93039f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 5e93039f

Roughly once an hour, a torrent of boiling water shoots up 100 feet or more from Yellowstone's Old Faithful geyser before plunging back to the surface—a cycle seemingly inhospitable to life. \_\_\_\_\_ as microbiologist Eric Boyd attests, "the geyser is...almost like a cradle for biodiversity," home to numerous bacteria species that thrive in its sulfurous waters.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Thus,
- B. Specifically,
- C. Still,
- D. In other words,

## ID: 5e93039f Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Still" logically signals that the information in this sentence about Old Faithful's thriving bacteria species is true despite the previous claim that conditions at the geyser seem as if they would be inhospitable to life.

Choice A is incorrect because "thus" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result or consequence of the previous claim about Old Faithful's seemingly inhospitable conditions. Instead, this information about the geyser's many thriving bacteria species is true despite the previous claim. Choice B is incorrect because "specifically" illogically signals that the information in this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous claim about Old Faithful's seemingly inhospitable conditions. Instead, this information about the geyser's many thriving bacteria species is true despite the previous claim. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence serves as a paraphrase or restatement of the previous claim about Old Faithful's seemingly inhospitable conditions. Instead, this information about the geyser's many thriving bacteria species is true despite the previous claim.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 0f9ed134

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 0f9ed134

In 1974, Mexican chemist Mario Molina and US chemist F. Sherwood Rowland discovered that chemicals called CFCs were harmful to the ozone layer. Their research was extremely influential in the fight against CFCs. \_\_\_\_\_ it laid the foundation for a 1987 treaty that phased out the use of CFCs across the globe.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. Specifically,
- C. However,
- D. Earlier,

## ID: 0f9ed134 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Specifically" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Molina and Rowland's research laid the foundation for a later treaty—provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous sentence's more general claim about the influence of the research.

Choice A is incorrect because "regardless" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous sentence's claim about the influence of Molina and Rowland's research. Instead, this information—that the research laid the foundation for a later treaty—provides specific details elaborating on the previous claim. Choice C is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous sentence's claim about the influence of Molina and Rowland's research. Instead, this information—that the research laid the foundation for a later treaty—provides specific details elaborating on the previous claim. Choice D is incorrect because "earlier" illogically signals that the information in this sentence occurred at a time before Molina and Rowland's research influenced the fight against CFCs. Instead, this information—that the research laid the foundation for a later treaty—provides specific details elaborating on the previous claim about the research's influence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9e3a215b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 9e3a215b

A 2022 study by researchers Hala Altamimi and Qiaozhen Liu investigated the relationship between nonprofit arts organizations' spending and performance. \_\_\_\_\_ the researchers examined the correlation between how much 22,328 US arts nonprofits spent on overhead—operational costs such as equipment and fundraising—and how many people attended their events (a measure of overall success).

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Thus,
- B. In addition,
- C. By comparison,
- D. Specifically,

## ID: 9e3a215b Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Specifically" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the researchers examined the overhead costs and attendance at events of 22,328 nonprofits—provides specific, precise details elaborating on how the researchers investigated the relationship between nonprofits' spending and performance.

Choice A is incorrect. "Thus" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result or consequence of the researchers' investigation of nonprofits' spending and performance. Instead, it specifies how they examined that correlation. Choice B is incorrect. "In addition" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely an additional fact about the researchers' investigation of nonprofits' spending and performance. Instead, it specifies how they examined that correlation. Choice C is incorrect. "By comparison" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is being compared to the researchers' investigation of nonprofits' spending and performance. Instead, it specifies how they examined that correlation.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ce282575

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

## ID: ce282575

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

J.R.R. Tolkien's 1937 novel *The Hobbit* features two maps.

The novel opens with a reproduction of the map that the characters use on their quest.

This map introduces readers to the fictional world they are about to enter.

The novel closes with a map depicting every stop on the characters' journey.

That map allows readers to reconstruct the story they have just read.

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

- The Hobbit's* opening map introduces readers to the fictional world they are about to enter, while the closing map allows A. them to reconstruct the story they have just read.

- The Hobbit*, a novel published by J.R.R. Tolkien in 1937, features a reproduction of a map that the characters use on their B. quest, as well as a map that appears at the end of the novel.

- C. *The Hobbit's* two maps, one opening and one closing the novel, each serve a purpose for readers.

- D. In 1937, author J.R.R. Tolkien published *The Hobbit*, a novel featuring both an opening and a closing map.

## ID: ce282575 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID b8eec031

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: b8eec031

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: b8eec031 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 273c2f12

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

**ID: 273c2f12**

Jeffrey Gibson's sculptural object *KNOW YOUR MAGIC, BABY*, an Everlast-brand exercise bag embroidered with multicolored beads and a fringe associated with the dances of the Ojibwe people, stitches together—literally and figuratively—recognizable symbols from both Native and non-Native cultures. \_\_\_\_\_ Gibson's piece also blurs the distinction between contemporary art and traditional crafts.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Conversely,
- B. In so doing,
- C. For instance,
- D. In particular,

**ID: 273c2f12 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "In so doing" logically signals that the information in this sentence about Gibson's piece—that it blurs the distinction between contemporary art and traditional crafts—is a result or consequence of the piece's blending of particular Native and non-Native cultural symbols.

Choice A is incorrect. "Conversely" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous information about the blending of particular cultural symbols in Gibson's piece. Instead, it presents a result or consequence of that information. Choice C is incorrect. "For instance" illogically signals that this sentence provides an example supporting the previous information about the blending of particular cultural symbols in Gibson's piece. Instead, it presents a result or consequence of that information. Choice D is incorrect. "In particular" illogically signals that this sentence provides specific details elaborating on the previous information about the blending of particular cultural symbols in Gibson's piece. Instead, it presents a result or consequence of that information.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e98b1690

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

## ID: e98b1690

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

Bike-share programs provide bicycles for shared use.

In docked bike sharing, riders rent a bike and return it to designated docking stations.

Docked programs are orderly and offer consistency to riders but require significant space and money to implement.

In dockless bike sharing, riders locate a bike and leave it wherever they choose.

Dockless programs are relatively simple and inexpensive to implement and offer flexibility to riders.

Dockless programs can be disorganized.

The student wants to compare some disadvantages of docked and dockless bike-share programs. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Dockless programs can be disorganized; docked programs, on the other hand, offer order and consistency.

Worth noting is that while dockless programs are relatively easy and inexpensive to implement, they are less flexible than docked programs.

Docked programs are more resource-intensive than dockless programs, but they avoid some of the latter's organizational challenges.

- D. Though dockless programs offer flexibility, docked bike-share programs provide bicycles for shared use.

## ID: e98b1690 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence compares some disadvantages of docked and dockless bike-share programs, explaining that while docked programs are more resource-intensive (requiring significant space and money), dockless programs have greater organizational challenges.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence compares dockless programs to docked programs, noting an advantage of docked programs: they offer order and consistency. It doesn't compare disadvantages of the two types of programs. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence compares dockless programs to docked programs, noting an advantage of dockless programs: they are easy and inexpensive to implement. However, it misrepresents information from the notes, stating that dockless programs are less flexible than docked programs. In addition, it doesn't compare disadvantages of the two types of programs. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes an advantage of dockless programs, then makes a general statement that applies to both types of programs; it doesn't compare disadvantages of the two types of programs.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 9e34720b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 9e34720b

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 9e34720b Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1469d23a

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

## ID: 1469d23a

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

Etel Adnan was a Lebanese American poet and artist known for making many leporellos.

A leporello is an artist's book that is folded accordion style.

When the book is expanded, the artist's work is revealed, and its zigzag shape allows it to stand on its own.

Her leporello *December from My Window* (1993) features a panoramic landscape.

It is painted using ink and watercolor.

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

Featuring a panoramic landscape, the 1993 work is one of Adnan's many leporellos, which are accordion-style folded  
A. books that when expanded reveal the artist's work.

When expanded, Adnan's 1993 leporello *December from My Window* reveals a panoramic landscape painted in ink and  
B. watercolor.

Known for making many other accordion-style folded books called leporellos, Adnan created *December from My Window*  
C. in 1993.

A leporello, such as Adnan's *December from My Window*, is folded accordion style, and due to its zigzag shape it is able to  
D. stand on its own when fully expanded.

## ID: 1469d23a Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 3ea7372e

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

## ID: 3ea7372e

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

In the art world, the term biennial traditionally refers to an art exhibition that takes place every two years in a single location.

Such biennials are held in New York, Berlin, and Venice.

In 2006, artists Ed Gomez and Luis Hernandez founded the unconventional MexiCali Biennial.

The MexiCali Biennial hosts exhibitions in different venues on both sides of the US-Mexico border.

The MexiCali Biennial has taken place on an uneven schedule, with exhibitions in 2006, 2009–10, 2013, and 2018–20.

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

In 2006, artists Ed Gomez and Luis Hernandez founded the MexiCali Biennial, which has taken place in 2006, 2009–10, A. 2013, and 2018–20.

B. Unlike traditional biennials, the MexiCali Biennial hosts exhibitions in different venues on an uneven schedule.

C. The term biennial traditionally refers to an art exhibition that takes place every two years in a single location, not to C. exhibitions hosted at a variety of times and venues.

D. Biennial exhibitions have been held in New York, Berlin, and Venice but also on both sides of the US-Mexico border.

## ID: 3ea7372e Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 0839a4b9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 0839a4b9

The Coastal Futures Conservatory in Virginia is known for creating aural representations of ecological data. One such effort combines underwater audio recorded in seagrass beds with data that track rising carbon levels in the seagrass. As carbon levels increase, the audio is correspondingly distorted; \_\_\_\_\_ listeners can "hear" the changes in the carbon levels.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. furthermore,
- B. by comparison,
- C. for instance,
- D. thus,

## ID: 0839a4b9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Thus" logically signals that the information in this clause—that listeners can "hear" carbon levels increasing—is a result of the previous information about the audio distorting as carbon levels increase.

Choice A is incorrect because "furthermore" illogically signals that the information in this clause merely adds to the previous information about the audio distorting as carbon levels rise. Instead, the listeners' ability to "hear" carbon levels increasing is a result of that distortion. Choice B is incorrect because "by comparison" illogically signals that the information in this clause is being compared to the information about the audio distorting as carbon levels rise. Instead, the listeners' ability to "hear" carbon levels increasing is a result of that distortion. Choice C is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the information in this clause is an example of how the audio distorts as carbon levels rise. Instead, the audio was distorted for the express purpose of representing ecological data; the listeners' ability to "hear" carbon levels increasing is a direct, intended result of the distortion, not merely an example of it.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ab1f424a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: ab1f424a

Working together with the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources, Dr. Lani Tsinnajinnie analyzed data about snowpack levels in the Chuska Mountains. She found that the snowpack (the amount of snow on the ground) was deepest in early March at lower elevations. At higher elevations, \_\_\_\_\_ the snowpack was deepest in mid-March.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in other words,
- B. for instance,
- C. on the other hand,
- D. in summary,

## ID: ab1f424a Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "On the other hand" logically signals that the information in the sentence—that the snowpack at higher elevations in the Chuska Mountains was deepest in mid-March—contrasts with the previous information about the snowpack at lower elevations being deepest in early March.

Choice A is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that information in the sentence is merely a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about the snowpack at lower elevations. Instead, the information about the snowpack at higher elevations contrasts with that information. Choice B is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the information in the sentence exemplifies the previous information about the snowpack at lower elevations. Instead, the information about the snowpack at higher elevations contrasts with that information. Choice D is incorrect because "in summary" illogically signals that the information in the sentence summarizes the previous information about the snowpack at lower elevations. Instead, the information about the snowpack at higher elevations contrasts with that information.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 28a46cb0

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

## ID: 28a46cb0

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

- The international Slow Food movement was founded in 1989 with the signing of the "Slow Food Manifesto."
- The movement promotes universal access to healthy, high-quality food.
- It calls for sustainable food production practices that protect local environments, ecosystems, and biodiversity.
- It advocates for fair treatment of and compensation for food production workers.
- The Slow Food USA organization was founded in 2000.

The student wants to introduce the Slow Food movement to a new audience. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- The international Slow Food movement, founded in 1989, promotes universal access to healthy, high-quality food that is
- A. produced sustainably by workers who are treated and compensated fairly.
- B. the Slow Food USA organization was founded in 2000.
- C. The Slow Food movement advocates for food production workers.
- D. Goals of the movement include universal access to healthy, high-quality food and sustainable food practices.

## ID: 28a46cb0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence effectively introduces the Slow Food movement to a new audience, explaining that the movement, which was founded in 1989, promotes universal access to high-quality and healthy food that is produced sustainably by workers who are treated fairly.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence indicates when the international Slow Food movement and the Slow Food USA organization were founded, it doesn't effectively introduce the movement to a new audience. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence notes that the Slow Food movement includes advocacy for food production workers, it doesn't effectively introduce the movement to a new audience. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence describes some of the goals of the Slow Food movement, it doesn't effectively introduce the movement to a new audience.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 259d16ac

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

## ID: 259d16ac

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

- In 1859, the novel *Adam Bede* was published in England.
- According to the novel's title page, the author's name was George Eliot.
- George Eliot was widely assumed to be a pseudonym.
- A pseudonym is a fake name used to conceal an author's identity.
- A woman named Mary Ann Evans later revealed herself as the novel's real author.

The student wants to identify the real author of *Adam Bede*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The real author of *Adam Bede* was Mary Ann Evans, who published the novel using the pseudonym George Eliot.
- B. George Eliot, which *Adam Bede*'s title page indicated was the name of the novel's author, was widely assumed to be a pseudonym.
- C. The title page of the novel *Adam Bede* indicated that the author's name was George Eliot.
- D. A woman who had used a pseudonym to conceal her identity later revealed herself as the real author of *Adam Bede*.

## ID: 259d16ac Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence identifies the novel's real author, explaining that Mary Ann Evans published the novel under the pseudonym of George Eliot.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence explains that George Eliot was assumed to be a pseudonym; it doesn't identify the novel's real author. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence specifies the pseudonym used on the novel's title page; it doesn't identify the novel's real author. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that the novel's real author used a pseudonym, it doesn't identify that author as Mary Ann Evans.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f2f6009b

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

## ID: f2f6009b

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

Little is known about the life of Wong Fei-hung (1847–1925).

He was born near Foshan, China, and gained local recognition as a physician and Hung Ga (also known as Hung Gar) Kung Fu master.

He achieved many incredible martial arts feats—some confirmed and some rumored.

He has become an internationally known folk hero thanks to his depiction in over a hundred films, television shows, and other media.

In the 1991 film *Once Upon a Time in China*, actor Jet Li portrays Wong Fei-hung using superhuman kung fu abilities to save his community.

The student wants to emphasize the effect media had on building Wong Fei-hung's legacy. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Thanks to his depiction in over a hundred pieces of media, Wong Fei-hung was locally known as a successful physician A. and Hung Ga Kung Fu master.

Though he was known locally during his lifetime, Wong Fei-hung's later depiction in television, film, and other media has B. turned him into an internationally known folk hero.

Various media have depicted Wong Fei-hung, the successful physician and kung fu master who became an C. internationally known folk hero.

Wong Fei-hung's abilities as a kung fu master are depicted in many media, including the 1991 film *Once Upon a Time in D. China*.

## ID: f2f6009b Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the effect media had on building Wong Fei-hung's legacy, noting that media depictions after his lifetime turned Wong Fei-hung into an internationally known folk hero.

Choice A is incorrect. While it appears to emphasize the effect of media depictions of Wong Fei-hung, the sentence misrepresents information from the notes. According to the notes, media depictions resulted in Wong Fei-hung becoming an internationally known folk hero, not a locally known physician and kung fu master. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence discusses Wong Fei-hung's legacy, noting that he became an internationally known folk hero, but it doesn't emphasize the effect media had on building that legacy. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence indicates that Wong Fei-hung has been depicted in many media but doesn't emphasize the effect of these media depictions on building his legacy.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 8d1ddd1b

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

## ID: 8d1ddd1b

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

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

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

- A study revealed that ducklings, which expend up to 62.8% less energy when swimming in a line behind their mother, also
- A. experience 158% less drag.

- Seeking to understand how ducklings swimming in a line behind their mother save energy, Zhiming Yuan used computer
- B. simulations to study the effect of the mother duck's wake.

- Zhiming Yuan studied the physics behind the fact that by being pushed in a forward direction by waves, ducklings save
- C. energy.

- Naval architect Zhiming Yuan discovered that ducklings are pushed in a forward direction by the waves of their mother's
- D. wake, reducing the effect of drag by 158%.

## ID: 8d1ddd1b Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 82ec9628

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 82ec9628

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 82ec9628 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 480ade7e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 480ade7e

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 480ade7e Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b44141cf

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

## ID: b44141cf

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

Researchers in a 2021 study wanted to determine the rate at which 17 languages conveyed both information and syllables.

They calculated the bits of information conveyed per second (the IR, or information rate).

The IR was found to be approximately consistent across the 17 languages (an average of 39 bits per second).

They calculated the number of syllables spoken per second (the SR, or syllable rate).

Spanish had the second-fastest SR (7.7 syllables per second).

Vietnamese had the sixteenth-fastest SR (5.3 syllables per second).

The student wants to present an overview of the study's findings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The 2021 study determined the information rate (IR) of 17 languages in bits of information conveyed per second.

Researchers found that information was conveyed more quickly in Spanish, at 7.7 syllables per second, than in  
B. Vietnamese, at 5.3 syllables per second.

Vietnamese had the sixteenth-fastest syllable rate, lower than that of Spanish, which had the second-fastest; however,  
C. Spanish had the lower information rate of the two.

Though some of the languages differed in number of syllables spoken per second, all 17 conveyed information at roughly  
D. the same rate.

## ID: b44141cf Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence presents an overview of the study's findings, noting that, for some of the languages (the examples of Spanish and Vietnamese are given in the notes), the number of syllables spoken per second varied, while the amount of information conveyed per second remained roughly constant across all 17 languages.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence describes one of the metrics the study assessed, it doesn't present any of the study's findings. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence compares specific findings about two of the languages studied, it doesn't provide an overview of the study's findings across all 17 languages. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence compares specific findings about two of the languages studied; it doesn't provide an overview of the study's findings across all 17 languages. It also misrepresents the information from the notes about Spanish's information rate.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c34d6bff

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

**ID: c34d6bff**

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

African American women played prominent roles in the Civil Rights Movement, including at the famous 1963 March on Washington.

Civil rights activist Anna Hedgeman, one of the march's organizers, was a political adviser who had worked for President Truman.

Civil rights activist Daisy Bates was a well-known journalist and advocate for school desegregation.

Hedgeman worked behind the scenes to make sure a woman was included in the lineup of speakers at the march.

Bates was the sole woman to speak, delivering a brief but memorable address to the cheering crowd.

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

Hedgeman and Bates contributed to the march in different ways; Bates, for example, delivered a brief but memorable

A. address.

Hedgeman worked in politics and helped organize the march, while Bates was a journalist and school desegregation

B. advocate.

Although Hedgeman worked behind the scenes to make sure a woman speaker was included, Bates was the sole woman

C. to speak at the march.

D. Many African American women, including Bates and Hedgeman, fought for civil rights, but only one spoke at the march.

**ID: c34d6bff Answer**

**Correct Answer: C**

## Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2b5f4bdc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 2b5f4bdc

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 2b5f4bdc Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ed80971c

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

## ID: ed80971c

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

The Pueblo of Zuni is located about 150 miles west of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

It is the traditional home of the A:shiwi (Zuni) people.

The A:shiwi A:wani Museum and Heritage Center was established by tribal members in 1992.

Its mission is stated on its website: "As a tribal museum and heritage center for the Zuni people and by the Zuni people we work to provide learning experiences that emphasize A:shiwi ways of knowing, as well as exploring modern concepts of knowledge and the transfer of knowledge."

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

- A. The Pueblo of Zuni is home to the A:shiwi A:wani Museum and Heritage Center, which was founded by tribal members.
- B. The A:shiwi A:wani Museum and Heritage Center has served the Pueblo of Zuni since 1992.
- C. A:shiwi ways of knowing."
- D. Knowledge has been one of the central themes of the A:shiwi A:wani Museum and Heritage Center from its founding.

## ID: ed80971c Answer

**Correct Answer: B**

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 114bbce6

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

## ID: 114bbce6

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

Earthquakes start at a point called a “focus” and spread out from there as seismic waves.

The two types of seismic waves that travel beneath Earth’s surface are primary waves (P waves) and secondary waves (S waves).

P waves travel more quickly beneath Earth’s surface than do S waves.

P waves compress and expand the ground, causing it to move backward and forward.

S waves cause the ground to move from side to side.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between P waves and S waves. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. P waves and S waves both travel beneath Earth’s surface, causing the ground to move.
- B. P waves travel away from an earthquake’s starting point at a higher rate of speed than do S waves.
- C. Spreading out from the focus of an earthquake, P waves move the ground backward and forward.
- D. Although P waves and S waves start at the same point, they behave very differently.

## ID: 114bbce6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between P waves and S waves, noting that they both travel beneath Earth’s surface, thereby causing the ground to move.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference between P waves and S waves, noting that P waves travel faster than S waves; it doesn’t emphasize a similarity between the two types of waves. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes how P waves move; it doesn’t emphasize a similarity between P waves and S waves. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence acknowledges that P waves and S waves start at the same point, it doesn’t emphasize a similarity; instead, the sentence emphasizes a difference between the two types of waves, noting that they behave very differently.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ec03f090

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

## ID: ec03f090

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

A sestina is a thirty-nine-line poetic form.

Each line of the poem ends with one of six end words, which alternate according to a set pattern.

"Forage Sestina" is a sestina by Marilyn Hacker. Its end words are *words, structure, wire, beam, wall, and room*.

"Towards Autumn" is a sestina by Marilyn Hacker. Its end words are *daughter, friend, bread, mother, lover, and myself*.

The student wants to use one of the poems to illustrate the sestina form. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Hacker employs the sestina, a poetic form with thirty-nine lines and six end words, in both "Forage Sestina" and "Towards Autumn."

As a sestina, "Towards Autumn" contains thirty-nine lines and six end words—in this case, *daughter, friend, bread, mother, lover, and myself*—that alternate in a set pattern.

The thirty-nine-line sestina form uses the words *daughter, friend, bread, mother, lover, and myself*, which are found in the poem "Forage Sestina."

Hacker has used the sestina form multiple times, as in "Towards Autumn," which contains these six words: *words, structure, wire, beam, wall, and room*.

## ID: ec03f090 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence uses the poem "Towards Autumn" to illustrate the form of a sestina, explaining that a sestina's thirty-nine lines all end in one of six alternating words and showcasing that poem's specific end words.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence identifies both of Hacker's poems as sestinas; it doesn't use one of the poems to illustrate the form of a sestina. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence appears to use the poem "Forage Sestina" to illustrate a feature of the sestina form, it misrepresents the information in the notes. According to the notes, "Forage Sestina" doesn't use these six end words; it uses six other words instead. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence uses the poem "Towards Autumn" as an example of one of Hacker's sestinas, it misrepresents the information in the notes. According to the notes, "Towards Autumn" doesn't use these six end words; it uses six other words instead.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 52b31d7b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 52b31d7b

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 52b31d7b Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a86c0b1b

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

## ID: a86c0b1b

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

Ancient Native American and Australian Aboriginal cultures described the Pleiades star cluster as having seven stars.

It was referred to as the Seven Sisters in the mythology of ancient Greece.

Today, the cluster appears to have only six stars.

Two of the stars have moved so close together that they now appear as one.

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

Ancient Native American and Australian Aboriginal cultures described the Pleiades, which was referred to in Greek

A. mythology as the Seven Sisters, as having seven stars.

B. Although once referred to as the Seven Sisters, the Pleiades appears to have only six stars today.

In the time since ancient cultures described the Pleiades as having seven stars, two of the cluster's stars have moved so  
C. close together that they now appear as one.

D. The Pleiades has seven stars, but two are so close together that they appear to be a single star.

## ID: a86c0b1b Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e2eb70b9

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

## ID: e2eb70b9

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

Traditionally, manufacturers have dyed denim jeans blue by dipping them in a solution containing indigo powder.

Indigo doesn't dissolve in just water, so manufacturers must mix hazardous chemicals with water to dissolve the powder.

Textile researcher Smriti Rai discovered a process for dyeing blue jeans without chemicals.

Rai added indigo powder to a hydrogel containing nanocellulose and produced a dye that could be spread directly onto the denim.

Nanocellulose is a natural, plant-based substance that separates the molecules of indigo powder.

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

- Though created using a different process, Rai's dye contains the same ingredient as the dye produced by blue jean manufacturers.

Nanocellulose is a natural, plant-based substance that separates the molecules of indigo powder, which doesn't dissolve in water.

The traditional approach to dyeing blue jeans is to dip them in a solution containing hazardous chemicals.

Rai's approach substitutes a natural, plant-based substance for the hazardous chemicals that manufacturers have traditionally used.

## ID: e2eb70b9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the two approaches to dyeing blue jeans, noting that Rai's approach uses a natural, plant-based substance in place of hazardous chemicals.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the dyes used in the two approaches, noting that the dyes contain the same ingredient; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the two approaches to dyeing blue jeans.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence explains what nanocellulose is; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the two approaches to dyeing blue jeans. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence explains the traditional approach to dyeing blue jeans; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the traditional approach and Rai's approach.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c40a1964

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

## ID: c40a1964

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

Leigh Torres is a marine ecologist.

She conducted a study of blue whales in New Zealand's South Taranaki Bight region.

She wanted to know how ocean temperature affects where the whales forage for krill in that region.

She found that during a marine heat wave, the whales foraged farther offshore than they had during cooler periods.

The offshore waters, which were colder than areas closer to shore, had a higher relative abundance of krill.

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

Analyzing ocean temperature data, Torres found that during a marine heat wave, blue whales foraged farther offshore A. than they had during cooler periods.

In her study, Torres sought to determine how ocean temperature affects where blue whales forage for krill in the South B. Taranaki Bight region.

C. Torres's study revealed that blue whales were attracted to offshore waters with a relatively high abundance of krill.

D. Torres, a marine ecologist, studied blue whales in the South Taranaki Bight region, where the whales forage.

## ID: c40a1964 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the aim, or goal, of the research study, noting that Torres sought to determine how ocean temperature affects where blue whales forage for krill.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the results of the study, noting what Torres found at the end; it doesn't emphasize the aim, or goal, of the study, which is what Torres sought at the beginning. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence makes a claim about the study's results; it doesn't emphasize the aim, or goal, of the study. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence indicates the location of Torres's study; it doesn't emphasize the aim, or goal, of the study.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 86b78078

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

## ID: 86b78078

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

Samuel Selvon was a Trinidadian author. *The Lonely Londoners* is one of his most celebrated novels.

Selvon published the novel in 1956.

It is about a group of men who emigrate from the Caribbean to Great Britain after World War II.

Some of *The Lonely Londoners'* characters also appear in Selvon's later novel *Moses Ascending*.

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

In 1956, Trinidadian author Samuel Selvon published one of his most celebrated novels, *The Lonely Londoners*, which is

A. about a group of men who emigrate from the Caribbean to Great Britain after World War II.

B. Samuel Selvon wrote the novel *Moses Ascending* after he wrote *The Lonely Londoners*.

*The Lonely Londoners*, a celebrated novel that was published in 1956, depicts post–World War II Caribbean migration

C. from the perspective of a Trinidadian author.

D. Some of the characters who appear in Samuel Selvon's *Moses Ascending* also appear in *The Lonely Londoners*.

## ID: 86b78078 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4f9ee1dc

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

## ID: 4f9ee1dc

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

Seven species of sea turtle exist today. Five sea turtle species can be found in the Atlantic Ocean.

One of those species is the Kemp's ridley sea turtle. Its scientific name is *Lepidochelys kempii*.

Another of those species is the olive ridley sea turtle. Its scientific name is *Lepidochelys olivacea*.

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

- A. Among the seven species of sea turtle is the olive ridley sea turtle, which can be found in the Atlantic Ocean.

The Kemp's ridley sea turtle is referred to as *Lepidochelys kempii*, while the olive ridley sea turtle is referred to as

- B. *Lepidochelys olivacea*.

- C. Both the Kemp's ridley sea turtle and the olive ridley sea turtle can be found in the Atlantic Ocean.

The Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) and the olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) are different

- D. species.

## ID: 4f9ee1dc Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f5a00eff

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: f5a00eff

If the formation of Earth's mantle had been purely a product of core differentiation—whereby heavier elements sink toward the core and lighter elements rise—the upper mantle would be depleted of heavy siderophile elements. Siderophiles are much more abundant in the mantle than predicted in that model, however. \_\_\_\_\_ extraterrestrial material containing siderophiles, likely from asteroid or comet impacts, almost certainly accreted to Earth following core differentiation.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. That said,
- B. Hence,
- C. For example,
- D. Likewise,

## ID: f5a00eff Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Hence" correctly signals that the claim in this sentence regarding extraterrestrial material follows logically from the information in the previous sentences. The previous sentences establish that siderophile elements in the mantle are more abundant than predicted in the core-differentiation model. This sentence claims, logically, that these elements came from extraterrestrial material that accreted to Earth *after* core differentiation.

Choice A is incorrect because "that said" illogically signals that the information in this sentence regarding extraterrestrial material is an exception to the previous information about siderophiles' abundance in the mantle. Instead, it is a new claim that follows logically from the previous information. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in this sentence regarding extraterrestrial material exemplifies the previous information about siderophiles' abundance in the mantle. Instead, it is a new claim that follows logically from the previous information. Choice D is incorrect because "likewise" illogically signals that the information in this sentence regarding extraterrestrial material is merely similar to the previous information about siderophiles' abundance in the mantle. Instead, it is a new claim that follows logically from the previous information.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2c7dced2

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

## ID: 2c7dced2

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

Sister Rosetta Tharpe (1915–1973) was a gospel musician.

She was known for her passionate vocals and electric guitar performances.

In 2018, Tharpe was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for her major impact on the genre.

According to songwriter Roxie Moore, “[Tharpe] would sing until you cried and then she would sing until you danced for joy.”

According to guitarist Celisse Henderson, “Tharpe is the unquestioned founding mother of rock ‘n’ roll.”

The student wants to use a quotation to support a claim about Tharpe’s contribution to rock ‘n’ roll. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Gospel musician Sister Rosetta Tharpe had a major impact on rock ‘n’ roll, and she was known for her passionate electric

A. guitar performances.

B. Celisse Henderson believes that Sister Rosetta Tharpe had a major impact on the development of rock ‘n’ roll.

Sister Rosetta Tharpe had such a major impact on rock ‘n’ roll that Celisse Henderson called her “the unquestioned

C. founding mother” of the genre.

A gospel musician, Sister Rosetta Tharpe had the ability to “sing until you cried” and also “until you danced for joy,”

D. according to Roxie Moore.

## ID: 2c7dced2 Answer

**Correct Answer: C**

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence uses the quotation from Henderson to support a claim about Tharpe’s contribution to rock ‘n’ roll, noting that the impact Tharpe had on the genre led Henderson to call her “the unquestioned founding mother of rock ‘n’ roll.”

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence makes the claim that Tharpe had a major impact on rock ‘n’ roll, it doesn’t use a quotation to support this claim. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence presents Henderson’s opinion that Tharpe had a major impact on rock ‘n’ roll, but it doesn’t use a quotation to support this claim. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence includes a quotation about audience reactions to Tharpe’s music, the sentence describes Tharpe as a gospel musician; it doesn’t support a claim about her contribution to rock ‘n’ roll.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID fc95a352

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: fc95a352

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: fc95a352 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5a5e22b5

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

## ID: 5a5e22b5

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

Gravitational waves are powerful ripples that originate in deep space and eventually pass through Earth.

The Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) is a physics study that began in 2002.

LIGO's goal is to detect and analyze gravitational waves.

LIGO uses a pair of massive gravitational wave detectors called interferometers that are thousands of miles apart.

In 2015, for the first time in history, LIGO researchers detected a gravitational wave passing through Earth.

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

In 2015, LIGO's massive interferometers detected a powerful ripple that originated in deep space and eventually passed A. through Earth.

B. Though the physics study LIGO began in 2002, its massive interferometers didn't detect a gravitational wave until 2015.

C. To achieve its aims, LIGO uses a pair of massive interferometers that are thousands of miles apart.

A physics study designed to detect and analyze gravitational waves, LIGO uses a pair of massive interferometers that are D. thousands of miles apart.

## ID: 5a5e22b5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID bc56170b

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

## ID: bc56170b

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

Most, but not all, of the Moon's oxygen comes from the Sun, via solar wind.

Cosmochemist Kentaro Terada from Osaka University wondered if some of the unaccounted-for oxygen could be coming from Earth.

In 2008, he analyzed data from the Japanese satellite Kaguya.

Kaguya gathered data about gases and particles it encountered while orbiting the Moon.

Based on the Kaguya data, Terada confirmed his suspicion that Earth is sending oxygen to the Moon.

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

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

## ID: bc56170b Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 6351062d

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

**ID: 6351062d**

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

In the late 1890s, over 14,000 unique varieties of apples were grown in the US.

The rise of industrial agriculture in the mid-1900s narrowed the range of commercially grown crops.

Thousands of apple varieties considered less suitable for commercial growth were lost.

Today, only 15 apple varieties dominate the market, making up 90% of apples purchased in the US.

The Lost Apple Project, based in Washington State, attempts to find and grow lost apple varieties.

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

The Lost Apple Project is dedicated to finding some of the apple varieties lost following a shift in agricultural practices in A. the mid-1900s.

While over 14,000 apple varieties were grown in the US in the late 1890s, only 15 unique varieties make up most of the B. apples sold today.

Since the rise of industrial agriculture, US farmers have mainly grown the same few unique apple varieties, resulting in C. the loss of thousands of varieties less suitable for commercial growth.

As industrial agriculture rose to prominence in the mid-1900s, the number of crops selected for cultivation decreased D. dramatically.

**ID: 6351062d Answer**

**Correct Answer: C**

## Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5bb7dc03

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

## ID: 5bb7dc03

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

Started in 1925, the Scripps National Spelling Bee is a US-based spelling competition.

The words used in the competition have diverse linguistic origins.

In 2008, Sameer Mishra won by correctly spelling the word “guerdon.”

“Guerdon” derives from the Anglo-French word “guerdun.”

In 2009, Kavya Shivashankar won by correctly spelling the word “Laodicean.”

“Laodicean” derives from the ancient Greek word “Laodíkeia.”

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

“Guerdon,” the final word of the 2008 Scripps National Spelling Bee, is of Anglo-French origin, while the following year’s

A. final word, “Laodicean,” derives from ancient Greek.

In 2008, Sameer Mishra won the Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling the word “guerdon”; however, the  
B. following year, Kavya Shivashankar won based on spelling the word “Laodicean.”

Kavya Shivashankar won the 2009 Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling “Laodicean,” which derives from the  
C. ancient Greek word “Laodíkeia.”

D. The Scripps National Spelling Bee uses words from diverse linguistic origins, such as “guerdon” and “Laodicean.”

## ID: 5bb7dc03 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e6b57c9b

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

## ID: e6b57c9b

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

Iranian scholar Abu Rayhan al-Biruni studied Earth's physical features.

He theorized that a large landmass existed west of Europe and east of Asia.

Al-Biruni published his landmass theory in 1037 CE.

The student wants to specify when al-Biruni published his landmass theory. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In 1037 CE, al-Biruni published his theory that a large landmass existed west of Europe and east of Asia.
- B. Al-Biruni, who studied Earth's physical features, published a theory about a large landmass.
- C. Al-Biruni was an Iranian scholar who studied Earth's physical features.

An Iranian scholar who studied Earth's physical features, al-Biruni theorized that a large landmass existed west of Europe and east of Asia.

## ID: e6b57c9b Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence specifies when al-Biruni published his landmass theory, indicating that it was published in the year 1037 CE.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence notes that al-Biruni published a landmass theory, it doesn't specify when the theory was published. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence identifies al-Biruni as a scholar of Earth's physical features; it doesn't specify when he published his landmass theory. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence describes al-Biruni's landmass theory; it doesn't specify when the theory was published.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9e2d4ef7

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

## ID: 9e2d4ef7

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

Abdulrazak Gurnah was awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Gurnah was born in Zanzibar in East Africa and currently lives in the United Kingdom.

Many readers have singled out Gurnah's 1994 book *Paradise* for praise.

*Paradise* is a historical novel about events that occurred in colonial East Africa.

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

Abdulrazak Gurnah, who wrote *Paradise* and later was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, was born in Zanzibar in East A. Africa and currently lives in the United Kingdom.

Many readers have singled out Abdulrazak Gurnah's 1994 book *Paradise*, a historical novel about colonial East Africa, for B. praise.

A much-praised historical novel about colonial East Africa, *Paradise* (1994) was written by Abdulrazak Gurnah, winner of C. the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature.

D. *Paradise* is a historical novel about events that occurred in colonial East Africa, Abdulrazak Gurnah's homeland.

## ID: 9e2d4ef7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 855247c7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

**ID: 855247c7**

Mary Ellen Pleasant, a successful entrepreneur during the gold rush era, earned the moniker "Mother of Human Rights in California" after successfully challenging discrimination in the state. \_\_\_\_\_ in 1866, she sued a streetcar company for denying her and other Black riders service, a suit she eventually won when the California Supreme Court declared it illegal for carriers to exclude passengers based on race.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For this reason,
- B. Then,
- C. In addition,
- D. Specifically,

**ID: 855247c7 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Specifically" logically signals that the information about Pleasant's 1866 lawsuit provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous point that Pleasant successfully challenged discrimination in California.

Choice A is incorrect because "for this reason" illogically signals that Pleasant's 1866 lawsuit was a result of her successful challenge to discrimination in California. Instead, this sentence provides specific details elaborating on her challenge to discrimination in the state. Choice B is incorrect because "then" illogically signals that Pleasant's 1866 lawsuit was subsequent to or resulted from her successful challenge to discrimination in California. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on how she challenged discrimination in the state. Choice C is incorrect because "in addition" illogically signals that the information about Pleasant's 1866 lawsuit is merely additional to the previous point that Pleasant successfully challenged discrimination in California. Instead, this sentence provides specific details elaborating on how she did so.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 94f4eecb

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

## ID: 94f4eecb

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

*Las sergas de Esplandián* was a novel popular in sixteenth-century Spain.

The novel featured a fictional island inhabited solely by Black women and known as California.

That same century, Spanish explorers learned of an “island” off the west coast of Mexico.

They called it California after the island in the novel.

The “island” was actually the peninsula now known as Baja California (“Lower California”), which lies to the south of the US state of California.

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

- A. The novel *Las sergas de Esplandián* featured a fictional island known as California.

To the south of the US state of California lies Baja California (“Lower California”), originally called California after a  
B. fictional place.

C. In the sixteenth century, Spanish explorers learned of a peninsula off the west coast of Mexico and called it California.

D. Thinking it was an island, Spanish explorers called a peninsula California after an island in a popular novel.

## ID: 94f4eecb Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a3bf0a9d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: a3bf0a9d

In 2021, a model developed by astrophysicist Catherine Zucker and her research team revealed that the same supernovas responsible for the creation and ongoing expansion of the Local Bubble—a 14-million-year-old cavity in the Milky Way—are likely responsible for the formation of new stars. \_\_\_\_\_ this model detailed how the bubble's expansion trapped interstellar clouds of gas and dust that became stars upon their eventual collapse.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Hence,
- B. However,
- C. Admittedly,
- D. Specifically,

## ID: a3bf0a9d Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Specifically" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the Local Bubble's expansion trapped clouds of gas and dust that formed new stars—provides specific, precise details elaborating on the more general information in the previous sentence about the relationship between the Local Bubble's expansion and the formation of new stars.

Choice A is incorrect because "hence" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the information in the previous sentence about the relationship between the Local Bubble's expansion and the formation of new stars. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on that information. Choice B is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence about the relationship between the Local Bubble's expansion and the formation of new stars. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on that information. Choice C is incorrect because "admittedly" illogically signals that the information in this sentence provides an exception or caveat to the previous information about the relationship between the Local Bubble's expansion and the formation of new stars. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on that information.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 99183985

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

**ID: 99183985**

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

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

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

A. To remove carvings from sandstone arches in Utah's Arches National Park, power grinding is not always feasible.

Filling in carvings with ground sandstone and a bonding agent is less invasive than smoothing them away with a power grinder, which can greatly alter or damage the sandstone arches.

Park rangers can use a power grinding technique to smooth away carvings or fill them in with ground sandstone and a bonding agent.

D. As methods for removing carvings from sandstone, power grinding and infilling differ in their level of invasiveness.

**ID: 99183985 Answer**

**Correct Answer: B**

## Rationale

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

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence identifies a disadvantage of power grinding; it doesn't explain an advantage of infilling.

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 70538b9a

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

## ID: 70538b9a

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

In the 1930s, the Imperial Sugar Cane Institute in India sought to limit the country's dependence on imported sugarcane.

The institute enlisted botanist Janaki Ammal to breed a local variety of sugarcane.

She crossbred the imported sugarcane species *Saccharum officinarum* with grasses native to India.

She succeeded in creating sugarcane hybrids well suited to India's climate.

The student wants to emphasize Janaki Ammal's achievement. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- By crossbreeding the imported sugarcane species *Saccharum officinarum* with grasses native to India, Ammal  
A. succeeded in creating sugarcane hybrids well suited to India's climate.

- In the 1930s, the Imperial Sugar Cane Institute, which enlisted Ammal, sought to limit dependence on imported  
B. sugarcane.

- Ammal was enlisted by the Imperial Sugar Cane Institute at a time when a local variety of sugarcane needed to be  
C. produced.

- As part of efforts to breed a local variety of sugarcane, an imported sugarcane species called *Saccharum officinarum*  
D. was crossbred with grasses native to India.

## ID: 70538b9a Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes Janaki Ammal's achievement, explaining that she successfully created sugarcane hybrids that are well suited to India's climate by crossbreeding an imported sugarcane species with grasses native to India.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the goal of the Imperial Sugar Cane Institute in the 1930s; it doesn't emphasize Janaki Ammal's achievement. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions Ammal, it doesn't emphasize her achievement of successfully creating sugarcane hybrids. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the achievement of crossbreeding imported sugarcane species with grasses native to India, it doesn't emphasize the achievement as belonging to Janaki Ammal.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4703eafb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 4703eafb

Following the American Revolutionary War, North American foodways underwent a radical transformation, fueled in large part by spiking consumer demand for certain grains. The cultivation, trade, and transportation of maize and wheat, \_\_\_\_\_ reconfigured the continent's existing regional foodways into a globally oriented food system.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in particular,
- B. alternatively,
- C. by comparison,
- D. second of all,

## ID: 4703eafb Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "In particular" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that maize and wheat supply chains transformed North American foodways into a global food system—provides specific, precise details elaborating on the more general information in the previous sentence about the transformation of North American foodways (with maize and wheat the "certain grains" at the center of it).

Choice B is incorrect because "alternatively" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an alternative option to the previous information about the transformation of North American foodways. Instead, the roles of maize and wheat in creating a global food system are specific, precise details elaborating on that information. Choice C is incorrect because "by comparison" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is being compared to the previous information about the transformation of North American foodways. Instead, the roles of maize and wheat in creating a global food system are specific, precise details elaborating on that information. Choice D is incorrect because "second of all" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a second, separate claim from the previous claim that North American foodways were transformed. Instead, the roles of maize and wheat in creating a global food system are specific, precise details elaborating on that information, rather than a separate claim.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2ba97187

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 2ba97187

Upon first approaching artist Kurt Wenner's *Dies Irae*, a colorful scene painted on the surface of a cobblestone street in Mantua, Italy, one might assume a deep hole filled with life-sized, classically styled sculptures had opened up in the street. \_\_\_\_\_ by expertly applying the principles of perspective, Wenner created merely the illusion of depth.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Additionally,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. As a result,
- D. Next,

## ID: 2ba97187 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "On the contrary" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that *Dies Irae*'s appearance of depth is merely an illusion—contrasts with the previous statement about a viewer's possible assumption regarding the street painting.

Choice A is incorrect because "additionally" illogically signals that this sentence is simply additional information about a viewer's possible assumption regarding the street painting. Instead, the information about how Wenner achieved the illusion of depth contrasts with the previous sentence's description of the illusion. Choice C is incorrect because "as a result" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of, or caused by, a viewer's possible assumption regarding the street painting. Instead, the information about how Wenner achieved the illusion of depth contrasts with the previous sentence's description of the illusion. Choice D is incorrect because "next" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is the next step in a process. Instead, the information about how Wenner achieved the illusion of depth contrasts with the previous sentence's description of the illusion.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID ecb31049

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: ecb31049

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: ecb31049 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID eea351c4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

**ID: eea351c4**

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

**ID: eea351c4 Answer**

**Correct Answer: C**

## Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 570dd854

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

## ID: 570dd854

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

*Here I Have Returned* is a sculpture by Egyptian American artist Sherin Guirguis.

It is a large, curved strip of wood inspired by the shape of a sistrum.

A sistrum is a curved musical instrument played by ancient Egyptian priestesses in ceremonies.

Guirguis says that the sculpture symbolizes “women who have lifted and supported Egyptian society and culture.”

Overall, Guirguis wants her works to “engage audiences in a dialogue about power, agency, and social transformation.”

The student wants to use a quotation from Guirguis to explain what the sculpture represents. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

Guirguis, whose works include a sculpture that is a large, curved strip of wood, has explained that she wants her work to

- A. create a dialogue with audiences.

Inspired by the sistrum played by Egyptian priestesses, *Here I Have Returned* symbolizes “women who have lifted and

- B. supported Egyptian society and culture,” according to Guirguis.

According to Guirguis, the curved strip of wood used in *Here I Have Returned* was inspired by the sistrum, a musical

- C. instrument played by ancient Egyptian priestesses in ceremonies.

Guirguis, the sculptor of *Here I Have Returned*, wants her works to “engage audiences in a dialogue about power, agency,

- D. and social transformation.”

## ID: 570dd854 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence uses a quotation from Guirguis to explain what *Here I Have Returned* represents, noting that Guirguis said the sculpture symbolizes “women who have lifted and supported Egyptian society and culture.”

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence explains what Guirguis says she wants her work to achieve and provides an example of her work; it doesn’t use a quotation to explain what the sculpture represents. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence mentions the instrument whose shape inspired the sculpture but doesn’t use a quotation to explain what the sculpture represents. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence does use a quotation from Guirguis, the quotation explains what she hopes her works in general achieve, not what the sculpture in particular represents.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 0205e563

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 0205e563

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 0205e563 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e8494245

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

**ID: e8494245**

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

Political scientist Graham Allison is known for his Thucydides trap theory.

Allison's theory states that whenever "a rising power is threatening to displace a ruling power," conflict is likely.

The theory is based on Thucydides's explanation of the conflict between Athens and Sparta.

Thucydides wrote that "the rise of Athens and the fear this instilled in Sparta" made conflict "inevitable."

History professor Edmund Stewart recently challenged the historical basis of the theory.

Stewart claimed that Athens was not a rising power and that the rivals experienced a "clash of cultures" instead.

The student wants to use a quotation to challenge Thucydides's explanation of the conflict between Athens and Sparta.

Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

According to Allison's Thucydides trap theory, whenever "a rising power is threatening to displace a ruling power," conflict

A. is likely.

Thucydides wrote that conflict between the two powers was "inevitable," although Stewart later challenged the historical

B. basis of this claim.

C. According to Stewart, a "clash of cultures" between Athens and Sparta caused the conflict, not Athens's rise.

Thucydides explained that conflict was caused by "the rise of Athens and the fear this instilled in Sparta," but Allison

D. disagreed, seeing the conflict as an example of the Thucydides trap.

**ID: e8494245 Answer**

**Correct Answer: C**

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. Using a quotation from Stewart, the sentence challenges Thucydides's explanation that the rise of Athens caused the conflict, suggesting that it was instead caused by a "clash of cultures."

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence uses a quotation, the quotation doesn't challenge Thucydides's explanation of the conflict. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that Stewart challenged Thucydides's explanation of the conflict, it doesn't use a quotation to challenge Thucydides's explanation: the quoted word "inevitable" is from Thucydides. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence appears to refute Thucydides's explanation, it does so in a way that misrepresents the information in the notes; Allison's Thucydides trap theory is based on Thucydides's explanation of the conflict. Thus, Allison's theory affirms, rather than challenges, Thucydides's explanation.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID efc19153

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

## ID: efc19153

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

Just like states have state flags, some cities have city flags.

Over one hundred US cities have redesigned their flags since 2015.

The city of Pocatello, Idaho, redesigned its flag after it was named the most poorly designed flag in North America.

Pocatello's new flag better represents the city's mountainous geography and civic priorities.

Residents consider the new flag to be a meaningful symbol of civic pride.

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

Over one hundred US cities have redesigned their flags, including Pocatello, whose flag had been named the most poorly A. designed flag in North America.

B. Pocatello is just one of over one hundred US cities that have redesigned their flags.

After it was named the most poorly designed flag in North America, the flag of Pocatello was redesigned to better C. represent the city's geography and civic priorities.

Redesigning a poorly designed city flag can create a meaningful symbol of civic pride, as was the case when Pocatello D. redesigned its original flag to better represent its geography and civic priorities.

## ID: efc19153 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 835b101b

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

## ID: 835b101b

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

Minnesota defines a lake as an inland body of water of at least 10 acres.

Wisconsin's definition of a lake doesn't take size into account.

By its own definition, Wisconsin has over 15,000 lakes, many smaller than 10 acres.

By Minnesota's definition, Wisconsin has only about 6,000 lakes.

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

- A. Wisconsin, which doesn't take size into account in defining a lake, claims that it has over 15,000 lakes.
- B. Because its definition of a lake is different from Minnesota's, it is unclear how many lakes Wisconsin really has.

According to Minnesota's definition of a lake—an inland body of water of at least 10 acres—Wisconsin has about 6,000 lakes.

Minnesota's definition of a lake—an inland body of water of at least 10 acres—is more restrictive than Wisconsin's, which doesn't take size into account.

## ID: 835b101b Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 39d1a519

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

## ID: 39d1a519

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

## ID: 39d1a519 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID aec8d3e8

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

## ID: aec8d3e8

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

Chemical leavening agents cause carbon dioxide to be released within a liquid batter, making the batter rise as it bakes.

Baking soda and baking powder are chemical leavening agents. Baking soda is pure sodium bicarbonate.

To produce carbon dioxide, baking soda needs to be mixed with liquid and an acidic ingredient such as honey.

Baking powder is a mixture of sodium bicarbonate and an acid.

To produce carbon dioxide, baking powder needs to be mixed with liquid but not with an acidic ingredient.

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

- A. To make batters rise, bakers use chemical leavening agents such as baking soda and baking powder.

Baking soda and baking powder are chemical leavening agents that, when mixed with other ingredients, cause carbon dioxide to be released within a batter.

- C. Baking soda is pure sodium bicarbonate, and honey is a type of acidic ingredient.

To produce carbon dioxide within a liquid batter, baking soda needs to be mixed with an acidic ingredient, whereas baking powder does not.

## ID: aec8d3e8 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7fa2b1ee

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

## ID: 7fa2b1ee

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

In meteorology, an air mass is a large body of air with generally uniform humidity and temperature.

Air masses are commonly classified by two-letter names.

The first letter indicates the humidity of the air mass, while the second letter indicates the temperature.

cA (continental arctic) means dry and cold, for example. mT (maritime tropical) means moist and warm.

This classification system is based on the work of a Swedish meteorologist named Tor Bergeron (1891–1977).

The student wants to provide an example of an air mass. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Air masses are large bodies of air with generally uniform humidity and temperature.

The air mass classification system uses two-letter names and is based on the work of Tor Bergeron, a Swedish

- B. meteorologist.

- C. Air masses are commonly classified by a two-letter name that indicates humidity and temperature.

- D. One type of air mass is known as a cA, or continental arctic, air mass because it is dry and cold.

## ID: 7fa2b1ee Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence provides an example of an air mass: the cA, or continental arctic, air mass.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence provides a general definition of air masses; it doesn't provide an example of a specific air mass. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence describes the system used to classify air masses; it doesn't provide an example of a specific air mass. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence explains how air masses are classified; it doesn't provide an example of a specific air mass.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 56b000d0

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

## ID: 56b000d0

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

The factors that affect clutch size (the number of eggs laid at one time) have been well studied in birds but not in lizards.

A team led by Shai Meiri of Tel Aviv University investigated which factors influence lizard clutch size.

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

Larger clutch size was associated with environments in higher latitudes that have more seasonal change.

Lizards in higher-latitude environments may lay larger clutches to take advantage of shorter windows of favorable conditions.

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

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

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

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

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

## ID: 56b000d0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

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

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

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f6d454c1

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

## ID: f6d454c1

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

- If a moon orbiting a planet comes close enough to that planet, tidal forces can cause the moon to break apart.
- In a 2022 study, researchers proposed that Saturn was once orbited by a large moon they named Chrysalis.
- Their simulations indicated that Chrysalis would likely have come very close to Saturn around 160 million years ago.
- At that distance, Chrysalis would have been broken apart by tidal forces.
- The researchers hypothesized that the resulting debris formed Saturn's rings.

The student wants to recount the sequence of events proposed by the researchers. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

According to researchers' simulations, two events likely occurred around 160 million years ago: first, Chrysalis came very close to Saturn, and second, debris from Saturn's rings caused the moon to break apart.

If a moon orbiting a planet (like Saturn) comes close enough to that planet, tidal forces can cause the moon to break apart.

Around 160 million years ago, a large moon (Chrysalis) came close enough to Saturn that tidal forces broke the moon apart; its debris then formed the planet's rings.

First, researchers proposed that Saturn was orbited by a large moon (Chrysalis); next, they conducted simulations; and, finally, they formed a hypothesis.

## ID: f6d454c1 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence recounts the sequence of events proposed by the researchers: a large moon orbiting Saturn came close enough to the planet that it was broken apart by tidal forces, and the resulting debris formed Saturn's rings.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence misrepresents information from the notes; according to the notes, tidal forces, not debris, caused the moon to break apart. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence offers information relevant to the 2022 study but doesn't recount the sequence of events proposed by the researchers. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence recounts a sequence, but it's a sequence of the researchers' activities, not the sequence of events proposed by the researchers.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 92dec236

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

## ID: 92dec236

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

Maika'i Tubbs is a Native Hawaiian sculptor and installation artist.

His work has been shown in the United States, Canada, Japan, and Germany, among other places.

Many of his sculptures feature discarded objects.

His work *Erasure* (2008) includes discarded audiocassette tapes and magnets.

His work *Home Grown* (2009) includes discarded pushpins, plastic plates and forks, and wood.

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

*Erasure* (2008) uses discarded objects such as audiocassette tapes and magnets; *Home Grown* (2009), however, A. includes pushpins, plastic plates and forks, and wood.

B. Tubbs's work, which often features discarded objects, has been shown both within the United States and abroad.

Like many of Tubbs's sculptures, both *Erasure* and *Home Grown* include discarded objects: *Erasure* uses audiocassette C. tapes, and *Home Grown* uses plastic forks.

D. Tubbs completed *Erasure* in 2008 and *Home Grown* in 2009.

## ID: 92dec236 Answer

**Correct Answer: C**

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This choice most effectively emphasizes "a similarity" by identifying a trait the works share: "both *Erasure* and *Home Grown* include discarded objects."

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't "emphasize a similarity." Instead, this choice shows how the materials used in the two works are different. Notice the use of the contrast word "however." Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't "emphasize a similarity between the two works." While it says that Tubbs's work "often features discarded objects," it doesn't provide details about the two works in question. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't "emphasize a similarity." Instead, this choice shows how the works were produced at different times.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 89fbc3eb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 89fbc3eb

The Mission 66 initiative, which was approved by Congress in 1956, represented a major investment in the infrastructure of overburdened national \_\_\_\_ it prioritized physical improvements to the parks' roads, utilities, employee housing, and visitor facilities while also establishing educational programming for the public.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. parks and
- B. parks
- C. parks;
- D. parks,

## ID: 89fbc3eb Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice uses a semicolon to correctly join the first main clause ("The Mission...parks") and the second main clause that begins with "it."

Choice A is incorrect. When coordinating two longer main clauses such as these, it's conventional to use a comma before the coordinating conjunction. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 960dec02

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 960dec02

A recent study tracked the number of bee species present in twenty-seven New York apple orchards over a ten-year period. \_\_\_\_\_ found that when wild growth near an orchard was cleared, the number of different bee species visiting the orchard decreased.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Entomologist Heather Grab:
- B. Entomologist, Heather Grab,
- C. Entomologist Heather Grab
- D. Entomologist Heather Grab,

## ID: 960dec02 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a name and title and between a subject and a verb. No punctuation is needed between the proper noun “Heather Grab” and “entomologist,” the title that describes Grab. Additionally, no punctuation is needed between the sentence’s subject (“Entomologist Heather Grab”) and the main verb (“found”) that indicates what Grab did.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. Setting the entomologist’s name off with commas suggests that it could be removed without affecting the coherence of the sentence, which isn’t the case. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 37e5c794

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 37e5c794

Despite being cheap, versatile, and easy to produce, \_\_\_\_\_ they are made from nonrenewable petroleum, and most do not biodegrade in landfills.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. there are two problems associated with commercial plastics:
- B. two problems are associated with commercial plastics:
- C. commercial plastics' two associated problems are that
- D. commercial plastics have two associated problems:

## ID: 37e5c794 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice ensures that the modifying phrase “despite being cheap, versatile, and easy to produce” appears immediately before the noun it modifies, “commercial plastics,” clearly establishing that the commercial plastics—and not another noun in the sentence—are being described as cheap, versatile, and easy to produce.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the function word “there” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically and confusingly suggests that “there” is cheap, versatile, and easy to produce. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun “two problems” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the “problems” are cheap, versatile, and easy to produce. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “commercial plastics’ two associated problems” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the “problems” are cheap, versatile, and easy to produce.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6f08641e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 6f08641e

On April 5, 1977, Kitty Cone and 150 other disability rights activists entered a San Francisco federal building. After pleading for years—to no effect—for the passage of key antidiscrimination legislation, \_\_\_\_\_ until their demands were addressed. Finally, on April 28, the legislation was signed.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. pressure on lawmakers increased when the activists staged a sit-in protest
- B. a sit-in protest staged by the activists increased pressure on lawmakers
- C. lawmakers came under increased pressure when the activists staged a sit-in protest
- D. the activists increased pressure on lawmakers by staging a sit-in protest

## ID: 6f08641e Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice makes the noun phrase “the activists” the subject of the sentence and places it immediately after the modifying phrase “after...legislation.” In doing so, this choice clearly establishes that the activists—and not another noun in the sentence—were pleading for the passage of antidiscrimination legislation.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “pressure on lawmakers” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the “pressure” was pleading for the passage of antidiscrimination legislation. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “a sit-in protest” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the “protest” was pleading for the passage of antidiscrimination legislation. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “lawmakers” immediately after the modifying phrase suggests that “lawmakers” were pleading for the passage of antidiscrimination legislation. While it’s possible for lawmakers to plead for the passage of legislation, the context strongly suggests that it’s the activists who pleaded for years for the passage of antidiscrimination legislation.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2c49940e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 2c49940e

French philosopher René Descartes doubted whether he could prove his own existence. Eventually, he found proof in his famous phrase "I think, therefore I am." The \_\_\_\_\_ complexity: only those who exist would be able to ponder their existence.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. phrases' simplicity masks its
- B. phrases simplicity masks their
- C. phrase's simplicity masks their
- D. phrase's simplicity masks its

## ID: 2c49940e Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The conventions being tested are the use of possessive nouns and the use of possessive determiners. The singular possessive noun "phrase's" correctly indicates that there is only one simple phrase. The singular possessive determiner "its" agrees in number with the singular possessive noun "phrase's," reinforcing the idea that there is only one simple yet complex phrase.

Choice A is incorrect because the context requires the singular possessive noun "phrase's," not the plural possessive noun "phrases'." Choice B is incorrect because the context requires the singular possessive noun "phrase's" and the corresponding singular possessive determiner "its," not the plural noun "phrases" and the corresponding plural possessive determiner "their." Choice C is incorrect because the context requires the singular possessive determiner "its," not the plural possessive determiner "their."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7f226b4b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 7f226b4b

In a 2023 study, researchers documented a fascinating behavior in the aquatic plant *Elodea densa*. When exposed to low levels of light, the plant's \_\_\_\_\_ the cellular organs that generate energy from light—reshuffled to form a tightly packed, glass-like surface ideal for collecting more light.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. chloroplasts
- B. chloroplasts;
- C. chloroplasts,
- D. chloroplasts—

## ID: 7f226b4b Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of a supplementary element within a sentence. The dash after "chloroplasts" pairs with the dash after "from light" to separate the supplementary element "the cellular organs that generate energy from light" from the rest of the sentence. This supplementary element functions to define the term "chloroplasts," and the pair of dashes indicates that this element could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because a semicolon can't be paired with a dash in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because a comma can't be paired with a dash in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 74ce2f05

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 74ce2f05

A study led by scientist Rebecca Kirby at the University of Wisconsin–Madison found that black bears that eat human food before hibernation have increased levels of a rare carbon isotope, \_\_\_\_\_ due to the higher  $^{13}\text{C}$  levels in corn and cane sugar. Bears with these elevated levels were also found to have much shorter hibernation periods on average.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. carbon-13, ( $^{13}\text{C}$ )
- B. carbon-13 ( $^{13}\text{C}$ )
- C. carbon-13, ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ),
- D. carbon-13 ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ),

## ID: 74ce2f05 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of a supplementary element within a sentence. The comma after “(13C)” pairs with the comma after “isotope” to separate the supplementary element “carbon-13 (13C)” from the rest of the sentence. This supplementary element defines the “rare carbon isotope,” and the pair of commas indicates that this element could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element “carbon-13 (13C)” from the rest of the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element “carbon-13 (13C)” from the rest of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element “carbon-13 (13C)” from the rest of the sentence. The comma after “carbon-13” isn’t necessary because the parentheses around “13C” already separate this element from the rest of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a2816c7f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: a2816c7f

American abstract artist Richard \_\_\_\_\_ his installations to make passersby keenly aware of how one's movements are affected by the physical features of one's environment, assembles large-scale steel plates into sculptures that dominate the outdoor spaces they occupy.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Serra is intending
- B. Serra, intends
- C. Serra, intending
- D. Serra intends

## ID: a2816c7f Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. This choice pairs the comma after "Serra" with the comma after "environment" and uses the nonfinite present participle "intending" to correctly form a supplementary phrase describing the reaction Serra intends his sculptures to provoke. This supplementary phrase appears between the noun phrase that it modifies ("American abstract artist Richard Serra") and the finite present tense verb ("assembles"), which functions as the sentence's main verb and describes what Serra does.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite present continuous tense verb "is intending" can't be used in this way in conjunction with the finite present tense verb "assembles," which already functions as the main verb in the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite present tense verb "intends" can't be used in this way to supplement the noun phrase "American abstract artist Richard Serra." Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite present tense verb "intends" can't be used in this way in conjunction with the finite present tense verb "assembles," which already functions as the main verb in the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID eb95235b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: eb95235b

The Limón technique, developed by Mexican-born dancer and choreographer Jose Limón, is known for its emphasis on breath control and its interplay of weight and \_\_\_\_\_. Dancers may explore, for example, the moment of mid-air suspension at the top of a jump.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. weightlessness
- B. weightlessness which
- C. weightlessness,
- D. weightlessness;

## ID: eb95235b Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. This choice uses a semicolon in a conventional way to join the first main clause ("The Limón...weightlessness") and the second main clause ("dancers...jump").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice B is incorrect. The relative pronoun "which" can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID adf210e7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: adf210e7

The haiku-like poems of Tomas Tranströmer, which present nature- and dream-influenced images in crisp, spare language, have earned the Swedish poet praise from leading contemporary \_\_\_\_\_ them Nigerian American essayist and novelist Teju Cole, who has written that Tranströmer's works "contain a luminous simplicity."

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. writers. Among
- B. writers among
- C. writers; among
- D. writers, among

## ID: adf210e7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a main clause and a supplementary phrase. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the main clause ("The haiku-like...writers") and the supplementary phrase ("among...Cole") that specifies a contemporary writer who has praised Tomas Tranströmer's haiku-like poems.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "among." Choice B is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the main clause and the supplementary phrase with appropriate punctuation. Choice C is incorrect because a semicolon can't be used in this way to join the main clause ("The haiku-like...writers") and the supplementary phrase ("among...Cole").

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 908a76b8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 908a76b8

When a given industry—water and electricity are two well-known examples—carries high infrastructural start-up costs and other barriers that discourage competition, \_\_\_\_\_ of just one or two suppliers per municipality. Such industries are known as natural monopolies.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. these often consist
- B. they often consist
- C. it often consists
- D. this often consists

## ID: 908a76b8 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is pronoun-antecedent agreement. The singular pronoun "it" agrees in number with the singular antecedent "industry" and clearly indicates that the industry consists of just one or two suppliers per municipality.

Choice A is incorrect. The plural pronoun "these" neither agrees in number with the singular antecedent "industry" nor clearly indicates that the industry—not another plural noun in the sentence, such as "start-up costs" or "barriers"—consists of just one or two suppliers per municipality. Choice B is incorrect because the plural pronoun "they" doesn't agree in number with the singular antecedent "industry." Choice D is incorrect because the singular pronoun "this" is ambiguous in this context; the resulting sentence leaves unclear what consists of just one or two suppliers per municipality.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 1ee7b429

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 1ee7b429

Bonnie Buratti of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_ data about Saturn's rings collected by the *Cassini* spacecraft when she made an interesting discovery: the tiny moons embedded between and within Saturn's rings are shaped by the buildup of ring material on the moons' surfaces.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. studies
- B. has been studying
- C. will study
- D. was studying

## ID: 1ee7b429 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense in a sentence. In this choice, the past progressive tense verb "was studying" is consistent with the other past tense verbs (e.g., "made" and "collected") used to describe Buratti's discovery. Further, the past progressive tense correctly indicates that an ongoing action in the past was occurring (she was studying) at the same time that another event occurred in the past (she made an interesting discovery).

Choice A is incorrect because the present tense verb "studies" isn't consistent with the past tense verbs used to describe Buratti's discovery. Choice B is incorrect because the present perfect progressive tense verb "has been studying" isn't consistent with the past tense verbs used to describe Buratti's discovery. Choice C is incorrect because the future tense verb "will study" isn't consistent with the past tense verbs used to describe Buratti's discovery.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 13fcf575

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 13fcf575

Roughly 300 nights a year, when the cold air descending from the Andes Mountains meets the warm air rising from Venezuela's coastal Lake Maracaibo, the result is a spectacular lightning storm, its strikes so bright, so localized, and so \_\_\_\_\_ that it has become known as "Maracaibo's Lighthouse."

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. dependable:
- B. dependable;
- C. dependable
- D. dependable,

## ID: 13fcf575 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of an integrated relative clause. No punctuation is needed before the relative clause beginning with "that" because the content of the relative clause ("that...Lighthouse") is integral to the meaning of the coordinated adjectival phrase ("so bright, so localized, and so dependable") that it modifies.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the coordinated adjectival phrase ("so bright...dependable") and the integrated relative clause that modifies it. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the coordinated adjectival phrase ("so bright...dependable") and the integrated relative clause that modifies it. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the coordinated adjectival phrase ("so bright...dependable") and the integrated relative clause that modifies it.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 940ff6f7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 940ff6f7

Jamaican British artist Willard Wigan is known for his remarkable \_\_\_\_\_ so small that they are best viewed through a microscope, Wigan's sculptures are made from tiny natural materials, such as spiderweb strands.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. microsculptures creations
- B. microsculptures, creations
- C. microsculptures. Creations
- D. microsculptures and creations

## ID: 940ff6f7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between sentences. In this choice, the period is used to correctly mark the boundary between one sentence ("Jamaican...microsculptures") and another ("Creations...strands"). The noun phrase beginning with "creations" modifies the subject of the next sentence, "Wigan's sculptures."

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences ("Jamaican...microsculptures" and "Creations...strands") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice D is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction "and" can't be used in this way to join sentences.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID aaa1907f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: aaa1907f

To serve local families during the Great Depression, innovative New York City librarian Pura Belpré offered storytelling in both English and Spanish, an uncommon \_\_\_\_\_ celebrated *el Día de los Tres Reyes Magos*, an important community holiday; and put on puppet shows dramatizing Puerto Rican folktales.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. practice, at the time
- B. practice at the time;
- C. practice, at the time,
- D. practice at the time,

## ID: aaa1907f Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of elements in a complex series. It's conventional to use a semicolon to separate items in a complex series with internal punctuation, and in this choice, the semicolon after "time" is conventionally used to separate the first item ("offered...time") and the second ("celebrated...holiday") in the series of activities that librarian Pura Belpré offered. Moreover, the semicolon after "time" matches the semicolon used later to separate the second item ("celebrated...holiday") and the third ("and...folktales") in the series.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the first item and the second item in the complex series. Furthermore, a comma isn't needed between the noun "practice" and the prepositional phrase "at the time" because the prepositional phrase is essential to the full meaning of the phrase "an uncommon practice at the time." Choice C is incorrect because a comma after "time" doesn't match the semicolon used later to separate the second ("celebrated...holiday") and third ("and...folktales") items in the series. Furthermore, a comma isn't needed between the noun "practice" and the prepositional phrase "at the time" because the prepositional phrase is essential to the full meaning of the phrase "an uncommon practice at the time." Choice D is incorrect because a comma after "time" doesn't match the semicolon used later to separate the second ("celebrated...holiday") and third ("and...folktales") items in the series.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 7f48b098

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 7f48b098

Photosynthesis, the mechanism by which plants use sunlight to turn carbon dioxide and water into \_\_\_\_\_ is fueled in part by an enzyme called Photosystem II that harvests energy-giving electrons from water molecules.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. nutrients
- B. nutrients and
- C. nutrients,
- D. nutrients—

## ID: 7f48b098 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of a supplementary element within a sentence. The comma after “nutrients” pairs with the comma after “photosynthesis” to separate the supplementary element “the mechanism by which plants use sunlight to turn carbon dioxide and water into nutrients” from the rest of the sentence. This supplementary element functions to define the term “photosynthesis,” and the pair of commas indicates that this element could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because a conjunction can’t be paired with a comma in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because a dash can’t be paired with a comma in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9df6da04

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 9df6da04

Entomologists Yash Sondhi and Samuel Fabian have tried to explain why moths fly erratically around light sources at night. Knowing that flying insects keep their backs pointed toward sunlight during the day, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- the researchers theorize that moths, mistaking nighttime lights for the Sun, continually try to reorient their bodies while A. flying near such lights.
- the researchers' theory is that moths mistake nighttime lights for the Sun, continually trying to reorient their bodies while B. flying near such lights.
- moths mistake nighttime lights for the Sun and continually try to reorient their bodies while flying near such lights, the C. researchers theorize.
- moths continually try to reorient their bodies while flying near nighttime lights, the researchers theorize, mistaking such D. lights for the Sun.

## ID: 9df6da04 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice makes the noun phrase "the researchers" the subject of the sentence and places it immediately after the modifying phrase "knowing...day." In doing so, this choice clearly establishes that the researchers—and not another noun in the sentence—know that flying insects keep their backs pointed toward sunlight during the day.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase "the researchers' theory" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the researchers' theory knows that flying insects keep their backs pointed toward sunlight during the day. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun "moths" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that moths know that flying insects keep their backs pointed toward sunlight during the day. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun "moths" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that moths know that flying insects keep their backs pointed toward sunlight during the day.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 0f39b19c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 0f39b19c

After a spate of illnesses as a child, Wilma Rudolph was told she might never walk again. Defying all odds, Rudolph didn't just walk, she \_\_\_\_\_ the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome, she won both the 100- and 200-meter dashes and clinched first place for her team in the 4x100-meter relay, becoming the first US woman to win three gold medals in a single Olympics.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. ran—fast—during
- B. ran—fast during
- C. ran—fast, during
- D. ran—fast. During

## ID: 0f39b19c Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence (“Defying...fast”) and another sentence that begins with a supplementary phrase (“During...Olympics”).

Choice A is incorrect. When a dash is present in a sentence (“ran—fast”), it’s not conventional to use another dash (“fast—during”) to mark the boundary between sentences because it creates a potentially confusing sentence. In this context, a period, semicolon, or colon would be clear and more conventional. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences (“Defying...fast”) and (“during...Olympics”) are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ae439895

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: ae439895

In her 1983 book *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling*, sociologist Arlie Russell Hochschild first explored at length her conception of a “sociology of emotions”—the idea that the various cultural and ideological frameworks a person has internalized (class, gender, political affiliation, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ each emotional reaction that person has within a situation.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. underlies
- B. is underlying
- C. underlie
- D. has been underlying

## ID: ae439895 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The plural verb "underlie" agrees in number with the plural subject "frameworks."

Choice A is incorrect because the singular verb "underlies" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "frameworks." Choice B is incorrect because the singular verb "is underlying" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "frameworks." Choice D is incorrect because the singular verb "has been underlying" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "frameworks."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f0864217

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: f0864217

*Rabinal Achí* is a precolonial Maya dance drama performed annually in Rabinal, a town in the Guatemalan highlands. Based on events that occurred when Rabinal was a city-state ruled by a king, \_\_\_\_\_ had once been an ally of the king but was later captured while leading an invading force against him.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. *Rabinal Achí* tells the story of K'iche' Achí, a military leader who
- B. K'iche' Achí, the military leader in the story of *Rabinal Achí*,
- C. the military leader whose story is told in *Rabinal Achí*, K'iche' Achí,
- D. there was a military leader, K'iche' Achí, who in *Rabinal Achí*

ID: f0864217 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The modifier “Based on events...by a king,” is describing the drama “Rabinal Achí.” Modifiers need to be next to the subjects they describe, so “Rabinal Achí” needs to be the first word after the comma.

Choice B is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. The modifier “Based on events...by a king,” is describing the drama “Rabinal Achí.” Modifiers need to be next to the subjects they describe, so “Rabinal Achí” needs to be the first word after the comma. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. The modifier “Based on events...by a king,” is describing the drama “Rabinal Achí.” Modifiers need to be next to the subjects they describe, so “Rabinal Achí” needs to be the first word after the comma. Choice D is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. The modifier “Based on events...by a king,” is describing the drama “Rabinal Achí.” Modifiers need to be next to the subjects they describe, so “Rabinal Achí” needs to be the first word after the comma.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c91ef0f0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: c91ef0f0

During the American Civil War, Thomas Morris Chester braved the front lines as a war correspondent for the *Philadelphia Press*. Amplifying the voices and experiences of Black soldiers \_\_\_\_\_ of particular importance to Chester, who later became an activist and lawyer during the postwar Reconstruction period.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. were
- B. have been
- C. are
- D. was

## ID: c91ef0f0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "was" agrees in number with the singular subject "amplifying." Gerunds such as "amplifying" are always singular.

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "were" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "amplifying." Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "have been" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "amplifying." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "are" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "amplifying."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6e193b19

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 6e193b19

Professional American football player Fred Cox invented one of the world's most popular toys. In the 1970s, he came up with the idea for the Nerf football, which \_\_\_\_\_ of the harder and heavier regulation football.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. were a smaller, foam version
- B. are smaller, foam versions
- C. were smaller, foam versions
- D. is a smaller, foam version

## ID: 6e193b19 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement and agreement between nouns. The singular verb "is" and the singular noun "version" both agree in number with the relative pronoun "which." In this context, "which" functions as a singular subject because it refers to the singular noun "the Nerf football."

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "were" doesn't agree in number with the singular noun phrase "the Nerf football" that it's modifying. Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "are" and the plural noun "versions" don't agree in number with the singular noun phrase "the Nerf football" that they're modifying. Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "were" and the plural noun "versions" don't agree in number with the singular noun phrase "the Nerf football" that they're modifying.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ac5536c1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: ac5536c1

Beatrix Potter is perhaps best known for writing and illustrating children's books such as *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (1902), but she also dedicated herself to mycology, the study of \_\_\_\_\_ more than 350 paintings of the fungal species she observed in nature and submitting her research on spore germination to the Linnean Society of London.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. fungi; producing
- B. fungi. Producing
- C. fungi producing
- D. fungi, producing

## ID: ac5536c1 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between two supplementary phrases following the coordinate clause ("but she...mycology"). This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the supplementary noun phrase ("the study of fungi") that defines the term "mycology" and the supplementary participial phrase ("producing...London") that provides additional information about the extent to which Potter dedicated herself to mycology.

Choice A is incorrect because a semicolon can't be used in this way to join two supplementary phrases following a coordinate clause. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "producing." Choice C is incorrect. The lack of punctuation results in a sentence that illogically suggests that the study of fungi is producing more than 350 paintings.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9c3630b9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 9c3630b9

Using natural debris, such as dried \_\_\_\_\_ such as plastic bags; and more traditional art supplies, such as tree glue, Ghanaian artist Ed Franklin Gavua creates his striking Yiiikakaii African masks, which he hopes can help viewers rethink how waste is used in their communities.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. leaves, man-made trash:
- B. leaves; man-made trash,
- C. leaves, man-made trash,
- D. leaves; man-made trash;

## ID: 9c3630b9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of elements in a complex series. It's conventional to use a semicolon to separate items in a complex series with internal punctuation, and in this choice, the semicolon after "leaves" is conventionally used to separate the first item ("natural debris, such as dried leaves") and the second item ("man-made trash, such as plastic bags") in the series of materials used by Gavua. Further, the comma after "trash" correctly separates the noun phrase "man-made trash" from the supplementary phrase ("such as plastic bags") that describes it.

Choice A is incorrect because a comma after "leaves" doesn't match the semicolon used later to separate the second and third items in the series ("man-made...bags" and "and...glue"). Additionally, it's not conventional to use a colon in this way to separate a supplementary phrase ("such as plastic bags") from the noun phrase it modifies ("man-made trash"). Choice C is incorrect because a comma after "leaves" doesn't match the semicolon used later to separate the second and third items in the series ("man-made...bags" and "and...glue"). Choice D is incorrect because it's not conventional to use a semicolon in this way to separate a supplementary phrase ("such as plastic bags") from the noun phrase it modifies ("man-made trash").

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3a2d77d7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 3a2d77d7

In the 1950s, novel audio technologies allowed the addition of another instrument to jazz and swing \_\_\_\_ relatively quiet instrument, its full range of sound was finally audible alongside the blaring brass instruments of the time, allowing flautists like Bennie Maupin and Bobbi Humphrey to perform with other jazz greats.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. music, the flute, a
- B. music. The flute, a
- C. music; the flute, a
- D. music: the flute. A

## ID: 3a2d77d7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within and between sentences. In this choice, the colon correctly introduces the name of the instrument (the flute) that novel audio technologies allowed to be added to jazz and swing. In addition, the period is used to correctly mark the boundary between one sentence ("In...flute") and another ("A relatively...greats").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses ("In...quiet instrument" and "its...greats"). Choice B is incorrect. In standard English, it's unconventional to form a sentence in this way with two uncoordinated subjects ("the flute" and "its full range of sound"), and the lack of a clear main subject results in an awkwardly constructed and confusing sentence. Choice C is incorrect. In standard English, it's unconventional to form an independent clause in this way with two uncoordinated subjects ("the flute" and "its full range of sound"), and the lack of a clear main subject results in an awkwardly constructed and confusing clause.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 435809d8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 435809d8

On March 23, 2021, a gust of wind wreaked havoc on global trade. *Ever Given*, an international shipping container vessel, became lodged in Egypt's Suez Canal, a major shipping route between Europe and Asia. The vessel took six days to \_\_\_\_\_. It's as heavy as two thousand blue whales when fully loaded.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. dislodge in part due to its sheer size,
- B. dislodge, in part due to its sheer size:
- C. dislodge, in part due to its sheer size,
- D. dislodge, in part, due to its sheer size

## ID: 435809d8 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between main clauses and a supplementary element. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the main clause ("The vessel took six days to dislodge") and the supplementary element ("in part due to its sheer size") that provides additional information on why the vessel was difficult to dislodge. Additionally, this choice correctly uses a colon to introduce another main clause that describes the vessel's size ("it's as heavy as two thousand blue whales when fully loaded").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between two main clauses ("The vessel...size" and "it's...loaded"). Additionally, it fails to mark the boundary between the main clause ("The vessel took six days to dislodge") and the supplementary element ("in part due to its sheer size"). Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between two main clauses ("The vessel...size" and "it's...loaded"). Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses ("The vessel...size" and "it's...loaded") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID ea0aa676

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: ea0aa676

In the 1970s, Janaki Ammal, a prominent botanist, emerged as a powerful voice in India's environmental conservation movement. Her exhaustive chromosomal survey of plants in Silent Valley, a pristine tropical forest in Kerala, India, that is home to nearly 1,000 species of native flora (many of which are endangered), \_\_\_\_\_ instrumental in the government's decision to preserve the forest.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. are
- B. were
- C. have been
- D. was

## ID: ea0aa676 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The subject "survey" is singular, and so is the verb "was."

Choice A is incorrect. The subject "survey" is singular, but the verb "are" is plural. Choice B is incorrect. The subject "survey" is singular, but the verb "were" is plural. Choice C is incorrect. The subject "survey" is singular, but the verb "have been" is plural.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 83898524

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

**ID: 83898524**

In addition to advocating for South America's independence in two political treatises, the *Cartagena Manifesto* and the *Letter from Jamaica*, Simón Bolívar personally led armies against the Spanish, liberating three South American territories—New Granada (present-day Colombia and Panama), Venezuela, and Quito (present-day \_\_\_\_\_ from colonial rule).

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Ecuador,)
- B. Ecuador)
- C. Ecuador),
- D. Ecuador)—

**ID: 83898524 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of a supplementary element within a sentence. The dash after “Ecuador” and the closing parenthesis pairs with the dash after “territories” to separate the supplementary element (“New...Ecuador”) from the rest of the sentence. The supplementary element specifies the three South American territories that Simón Bolívar liberated, and the pair of dashes indicates that this element could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Furthermore, punctuation isn't needed between “Ecuador” and the closing parenthesis. Choice B is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because a comma can't be paired with a dash to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID fba5d8d1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: fba5d8d1

In a 2016 study, Eastern Washington University psychologist Amani El-Alayli found that, among the study participants who experienced frisson (a physiological response akin to goosebumps or getting the chills) while listening to music, there was one personality trait that they scored particularly \_\_\_\_\_ openness to experience.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. high. On
- B. high on;
- C. high on
- D. high on:

## ID: fba5d8d1 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a main clause and a supplementary phrase. In this choice, a colon is correctly used to mark the boundary between the main clause ("there...on") and the supplementary phrase ("openness to experience") and to introduce the information that identifies which personality trait participants scored especially high on.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "on" and separates a necessary preposition from the clause beginning with "there." Choice B is incorrect because a semicolon can't be used in this way to join the main clause ("there...on") and the supplementary phrase ("openness to experience"). A semicolon is conventionally used to join two main clauses, whereas a colon is conventionally used to introduce an element that explains or amplifies the information in the preceding clause, making the colon the better choice in this context. Choice C is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the main clause ("there...on") and the supplementary phrase ("openness to experience").

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID dc645172

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: dc645172

The artistic talents of Barbara Chase-Riboud, most known for her 1979 historical novel *Sally Hemings* and the conversation it inspired, \_\_\_\_\_ limited to the realm of prose: she first excelled in sculpture, where her affinity for bronze—a material she described as “timeless” due to its use across eras and cultures—became part of her artistic identity.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. hasn't been
- B. wasn't
- C. isn't
- D. aren't

## ID: dc645172 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The subject "talents" is plural, and so is the verb "aren't": "the artistic talents...aren't limited."

Choice A is incorrect. The subject "talents" is plural, but the verb "hasn't been" is singular. Choice B is incorrect. The subject "talents" is plural, but the verb "wasn't" is singular. Choice C is incorrect. The subject "talents" is plural, but the verb "isn't" is singular.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 886dc9f9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 886dc9f9

On July 23, 1854, a clipper ship called the *Flying Cloud* entered San Francisco \_\_\_\_ left New York Harbor under the guidance of Captain Josiah Perkins Creesy and his wife, navigator Eleanor Creesy, a mere 89 days and 8 hours earlier, the celebrated ship set a record that would stand for 135 years.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Bay and having
- B. Bay. Having
- C. Bay, having
- D. Bay having

## ID: 886dc9f9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period after "Bay" is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence ("On...Bay") and another sentence that begins with a supplementary phrase ("Having...years"). Here, the supplementary phrase beginning with "having" modifies the subject of the second sentence, "the celebrated ship."

Choice A is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction "and" can't be used in this way to join sentences. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to join two sentences. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences ("On...Bay" and "having...years") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 59a246dc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 59a246dc

When external forces are applied to common glass made from silicates, energy builds up around minuscule defects in the material, resulting in fractures. Recently, engineer Erkka Frankberg of Tampere University in Finland used the chemical \_\_\_\_\_ to make a glassy solid that can withstand higher strain than silicate glass can before fracturing.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. compound, aluminum oxide
- B. compound aluminum oxide,
- C. compound, aluminum oxide,
- D. compound aluminum oxide

## ID: 59a246dc Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation around noun phrases. No punctuation is needed because the noun phrase “aluminum oxide” is a restrictive appositive, meaning that it provides essential identifying information about the noun phrase before it, “the chemical compound,” and thus doesn’t require punctuation around it.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. Choice C is incorrect because the noun phrase “aluminum oxide” is a restrictive appositive. Setting the phrase off with punctuation suggests that it could be removed without affecting the coherence of the sentence, which isn’t the case.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a153ad6a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: a153ad6a

While light is known as one of the fastest-moving substances, it slows down when passing through some types of matter. One such type of matter is a form of cooled, condensed gas called a Bose-Einstein condensate \_\_\_\_ Dutch physicist Lene Hau famously used a BEC to slow a beam of light to a complete halt.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. (BEC),
- B. (BEC) and
- C. (BEC);
- D. (BEC)

## ID: a153ad6a Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a semicolon to join the first main clause ("One...(BEC)") and the second main clause ("Dutch...halt").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. Without a comma preceding it, a conjunction can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9eb43963

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

**ID: 9eb43963**

Water in the North Atlantic Ocean is pushed eastward by powerful winds, but the rotation of Earth and interference from nearby landmasses together cause \_\_\_\_\_ to swirl into a massive, churning whirlpool—also called the North Atlantic Gyre—that spins clockwise.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. these
- B. those
- C. them
- D. it

**ID: 9eb43963 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is pronoun-antecedent agreement. The singular pronoun "it" agrees in number with the singular antecedent "water" and clearly indicates that the water swirls into a whirlpool.

Choice A is incorrect. The plural pronoun "these" neither agrees in number with the singular antecedent "water" nor clearly indicates that the water—not another plural noun in the sentence, such as "landmasses" or "winds"—swirls into a whirlpool. Choice B is incorrect. The plural pronoun "those" neither agrees in number with the singular antecedent "water" nor clearly indicates that the water—not another plural noun in the sentence, such as "landmasses" or "winds"—swirls into a whirlpool. Choice C is incorrect. The plural pronoun "them" neither agrees in number with the singular antecedent "water" nor clearly indicates that the water—not another plural noun in the sentence, such as "landmasses" or "winds"—swirls into a whirlpool.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID eeb14722

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: eeb14722

The soundtrack to Mira Nair's 1991 film *Mississippi Masala* expressively captures the clashing of cultures that happens when \_\_\_\_\_ (a young Indian woman from Uganda and a young African American man from Mississippi) meet. Featured throughout the film are songs from Uganda's Afrigo Band, the Indian composer L. Subramaniam, and the Mississippi blues musician Sam Chatmon.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. it's two protagonists
- B. its two protagonist's
- C. it's two protagonist's
- D. its two protagonists

## ID: eeb14722 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The conventions being tested are the use of possessive determiners and the use of plural nouns. The singular possessive determiner "its"—which agrees in number with the singular noun phrase "Mira Nair's 1991 film *Mississippi Masala*"—and the plural noun "protagonists" correctly indicate that Nair's film has multiple protagonists.

Choice A is incorrect because "it's" is the contraction for "it is," not a possessive determiner. Choice B is incorrect because the context requires the plural noun "protagonists," not the singular possessive noun "protagonist's." Choice C is incorrect because the context requires the possessive determiner "its" and the plural noun "protagonists," not the contraction "it's" or the singular possessive noun "protagonist's."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 6e071432

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 6e071432

In 1986, conceptual artist Sophie Calle asked twenty-three people, all of whom had been born without sight, to describe “their image of beauty” in rich detail. Calle paired excerpts of these conversations with photographs—both of interviewees and the items they \_\_\_\_\_ to powerful effect in her exhibition *The Blind*.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. described, from hair to grass to sculptures
- B. described, from hair to grass to sculptures—
- C. described—from hair to grass to sculptures,
- D. described: from hair to grass to sculptures

## ID: 6e071432 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of supplementary elements within a sentence. The comma after "described" separates the first supplementary element ("both of interviewees and the items they described") from the second supplementary element ("from hair to grass to sculptures"). Furthermore, the dash after "sculptures" pairs with the dash after "photographs" to separate these two supplementary elements from the rest of the sentence. The pair of dashes, which operate at a higher organizing level than the comma, indicates that the elements between the dashes function together—in this case, the second supplement ("from...sculptures") describes the range of items mentioned in the first supplement—and could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to appropriately punctuate the supplementary elements in the sentence. A dash is needed after "sculptures" to separate the supplementary elements ("both...sculptures") from the rest of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because it fails to appropriately punctuate the supplementary elements in the sentence. The two supplementary elements "both...described" and "from...sculptures" function together to describe the photographs, and placing a dash between them would make this relationship less clear, suggesting that the supplement "both...described" is a standalone element that could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence, which isn't the case. Choice D is incorrect because it fails to appropriately punctuate the supplementary elements in the sentence. A colon isn't conventionally used in this way to separate a supplementary element ("from hair to grass to sculptures") from the noun phrase it is modifying ("items they described"). Additionally, a dash is needed after "sculptures" to separate the supplementary elements ("both...sculptures") from the rest of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 20ea68b7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 20ea68b7

It can take time for proposed amendments to the US Constitution to become law. For example, the Twenty-Second Amendment, which limits the number of \_\_\_\_\_ can serve, was first proposed in 1947 but wasn't approved by the required three-fourths majority of state legislatures until 1951.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. terms presidents
- B. term's presidents
- C. term's president's
- D. terms president's

## ID: 20ea68b7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of plural nouns. The plural nouns "terms" and "presidents" correctly indicate that the amendment involves multiple terms and applies to presidents in general.

Choice B is incorrect because the context requires the plural noun "terms," not the singular possessive noun "term's." Choice C is incorrect because the context requires the plural nouns "terms" and "presidents," not the singular possessive nouns "term's" and "president's." Choice D is incorrect because the context requires the plural noun "presidents," not the singular possessive noun "president's."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 77e06a09

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 77e06a09

Between 322 and 184 BCE, the Maurya Empire established a complex economic system that, through trade and centralized \_\_\_\_\_ funded major infrastructure projects throughout the Indian subcontinent. This included the building of many roads, canals, and hospitals.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. taxation:
- B. taxation,
- C. taxation—
- D. taxation

## ID: 77e06a09 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. The comma after "taxation" pairs with the comma after "that" to separate the supplementary element "through trade and centralized taxation" from the rest of the sentence. This supplementary element functions to identify the funding source of the Mauryan economy, and the pair of commas indicates that this element could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because a colon can't be paired with a comma in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because a dash can't be paired with a comma in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 6ea8c23f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 6ea8c23f

In 2018, a team of researchers led by Dr. Caitlin Whalen compiled every available measurement of ocean mixing rates from the past two decades. With this novel data set, the team was able to determine how current-driven mixing varies across \_\_\_\_\_ and what impact it has on the distribution of heat and nutrients in the ocean.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. regions,
- B. regions:
- C. regions;
- D. regions

## ID: 6ea8c23f Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between coordinates in a sentence. The two elements "how...regions" and "what...ocean" work together as coordinates to complete the description of what the team was able to determine. Because there are only two coordinates in this case (as opposed to a series of three or more), no punctuation is needed between them.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the coordinates "how...regions" and "what...ocean." Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the coordinates "how...regions" and "what...ocean." Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the coordinates "how...regions" and "what...ocean."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID aab74a3b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: aab74a3b

Researcher Lin Zhi developed a process for increasing the tensile strength—measured in gigapascals, or GPa—of silkworm \_\_\_\_\_ dissolving and reweaving the silk in a solution of iron metal ions, zinc, and sugar, Zhi increased the amount of force required to stretch it from approximately 0.5 GPa to 2 GPa.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. silk, by
- B. silk by
- C. silk and by
- D. silk. By

## ID: aab74a3b Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The independent clauses "researcher Lin Zhi...silk" and "by dissolving...2 GPa" can be grammatically separated by a period. They can stand alone as sentences, and this is the only choice that lets them do that.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice results in a grammar error called a comma splice. "Researcher Lin Zhi...silk" and "by dissolving...2 GPa" are both independent clauses. They need to either be separated with punctuation like a period or a semicolon, or they need to be connected by a comma and a coordinating conjunction like "and." A comma alone isn't enough. Choice B is incorrect. This choice results in a grammar error called a run-on sentence. "Researcher Lin Zhi...silk" and "by dissolving...2 GPa" are both independent clauses. They need to either be separated with punctuation like a period or a semicolon, or they need to be connected by a comma and a coordinating conjunction like "and." Choice C is incorrect. This choice results in a grammar error called a run-on sentence. "Researcher Lin Zhi...silk" and "by dissolving...2 GPa" are both independent clauses. The coordinating conjunction "and" isn't enough to link them by itself. We need a comma, too.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 512f0ac9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 512f0ac9

Working from an earlier discovery of Charpentier's, chemists Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna—winners of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry—re-created and then reprogrammed the so-called “genetic scissors” of a species of DNA-cleaving bacteria \_\_\_\_ a tool that is revolutionizing the field of gene technology.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. to forge
- B. forging
- C. forged
- D. and forging

## ID: 512f0ac9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of finite and nonfinite verb forms within a sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive “to forge” is correctly used to form a nonfinite (infinitive) clause that explains why the chemists re-created and reprogrammed the DNA-cleaving bacteria.

Choice B is incorrect. Without a comma separating the main clause (“chemists...bacteria”) from the participle “forging,” this choice illogically suggests that the bacteria are forging a tool, which doesn’t make sense. Choice C is incorrect. Without a coordinating conjunction such as “and” placed before it, the finite past tense verb “forged” can’t be used in this way to describe the chemists’ actions. Choice D is incorrect. If read as a finite verb, the present progressive verb “forging” isn’t consistent with the past tense verbs used in this sentence to describe the actions of the chemists. If read as a nonfinite verb, the participle “forging” can’t be used in this way because there is no following main clause for it to modify.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a9e5b788

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: a9e5b788

In discussing Mary Shelley's 1818 epistolary novel *Frankenstein*, literary theorist Gayatri Spivak directs the reader's attention to the character of Margaret Saville. As Spivak points out, Saville is not the protagonist of Shelley's \_\_\_\_\_ as the recipient of the letters that frame the book's narrative, she's the "occasion" of it.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. novel
- B. novel,
- C. novel; rather,
- D. novel, rather,

## ID: a9e5b788 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a semicolon to join a main clause ("Saville...novel") and a second main clause ("she's...it") preceded by supplementary elements ("rather...narrative").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, the comma after "novel" can't be used in this way to join the two main clauses.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID cdbbbf94

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: cdbbbf94

As British scientist Peter Whibberley has observed, “the Earth is not a very good timekeeper.” Earth’s slightly irregular rotation rate means that measurements of time must be periodically adjusted. Specifically, an extra “leap second” (the 86,401st second of the day) is \_\_\_\_\_ time based on the planet’s rotation lags a full nine-tenths of a second behind time kept by precise atomic clocks.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. added, whenever
- B. added; whenever
- C. added. Whenever
- D. added whenever

## ID: cdbbbf94 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a verb and a preposition. When, as in this case, a verb (“is added”) is immediately followed by a preposition (“whenever”), no punctuation is needed.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and the preposition. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and the preposition. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and the preposition.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a3e87535

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: a3e87535

Julia Alvarez's 1994 novel *In the Time of the Butterflies*, a fictionalized account of the lives of the Mirabal \_\_\_\_\_ can serve as a starting point for those wanting to explore how the rule of dictator Rafael Trujillo has been represented in Dominican American literature.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. sisters, and
- B. sisters and
- C. sisters,
- D. sisters

## ID: a3e87535 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of a supplementary element within a sentence. The comma after "sisters" pairs with the comma after "*Butterflies*" to separate the supplementary element "a fictionalized account of the lives of the Mirabal sisters" from the rest of the sentence. This supplementary element functions to describe the novel *In the Time of the Butterflies*, and the pair of commas indicates that this element could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because a comma and conjunction can't be used in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d2b81427

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: d2b81427

In assessing the films of Japanese director Akira Kurosawa, \_\_\_\_\_ have missed his equally deep engagement with Japanese artistic traditions such as Noh theater.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. many critics have focused on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources but
- B. Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources has been the focus of many critics, who
- C. there are many critics who have focused on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources, but they
- D. the focus of many critics has been on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources; they

## ID: d2b81427 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice makes the noun phrase “many critics” the subject of the sentence and places it immediately after the modifying phrase “in assessing...Kurosawa.” In doing so, this choice clearly establishes that it is the critics—and not another noun in the sentence—who assess Kurosawa’s films.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “Kurosawa’s...sources” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that his use of Western literary sources is what assesses Kurosawa’s films. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the function word “there” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that “there” is what assesses Kurosawa’s films. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “the focus...critics” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the critics’ focus is what assesses Kurosawa’s films.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 56315bd0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 56315bd0

Solarpunk is an art movement that imagines renewable energy–powered technology infused complementarily into nature. In Paolo Bacigalupi's solarpunk short story "Efficiency," an artificial intelligence that absorbs sustainable energies, redistributing them through intricate networks of weights and generators, \_\_\_\_\_ Chicago's energy grid.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. have been powering
- B. power
- C. powers
- D. are powering

## ID: 56315bd0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "powers" agrees in number with the singular subject "an artificial intelligence."

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "have been powering" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "an artificial intelligence." Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "power" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "an artificial intelligence." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "are powering" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "an artificial intelligence."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e76e74e8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: e76e74e8

Over twenty years ago, in a landmark experiment in the psychology of choice, professor Sheena Iyengar set up a jam-tasting booth at a grocery store. The number of jams available for tasting \_\_\_\_\_ some shoppers had twenty-four different options, others only six. Interestingly, the shoppers with fewer jams to choose from purchased more jam.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. varied:
- B. varied,
- C. varied, while
- D. varied while

## ID: e76e74e8 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of a colon within a sentence. In this choice, the colon is used in a conventional way to introduce the following description of how the number of jams available varied.

Choice B is incorrect because it creates a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses ("the number...varied" and "some...six"). Choice C is incorrect because it results in an illogical and confusing sentence. Using the conjunction "while" to join the main clause ("the number...varied") with the following clause's description of the number of jams available suggests that the variation in the number of jams is in contrast to some shoppers having twenty-four options. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an illogical and confusing sentence. Using "while" in this way suggests that the number of jams available varied during the time in which some shoppers had twenty-four options and others had six. The sentence makes clear, however, that what follows "varied" is a description of the variation, not a separate, simultaneous occurrence.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b74f676f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: b74f676f

Classical composer Florence Price's 1927 move to Chicago marked a turning point in her career. It was there that Price premiered her First Symphony—a piece that was praised for blending traditional Romantic motifs with aspects of Black folk music—and \_\_\_\_\_ supportive relationships with other Black artists.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. developing
- B. developed
- C. to develop
- D. having developed

## ID: b74f676f Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The missing verb is part of the same clause as the verb "premiered," and "Price" is the subject of both. So we need the past-tense form "developed" in order to match "premiered."

Choice A is incorrect. This choice creates a verb form error. The missing verb is part of the same clause as the verb "premiered," and "Price" is the subject of both. So we need the past-tense form "developed" in order to match "premiered."

Choice C is incorrect. This choice creates a verb form error. The missing verb is part of the same clause as the verb "premiered," and "Price" is the subject of both. So we need the past-tense form "developed" in order to match "premiered."

Choice D is incorrect. This choice creates a verb form error. The missing verb is part of the same clause as the verb "premiered," and "Price" is the subject of both. So we need the past-tense form "developed" in order to match "premiered."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1a61e2ae

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 1a61e2ae

English poet and Shakespeare contemporary John Donne's \_\_\_\_\_ much admired during his lifetime (1572–1631) and in the decades that followed, had, at the time of their enthusiastic rediscovery by the early twentieth-century modernists, been essentially gathering dust for the intervening 250 years.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. works were
- B. works, were
- C. works,
- D. works had been

## ID: 1a61e2ae Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation and verb forms within a sentence. This choice leaves the verb "admired" in its nonfinite past participle form to function within a supplementary element ("much... followed"). Offset by commas after "works" and "followed," this supplementary element interrupts the main clause ("English poet and Shakespeare contemporary John Donne's works...had...been essentially gathering dust...") with additional information about the works' reception during Donne's lifetime.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to offset the supplementary element ("much...followed") with appropriate punctuation, and using the finite verb "were much admired" results in an ungrammatical sentence. Choice B is incorrect because using the finite verb "were much admired" results in an ungrammatical sentence. Choice D is incorrect because it fails to offset the supplementary element ("much...followed") with appropriate punctuation, and using the finite verb "had been much admired" results in an ungrammatical sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 083a35dc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 083a35dc

Po'Pay was a Tewa leader from Ohkay Owingeh, a pueblo located about twenty-five miles north of present-day Santa Fe, New Mexico. He was instrumental in organizing the Pueblo Revolt of \_\_\_\_\_ as a result of his leadership, the Spanish colonizers were expelled from the region for a time.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. 1680
- B. 1680 and
- C. 1680,
- D. 1680, and

## ID: 083a35dc Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma and the coordinating conjunction “and” to join the first main clause (“He...1680”) and the second main clause (“as...time”).

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice B is incorrect because when coordinating two longer main clauses such as these, it's conventional to use a comma before the coordinating conjunction. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 145d5ca7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 145d5ca7

Gathering accurate data on water flow in the United States is challenging because of the country's millions of miles of \_\_\_\_\_. the volume and speed of water at any given location can vary drastically over time.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. waterways and the fact that,
- B. waterways, and the fact that,
- C. waterways, and, the fact that
- D. waterways and the fact that

## ID: 145d5ca7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation within two coordinated noun phrases. When, as in this case, a noun phrase ("the country's millions of miles of waterways") is coordinated with another noun phrase ("the fact") followed by an integrated relative clause ("that the volume...time"), no punctuation is needed.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID be34a3df

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: be34a3df

In 2008, two years after the death of science fiction writer Octavia Butler, the Huntington Library in \_\_\_\_\_ received a collection of more than 8,000 items, including Butler's private notes, research materials, manuscripts, photos, and drawings. Today, the Octavia E. Butler Collection is one of the most researched archives at the library.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. California,
- B. California:
- C. California—
- D. California

## ID: be34a3df Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. No punctuation should separate the subject of the sentence ("the Huntington Library in California") from its verb ("received").

Choice A is incorrect. No punctuation should separate the subject of the sentence ("the Huntington Library in California") from its verb ("received"). Choice B is incorrect. No punctuation should separate the subject of the sentence ("the Huntington Library in California") from its verb ("received"). Choice C is incorrect. No punctuation should separate the subject of the sentence ("the Huntington Library in California") from its verb ("received").

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1f8cd95f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 1f8cd95f

In the 1950s, a man named Joseph McVicker was struggling to keep his business afloat when his sister-in-law Kay Zufall advised him to repurpose the company's product, a nontoxic, clay-like substance for removing soot from wallpaper, as a modeling putty for kids. In addition, Zufall \_\_\_\_\_ selling the product under a child-friendly name: Play-Doh.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. suggested
- B. suggests
- C. had suggested
- D. was suggesting

## ID: 1f8cd95f Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense. In this choice, the simple past tense verb "suggested" properly indicates that Zufall offered her suggestion for the product's name in the past. This verb tense is consistent with the previous sentence's use of a simple past tense verb ("advised") to describe Zufall's advice to McVicker in the 1950s.

Choice B is incorrect because the present tense verb "suggests" doesn't indicate that Zufall offered her suggestion in the past. Choice C is incorrect because the past perfect verb "had suggested" isn't consistent with the previous sentence's use of the simple past tense verb "advised" to describe Zufall's advice to McVicker. Choice D is incorrect because the past progressive verb "was suggesting" isn't consistent with the previous sentence's use of the simple past tense verb "advised" to describe Zufall's advice to McVicker.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 73a6603c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 73a6603c

On sunny days, dark rooftops absorb solar energy and convert it to unwanted heat, raising the surrounding air \_\_\_\_ a light-colored covering to an existing dark roof, either by attaching prefabricated reflective sheets or spraying on a paint-like coating, helps combat this effect.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. temperature; by adding
- B. temperature, adding
- C. temperature. Adding
- D. temperature by adding

## ID: 73a6603c Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used correctly to mark the boundary between the first sentence (“On...temperature”) and the second sentence (“Adding...effect”). The gerund phrase beginning with “adding” is the subject of the second sentence, and the verb phrase “helps combat this effect” describes what adding a light-colored covering can do.

Choice A is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used in this way to join the sentence “On...temperature” and the supplementary phrases that follow. Doing so leaves the verb phrase “helps combat” without a subject and thus results in a grammatically unconventional sentence. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice D is incorrect. This choice results in a confusing and illogical sentence that suggests that adding a light-colored covering to an existing dark roof raises the temperature of the surrounding air. Furthermore, it creates ambiguity by leaving the verb phrase “helps combat” without a subject (so it isn’t clear what helps combat the effect).

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3bceeb93

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 3bceeb93

When they were first discovered in Australia in 1798, duck-billed, beaver-tailed platypuses so defied categorization that one scientist assigned them the name *Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*: "paradoxical bird-snout." The animal, which lays eggs but also nurses \_\_\_\_\_ young with milk, has since been classified as belonging to the monotremes group.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. they're
- B. their
- C. its
- D. it's

## ID: 3bceeb93 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The singular possessive pronoun "its" agrees with the singular antecedent "the animal" and indicates that the "young" belong to it.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice creates a pronoun-antecedent agreement error. "They're" is a contraction of "they are," a plural pronoun and verb, but the antecedent "the animal" is singular. Also, we don't need the extra verb "are" — we already have a main verb in this clause, so adding "are" would be confusing and ungrammatical. Choice B is incorrect. This choice creates a pronoun-antecedent agreement error. "Their" is a plural pronoun, but the subject of the sentence is "the animal," a singular noun. Choice D is incorrect. This choice creates a confusing and ungrammatical sentence. "It's" is a contraction for "it is." We already have the verb "nurses" in this clause, so we shouldn't add the verb "is."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6fac7f45

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 6fac7f45

*Butterfly* is a 1988 painting by the Japanese artist Ay-O. Like many of Ay-O's paintings, *Butterfly*, which portrays a swimmer performing the butterfly stroke, attempts to make use of the entire visual light \_\_\_\_\_ sporting rainbow-striped goggles, the rainbow-hued swimmer splashes through a wavy rainbow of water.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. spectrum
- B. spectrum:
- C. spectrum while
- D. spectrum, while

## ID: 6fac7f45 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of a colon within a sentence. In this choice, the colon correctly introduces the following description of how the painting makes use of the entire visual light spectrum by depicting a rainbow-hued swimmer.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The main clauses ("Like...spectrum" and "sporting...water") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The main clauses ("Like...spectrum" and "while...water") are fused without punctuation. Furthermore, the conjunction "while" fails to indicate that what follows is a description of how the painting makes use of the entire visual light spectrum. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a logically confusing sentence. The conjunction "while," which suggests that what follows is occurring at the same time as or despite what came before, fails to indicate that what follows is a description of how the painting makes use of the entire visual light spectrum.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2c9c6ca9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 2c9c6ca9

The term “retroflex” derives from Latin and means “bent back,” an apt descriptor for the branch of consonants—retroflex consonants—pronounced with the tongue curling up and back in the mouth. In many languages, including English, these consonants are \_\_\_\_ in some dialects of Mandarin, however, four such consonants (“ch,” “sh,” “zh,” and “r”) are relatively common.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. rare and
- B. rare,
- C. rare
- D. rare;

## ID: 2c9c6ca9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. This choice uses a semicolon in a conventional way to join the first main clause ("In many...rare") and the second main clause ("in some...common") in this sentence.

Choice A is incorrect. Joining the first main clause ("In many...rare") and the second main clause ("in some...common") with the conjunction "and" conflicts with the use of "however" later in the sentence, resulting in a confusing and illogical sentence. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID dab8b8ee

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: dab8b8ee

Known as Earth's "living skin," biocrusts are thin layers of soil held together by surface-dwelling microorganisms such as fungi, lichens, and cyanobacteria. Fortifying soil in arid ecosystems against erosion, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. a recent study's estimate is that these crusts reduce global dust emissions by 60 percent each year.
- B. an estimated 60 percent reduction in global dust emissions each year is due to these crusts, according to a recent study.
- C. these crusts reduce global dust emissions by an estimated 60 percent each year, according to a recent study.
- D. a recent study has estimated that these crusts reduce global dust emissions by 60 percent each year.

## ID: dab8b8ee Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The subject of the modifier "fortifying soil in arid ecosystems against erosion" is "biocrusts." Subject-modifier placement requires a modifier and its subject to be next to each other, so "biocrusts" or some variant meaning "biocrusts" (in this case, "these crusts") must begin the missing clause.

Choice A is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The subject of the modifier "fortifying soil in arid ecosystems against erosion" is "biocrusts," not "a recent study's estimate." Choice B is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The subject of the modifier "fortifying soil in arid ecosystems against erosion" is "biocrusts," not "an estimated 60 percent reduction." Choice D is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The subject of the modifier "fortifying soil in arid ecosystems against erosion" is "biocrusts," not "a recent study."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8f6d6ae6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 8f6d6ae6

Archaeologists have estimated that the pre-Columbian Native American city of Cahokia, located across the Mississippi River from modern-day St. Louis, Missouri, had as many as 20,000 inhabitants in the year 1150 \_\_\_\_\_ it one of the largest cities in North America at the time.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. CE making
- B. CE. Making
- C. CE, making
- D. CE; making

## ID: 8f6d6ae6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The phrase “making...at the time” provides additional information about Cahokia that’s not required for the sentence to make sense or function grammatically. As a nonessential supplement, this phrase should be separated from the rest of the sentence with a comma.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence. The nonessential descriptive aside “making...at the time” needs to be separated from the rest of the sentence with a comma. Choice B is incorrect. This choice results in a sentence fragment. “Making...at the time” doesn’t have a subject and can’t stand on its own as a sentence. Thus, it can’t be separated from the rest of the sentence with a period. Choice D is incorrect. This choice results in a punctuation error. “Making...at the time” doesn’t have a subject and can’t stand on its own as an independent clause. Since a semicolon can only link two independent clauses, using one here creates an error.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c06af4d8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: c06af4d8

Sociologist Alton Okinaka sits on the review board tasked with adding new sites to the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places, which includes Pi'ilanihale Heiau and the 'Ōpaeka'a Road Bridge. Okinaka doesn't make such decisions \_\_\_\_\_ all historical designations must be approved by a group of nine other experts from the fields of architecture, archaeology, history, and Hawaiian culture.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. single-handedly, however;
- B. single-handedly; however,
- C. single-handedly, however,
- D. single-handedly however

## ID: c06af4d8 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of a supplementary word or phrase between two main clauses. This choice correctly uses a comma to separate the supplementary adverb "however" from the preceding main clause ("Okinaka doesn't...single-handedly") and a semicolon to join the next main clause ("all...culture") to the rest of the sentence. Further, placing the semicolon after "however" correctly indicates that the information in the preceding main clause (Okinaka doesn't make such decisions single-handedly) is contrary to what might be assumed from the information in the previous sentence (Okinaka sits on the review board that adds new sites to the Hawaii Register of Historic Places).

Choice B is incorrect because placing the semicolon after "single-handedly" and the comma after "however" illogically indicates that the information in the next main clause (all historical designations must be approved by a group of experts) is contrary to the information in the previous clause (Okinaka doesn't make such decisions single-handedly). Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Commas can't be used in this way to punctuate a supplementary word or phrase between two main clauses. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID e9aee0d8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: e9aee0d8

On November 2, 1772, amid rising tensions with Great Britain, Boston colonists formed the Boston Committee of Correspondence. By 1774, what had started as a local means of mobilizing support for the Patriot cause had grown into something far more \_\_\_\_\_ network of such committees that, facilitating communication among the colonies, helped lay the groundwork for the Continental Congress.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. extensive: a
- B. extensive; a
- C. extensive, it was a
- D. extensive. A

## ID: e9aee0d8 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of a colon within a sentence. In this choice, the colon is correctly used to introduce the following explanation of what the Patriot cause had grown into by 1774.

Choice B is incorrect because a semicolon can't be used in this way to join the main clause ("what...extensive") and the supplementary element ("a network...Congress"). A semicolon is conventionally used to join two main clauses, whereas a colon is conventionally used to introduce an element that explains or amplifies the information in the preceding clause, making the colon the better choice in this context. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. The addition of the pronoun and verb "it was" forms the start of a new main clause in the sentence, and a comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between two main clauses. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "a network."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 9579581e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 9579581e

As cheesemaking practices spread throughout Europe and Asia during and after the Neolithic, divergent strategies for preserving milk \_\_\_\_\_ whereas rennet-coagulated cheesemaking became key to milk preservation in Europe and Southwest Asia, acid-heat coagulation methods became common among nomadic herding populations of the northeastern Eurasian steppe.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. emerged
- B. emerged and
- C. emerged:
- D. emerged,

## ID: 9579581e Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use within a sentence. A colon can be used between two main clauses to signal that what follows is an elaboration of what came before. In this choice, the colon correctly introduces the following explanation of the divergent milk preservation strategies that emerged.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The main clause ("As...emerged") and the subordinate clause followed by another main clause ("whereas...steppe") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice B is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction "and" can't be used in this way to join a main clause ("As...emerged") and a subordinate clause followed by another main clause ("whereas...steppe"). Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to join a main clause ("As...emerged") and a subordinate clause followed by another main clause ("whereas...steppe").

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 7f1df833

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 7f1df833

In 1966, Emmett Ashford became the first African American to umpire a Major League Baseball game. His energetic gestures announcing when a player had struck out and his habit of barreling after a hit ball to see if it would land out of \_\_\_\_\_ transform the traditionally solemn umpire role into a dynamic one.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. bounds helped
- B. bounds, helping
- C. bounds that helped
- D. bounds to help

## ID: 7f1df833 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is finite verb use in a main clause. A main clause requires a finite verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, Ashford's "gestures" and "habit"), and this choice supplies the finite past tense verb "helped" to indicate what Ashford's gestures and habit helped accomplish.

Choice B is incorrect because the non-finite participle "helping" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because the relative clause "that helped" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because the non-finite to-infinitive "to help" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 59209b6d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 59209b6d

Based on genetic evidence, archaeologists have generally agreed that reindeer domestication began in the eleventh century CE. However, since uncovering fragments of a 2,000-year-old reindeer training harness in northern Siberia, \_\_\_\_\_ may have begun much earlier.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. researcher Robert Losey has argued that domestication
- B. researcher Robert Losey's argument is that domestication
- C. domestication, researcher Robert Losey has argued,
- D. the argument researcher Robert Losey has made is that domestication

## ID: 59209b6d Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice makes the noun phrase “researcher Robert Losey” the subject of the sentence and places it immediately after the modifying phrase “since...Siberia.” In doing so, this choice clearly establishes that researcher Robert Losey—and not another noun in the sentence—is who uncovered fragments of a 2,000-year-old reindeer training harness in northern Siberia.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “researcher Robert Losey’s argument” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the “argument” is what uncovered fragments of a 2,000-year-old reindeer training harness in northern Siberia. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun “domestication” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that “domestication” is what uncovered fragments of a 2,000-year-old reindeer training harness in northern Siberia. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “the argument” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the “argument” is what uncovered fragments of a 2,000-year-old reindeer training harness in northern Siberia.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a75d5984

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: a75d5984

Several advantages—the ability to react strongly with chip components, to avoid interference from other waves, and to be confined within tiny circuits—\_\_\_\_\_ acoustic waves as a promising alternative to electrical waves for transmitting data on computer chips; as a result, researchers are invested in developing more acoustic wave-based chips.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. have positioned
- B. positioning
- C. by positioning
- D. having positioned

## ID: a75d5984 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite (tensed) verb to perform the action of the subject. In this case, the subject is "several advantages," and the present perfect tense verb "have positioned" supplies the finite verb to indicate what has made acoustic waves a promising alternative to electrical waves.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "positioning" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The prepositional phrase "by positioning" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "having positioned" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2b512e65

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 2b512e65

Eli Eisenberg, a genetics expert at Tel Aviv University in Israel, recently discovered that \_\_\_\_\_ have a special genetic ability called RNA editing that confers evolutionary advantages.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. cephalopods, ocean dwellers that include the squid, the octopus, and the cuttlefish
- B. cephalopods—ocean dwellers—that include the squid, the octopus, and the cuttlefish,
- C. cephalopods, ocean dwellers that include: the squid, the octopus, and the cuttlefish,
- D. cephalopods—ocean dwellers that include the squid, the octopus, and the cuttlefish—

## ID: 2b512e65 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of a supplementary element within a sentence. In this choice, the dash after "cephalopods" pairs with the dash after "cuttlefish" to clearly separate the supplementary element "ocean dwellers that include the squid, the octopus, and the cuttlefish" from the rest of the sentence. This supplementary element functions to explain what cephalopods are, and the pair of dashes indicates that this element could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element that explains what cephalopods are from the rest of the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element that explains what cephalopods are from the rest of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element that explains what cephalopods are from the rest of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 870ae7ec

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 870ae7ec

Detroit natives Timothy Paule and Nicole Lindsey have combined their two passions, Detroit and beekeeping, to improve the health of their city's flowers and other vegetation. In 2017, the couple converted a vacant lot in the city into an \_\_\_\_\_. In the years that followed they acquired nine additional lots and established more than 35 hives.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. apiary,
- B. apiary, and
- C. apiary and
- D. apiary

## ID: 870ae7ec Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Both clauses in this sentence could stand alone as complete sentences, which means they are both independent clauses. This choice uses a comma plus a coordinating conjunction to link them together, which is one of the correct ways to link two independent clauses.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence error. Both clauses in this sentence could stand alone as complete sentences, which means they are both independent clauses. A comma by itself is not enough punctuation to link two independent clauses. Choice C is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence error. Both clauses in this sentence could stand alone as complete sentences, which means they are both independent clauses. Independent clauses can only be linked in a few ways, including with a comma plus a coordinating conjunction. This choice uses the coordinating conjunction “and,” but it is missing the comma beforehand. Choice D is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence error. Both clauses in this sentence could stand alone as complete sentences, which means they are both independent clauses. Independent clauses need to have certain kinds of punctuation marks between them. This choice doesn’t use any punctuation between the two clauses.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4f2ff5f2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 4f2ff5f2

Tortoises can be found in many works of literature. For example, in Tom Stoppard's 1993 play *Arcadia*, there is a tortoise that \_\_\_\_\_ by two names (Plautus and Lightning) and appears in both of the play's parallel timelines. As a character, the tortoise symbolizes the connection between the past and present.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. goes
- B. will have gone
- C. went
- D. had gone

## ID: 4f2ff5f2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense in a sentence. In this choice, the present tense verb "goes" is consistent with the other present tense verbs ("appears" and "symbolizes") used to describe the tortoise in Stoppard's play. Furthermore, it's conventional to use the present tense when discussing a literary work.

Choice B is incorrect because the future perfect tense verb "will have gone" isn't consistent with the other present tense verbs used to describe the tortoise in Stoppard's play. Choice C is incorrect because the past tense verb "went" isn't consistent with the other present tense verbs used to describe the tortoise in Stoppard's play. Choice D is incorrect because the past perfect tense verb "had gone" isn't consistent with the other present tense verbs used to describe the tortoise in Stoppard's play.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID fcaff694

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: fcaff694

The city of Pompeii, which was buried in ash following the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE, continues to be studied by archaeologists. Unfortunately, as \_\_\_\_\_ attest, archaeological excavations have disrupted ash deposits at the site, causing valuable information about the eruption to be lost.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. researchers, Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn,
- B. researchers, Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn
- C. researchers Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn
- D. researchers Roberto Scandone, and Christopher Kilburn

## ID: fcaff694 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of a restrictive coordinated noun phrase. No punctuation is needed within or around the coordinated noun phrase “researchers Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn” because it would create an illogical separation between the noun “researchers” and the coordinated noun phrase “Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn.”

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. Placing a pair of commas around the coordinated noun phrase “Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn” creates an illogical separation between the noun “researchers” and the aforementioned coordinated noun phrase. In this case, it illogically suggests that researchers in general bear the specific names Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the noun “researchers” and the coordinated noun phrase “Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn.” Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed within the coordinated noun phrase “Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn.”

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 0fe5ce68

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 0fe5ce68

Ten of William Shakespeare's plays are classified as histories. Although each one of these plays, which include *Henry V* and *Richard III*, \_\_\_\_\_ on a single historical figure (specifically, an English king), some, such as *Henry VI Part One* and *Henry VI Part Two*, feature different episodes from the same monarch's life.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. focuses
- B. focus
- C. are focused
- D. were focused

## ID: 0fe5ce68 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "focuses" agrees in number with the singular subject "each one of these plays," which refers to each play individually.

Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "focus" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "each one of these plays." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "are focused" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "each one of these plays." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "were focused" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "each one of these plays."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b369d54c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: b369d54c

Woven from recycled yarn and hand tufted using a carpet weaving technique passed down by the artist's Turkish grandmother, \_\_\_\_\_ so lush and tactilely inviting that you are tempted to reach out and touch them.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. the topological tapestries of Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou are
- B. the Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou creates topological tapestries that are
- C. when she creates her topological tapestries, Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou makes them
- D. Alexandra Kehayoglou is an Argentine textile artist whose topological tapestries are

## ID: b369d54c Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice makes the noun phrase "topological tapestries" the subject of the sentence and places it immediately after the modifying phrase "woven... grandmother." In doing so, this choice clearly establishes that the topological tapestries—and not another noun in the sentence—are being described as woven from recycled yarn and hand tufted.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase "Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that Kehayoglou is woven from recycled yarn and hand tufted. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the pronoun "she" and the noun phrase "Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou" after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that Kehayoglou is woven from recycled yarn and hand tufted. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun "Alexandra Kehayoglou" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that Kehayoglou is woven from recycled yarn and hand tufted.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 790fc366

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 790fc366

Using satellite remote sensing, Dr. Catherine Nakalembe, director of NASA's Harvest Africa initiative, gathers important data on crop health. Nakalembe doesn't just compile the \_\_\_\_\_ she also shares her findings with African farmers, enabling them to make data-driven decisions about managing critical food crops.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. information, though;
- B. information, though,
- C. information; though
- D. information though,

## ID: 790fc366 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice uses a semicolon to join two independent clauses ("Nakalembe doesn't just... though" and "she also shares..."). This choice also appropriately includes "though" in the first clause, where it logically belongs.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice results in a grammar error called a comma splice. It incorrectly joins two independent clauses with only a comma instead of a comma and a coordinating conjunction like "and" or "but." "Though" is a transition word, but it's not a coordinating conjunction. Choice C is incorrect. This choice results in a punctuation error. A semicolon can only be used to link two independent clauses. However, if "though" is included in the second clause, it turns the second clause into a dependent clause, so a semicolon can't be used after "information." Choice D is incorrect. This choice results in a grammar error called a comma splice. It incorrectly joins two independent clauses with only a comma instead of a comma and a coordinating conjunction like "and" or "but."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 62120607

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

**ID: 62120607**

From afar, African American fiber artist Bisa Butler's portraits look like paintings, their depictions of human faces, bodies, and clothing so intricate that it seems only a fine brush could have rendered them. When viewed up close, however, the portraits reveal themselves to be \_\_\_\_\_ stitching barely visible among the thousands of pieces of printed, microcut fabric.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. quilts, and the
- B. quilts, the
- C. quilts; the
- D. quilts. The

**ID: 62120607 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** B

## Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a main clause and a supplementary phrase. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the main clause ("the portraits...quilts") and the supplementary noun phrase ("the stitching...fabric") that provides a further description of how the portraits can be identified as quilts.

Choice A is incorrect. A comma and the conjunction "and" can't be used in this way to join a main clause and a supplementary noun phrase. Choice C is incorrect because a semicolon can't be used in this way to join a main clause and a supplementary noun phrase. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "the stitching."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c437dd53

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: c437dd53

Wanting to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase, \_\_\_\_\_ up with a motto that best captured the state's unique character. The commission selected "North to the Future," submitted by Juneau journalist Richard Peter, as its winning entry.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. a contest sponsored by the Alaska Centennial Commission would award \$300 to an individual who came
- B. an award of \$300 would go to an individual in a contest sponsored by the Alaska Centennial Commission for coming
- C. \$300 would be awarded to an individual by the Alaska Centennial Commission in a contest for coming
- D. the Alaska Centennial Commission sponsored a contest that would award \$300 to an individual who came

## ID: c437dd53 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice makes the noun phrase "the Alaska Centennial Commission" the subject of the sentence and places it immediately after the modifying phrase "wanting...Purchase." In doing so, this choice clearly establishes that the Alaska Centennial Commission—and not another noun in the sentence—wanted to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase "a contest" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the contest wanted to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase "an award of \$300" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the award of \$300 wanted to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase "\$300" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the \$300 wanted to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2bb7416a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 2bb7416a

In paleontology, the term “Elvis taxon” gets applied to a newly identified living species that was once presumed to be extinct. Like an Elvis impersonator who might bear a striking resemblance to the late musical icon Elvis Presley himself, an Elvis taxon is not the real thing, \_\_\_\_\_ is a misidentified look-alike.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. however but it
- B. however it
- C. however, it
- D. however. It

## ID: 2bb7416a Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The clause “Like an Elvis impersonator...real thing” and the clause “it is...look-alike” are both independent clauses, so making them into two separate sentences is grammatically correct.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice creates a run-on sentence error. The clause “Like an Elvis impersonator...real thing” and the clause “it is...look-alike” are both independent clauses, so they need to be separated with at least a comma + a coordinating conjunction. This choice provides the coordinating conjunction “but,” but it’s missing a comma. Choice B is incorrect. This choice creates a run-on sentence error. The clause “Like an Elvis impersonator...real thing” and the clause “it is...look-alike” are both independent clauses, so they need to be separated with a semicolon, a colon, a dash, a period, or a comma + a coordinating conjunction. Choice C is incorrect. This choice creates a run-on sentence error. The clause “Like an Elvis impersonator...real thing” and the clause “it is...look-alike” are both independent clauses, so they need to be separated with at least a comma + a coordinating conjunction. This choice provides a comma, but it’s missing a coordinating conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a05cc490

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: a05cc490

With the development of new technologies that use natural resources more efficiently, the overall consumption of those resources might be expected to decrease. Economists have observed that improvements in efficiency often correlate negatively with resource \_\_\_\_\_ efficiency gains, lowering the cost of use, may increase demand to the extent that resource consumption ultimately rises.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. conservation, though,
- B. conservation; though
- C. conservation, though;
- D. conservation, though

## ID: a05cc490 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma to separate the supplementary adverb "though" from the preceding main clause ("Economists...conservation") and uses a semicolon to join the next main clause ("efficiency gains...rises") to the rest of the sentence. Further, placing the semicolon after "though" indicates that the information in the preceding main clause ("improvements in efficiency often correlate negatively with resource conservation") is contrary to what might be assumed from the information in the previous sentence (resource consumption would be expected to decrease with the development of new, more efficient technologies).

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Commas can't be used in this way to punctuate a supplementary word or phrase between two main clauses. Choice B is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the two main clauses ("Economists...though" and "efficiency gains....rises") with appropriate punctuation. Moreover, placing the semicolon after "conservation" illogically indicates that the information in the next clause (gains in efficiency may lead to an increase in resource consumption) is contrary to the information in the previous clause ("improvements in efficiency often correlate negatively with resource conservation"). Choice D is incorrect because placing a comma after "conservation" illogically indicates that the information in the next clause (gains in efficiency may lead to an increase in resource consumption) is contrary to the information in the previous clause ("improvements in efficiency often correlate negatively with resource conservation").

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b0a525be

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: b0a525be

Santa Clara Pueblo artist Roxanne Swentzell's sculpture *Mud Woman Rolls On* consists of five human figures made of clay and plant fiber and arranged in descending size; each figure holds the smaller one in front of it. The arrangement of the figures, according to \_\_\_\_\_ represents her idea that "we all come from the Earth, generation after generation."

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Swentzell
- B. Swentzell,
- C. Swentzell:
- D. Swentzell—

## ID: b0a525be Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The phrase “according to Swentzell” is an aside that interrupts the flow of the sentence, so it needs to be separated from the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks: two commas, two dashes, or a pair of parentheses. We already have a comma before “according,” so we must add a comma after “Swentzell.” .

Choice A is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error. The phrase “according to Swentzell” is an aside that interrupts the flow of the sentence, so it needs to be separated from the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks: one before and one after the phrase. Choice C is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error. “The arrangement of the figures, according to Swentzell” is not an independent clause, so it can’t come before a colon. Choice D is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error. The phrase “according to Swentzell” is an aside that interrupts the flow of the sentence, so it needs to be separated from the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks. We already have a comma at the beginning, so we have to use another comma here to match. We can’t just switch to a dash! .

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID eef91a50

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: eef91a50

Nine months before Rosa Parks made history by refusing to comply with the segregated seating policy on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus, a fifteen-year-old Montgomery girl named Claudette Colvin was arrested for the same \_\_\_\_\_ to some historians, Colvin's arrest led to Parks's action and eventually to the desegregation of Montgomery's bus system.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. offense. According
- B. offense, according
- C. offense according
- D. offense and according

## ID: eef91a50 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Nine months...offense” and “according to...system” are both independent clauses. Separating them with a period and turning them into their own sentences is the only grammatically correct choice among the provided options.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice results in a comma splice error, which is a punctuation error that occurs when two independent clauses are joined by only a comma. “Nine months...offense” and “according to...system” are both independent clauses, so they need to be either joined by a semicolon, joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction, or separated by a period. Choice C is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence, which occurs when two independent clauses are joined without punctuation. “Nine months...offense” and “according to...system” are both independent clauses, so they need to be either joined by a semicolon, joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction, or separated by a period. Choice D is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence, which occurs when two independent clauses are joined without punctuation. “Nine months...offense” and “according to...system” are independent clauses, so we would need to put a comma before the coordinating conjunction “and” to join them properly.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 01a32c84

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 01a32c84

The first computerized spreadsheet, Dan Bricklin's *VisiCalc*, improved financial recordkeeping not only by providing users with an easy means of adjusting data in spreadsheets but also by automatically updating all calculations that were dependent on these \_\_\_\_\_ to VisiCalc's release, changing a paper spreadsheet often required redoing the entire sheet by hand, a process that could take days.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. adjustments prior
- B. adjustments, prior
- C. adjustments. Prior
- D. adjustments and prior

## ID: 01a32c84 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used correctly to mark the boundary between the first sentence ("The...adjustments") and the second sentence ("Prior...days"). Because the adverbial phrase beginning with "prior" indicates when changing a spreadsheet required redoing the sheet by hand, that phrase belongs with the second sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. Two sentences are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice D is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction "and" can't be used in this way to join the sentences.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 548f4956

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 548f4956

It is generally true that technological change is a linear process, in which once-useful technologies are replaced by new and better \_\_\_\_\_. the reawakening of interest in the steam engine (from advocates of carbon-neutral rail travel) reminds us that ostensibly obsolete technologies may be brought back into service to address society's changing needs.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. ones, even so;
- B. ones even so,
- C. ones; even so,
- D. ones, even so,

## ID: 548f4956 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice uses a semicolon in a conventional way to join the first main clause ("It is...ones") and the second main clause ("even so...needs"). Furthermore, the placement of the semicolon after "ones" indicates that the supplementary phrase "even so" modifies the following clause ("the reawakening...needs"), resulting in the most logical and grammatically complete sentence. With this punctuation, the sentence logically indicates that the recent interest in an old technology like steam engines is despite the fact that technological change typically seeks out new technologies.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a confusing and illogical sentence. Placing the semicolon after "so" indicates that the supplementary element "even so" modifies the first clause of the sentence, which doesn't make sense in this context. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. It fails to mark the boundary between the two main clauses with appropriate punctuation. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join the two main clauses of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9d4a701b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 9d4a701b

Along with carbon dioxide concentration and temperature, light intensity affects the chemical reaction rate of \_\_\_\_\_ as light intensity increases, so does the rate at which the reactants (water and carbon dioxide) are converted into their products (glucose and oxygen).

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. photosynthesis and
- B. photosynthesis,
- C. photosynthesis:
- D. photosynthesis

## ID: 9d4a701b Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation in a sentence. In this choice, a colon is correctly used to mark the boundary between one main clause ("Along with...photosynthesis") and another main clause ("as light...oxygen") and to introduce the following explanation of how light intensity affects photosynthesis.

Choice A is incorrect because when coordinating two longer main clauses such as these, it's conventional to use a comma before the coordinating conjunction ("and"). Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a coordinating conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses ("Along with...photosynthesis" and "as light...oxygen"). Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses ("Along with...photosynthesis" and "as light...oxygen") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2c84f96a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 2c84f96a

In 2017, artists Isabel and Ruben Toledo redesigned the costumes and sets for The Miami City Ballet's production of *The \_\_\_\_\_*. To reviewers, the Toledos' designs helped infuse the production with elements of Miami's Latin American culture.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Nutcracker according,
- B. Nutcracker, according
- C. Nutcracker according
- D. Nutcracker. According

## ID: 2c84f96a Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence ("In 2017...Nutcracker") and another ("According...culture"). The supplementary element "according to reviewers" modifies the main clause of the second sentence ("the Toledos'...culture").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Furthermore, no punctuation is needed within the supplementary element "according to reviewers." Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID dd6a0326

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: dd6a0326

African American Percy Julian was a scientist and entrepreneur whose work helped people around the world to see. Named in 1999 as one of the greatest achievements by a US chemist in the past hundred years, \_\_\_\_\_ led to the first mass-produced treatment for glaucoma.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Julian synthesized the alkaloid physostigmine in 1935; it
- B. in 1935 Julian synthesized the alkaloid physostigmine, which
- C. Julian's 1935 synthesis of the alkaloid physostigmine
- D. the alkaloid physostigmine was synthesized by Julian in 1935 and

## ID: dd6a0326 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice makes the noun phrase “Julian’s 1935 synthesis” the subject of the sentence and places it immediately after the modifying phrase “named...years.” In doing so, this choice clearly establishes that Julian’s 1935 synthesis of the alkaloid physostigmine—and not another noun in the sentence—was named in 1999 as one of the greatest achievements by a US chemist in the past hundred years.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun “Julian” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that Julian himself was named as one of the greatest achievements by a US chemist in the past hundred years. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the prepositional phrase “in 1935” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically and confusingly suggests that “in 1935” was named as one of the greatest achievements by a US chemist in the past hundred years. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “the alkaloid physostigmine” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically and confusingly suggests that the alkaloid physostigmine itself (not the synthesis of it) was named as one of the greatest achievements by a US chemist in the past hundred years.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4ba99a6f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 4ba99a6f

Seneca sculptor Marie Watt's blanket art comes in a range of shapes and sizes. In 2004, Watt sewed strips of blankets together to craft a 10-by-13-inch \_\_\_\_ in 2014, she arranged folded blankets into two large stacks and then cast them in bronze, creating two curving 18-foot-tall blue-bronze pillars.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. sampler later,
- B. sampler;
- C. sampler,
- D. sampler, later,

## ID: 4ba99a6f Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice uses a semicolon in a conventional way to join the first main clause ("In 2004...sampler") and the second main clause ("in 2014...pillars").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. The word "later" is an adverb and cannot be used to join two main clauses unless it is preceded by a conjunction. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. The word "later" is an adverb and cannot be used to join two main clauses unless it is preceded by a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID db24ecc9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: db24ecc9

The Arctic-Alpine Botanic Garden in Norway and the Jardim Botânico of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil are two of many botanical gardens around the world dedicated to growing diverse plant \_\_\_\_\_ fostering scientific research; and educating the public about plant conservation.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. species, both native and nonnative,
- B. species, both native and nonnative;
- C. species; both native and nonnative,
- D. species both native and nonnative,

## ID: db24ecc9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of items in a complex series (a series including internal punctuation). The semicolon after “nonnative” is correctly used to separate the first item (“growing diverse plant species, both native and nonnative”) and the second item (“fostering scientific research”) in the series of things that botanical gardens are dedicated to. Further, the comma after “species” is correctly used to separate the noun phrase “diverse plant species” and the supplementary phrase “both native and nonnative” that modifies it.

Choice A is incorrect because a comma (specifically, the comma after “nonnative”) can’t be used in this way to separate items in a complex series. Choice C is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used in this way to separate the noun phrase “diverse plant species” and the supplementary phrase “both native and nonnative” that modifies it. Further, a comma can’t be used in this way to separate items in a complex series. Choice D is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the noun phrase “diverse plant species” and the supplementary phrase “both native and nonnative” that modifies it. Further, a comma can’t be used in this way to separate items in a complex series.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 0fa289a7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 0fa289a7

In 1955, Indian Bengali filmmaker Satyajit Ray released his first movie, *Pather \_\_\_\_\_* quiet black-and-white drama about a family in rural India. Ray's film was quite different from the loud, colorful action-romance movies that were popular at the time.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. *Panchali* a
- B. *Panchali*, which was a
- C. *Panchali*, a
- D. *Panchali*. A

## ID: 0fa289a7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence ("In...*Panchali*") and another ("A quiet...time"). The phrase beginning with "a quiet" modifies the subject of the next sentence, "Ray's film."

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID ace95f84

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: ace95f84

By analyzing the level of radioactive decay within a fossil specimen, scientists can establish the age of that fossil with a high degree of precision. When radioactive elements aren't present, scientists turn to \_\_\_\_\_ analysis of Earth's sediment layers (strata)—to estimate how old a fossil is based on the age of the strata in which the fossil is found.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. stratigraphy—the
- B. stratigraphy (the
- C. stratigraphy: the
- D. stratigraphy, the

## ID: ace95f84 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. The dash after "stratigraphy" pairs with the dash after "(strata)" to separate the supplementary element "the analysis of Earth's sediment layers (strata)" from the rest of the sentence. This supplementary element functions to define the term "stratigraphy," and the pair of dashes indicates that this element could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because a parenthesis can't be paired with a dash in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because a colon can't be paired with a dash in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because a comma can't be paired with a dash in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 6df020e6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 6df020e6

A study showed that a solar park caused nearby land to cool, though the ecological impact of this temperature decrease isn't yet known. Before the park's construction, the surface temperature 30 meters outside of the park boundary was 0.1°C cooler than that of a control \_\_\_\_\_ construction, the temperature 30 meters outside of the boundary was 1.7°C cooler than that of the control area.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. area after
- B. area after,
- C. area. After
- D. area, after

## ID: 6df020e6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used to correctly mark the boundary between one sentence ("Before...area") and another ("After...area"). The phrase "After construction" modifies the next sentence to indicate that the temperature was cooler after construction.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence that fuses the two sentences ("Before...area" and "after...area") without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence that connects the two sentences ("Before...area" and "after...area") without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Additionally, no punctuation is needed between "after" and "construction." Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between the two sentences ("Before...area" and "after...area").

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 684b8bd2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 684b8bd2

Far from being modern inventions, \_\_\_\_\_ more than 5,000 years ago.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia used drinking straws
- B. drinking straws were used by Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia
- C. the use of drinking straws by Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia happened
- D. ancient Mesopotamia was home to Sumerians who used drinking straws

## ID: 684b8bd2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The modifier “far from being modern inventions” must be describing “drinking straws,” because those are the only possible inventions in this sentence.

Choice A is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The modifier “far from being modern inventions” can’t be describing “Sumerians,” because they are a group of people, not an invention. Choice C is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The modifier “far from being modern inventions” can’t be describing “the use of drinking straws,” because it is not “the use” of drinking straws that is an invention—it is the drinking straws themselves. Choice D is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The modifier “far from being modern inventions” can’t be describing “Ancient Mesopotamia,” because that is a place, not an invention.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f30a478e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: f30a478e

A study published by Rice University geoscientist Ming Tang in 2019 offers a new explanation for the origin of Earth's \_\_\_\_\_ structures called arcs, towering ridges that form when a dense oceanic plate subducts under a less dense continental plate, melts in the mantle below, and then rises and bursts through the continental crust above.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. continents geological
- B. continents: geological
- C. continents; geological
- D. continents. Geological

## ID: f30a478e Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a main clause and a supplementary phrase. In this choice, a colon is correctly used to mark the boundary between the main clause ("A study...continents") and the supplementary phrase ("geological...above") and to introduce the following explanation of the origin of Earth's continents.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the main clause ("A study...continents") and the supplementary phrase ("geological...above") with appropriate punctuation. Choice C is incorrect because a semicolon can't be used in this way to join the main clause ("A study...continents") and the supplementary phrase ("geological...above"). A semicolon is conventionally used to join two main clauses, whereas a colon is conventionally used to introduce an element that explains or amplifies the information in the preceding clause, making it the better choice in this context. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "geological."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 67667d72

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 67667d72

Humans were long thought to have begun occupying the Peruvian settlement of Machu Picchu between 1440 and 1450 CE. However, a team led by anthropologist Dr. Richard Burger used accelerator mass spectrometry to uncover evidence that it was occupied \_\_\_\_\_ 1420 CE, according to Burger, humans were likely inhabiting the area.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. earlier. In
- B. earlier, in
- C. earlier, which in
- D. earlier in

## ID: 67667d72 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence ("However...earlier") and another ("In...area"). The supplementary phrase "in 1420 CE" modifies "humans," the subject of the third sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Moreover, the subordinating conjunction "which" creates a confusing and illogical sentence that suggests that the supplementary phrase beginning with "in" modifies the previous information ("However...earlier") rather than the information that follows. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences ("However...earlier" and "in...area") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID dd428136

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: dd428136

Cheng Dang and her colleagues at the University of Washington recently ran simulations to determine the extent to which individual snow \_\_\_\_\_ affect the amount of light reflecting off a snowy surface.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. grain's physical properties'
- B. grains' physical properties
- C. grains' physical property's
- D. grains physical properties

## ID: dd428136 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of plural and possessive nouns. The plural possessive noun “grains” and the plural noun “properties” correctly indicate that the simulations involved multiple snow grains and that those snow grains had several properties.

Choice A is incorrect because the context requires the plural possessive noun “grains” and the plural noun “properties,” not the singular possessive noun “grain’s” and the plural possessive noun “properties’.” Choice C is incorrect because the context requires the plural noun “properties,” not the singular possessive noun “property’s.” Choice D is incorrect because the context requires the plural possessive noun “grains’,” not the plural noun “grains.”

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 36868920

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

**ID: 36868920**

Increasing the heat on an uncovered boiling pot of water does not increase the temperature of the water. What increases is the rate at which the water turns to \_\_\_\_ a pressure cooker pot, though, an airtight seal traps the vapor in the pot, creating pressure that allows the temperature of the water to increase past its boiling point.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. vapor. With
- B. vapor with
- C. vapor, with
- D. vapor and with

**ID: 36868920 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence ("What...vapor") and another ("With...point").

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences ("What...vapor" and "with...point") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice D is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction "and" can't be used in this way to join sentences.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f768090a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: f768090a

Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* first appeared in 1855 as a slim collection of twelve poems, but Whitman would revise and expand it substantially over the next four decades. These extensive \_\_\_\_\_ the addition of hundreds of new poems, the removal of some existing ones, and the insertion of prefatory material, reflected the poet's evolving literary perspective and experience of the US Civil War.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. changes, including
- B. changes would include
- C. changes included
- D. changes, include

## ID: f768090a Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The nonfinite present participle "including" is correctly used to form a supplementary element that interrupts the main clause "These extensive changes...reflected the poet's evolving literary perspective and experience of the US Civil War." This supplementary element, offset by commas after "changes" and "material," provides examples of the changes Whitman made to *Leaves of Grass*.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite modal verb "would include" can't be used in this way to form a supplementary element within the main clause. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite past tense verb "included" can't be used in this way to form a supplementary element within the main clause. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite present tense verb "include" can't be used in this way to form a supplementary element within the main clause.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b6560e5a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: b6560e5a

Materials scientist Marie-Agathe Charagne and her colleagues believed they could improve on the multicomponent alloy NiCoCr, an equal-proportions mixture of nickel (Ni), cobalt (Co), and chromium (Cr), by replacing chromium with ruthenium \_\_\_\_\_. The alloy that resulted, NiCoRu, turned out to be an unsuitable replacement for NiCoCr.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. (Ru)
- B. (Ru) but
- C. (Ru),
- D. (Ru), but

## ID: b6560e5a Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses. This choice correctly uses a comma and the coordinating conjunction “but” to join the first main clause (“Materials...Ru”) and the second main clause (“the alloy...NiCoCr”).

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice B is incorrect because when coordinating two longer main clauses such as these, it’s conventional to use a comma before the coordinating conjunction. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can’t be used in this way to join two main clauses.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 5aa171de

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 5aa171de

Chondrites are stony meteorites that are undifferentiated—that is, their contents have not melted and separated into distinct layers. They are hardly \_\_\_\_ many chondrites experience aqueous alteration as a result of exposure to fluids, as well as fracturing, veining, and localized melting due to collisions with other objects.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. pristine, though
- B. pristine, though;
- C. pristine; though
- D. pristine, though,

## ID: 5aa171de Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma to separate the supplementary adverb "though" from the preceding main clause ("They are hardly pristine") and uses a semicolon to join the two main clauses ("They...though" and "many...objects"). Further, placing the semicolon after "though" indicates that the information in the preceding main clause (chondrites are far from pristine) is contrary to what might be assumed from the information in the previous sentence (chondrites have been generally unaltered by their environment).

Choice A is incorrect because placing the comma after "pristine" and using "though" as a subordinating conjunction illogically indicates that the information in the next main clause (many chondrites have experienced damage) is contrary to the information in the previous clause (chondrites are far from pristine). Choice C is incorrect because placing the semicolon after "pristine" illogically indicates that the information in the next main clause (many chondrites have experienced damage) is contrary to the information in the previous clause (chondrites are far from pristine). Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, the comma after "though" can't be used in this way to join two main clauses.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5b8f9cf2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 5b8f9cf2

In the canon of North African literature, Moroccan author Driss Chraïbi's 1954 novel *The Simple Past* (*Le Passé simple*) looms large. A coming-of-age story, a social meditation, and a sober gaze into the dark maw of French colonialism, \_\_\_\_\_ interrogates systemic power with memorable intensity.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Morocco gained its independence two years before the publication of Chraïbi's debut novel, which
- B. Chraïbi's debut novel, published two years before Morocco gained its independence,
- C. Chraïbi wrote a debut novel that, published two years before Morocco gained its independence,
- D. published two years before Morocco gained its independence, Chraïbi wrote a debut novel that

## ID: 5b8f9cf2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Subject-modifier placement requires a modifier and its subject to be next to each other. The subject of the modifier "a coming-of-age story...colonialism" is Chraïbi's novel *The Simple Past*, so the subject "Chraïbi's debut novel" fits perfectly after this introductory modifying phrase.

Choice A is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The introductory modifier "a coming-of-age story...colonialism" is describing Chraïbi's novel, not Morocco. However, this choice places Morocco directly next to that modifier. Choice C is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The introductory modifier "a coming-of-age story...colonialism" all describes Chraïbi's novel, not Chraïbi himself. However, this choice places Chraïbi directly next to that modifier. Choice D is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The modifier "a coming-of-age story..." is describing Chraïbi's novel, so that needs to be the subject immediately after the modifier. This choice adds another modifier that describes Chraïbi's novel, but then puts "Chraïbi" himself—not the novel—right after that modifier, which doesn't make sense. Chraïbi wasn't "published two years before" Moroccan independence; his novel *The Simple Past* was.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 432b1ede

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 432b1ede

The forty-seven geothermal springs of Arkansas' Hot Springs National Park are sourced via a process known as natural groundwater recharge, in which rainwater percolates downward through the earth—in this case, the porous rocks of the hills around Hot \_\_\_\_\_ collect in a subterranean basin.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Springs to
- B. Springs: to
- C. Springs—to
- D. Springs, to

## ID: 432b1ede Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of a supplementary element within a sentence. The dash after “Springs” pairs with the dash after “earth” to separate the supplementary element “in this case, the porous rocks of the hills around Hot Springs” from the rest of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because a colon can't be paired with a dash in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because a comma can't be paired with a dash in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 267a13e2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 267a13e2

In 2010, archaeologist Noel Hidalgo Tan was visiting the twelfth-century temple of Angkor Wat in Cambodia when he noticed markings of red paint on the temple \_\_\_\_\_. With the help of digital imaging techniques, he discovered the markings to be part of an elaborate mural containing over 200 paintings.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. walls, with
- B. walls with
- C. walls so with
- D. walls. With

## ID: 267a13e2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period after “walls” is used correctly to mark the boundary between the first sentence (“In...walls”) and the second sentence (“With... techniques”), which starts with a supplementary phrase.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences (“In...walls” and “with...paintings”) are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice C is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction “so” can’t be used in this way to join sentences.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 403d7bb5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 403d7bb5

According to Naomi Nakayama of the University of Edinburgh, the reason seeds from a dying dandelion appear to float in the air while \_\_\_\_\_ is that their porous plumes enhance drag, allowing the seeds to stay airborne long enough for the wind to disperse them throughout the surrounding area.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. falling,
- B. falling:
- C. falling;
- D. falling

## ID: 403d7bb5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The word “falling” occurs in the middle of a clause and isn’t part of a supplement, so we don’t need any punctuation after it. We can see this more clearly if we simplify the rest of the sentence: “The reason seeds appear to float while falling is that their plumes enhance drag.” .

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. The word “falling” occurs in the middle of a clause and isn’t part of a supplement, so we don’t need any punctuation after it. We can see this more clearly if we simplify the sentence: “The reason seeds appear to float while falling is that their plumes enhance drag.” . Choice B is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. The word “falling” occurs in the middle of a clause and isn’t part of a supplement, so we don’t need any punctuation after it. We can see this more clearly if we simplify the sentence: “The reason seeds appear to float while falling is that their plumes enhance drag.” . Choice C is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. The word “falling” occurs in the middle of a clause and isn’t part of a supplement, so we don’t need any punctuation after it. We can see this more clearly if we simplify the sentence: “The reason seeds appear to float while falling is that their plumes enhance drag.” .

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID fcab3630

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: fcab3630

In his *Naturalis historia*, Pliny the Elder praised Hipparchus's star catalog, a second-century BCE list of roughly 850 different stars' celestial positions. For centuries, scholars dreamed about locating a copy of this legendary lost \_\_\_\_\_ fantasy (partially) became reality in 2022, when researchers uncovered traces of the star catalog on a palimpsest, a reused parchment.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. work, that
- B. work that
- C. work. That
- D. work and that

## ID: fcab3630 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence ("For...work") and another ("That...parchment").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences ("For...work" and "that...parchment") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice D is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction "and" can't be used in this way to join sentences.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 21e58a83

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 21e58a83

Jetties—long, narrow structures that extend from a landmass into the water—are often constructed to protect coastlines from erosion. Jetties can sometimes have the opposite \_\_\_\_\_ obstructing the natural flow of sand along the shore can lead to increased erosion in some areas.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. effect, though;
- B. effect, though
- C. effect; though
- D. effect, though,

## ID: 21e58a83 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma to separate the supplementary adverb "though" from the preceding main clause ("Jetties can sometimes have the opposite effect") and uses a semicolon to join the next main clause ("obstructing...areas") to the rest of the sentence. Further, placing the semicolon after "though" logically indicates that the information earlier in this sentence (that jetties can sometimes cause erosion) is contrary to what might be assumed from the information in the previous sentence (that jetties are often constructed for the purpose of protecting coastlines from erosion).

Choice B is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the two main clauses with appropriate punctuation. With "though...areas" functioning as a subordinate clause following the comma, this choice illogically indicates that the following information (that obstructing the natural flow of sand along the shore can sometimes lead to erosion) is contrary to the information earlier in the sentence (that jetties can sometimes cause erosion). Instead, the information following "though" supports the previous claim about the erosive effects of jetties. Choice C is incorrect because it's not conventional to use a semicolon in this way to separate a main clause from a dependent clause. Further, it illogically indicates that the following information (that obstructing the natural flow of sand along the shore can sometimes lead to erosion) is contrary to the information earlier in the sentence (that jetties can sometimes cause erosion). Instead, the information following "though" supports the previous claim about the erosive effects of jetties. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Commas can't be used in this way to set off a supplementary word or phrase between two main clauses.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID de3dd17d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: de3dd17d

Planetary scientist Briony Horgan and her colleagues have determined that as much as 25 percent of the sand on Mars is composed of impact spherules. These spherical bits of glass form when asteroids collide with the planet, ejecting bits of molten rock into the atmosphere that, after cooling and solidifying into glass, \_\_\_\_\_ back onto Mars's surface.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. to rain
- B. raining
- C. having rained
- D. rain

## ID: de3dd17d Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "That...[rain] back onto Mars's surface" is a relative clause that describes the "bits of molten rock." Forming the clause requires a conjugated, finite verb, and this is the only choice that provides that.

Choice A is incorrect. "To rain" is an infinitive and can't serve as the main verb of a clause. A conjugated verb is needed here to form the main verb of the relative clause "that...[rain] back onto Mars's surface," which describes the "bits of molten rock." Choice B is incorrect. "Raining" is a present participle and, on its own, can't serve as the main verb of a clause. A conjugated verb is needed here to form the main verb of the relative clause "that...[rain] back onto Mars's surface," which describes the "bits of molten rock." Choice C is incorrect. "Having rained" is a perfect participle and can't serve as the main verb of a clause. A conjugated verb is needed here to form the main verb of the relative clause "that...[rain] back onto Mars's surface," which describes the "bits of molten rock."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6b49f5f1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 6b49f5f1

In 1727, dramatist Lewis Theobald presented a new play, *Double Falsehood*, at a London theater. Theobald claimed that his drama was based on a little-known play by William Shakespeare, *Cardenio*. Many, including poet Alexander Pope, were \_\_\_\_\_ historians have determined that Shakespeare's company did perform a play called *Cardenio* in 1613.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. skeptical but
- B. skeptical, but
- C. skeptical,
- D. skeptical

## ID: 6b49f5f1 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. There are two independent clauses in the sentence, each with a subject and a verb: "many...were skeptical" and "historians have determined...." These clauses can be grammatically joined by a comma and the coordinating conjunction "but."

Choice A is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence, which occurs when two independent clauses are joined without punctuation. Two independent clauses can't be joined by just the coordinating conjunction "but." A comma would also be required. Choice C is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error called a comma splice. This sentence contains two independent clauses ("Many...were skeptical" and "historians have determined..."). A comma alone can't join two independent clauses. That requires a comma and a coordinating conjunction. Choice D is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence, which occurs when two independent clauses are joined without punctuation. This sentence contains two independent clauses ("Many...were skeptical" and "historians have determined..."), which need to be either joined by a semicolon, joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction, or separated by a period.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ecba68b5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: ecba68b5

Mathematician Grigori Perelman, sometimes in conjunction with mathematicians Richard S. Hamilton and Shing-Tung Yau, \_\_\_\_\_ credited with proving the Poincaré conjecture. Having built on Hamilton's previous work to solve the proof, Perelman has insisted that Hamilton receive credit. Yau later found and closed gaps in Perelman's proof, persuading some mathematicians that he deserves credit as well.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. are
- B. have been
- C. are being
- D. is

## ID: eeba68b5 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "is credited" agrees in number with the singular subject "mathematician Grigori Perelman."

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "are credited" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "mathematician Grigori Perelman." Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "have been credited" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "mathematician Grigori Perelman." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "are being credited" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "mathematician Grigori Perelman."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2dd1b8bf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 2dd1b8bf

Compared to that of alumina glass, \_\_\_\_\_ silica glass atoms are so far apart that they are unable to re-form bonds after being separated.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. silica glass is at a significant disadvantage due to its more dispersed atomic arrangement:
- B. silica glass has a more dispersed atomic arrangement, resulting in a significant disadvantage:
- C. a significant disadvantage of silica glass is that its atomic arrangement is more dispersed:
- D. silica glass's atomic arrangement is more dispersed, resulting in a significant disadvantage:

## ID: 2dd1b8bf Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice makes “silica glass’s atomic arrangement” the subject of the sentence and places it immediately after the modifying phrase “compared to that of alumina glass.” In doing so, this choice clearly establishes that silica glass’s atomic arrangement—and not another noun in the sentence—is being compared to the atomic arrangement (“that”) of alumina glass.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “silica glass” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that silica glass itself (rather than its atomic arrangement) is being compared to alumina glass’s atomic arrangement. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “silica glass” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that silica glass itself (rather than its atomic arrangement) is being compared to alumina glass’s atomic arrangement. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “a significant disadvantage” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that “a significant disadvantage” is being compared to alumina glass’s atomic arrangement.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 59094d87

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 59094d87

The Tantaquidgeon Museum in Uncasville, Connecticut, was founded in 1931 with the goal of showcasing the culture and history of the Mohegan \_\_\_\_ today, nearly a century later, it is the oldest Native-owned and -operated museum in the country.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Tribe, and
- B. Tribe
- C. Tribe and
- D. Tribe,

## ID: 59094d87 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice uses a comma and a coordinating conjunction ("and") to join two independent clauses ("The Tantaquidgeon...Tribe" and "Today...country").

Choice B is incorrect. This choice results in a grammar error known as a run-on sentence. The clauses before and after "Tribe" are both independent, so they need to be separated with some sort of punctuation. Choice C is incorrect. This choice results in a grammar error known as a run-on sentence. The clauses before and after "and" are both independent, so they can't be linked with just a conjunction. A comma would also be required. Choice D is incorrect. This choice results in a grammar error called a comma splice. The clauses before and after "Tribe" are both independent, so they can't be linked with just a comma. A coordinating conjunction like "and" or "but" would also be required.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8772475b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

**ID: 8772475b**

For thousands of years, humans have used domesticated goats (*Capra hircus*) to clear land of unwanted vegetation. When it comes to their diets, goats are notoriously \_\_\_\_ they will devour all kinds of shrubs and weeds, leaving virtually no part of any plant unconsumed.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. indiscriminate and
- B. indiscriminate,
- C. indiscriminate
- D. indiscriminate:

**ID: 8772475b Answer**

**Correct Answer: D**

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between two main clauses. In this choice, a colon is correctly used to mark the boundary between one main clause ("goats are notoriously indiscriminate") and another main clause ("they will devour all kinds of shrubs and weeds") and to introduce the following explanation of goats' nondiscriminatory behavior when it comes to what they eat.

Choice A is incorrect because when coordinating two longer main clauses such as these, it's conventional to use a comma before the coordinating conjunction. Furthermore, the conjunction "and" fails to indicate that what follows is an explanation of goats' nondiscriminatory behavior when it comes to their diets. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses ("goats...indiscriminate" and "they...weeds"). Choice C is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses ("goats...indiscriminate" and "they...weeds") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 83c9c503

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 83c9c503

Nigerian American artist Toyin Ojih Odutola uses black-ink pens to create highly detailed drawings of human figures. Her portrait of novelist Zadie \_\_\_\_\_ is displayed in the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Smith:
- B. Smith—
- C. Smith
- D. Smith,

## ID: 83c9c503 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a subject and a verb. No punctuation is needed when, as in this case, a subject ("Her portrait of novelist Zadie Smith") is immediately followed by a main verb ("is displayed").

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 9f737b2a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 9f737b2a

In Death Valley National Park's Racetrack Playa, a flat, dry lakebed, are 162 rocks—some weighing less than a pound but others almost 700 pounds—that move periodically from place to place, seemingly of their own volition. Racetrack-like trails in the \_\_\_\_\_ mysterious migration.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. playas sediment mark the rock's
- B. playa's sediment mark the rocks
- C. playa's sediment mark the rocks'
- D. playas' sediment mark the rocks'

## ID: 9f737b2a Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of plural and possessive nouns. The singular possessive noun “playa’s” and the plural possessive noun “rocks” correctly indicate that the sediment is that of one playa (the Racetrack Playa) and that there are multiple rocks that have mysteriously migrated across the sediment.

Choice A is incorrect because the context requires the singular possessive noun “playa’s” and the plural possessive noun “rocks,” not the plural noun “playas” and the singular possessive noun “rock’s.” Choice B is incorrect because the context requires the plural possessive noun “rocks,” not the plural noun “rocks.” Choice D is incorrect because the context requires the singular possessive noun “playa’s,” not the plural possessive noun “playas.”

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c52652c9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: c52652c9

The human brain is primed to recognize faces—so much so that, due to a perceptual tendency called pareidolia, \_\_\_\_\_ will even find faces in clouds, wooden doors, pieces of fruit, and other faceless inanimate objects. Researcher Susan Magsamen has focused her work on better understanding this everyday phenomenon.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. she
- B. they
- C. it
- D. those

## ID: c52652c9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "It" is a singular pronoun used to stand in for objects. Since the antecedent in this case is the singular noun phrase "the human brain," "it" is a perfect pronoun to use here.

Choice A is incorrect. Although "she" is a singular pronoun, it is reserved for people and animals, not objects like "the human brain." Choice B is incorrect. "They" is a plural pronoun, but we need a singular pronoun to represent the antecedent "the human brain." Choice D is incorrect. "Those" is a plural pronoun, but we need a singular pronoun to represent the antecedent "the human brain."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID ba8ebf49

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: ba8ebf49

The poem *Beowulf* begins with the word "hwæt," which is an Old English \_\_\_\_\_ as "hark!" or "listen!" in some versions, the word was playfully rendered as "bro!" by Maria Dahvana Headley in her 2020 translation of the poem.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. exclamation, translated
- B. exclamation and translated
- C. exclamation translated
- D. exclamation. Translated

## ID: ba8ebf49 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence ("The poem...exclamation") and another sentence that begins with a supplementary element ("Translated...poem"). The supplementary element "translated as 'hark!' or 'listen!' in some versions" modifies the subject of the second sentence, "the word" (referring to hwæt).

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice after "exclamation." A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice B is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction "and" can't be used in this way to join sentences. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice after "versions." A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 188f7e3c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 188f7e3c

In 2016, engineer Vanessa Galvez oversaw the installation of 164 bioswales, vegetated channels designed to absorb and divert stormwater, along the streets of Queens, New York. By reducing the runoff flowing into city sewers, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. the mitigation of both street flooding and the resulting pollution of nearby waterways has been achieved by bioswales.
- B. the bioswales have mitigated both street flooding and the resulting pollution of nearby waterways.
- C. the bioswales' mitigation of both street flooding and the resulting pollution of nearby waterways has been achieved.
- D. both street flooding and the resulting pollution of nearby waterways have been mitigated by bioswales.

## ID: 188f7e3c Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice makes the noun phrase “the bioswales” the subject of the sentence and places it immediately after the modifying phrase “By reducing...sewers.” In doing so, this choice clearly establishes that the bioswales—and not another noun in the sentence—are reducing runoff flowing into city sewers.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “the mitigation...waterways” immediately after the modifying phrase results in unclear modification. The resulting sentence makes it hard to determine what is responsible for “reducing the runoff”: the bioswales or some other noun in the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “the bioswales’ mitigation...waterways” immediately after the modifying phrase results in unclear modification. The resulting sentence makes it hard to determine what is responsible for “reducing the runoff”: the bioswales or some other noun in the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “street flooding and the resulting pollution” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the “flooding and pollution” are reducing runoff flowing into city sewers.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 36944347

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

**ID: 36944347**

Official measurements of the Mississippi River's length vary: according to the US Geologic Survey, the river is 2,300 miles long, whereas the Environmental Protection Agency records its length as 2,320 miles. This disparity can be explained in part by the fact that rivers such as the Mississippi expand and contract as \_\_\_\_\_ sediment.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. they accumulate
- B. one accumulates
- C. it accumulates
- D. we accumulate

**ID: 36944347 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The noun that goes with "expand and contract" is "rivers," a plural noun. "They" is a third-person plural pronoun, so it can correctly stand in for "rivers."

Choice B is incorrect. This choice creates a pronoun-antecedent agreement error. "One" is a singular pronoun, but the noun that goes with "expand and contract" is "rivers," a plural noun. Choice C is incorrect. This choice creates a pronoun-antecedent agreement error. "It" is a singular pronoun, but the noun that goes with "expand and contract" is "rivers," a plural noun. Choice D is incorrect. This choice creates a pronoun-antecedent agreement error. The noun that goes with "expand and contract" is the plural noun "rivers." Rivers are not people, so "we" can't be used to stand in for it.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a8fa749a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: a8fa749a

Nigerian author Buchi Emecheta's celebrated literary oeuvre includes *The Joys of Motherhood*, a novel about the changing roles of women in 1950s \_\_\_\_\_ a television play about the private struggles of a newlywed couple in Nigeria; and *Head Above Water*, her autobiography.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Lagos, *A Kind of Marriage*,
- B. Lagos; *A Kind of Marriage*,
- C. Lagos, *A Kind of Marriage*:
- D. Lagos; *A Kind of Marriage*

## ID: a8fa749a Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of items in a complex series (a series including internal punctuation). In this choice, the semicolon after "Lagos" is conventionally used to separate the first item ("The Joys... Lagos") and the second item ("A Kind...Nigeria") in the series. Further, the comma after "Marriage" correctly separates the title "A Kind of Marriage" from the supplementary phrase ("a television...Nigeria") that describes it.

Choice A is incorrect because the comma after "Lagos" doesn't match the semicolon used later in the series to separate the second item ("A Kind...Nigeria") from the third item ("and...autobiography"). Choice C is incorrect because the comma after "Lagos" doesn't match the semicolon used later in the series to separate the second item ("A Kind...Nigeria") from the third item ("and...autobiography"). Additionally, a colon can't be used in this way to separate the title "A Kind of Marriage" from the supplementary phrase ("a television...Nigeria") that describes it. Choice D is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the title "A Kind of Marriage" from the supplementary phrase ("a television...Nigeria") that describes it.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID fa36d803

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: fa36d803

Long attributed to Jacques-Louis David, the preeminent Neoclassical painter of his day, the 1801 painting *Marie Joséphine Charlotte du Val d'Ognes* gained fresh attention in the 1990s when art historians discovered that the painting—which depicts a solitary young woman sketching—was actually the work of little-known French portrait \_\_\_\_\_ Marie-Denise Villers (1774–1821).

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. artist—
- B. artist
- C. artist:
- D. artist,

## ID: fa36d803 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation between titles and proper nouns. No punctuation is needed to set off the proper noun "Marie-Denise Villers" from the title that describes Villers, "little-known French portrait artist."

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 84658166

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

**ID: 84658166**

In 1943, in the midst of World War II, mathematics professor Grace Hopper was recruited by the US military to help the war effort by solving complex equations. Hopper's subsequent career would involve more than just \_\_\_\_\_ as a pioneering computer programmer, Hopper would help usher in the digital age.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. equations, though:
- B. equations, though,
- C. equations. Though,
- D. equations though

**ID: 84658166 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation to mark boundaries between supplements and clauses. The comma after "equations" is used to separate the independent clause ("Hopper's...equation") from the supplementary adverb phrase "though." The colon after "though" is used to mark the boundary between the clause ending with "though" and the following clause ("as...age"). A colon used in this way introduces information that illustrates or explains information that has come before it. In this case, the colon after "though" introduces the following explanation of how Hopper's subsequent career would involve more than just solving equations: she would become a pioneering computer programmer.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to join two independent clauses ("Hopper's...though" and "as...age") such as these. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an illogical sequence of sentences. Placing the period after "equations" and beginning the next sentence with "Though" illogically suggests that the following information (that Hopper would help usher in the digital age) is contrary to the information in the previous sentence (Hopper's subsequent career would involve more than just solving equations). Instead, the information that follows supports the information from the previous sentence by explaining how her work and influence extended beyond solely solving equations. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two independent clauses ("Hopper's...though" and "as...age") are fused without punctuation.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID e3c1b4f7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: e3c1b4f7

Digital artist Jung (Lulu) Chen primarily uses a suite of software tools to create illustrations for children's books. To manifest the warm and welcoming atmospheres that are a signature of her \_\_\_\_\_ she occasionally relies on more traditional art techniques, such as painting with watercolors.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. work, though,
- B. work, though
- C. work; though,
- D. work, though;

## ID: e3c1b4f7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. The comma after "work" pairs with the comma after "though" to separate the supplementary element "though" from the rest of the sentence. This supplementary element signals that what follows is an exception to Chen using software tools to create illustrations, and the pair of commas indicates that this element could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because the comma after "work" must be paired with a comma after "though" to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because a semicolon can't be paired with a comma in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because a semicolon can't be paired with a comma in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5cc85f01

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 5cc85f01

A conceptual artist and designer embraced by both the art world and the fashion \_\_\_\_ Mary Ping was chosen to curate the exhibition *Front Row: Chinese American Designers* for the Museum of Chinese in America.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. world
- B. world:
- C. world;
- D. world,

## ID: 5cc85f01 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a supplementary phrase and a main clause. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the supplementary phrase ("A conceptual artist...world"), which describes Mary Ping, and the main clause ("Mary...America").

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the supplementary phrase ("A conceptual artist...world") and the main clause ("Mary...America") with appropriate punctuation. Choice B is incorrect because a colon can't be used in this way to join the supplementary phrase ("A conceptual artist...world") and the main clause ("Mary...America"). In this context, the colon incorrectly suggests that the information in the supplementary phrase is an explanation or amplification of the information in the main clause (Mary Ping being chosen to curate the exhibition), which isn't the case. Choice C is incorrect because a semicolon can't be used in this way to join the supplementary phrase ("A conceptual artist...world") and the main clause ("Mary...America"). Semicolons are conventionally used to separate two main clauses or to separate items in a complex series.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 8d53e7a0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 8d53e7a0

Slam poet Elizabeth Acevedo's debut novel *The Poet X*, winner of the 2018 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, is composed of \_\_\_\_\_ protagonist, fifteen-year-old Xiomara Batista.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. poems putatively written by the novel's
- B. poem's putatively written by the novel's
- C. poem's putatively written by the novels'
- D. poems putatively written by the novels'

## ID: 8d53e7a0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Nothing belongs to the “poems” in the sentence, so it should not be possessive—just a simple plural noun. The protagonist does belong to the novel—it’s the protagonist of the novel—so “novel” needs to be a singular possessive noun.

Choice B is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. This choice uses the singular possessive “poem’s,” but the text indicates that it should be the simple plural “poems”: there is more than one poem, and nothing belongs to the poems. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. This choice uses the singular possessive “poem’s,” but the text indicates that it should be the simple plural “poems”: there is more than one poem, and nothing belongs to the poems. This choice also uses the plural possessive “novels’,” which is incorrect because there is only one novel. Choice D is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. This choice uses the plural possessive “novels’,” which is incorrect because there is only one novel, so it should be the singular possessive “novel’s.” .

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 61160f0a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 61160f0a

Author Madeline L'Engle, \_\_\_\_\_ to create a suspenseful tone that draws the reader in, begins her novel *A Wrinkle in Time* with descriptions of “wraithlike shadows” and “the frenzied lashing of the wind.”

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. looked
- B. looks
- C. is looking
- D. looking

## ID: 61160f0a Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The nonfinite present participle verb “looking” is correctly used to form a subordinate clause that describes the intent behind how L’Engle begins her novel.

Choice A is incorrect because the finite past tense verb “looked” can’t be used in this way to form a subordinate clause. Choice B is incorrect because the finite present tense verb “looks” can’t be used in this way to form a subordinate clause. Choice C is incorrect because the finite present progressive tense verb “is looking” can’t be used in this way to form a subordinate clause.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 75f49353

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

**ID: 75f49353**

The Progressive Era in the United States witnessed the rise of numerous Black women's clubs, local organizations that advocated for racial and gender equality. Among the clubs' leaders \_\_\_\_\_ Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, founder of the Women's Era Club of Boston.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. was
- B. were
- C. are
- D. have been

**ID: 75f49353 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested here is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "was" agrees in number with the singular subject "Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin."

Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "were" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "are" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "have been" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c88ba1b7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: c88ba1b7

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, automobiles were commonly referred to as horseless carriages after the older technology they still resembled. Known as the Brass Era, this period in automotive design is remembered for its grandeur and artistry, its vehicles \_\_\_\_\_ by collectors for their ornate detailing and gleaming brass fittings.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. are highly prized
- B. had been highly prized
- C. highly prized
- D. were highly prized

## ID: c88ba1b7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms in a sentence. The nonfinite past participle phrase "highly prized" is correctly used to form a supplementary element that modifies the main clause "this...artistry," describing memorable features of Brass Era automotive design.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Using the finite present tense verb phrase "are highly prized" creates a second main clause in the sentence, and two main clauses can't be joined in this way with only a comma after "artistry." Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Using the finite past perfect tense verb phrase "had been highly prized" creates a second main clause in the sentence, and two main clauses can't be joined in this way with only a comma after "artistry." Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Using the finite past tense verb phrase "were highly prized" creates a second main clause in the sentence, and two main clauses can't be joined in this way with only a comma after "artistry."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 1b97cce9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 1b97cce9

Hegra is an archaeological site in present-day Saudi Arabia and was the second largest city of the Nabataean Kingdom (fourth century BCE to first century CE). Archaeologist Laila Nehmé recently traveled to Hegra to study its ancient \_\_\_\_\_ into the rocky outcrops of a vast desert, these burial chambers seem to blend seamlessly with nature.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. tombs. Built
- B. tombs, built
- C. tombs and built
- D. tombs built

## ID: 1b97cce9 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period after “tombs” is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence (“Archaeologist...tombs”) and another (“Built...nature”).

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice C is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction “and” can't be used in this way to join the two sentences. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences (“Archaeologist...tombs” and “Built...nature”) are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 40c3589d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 40c3589d

Luci Tapahonso is the inaugural poet laureate of the Navajo Nation. Her book *Sáanii Dahataal/The Women Are Singing*—a combination of fiction and memoir, poetry and \_\_\_\_\_ serves as a testament to her versatility as a writer.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. prose;
- B. prose
- C. prose,
- D. prose—

## ID: 40c3589d Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “A combination of fiction and memoir, poetry and prose” is a nonessential supplement, so it needs to be set off from the rest of the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks. We already have a dash at the beginning of the supplement, so we need to add a dash at the end of the supplement to match.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. “A combination of fiction and memoir, poetry and prose” is a nonessential supplement, so it needs to be set off from the rest of the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks. We already have a dash at the beginning of the supplement, so we need to add a dash at the end of the supplement to match. Choice B is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. “A combination of fiction and memoir, poetry and prose” is a nonessential supplement, so it needs to be set off from the rest of the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks. We already have a dash at the beginning of the supplement, so we need to add a dash at the end of the supplement to match. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. “A combination of fiction and memoir, poetry and prose” is a nonessential supplement, so it needs to be set off from the rest of the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks. We already have a dash at the beginning of the supplement, so we need to add a dash at the end of the supplement to match.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID b15724fc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: b15724fc

American writer Edwidge Danticat, who emigrated from Haiti in 1981, has won acclaim for her powerful short stories, novels, and \_\_\_\_\_ her lyrical yet unflinching depictions of her native country's turbulent history, writer Robert Antoni has compared Danticat to Nobel Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. essays, praising
- B. essays and praising
- C. essays praising
- D. essays. Praising

## ID: b15724fc Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period after "essays" is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence ("American...essays") and another ("praising...Morrison"). The participial phrase beginning with "Praising" modifies the subject of the second sentence, "writer Robert Antoni."

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice B is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction "and" can't be used in this way to join sentences. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences ("American...essays" and "Praising...Morrison") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 615f001e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 615f001e

Consider the mechanics of the pinhole camera: light passes through a small hole, resulting in a focused projected image. A ray diagram reveals how this \_\_\_\_\_ the hole's small size restricts light to a single ray, all light passing through the hole can only arrive at a single destination, eliminating diffraction and ensuring a clear image.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. works because
- B. works. Because
- C. works, it's because
- D. works: it's because

## ID: 615f001e Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used to correctly mark the boundary between one sentence ("A ray...works") and another ("Because...image").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two sentences ("A ray...works" and "Because...image") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Since the contraction "it's" creates a main clause, the comma after "single ray" can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between two main clauses ("it's...ray" and "all light...image").

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 594b4a94

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 594b4a94

The field of geological oceanography owes much to American \_\_\_\_\_ Marie Tharp, a pioneering oceanographic cartographer whose detailed topographical maps of the ocean floor and its multiple rift valleys helped garner acceptance for the theories of plate tectonics and continental drift.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. geologist,
- B. geologist
- C. geologist;
- D. geologist:

## ID: 594b4a94 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Marie tharp” is essential information that completes the first clause – the first clause doesn’t function without it. So we don’t want to separate it with punctuation.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error. “The field of geological oceanography owes much to American geologist” is unclear: which geologist are we talking about? We need the “Marie Tharp” for clarity, which means it’s essential information and should not be separated by a comma. Choice C is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error. “The field of geological oceanography owes much to American geologist” is unclear: which geologist are we talking about? We need the “Marie Tharp” for clarity, which means it’s essential information and should not be separated by a semicolon. Choice D is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error. “The field of geological oceanography owes much to American geologist” is unclear: which geologist are we talking about? We need the “Marie Tharp” for clarity, which means it’s essential information and should not be separated by a colon.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2fd05c15

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 2fd05c15

In crafting her fantasy fiction, Nigerian-born British author Helen Oyeyemi has drawn inspiration from the classic nineteenth-century fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm. Her 2014 novel *Boy, Snow, Bird*, for instance, is a complex retelling of the story of Snow White, while her 2019 novel \_\_\_\_\_ offers a delicious twist on the classic tale of Hansel and Gretel.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. *Gingerbread*—
- B. *Gingerbread*,
- C. *Gingerbread*
- D. *Gingerbread*:

## ID: 2fd05c15 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a subject and a verb. When, as in this case, a subject ("her 2019 novel *Gingerbread*") is immediately followed by a verb ("offers"), no punctuation is needed.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 97e7bedc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 97e7bedc

Oyster mushrooms typically get their nutrients from the damp logs on which they grow, but the fungi are also carnivorous, with the ability to kill and consume microscopic worms known as nematodes. As researcher Yen-Ping Hsueh has shown, the mushrooms release a toxin that is deadly to nematodes that \_\_\_\_\_ in contact with it.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. has come
- B. comes
- C. is coming
- D. come

## ID: 97e7bedc Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The plural verb "come" agrees in number with the plural subject "nematodes."

Choice A is incorrect because the singular verb "has come" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "nematodes." Choice B is incorrect because the singular verb "comes" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "nematodes." Choice C is incorrect because the singular verb "is coming" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "nematodes."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c8540a5b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: c8540a5b

Swedish scientists Eva Engvall and Peter Perlmann developed a method for measuring the concentration of different proteins in a biological sample. Their \_\_\_\_\_ ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay), is used to detect and measure proteins that indicate the presence of certain diseases.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. method (called
- B. method—called
- C. method, called
- D. method called

## ID: c8540a5b Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of a supplementary element within a sentence. The comma after “method” pairs with the comma after the closing parenthesis to separate the supplementary element “called ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay)” from the rest of the sentence. This supplementary element functions to identify the name of Engvall and Perlmann’s method, and the pair of commas indicates that this element could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because an opening parenthesis can’t be paired with a comma to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because a dash can’t be paired with a comma to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID fdb16e20

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: fdb16e20

Quantum particles of light—photons—provide an unhackable means of transmitting encryption keys over networks, as attempts to observe particles in quantum states will invariably alter the particles \_\_\_\_ dismantle any information they transmit.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. and in the process,
- B. and, in the process,
- C. and in the process—
- D. and, in the process

## ID: fdb16e20 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice uses paired punctuation in the form of two commas to set off the nonessential phrase "in the process."

Choice A is incorrect. The phrase "in the process" is a nonessential element and needs to be set off with paired punctuation. We need a comma after "and" to match the one after "process." Choice C is incorrect. The phrase "in the process" is a nonessential element and needs to be set off with paired punctuation, so we would need a dash after "and" to match the one following "process." Choice D is incorrect. The phrase "in the process" is a nonessential element and needs to be set off with paired punctuation. We would need a comma after "process" to match the one following "and."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 7e37affc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 7e37affc

That the geographic center of North America lay in the state of North Dakota was conceded by all \_\_\_\_\_ establishing its precise coordinates proved more divisive.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. involved:
- B. involved,
- C. involved
- D. involved;

## ID: 7e37affc Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. This choice uses a semicolon in a conventional way to join the first main clause ("That the...involved") and the second main clause ("establishing...divisive"). Further, the semicolon is the most appropriate choice when joining two separate, parallel statements, such as here, where the information following the semicolon contrasts with the information before.

Choice A is incorrect because placing a colon after "involved" illogically indicates that the information in the second main clause (the precise location was the subject of disagreement) explains or amplifies the information in the previous main clause (the general location was agreed upon by all). Instead, the information in the second clause contrasts with the previous information. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 28166dc6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 28166dc6

In knot theory (the mathematical study of curved, closed loops), knots are characterized by their crossing numbers—that is, the number of times the knotted thread crosses over itself. The trefoil knot and the figure-eight knot, each with a crossing number below five, \_\_\_\_\_ among the simplest possible knots with the fewest number of crossings.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. was
- B. are
- C. has been
- D. is

## ID: 28166dc6 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The plural verb "are" agrees in number with the plural compound subject "the trefoil knot and the figure-eight knot." The two types of knots joined by "and" function as a plural subject and thus require a plural verb.

Choice A is incorrect because the singular verb "was" doesn't agree in number with the plural compound subject "the trefoil knot and the figure-eight knot." Choice C is incorrect because the singular verb "has been" doesn't agree in number with the plural compound subject "the trefoil knot and the figure-eight knot." Choice D is incorrect because the singular verb "is" doesn't agree in number with the plural compound subject "the trefoil knot and the figure-eight knot."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f40b447c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: f40b447c

Featuring jagged peaks of black ink surrounded by hazy swirls of blue and green paint, Zhang Daqian's 1983 painting *Panorama of Mount Lu* is inspired by the tradition of *qinglü shanshui*, a type of Chinese landscape painting \_\_\_\_\_ by the use of blue and green hues to depict ethereal, otherworldly landscapes.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. has been characterized
- B. will be characterized
- C. characterized
- D. is characterized

## ID: f40b447c Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The nonfinite past participle "characterized" is correctly used within a supplementary element that modifies the main clause "Zhang...shanshui," defining *qinglü shanshui* and explaining some of its identifying traits.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Using the finite present perfect tense verb "has been characterized" creates a second main clause in the sentence, and the two main clauses can't be joined in this way by only the comma before "a type." Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Using the finite future tense verb "will be characterized" creates a second main clause in the sentence, and the two main clauses can't be joined in this way by only the comma before "a type." Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Using the finite present tense verb "is characterized" creates a second main clause in the sentence, and the two main clauses can't be joined in this way by only the comma before "a type."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7a0d9031

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 7a0d9031

In many of her landscape paintings from the 1970s and 1980s, Lebanese American artist Etel Adnan worked to capture the essence of California's fog-shrouded Mount Tamalpais region through abstraction, using splotches of color to represent the area's features. Interestingly, the triangle representing the mountain itself \_\_\_\_\_ among the few defined figures in her paintings.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. are
- B. have been
- C. were
- D. is

## ID: 7a0d9031 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject–verb agreement. The singular verb “is” agrees in number with the singular subject “the triangle.”

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb “are” doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject “the triangle.” Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb “have been” doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject “the triangle.” Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb “were” doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject “the triangle.”

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID d46ac7e7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: d46ac7e7

A second-generation Japanese American, Wataru Misaka \_\_\_\_\_ in World War II (1941-45) and won two amateur national basketball championships at the University of Utah when he joined the New York Knicks for the 1947-48 season, becoming the first non-white basketball player in the US's top professional league.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. already served
- B. was already serving
- C. already serves
- D. had already served

## ID: d46ac7e7 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Misaka served in World War II before he joined the New York Knicks in 1947. To show that a past occurrence took place before another past occurrence, we need to use “had” + the past tense form of the verb. This is called the past perfect tense.

Choice A is incorrect. Misaka served in World War II before he joined the Knicks. Both events are in the past, but his service in World War II happened earlier, so we need a verb that makes it clear that his service (and the two national championships) had ended by the time he joined the Knicks. Choice B is incorrect. “Was already serving” forms the continuous past tense, which we use when we’re showing a past action that was ongoing. Misaka served in World War II before he joined the Knicks. Both events are in the past, but they’re not happening at the same time, so we shouldn’t use the continuous past tense here. Choice C is incorrect. Misaka served in World War II in the past, so we shouldn’t use the present tense “serves.”

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 2b6e1c06

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 2b6e1c06

A government body officially known as the Althing, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. the world's oldest parliaments include one which first met in 930 CE, Iceland's.
- B. Iceland's parliament is one of the oldest in the world, first meeting in 930 CE.
- C. the first meeting of one of the oldest parliaments in the world, Iceland's, was in 930 CE.
- D. 930 CE was the year when Iceland's parliament, one of the oldest parliaments in the world, first met.

## ID: 2b6e1c06 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice makes the noun phrase "Iceland's parliament" the subject of the sentence and places it immediately after the modifying phrase "a government body officially known as the Althing." In doing so, this choice clearly establishes that Iceland's parliament—and not another noun in the sentence—is the government body known as the Althing.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase "the world's oldest parliaments" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the world's oldest parliaments are a government body known as the Althing. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase "the first meeting" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the first meeting of Iceland's parliament was a government body known as the Althing. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase "930 CE" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the year 930 CE is a government body known as the Althing.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3595a991

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 3595a991

In 1930, Japanese American artist Chiura Obata depicted the natural beauty of Yosemite National Park in two memorable woodcuts: *Evening at Carl Inn* and *Lake Basin in the High Sierra*. In 2019, \_\_\_\_\_ exhibited alongside 150 of Obata's other works in a single-artist show at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. it was
- B. they were
- C. this was
- D. some were

## ID: 3595a991 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is pronoun–antecedent agreement. The plural pronoun “they” agrees in number with the plural antecedent “woodcuts” and clearly identifies what was exhibited at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Choice A is incorrect because the singular pronoun “it” doesn’t agree in number with the plural antecedent “woodcuts.” Choice C is incorrect because the singular pronoun “this” doesn’t agree in number with the plural antecedent “woodcuts.” Choice D is incorrect because the plural pronoun “some” is illogical in this context (referring to “some” of two woodcuts).

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID f45ae404

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: f45ae404

The city of Amsterdam partnered with consultants to develop Public Eye—an ethical AI-powered crowd-monitoring \_\_\_\_ video streamed from cameras in heavily touristed areas, the AI algorithm determines crowd sizes without, in the interest of protecting individuals' privacy, retaining the footage.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. system—analyzing
- B. system, analyzing
- C. system. Analyzing
- D. system analyzing

## ID: f45ae404 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence ("The city...system") and another ("Analyzing...footage"). The participial phrase beginning with "analyzing" modifies the subject of the second sentence, "the AI algorithm."

Choice A is incorrect. Placing a dash before "analyzing" creates a confusing and ambiguous modifying element ("analyzing...areas") and a comma splice between "areas" and "the AI algorithm." (A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences.) Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences ("The city...system" and "analyzing...footage") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 1ee4485c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 1ee4485c

Journalists have dubbed Gil Scott-Heron the “godfather of rap,” a title that has appeared in hundreds of articles about him since the 1990s. Scott-Heron himself resisted the godfather \_\_\_\_\_ feeling that it didn’t encapsulate his devotion to the broader African American blues music tradition as well as “bluesologist,” the moniker he preferred.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. nickname, however
- B. nickname, however;
- C. nickname, however,
- D. nickname; however,

## ID: 1ee4485c Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a main clause and two supplementary elements. In this choice, the commas after “nickname” and “however” are correctly used to separate the supplementary adverb “however” from the main clause (“Scott-Heron...nickname”) on one side and the supplementary participial phrase (“feeling...bluesologist”) on the other.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the supplementary adverb “however” and the supplementary phrase (“feeling...bluesologist”). Choice B is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used in this way to join the supplementary adverb “however” and the supplementary phrase (“feeling...bluesologist”). Choice D is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used in this way to join the main clause (“Scott-Heron...nickname”) and the supplementary word and phrase (“however” and “feeling...bluesologist”). Moreover, placing the semicolon after “nickname” illogically signals that the following information (Scott-Heron’s feeling that the nickname didn’t encapsulate his devotion to the blues tradition) is contrary to the information in the previous clause (Scott-Heron’s resistance to the nickname).

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d2cf0e11

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: d2cf0e11

Inventor John Friedman created a prototype of the first flexible straw by inserting a screw into a paper straw and, using dental floss, binding the straw tightly around the \_\_\_\_\_. When the floss and screw were removed, the resulting corrugations in the paper allowed the straw to bend easily over the edge of a glass.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. screw's thread's.
- B. screws' threads.
- C. screw's threads.
- D. screws threads'.

## ID: d2cf0e11 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of plural and possessive nouns. The singular possessive noun “screw’s” and the plural noun “threads” correctly indicate that there is only one screw and it has multiple threads.

Choice A is incorrect because the context requires the plural noun “threads,” not the singular possessive noun “thread’s.” Choice B is incorrect because the context requires the singular possessive noun “screw’s,” not the plural possessive noun “screws’.” Choice D is incorrect because the context requires the singular possessive noun “screw’s” and the plural noun “threads,” not the plural noun “screws” or the plural possessive noun “threads.”

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c101fc44

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: c101fc44

How do scientists determine what foods were eaten by extinct hominins such as Neanderthals? In the past, researchers were limited to studying the marks found on the fossilized teeth of skeletons, but in 2017 a team led by Laura Weyrich of the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA tried something \_\_\_\_\_ the DNA found in Neanderthals' fossilized dental plaque.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. new: sequencing
- B. new; sequencing
- C. new, sequencing:
- D. new. Sequencing

## ID: c101fc44 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "A team...tried something new" is an independent clause leading to an explanation of what the new thing was. A colon can only be used at the end of an independent clause, and typically introduces further explanation that expands upon the first clause, which makes a colon the perfect choice here.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice results in a punctuation error. "Sequencing...dental plaque" can't stand on its own as a sentence, and so it can't be linked to the independent clause "a team...tried something new" with a semicolon. Only two independent clauses can be connected in this way. Choice C is incorrect. This choice results in a punctuation error. If "sequencing" is included in the first clause, it can no longer stand on its own as a complete idea. Since a colon can only come at the end of an independent clause, using one in this way creates an error. Choice D is incorrect. This choice results in a sentence fragment. "Sequencing...dental plaque" can't stand on its own as a sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 0bcb4417

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 0bcb4417

Oglala Lakota poet Layli Long Soldier's star quilt poems offer an unusually open-ended reading experience. With \_\_\_\_\_ eight panels of text stitched together in the shape of a traditional eight-pointed Lakota star quilt, the poems present viewers with a seemingly infinite number of ways to read them.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. their
- B. it's
- C. they're
- D. its

## ID: 0bcb4417 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of possessive determiners. The plural possessive determiner "their" agrees in number with the plural noun "the poems," thus indicating that the poems had eight panels of text stitched together in the shape of a traditional eight-pointed Lakota star quilt.

Choice B is incorrect because "it's" is the contraction for "it is" or "it has," not a possessive determiner. Choice C is incorrect because "they're" is the contraction for "they are," not a possessive determiner. Choice D is incorrect because the singular possessive determiner "its" doesn't agree in number with the plural noun "the poems."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID be37d4ae

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: be37d4ae

During the English neoclassical period (1660–1789), many writers imitated the epic poetry and satires of ancient Greece and Rome. They were not the first in England to adopt the literary modes of classical \_\_\_\_\_ some of the most prominent figures of the earlier Renaissance period were also influenced by ancient Greek and Roman literature.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. antiquity, however
- B. antiquity, however,
- C. antiquity, however;
- D. antiquity; however,

## ID: be37d4ae Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of a supplementary phrase following a clause. This choice uses a comma to separate the supplementary adverb phrase "however" from the independent clause it modifies ("They...antiquity") and uses a semicolon to join the first independent clause ("They...antiquity") and the second independent clause ("some...literature"). Further, placing the semicolon after "however" indicates that the information in the clause that this is part of (that neoclassical writers were not the first to adopt classical literary modes) is contrary to what might be assumed from the information in the previous sentence (that the neoclassical writers were unique in imitating classical epic poetry and satires).

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary after "however" between the two independent clauses with appropriate punctuation. Choice B is incorrect because the comma after "however" can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between the two independent clauses. Choice D is incorrect because placing the semicolon after "antiquity" illogically indicates that the information in the clause that this is part of (that prominent Renaissance figures were also influenced by classical literature) is contrary to the information in the previous clause (that neoclassical writers were not the first to adopt classical literary modes).

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID c8607bdf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: c8607bdf

"Praise Song for the Day," Elizabeth Alexander's 2009 inaugural poem, asserts that "We cross dirt roads and highways...to see what's on the other side." Alexander's use of "we" \_\_\_\_\_ Americans' collective efforts and shared desire to seek new opportunity.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. evokes
- B. are evoking
- C. have evoked
- D. evoke

## ID: c8607bdf Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "evokes" agrees in number with the singular subject "Alexander's use."

Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "are evoking" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "Alexander's use." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "have evoked" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "Alexander's use." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "evoke" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "Alexander's use."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c15069eb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

**ID: c15069eb**

Latin America is known to have dozens, if not hundreds, of popular dance forms. Only five of these dances are included in international ballroom dance \_\_\_\_ rumba, samba, cha-cha-cha, paso doble, and jive—the last of which is grouped with the other Latin dances despite not having Latin roots.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. competitions, however:
- B. competitions, however,
- C. competitions, however;
- D. competitions; however,

**ID: c15069eb Answer**

**Correct Answer:** A

## Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of supplementary elements within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma to separate the supplementary adverb "however" from the preceding main clause ("only...competitions"), and it uses a colon to introduce the list of dances that follows ("rumba...jive"). Further, placing the colon after "however" rather than before indicates that the information in the preceding main clause (only...competitions) is contrary to what might be assumed from the information in the previous sentence (Latin America has many more dance forms).

Choice B is incorrect. The comma after "however" can't be used in this way to introduce a series ("rumba...jive"). Choice C is incorrect because it isn't conventional to use a semicolon in this way to introduce a series of items, such as the list of dances. Choice D is incorrect because placing the semicolon after "competitions" illogically indicates that the following list of five Latin American dances ("rumba...jive") is contrary to the information in the previous clause (only five Latin American dances are included in international ballroom dance competitions).

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5aae2475

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 5aae2475

Stomata, tiny pore structures in a leaf that absorb gases needed for plant growth, open when guard cells surrounding each pore swell with water. In a pivotal 2007 article, plant cell \_\_\_\_\_ showed that lipid molecules called phosphatidylinositol phosphates are responsible for signaling guard cells to open stomata.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. biologist, Yuree Lee
- B. biologist Yuree Lee,
- C. biologist Yuree Lee
- D. biologist, Yuree Lee,

## ID: 5aae2475 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation between titles and proper nouns. No punctuation is needed to offset the proper noun "Yuree Lee" from the title "plant cell biologist" that describes Lee.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed around the proper noun "Yuree Lee." Setting the phrase off with punctuation suggests that it could be removed without affecting the coherence of the sentence, which isn't the case.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID db2e480a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: db2e480a

By the time Hawaiian king Kamehameha III \_\_\_\_\_ the throne, the number of longhorn cattle, first introduced to the islands in 1793, had drastically increased, and so too had the need for *paniolo* (Hawaiian cowboys) to manage the wild herds that then roamed throughout the volcanic terrain.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. ascended
- B. will ascend
- C. ascends
- D. is ascending

## ID: db2e480a Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Ascended" is in the simple past tense. Since Kamehameha became king in the past, this makes the most sense.

Choice B is incorrect. "Will ascend" is in the future tense, but we wouldn't know about Kamehameha III's ascent if it hadn't happened yet. The information in the sentence, as well as the tense of other verbs, tells us that the events described happened in the past. Choice C is incorrect. "Ascends" is in the simple present tense. However, the information in the sentence, as well as the tense of other verbs, tells us that the events described happened in the past. Choice D is incorrect. "Is ascending" is in the continuous present tense, which we use to show that something is ongoing, but this doesn't make sense here—the information in the sentence, as well as the tense of other verbs, tells us that the events described happened in the past.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID a30567fd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

**ID: a30567fd**

Nuhād al-Haddād, known as Fairuz, was one of the most beloved Lebanese singers of the twentieth century. Her broad singing repertoire—which included traditional forms, such as the Arabic *qasida* and *maqam*, alongside modern pop and jazz styles—lent Fairuz a timeless, cross-generational appeal, \_\_\_\_\_ her the moniker “the soul of Lebanon.”

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. earned
- B. had earned
- C. earning
- D. earn

**ID: a30567fd Answer**

**Correct Answer:** C

## Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The word "earning" is being used to introduce an additional modifying phrase, which describes how Fairuz's repertoire lent her cross-generational appeal. When a verb ends in -ing and doesn't have a helper verb like "is" before it, it can be used to modify a noun or verb. This is appropriate here.

Choice A is incorrect. The underlined verb is being used to introduce additional descriptive information, which is set off from the rest of the sentence by a comma. Because there is no subject here, a finite form of the verb (like "earned") creates an error. We need another form of the verb that doesn't require a subject and can introduce descriptive information. Choice B is incorrect. The underlined verb is being used to introduce additional descriptive information, which is set off from the rest of the sentence by a comma. Because there is no subject here, a finite form of the verb (like "had earned") creates an error. We need another form of the verb that doesn't require a subject and can introduce descriptive information. Choice D is incorrect. The underlined verb is being used to introduce additional descriptive information, which is set off from the rest of the sentence by a comma. Because there is no subject here, a finite form of the verb (like "earn") creates an error. We need another form of the verb that doesn't require a subject and can introduce descriptive information.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 329255db

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 329255db

Bengali author Toru Dutt's *A Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields* (1876), a volume of English translations of French poems, \_\_\_\_\_ scholars' understanding of the transnational and multilingual contexts in which Dutt lived and worked.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. has enhanced
- B. are enhancing
- C. have enhanced
- D. enhance

## ID: 329255db Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "has enhanced" agrees in number with the singular subject "*A Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields*," which is the title of a book of poems.

Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "are enhancing" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "*A Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields*." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "have enhanced" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "*A Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields*." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "enhance" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "*A Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields*."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID ad046778

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: ad046778

To humans, it does not appear that the golden orb-weaver spider uses camouflage to capture its \_\_\_\_ the brightly colored arachnid seems to wait conspicuously in the center of its large circular web for insects to approach. Researcher Po Peng of the University of Melbourne has explained that the spider's distinctive coloration may in fact be part of its appeal.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. prey, rather,
- B. prey rather,
- C. prey, rather;
- D. prey; rather,

## ID: ad046778 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. The semicolon is correctly used to join the first main clause ("To humans...prey") and the second main clause ("rather...approach"). Further, the comma after the adverb "rather" is correctly used to separate the adverb from the main clause ("the brightly...approach") it modifies, logically indicating that the information in this clause (how the spider's behavior appears to humans) is contrary to the information in the previous clause (how the spider's behavior does not appear to humans).

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without appropriate punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice C is incorrect. Placing the comma between the first main clause "To humans...prey" and the adverb "rather" illogically indicates that the information in the first main clause is contrary to what came before, which doesn't make sense in this context.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 7ce4ee13

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 7ce4ee13

After immigrating from Mexico and obtaining U.S. citizenship, Octaviano Ambrosio Larrazolo entered politics, earning a reputation for being a fervent defender of Hispanic civil rights. In 1919 Larrazolo was elected governor of \_\_\_\_\_ in 1928 he became the nation's first Hispanic U.S. Senator.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. New Mexico and
- B. New Mexico,
- C. New Mexico, and
- D. New Mexico

## ID: 7ce4ee13 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma and the coordinating conjunction "and" to join the first main clause ("In 1919 Larrazolo was elected governor of New Mexico") and the second main clause ("in 1928 he became the nation's first Hispanic US Senator").

Choice A is incorrect because when coordinating two longer main clauses such as these, it's conventional to use a comma before the coordinating conjunction. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID aa443c4b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: aa443c4b

Recent pollen analyses of the Aran Islands have led some researchers to propose that the now treeless islands were once wooded. This hypothesis \_\_\_\_\_ that certain trees, such as *P. sylvestris*, survived without interruption or human intervention throughout the Holocene cannot stand, researchers Michael O'Connell and Karen Molloy counter, unless other explanations can first be ruled out.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. suggesting
- B. suggested
- C. suggests
- D. has suggested

## ID: aa443c4b Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The nonfinite present participle "suggesting" is correctly used to form a restrictive participial phrase ("suggesting...Holocene") within the main clause ("This hypothesis...cannot stand..."). This participial phrase functions as part of the sentence's subject ("This...Holocene"), providing essential identifying information about what the hypothesis states—namely, that certain trees survived without interruption or human intervention throughout the Holocene.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite verb "suggested" can't be used in this way within the subject of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite verb "suggests" can't be used in this way within the subject of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite verb "has suggested" can't be used in this way within the subject of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 0a114526

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 0a114526

In 1937, Chinese American screen actor Anna May Wong, who had portrayed numerous villains and secondary characters but never a heroine, finally got a starring role in Paramount Pictures' *Daughter of Shanghai*, a film that \_\_\_\_\_ "expanded the range of possibilities for Asian images on screen."

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. critic, Stina Chyn, claims
- B. critic, Stina Chyn, claims,
- C. critic Stina Chyn claims
- D. critic Stina Chyn, claims,

## ID: 0a114526 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The conventions being tested are punctuation use between titles and proper nouns and between verbs and integrated quotations. No punctuation is needed to set off the proper noun "Stina Chyn" from the title that describes Chyn, "critic." Because "Stina Chyn" is essential information identifying the "critic," no punctuation is necessary. Further, no punctuation is needed between the verb "claims" and the following quotation because the quotation is integrated into the structure of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed before or after the proper noun "Stina Chyn." Setting the critic's name off with commas suggests that it could be removed without affecting the coherence of the sentence, which isn't the case. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed before or after the proper noun "Stina Chyn." Setting the critic's name off with commas suggests that it could be removed without affecting the coherence of the sentence, which isn't the case. Additionally, no punctuation is needed between "claims" and the integrated quotation. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb "claims" and its subject, "critic Stina Chyn." Additionally, no punctuation is needed between the verb "claims" and the integrated quotation.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a5079e0d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: a5079e0d

Horsepower is a unit of measurement used to determine how much power a vehicle produces. The measurement is based on how much and how quickly weight can be \_\_\_\_ one unit of mechanical horsepower is equivalent to the amount of power it takes to lift 550 pounds one foot off the ground in one second.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. moved, for example,
- B. moved,
- C. moved; for example,
- D. moved

## ID: a5079e0d Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. This choice uses a semicolon in a conventional way to join the first main clause ("The measurement...moved") and the second main clause ("for example...second").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a coordinating conjunction, a comma can't be used in this way to join the two main clauses ("The measurement...moved" and "for example...second"). Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join the two main clauses ("The measurement...moved" and "one unit...second"). Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses ("The measurement...moved" and "one unit...second") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID b32eab9f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: b32eab9f

Increased gender diversity is revitalizing the field of economics, according to Harvard's Claudia Goldin. The trailblazing accomplishments of Goldin, winner of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Economics for her work on women in the labor force, \_\_\_\_\_ to the value of scholars of diverse backgrounds in spurring research into previously unexplored, but vitally important, topics.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. attests
- B. has attested
- C. is attesting
- D. attest

## ID: b32eab9f Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The plural verb "attest" agrees in number with the plural subject "trailblazing accomplishments."

Choice A is incorrect because the singular verb "attests" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "trailblazing accomplishments." Choice B is incorrect because the singular verb "has attested" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "trailblazing accomplishments." Choice C is incorrect because the singular verb "is attesting" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "trailblazing accomplishments."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 50801257

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 50801257

In 1994, almost 200 years after the death of Wang Zhenyi, the International Astronomical \_\_\_\_\_ the contributions of the barrier-breaking 18th-century astronomer and author of “Dispute of the Procession of the Equinoxes,” naming a crater on Venus after her.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Union would finally acknowledge
- B. Union to finally acknowledge
- C. Union, having finally acknowledged
- D. Union, finally acknowledging

## ID: 50801257 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It's the only choice that offers a form of the verb “acknowledge” that can go with the subject “International Astronomical Union” to make a complete sentence. This might seem like an odd use of “would,” but when speaking from a point of view in the past, we can actually use “would” to express something that happened later. That's the case here: 200 years after Wang Zhenyi's death, the IAU would finally acknowledge her contributions.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice creates a sentence fragment. There's no main verb elsewhere in the sentence, so we need a form of the verb “acknowledge” that can go with the subject “the International Astronomical Union” and serve as that main verb. “To acknowledge” can't do that. Choice C is incorrect. This choice creates a sentence fragment. There's no main verb elsewhere in the sentence, so we need a form of the verb “acknowledge” that can go with the subject “the International Astronomical Union” and serve as that main verb. “Having acknowledged” can't do that. Choice D is incorrect. This choice creates a sentence fragment. There's no main verb elsewhere in the sentence, so we need a form of the verb “acknowledge” that can go with the subject “the International Astronomical Union” and serve as that main verb. The “-ing” form can't do that.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a14eef71

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: a14eef71

In 2015, a team led by materials scientists Anirudha Sumant and Diana Berman succeeded in reducing the coefficient of friction (COF) between two surfaces to the lowest possible level—superlubricity. A nearly frictionless (and, as its name suggests, extremely slippery) state, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. when their COF drops below 0.01, two surfaces reach superlubricity.
- B. two surfaces, when their COF drops below 0.01, reach superlubricity.
- C. reaching superlubricity occurs when two surfaces' COF drops below 0.01.
- D. superlubricity is reached when two surfaces' COF drops below 0.01.

## ID: a14eef71 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The subject of the modifier “a nearly frictionless state” is “superlubricity.” Subject-modifier placement requires a modifier and its subject to be next to one another, so “superlubricity” must be the first word in the missing clause.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice creates a subject-modifier placement error. The subject of the modifier “a nearly frictionless state” is “superlubricity.” Subject-modifier placement requires a modifier and its subject to be next to one another, so “superlubricity” must be the first word in the missing clause. Choice B is incorrect. This choice creates a subject-modifier placement error. The subject of the modifier “a nearly frictionless state” is “superlubricity.” Subject-modifier placement requires a modifier and its subject to be next to one another, so “superlubricity” must be the first word in the missing clause. Choice C is incorrect. This choice creates a subject-modifier placement error. The subject of the modifier “a nearly frictionless state” is “superlubricity.” Subject-modifier placement requires a modifier and its subject to be next to one another, so “superlubricity” must be the first word in the missing clause.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5fd86f4b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 5fd86f4b

The ghazal, a poetic form originating in seventh-century Arabic poetry, has an intricate structure. The twentieth-century Kashmiri American poet Agha Shahid Ali explains that each one of a ghazal's couplets, while adhering to the patterns of rhyme (*qafia*) and refrain (*radif*) established in the poem's opening lines (*matla*), \_\_\_\_\_ thematically and logically autonomous, resulting in a poem with "a stringently formal disunity."

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. is
- B. were
- C. have been
- D. are

## ID: 5fd86f4b Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The singular verb "is" agrees in number with the singular subject "each one of a ghazal's couplets." While the prepositional phrase "of a ghazal's couplets" within the subject contains a plural noun, the head of the subject ("each one") is singular, indicating that each individual couplet (not the couplets as a group) is "thematically and logically autonomous," or self-standing.

Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "were" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "each one of a ghazal's couplets." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "have been" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "each one of a ghazal's couplets." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "are" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "each one of a ghazal's couplets."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID f868d438

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: f868d438

In 2018, the innovative works of Congolese sculptor and architect Bodys Isek \_\_\_\_\_ were featured in *City Dreams*, a solo exhibition at New York's Museum of Modern Art.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Kingelez;
- B. Kingelez,
- C. Kingelez
- D. Kingelez:

## ID: f868d438 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a subject and a verb. No punctuation is needed when the subject of a sentence is immediately followed by a main verb. In this case, the sentence's subject ("the innovative works of Congolese sculptor and architect Bodys Isek Kingelez") is followed by the main verb "were featured," and no punctuation should come between them.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 6d4b2e1e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 6d4b2e1e

The 1977 play *And the Soul Shall Dance* depicts two Japanese American farming families in Depression-era Southern California. Critics have noted the way pioneering \_\_\_\_\_ compares the experiences of *issei* (Japanese nationals who emigrated to America) and *nisei* (their American-born children).

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. playwright, Wakako Yamauchi,
- B. playwright, Wakako Yamauchi
- C. playwright Wakako Yamauchi,
- D. playwright Wakako Yamauchi

## ID: 6d4b2e1e Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation between titles and proper nouns. No punctuation is needed to set off the proper noun "Wakako Yamauchi" from the title that describes Yamauchi, "pioneering playwright." Because "Wakako Yamauchi" is essential information identifying the "pioneering playwright," no punctuation is necessary.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed before or after the proper noun "Wakako Yamauchi." Setting the playwright's name off with commas suggests that it could be removed without affecting the coherence of the sentence, which isn't the case. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the title "pioneering playwright" and the proper noun "Wakako Yamauchi." Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the proper noun "Wakako Yamauchi" and the verb "compares."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID b85c19ed

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: b85c19ed

The violins handmade in the seventeenth century by Italian craftsman Antonio Stradivari have been celebrated as some of the finest in the world. In close collaboration with musicians, Stradivari introduced changes to the shape of a traditional violin, flattening some of the instrument's curves and making \_\_\_\_\_ lighter overall.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. those
- B. one
- C. them
- D. it

## ID: b85c19ed Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is pronoun–antecedent agreement. The singular pronoun “it” agrees in number with the singular antecedent “violin” and thus indicates that the traditional violin (and not its curves) was made lighter.

Choice A is incorrect because the plural pronoun “those” doesn’t agree in number with the singular antecedent “violin.” Choice B is incorrect because the singular pronoun “one” is ambiguous in this context; the resulting sentence leaves unclear what Stradivari made lighter. Choice C is incorrect because the plural pronoun “them” doesn’t agree in number with the singular antecedent “violin.”

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 109d5bbb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 109d5bbb

With some 16,000 in attendance, the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and \_\_\_\_\_ or FESTAC '77, as the event was more commonly known—became the largest pan-African event on record. FESTAC drew people from around the world to Lagos, Nigeria, for a monthlong celebration of Black and African art, scholarship, and activism.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Culture:
- B. Culture—
- C. Culture,
- D. Culture

## ID: 109d5bbb Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text uses a dash to introduce a nonessential element that explains the acronym FESTAC. The dash matches the dash that comes after “known,” ending the descriptive aside.

Choice A is incorrect. A colon can only come after an independent clause, which isn’t the case here. Choice C is incorrect. While punctuation is required to set off “or FESTAC...known” from the rest of the sentence, nonessential elements must be separated from the sentence with matching punctuation. Since a dash appears on the other side of the element, we can’t use a comma here. Choice D is incorrect. The descriptive aside “or FESTAC...known” is a nonessential element that must be separated with punctuation from the rest of the sentence. This choice fails to add the necessary punctuation before the nonessential element.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 18382e67

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 18382e67

In Marisol's 1968 sculpture *Mi Mama y Yo*, gone are the types of pop culture references that made the Parisian-born Venezuelan American artist a star at the height of the pop art movement. In \_\_\_\_\_ place is a far more personal subject: a sculptural depiction of the artist as a young girl with her mother.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. its
- B. they're
- C. their
- D. it's

## ID: 18382e67 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of possessive determiners. The plural possessive determiner "their" agrees in number with the plural noun "types" and thus indicates that the more personal subject matter of Marisol's 1968 sculpture takes the place of those types of pop culture references that made Marisol a star.

Choice A is incorrect because the singular possessive determiner "its" doesn't agree in number with the plural noun "types." Choice B is incorrect because "they're" is the contraction for "they are," not a possessive determiner. Choice D is incorrect because "it's" is the contraction for "it is" or "it has," not a possessive determiner.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3fee46f2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 3fee46f2

Sociologist Todd Gitlin co-opted the term “recombinant,” normally used in reference to genetic engineering, to describe serialized television shows of the 1980s. Gitlin’s use of the term referenced TV studios’ practice of repackaging successful narrative formulas as new \_\_\_\_\_ even shows that varied only slightly from other shows still attracted sizeable audiences.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. content, in that era
- B. content; in that era,
- C. content in that era,
- D. content, in that era,

## ID: 3fee46f2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. This choice uses a semicolon in a conventional way to join the first main clause ("Gitlin's...content") and the second main clause beginning with a supplementary phrase ("in...audiences"). Further, placing a comma after "era" separates the supplementary phrase "in that era" from the rest of the main clause that follows ("even...audiences").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Further, this choice fails to mark the boundary between the supplementary phrase "in that era" and the rest of the main clause that follows ("even...audiences"). Choice C is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses ("Gitlin's...content" and "in...audiences") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d073983d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: d073983d

Known for her massive photorealistic paintings of African American figures floating or swimming in pools, Calida Garcia \_\_\_\_\_ was the logical choice to design the book cover for Ta-Nehisi Coates's *The Water Dancer*, a novel about an African American man who can travel great distances through water.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Rawles—
- B. Rawles:
- C. Rawles,
- D. Rawles

## ID: d073983d Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a subject and a verb. When, as in this case, a subject ("Calida Garcia Rawles") is immediately followed by a verb ("was"), no punctuation is needed.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c468db1c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: c468db1c

A group of ecologists led by Axel Mithöfer at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Germany examined the defensive responses of two varieties of the sweet potato \_\_\_\_\_ TN57, which is known for its insect resistance, and TN66, which is much more susceptible to pests.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. plant.
- B. plant;
- C. plant
- D. plant:

## ID: c468db1c Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a main clause and a supplementary phrase. In this choice, a colon is correctly used to mark the boundary between the main clause ("A group...plant") and the supplementary element ("TN57...pests") and to introduce the following elaboration on the specific varieties of sweet potato plants that were examined.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "TN57." Choice B is incorrect because a semicolon can't be used in this way to join the main clause ("A group...plant") and the supplementary element ("TN57...pests"). A semicolon is conventionally used to join two main clauses, whereas a colon is conventionally used to introduce an element that explains or amplifies the information in the preceding clause. Choice C is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the main clause ("A group...plant") and the supplementary element ("TN57...pests") with appropriate punctuation.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8a9d2f4e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 8a9d2f4e

Researchers studying the “terra-cotta army,” the thousands of life-size statues of warriors found interred near the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang of China, were shocked to realize that the shape of each statue’s ears, like the shape of each person’s ears, \_\_\_\_\_ unique.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. are
- B. is
- C. were
- D. have been

## ID: 8a9d2f4e Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "is" agrees in number with the singular subject "the shape."

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "are" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "the shape." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "were" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "the shape." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "have been" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "the shape."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID d4fe8f03

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: d4fe8f03

Paintings by the renowned twentieth-century US \_\_\_\_\_ were featured in *Artist to Artist*, an exhibition at the Smithsonian Art Museum that paired the works of artists whose career trajectories intersected in meaningful ways.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. artists: Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock,
- B. artists Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock
- C. artists Thomas Hart Benton, and Jackson Pollock,
- D. artists, Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock

## ID: d4fe8f03 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation around noun phrases. No punctuation is needed because the coordinated noun phrase "Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock" is a restrictive appositive, meaning that it provides essential identifying information about the noun phrase before it, "the renowned twentieth-century US artists."

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the noun phrase "the renowned twentieth-century US artists" and the restrictive appositive "Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock." Additionally, no punctuation is needed between the sentence's subject ("paintings by the renowned twentieth-century US artists Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock") and the main verb ("were featured"). Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the coordinated elements "Thomas Hart Benton" and "Jackson Pollock." Additionally, no punctuation is needed between the sentence's subject ("paintings by the renowned twentieth-century US artists Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock") and the main verb ("were featured"). Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the noun phrase "the renowned twentieth-century US artists" and the restrictive appositive "Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID dfbf5d33

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: dfbf5d33

In 1453, English King Henry VI became unfit to rule after falling gravely ill. As a result, Parliament appointed Richard, Third Duke of York, who had a strong claim to the English throne, to rule as Lord Protector. Upon recovering two years later, \_\_\_\_\_ forcing an angered Richard from the royal court and precipitating a series of battles later known as the Wars of the Roses.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Henry resumed his reign,
- B. the reign of Henry resumed,
- C. Henry's reign resumed,
- D. it was Henry who resumed his reign,

## ID: dfbf5d33 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice ensures that the introductory phrase “upon recovering two years later” appears immediately before the noun it modifies (“Henry”), clearly establishing that Henry recovered two years later.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “the reign of Henry” immediately after the introductory phrase illogically suggests that the reign of Henry recovered two years later. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “Henry’s reign” immediately after the introductory phrase illogically suggests that Henry’s reign recovered two years later. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the function word “it” immediately after the introductory phrase illogically suggests that “it” recovered two years later.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID bb4557cf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: bb4557cf

The relationship between genomes and epigenomes reveals how cells with identical DNA develop different \_\_\_\_\_ whereas the genome in each cell contains a complete DNA sequence, the epigenome consists of chemical compounds that determine which traits in the sequence will be expressed.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. functions
- B. functions,
- C. functions and,
- D. functions:

## ID: bb4557cf Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of a colon within a sentence. In this choice, the colon correctly introduces the following explanation of the different functions of genomes and epigenomes.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses ("The relationship...functions" and "whereas...expressed") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses ("The relationship...functions" and "whereas...expressed"). Choice C is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction "and" can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Furthermore, "and" fails to indicate that what follows is an explanation of how cells with identical DNA develop different functions.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID da53d726

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: da53d726

In February 1919, following the end of the First World War, women from ten countries around the world convened the Inter-Allied Women's Conference in Paris. The conference's goals were \_\_\_\_\_ ensure women's participation in the proceedings of the Paris Peace Conference, to secure the right of women to serve in the League of Nations, and to advocate for human rights.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. threefold: to
- B. threefold. To
- C. threefold to
- D. threefold; to

## ID: da53d726 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. In this choice, the colon correctly introduces the series of goals held by the 1919 Inter-Allied Women's Conference.

Choice B is incorrect because placing a period after "threefold" results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "To." Choice C is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The main clause ("The conference's goals were threefold") and the series supplement ("to...rights") are fused without punctuation. Choice D is incorrect because a semicolon can't be used in this way to introduce a series. A semicolon is conventionally used to join two main clauses, whereas a colon is conventionally used to introduce a series, making the colon the better choice in this context.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 0b005ae2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 0b005ae2

Recently unearthed Neronian tools in France dating to 54,000 years ago and attributed to *Homo sapiens* may provide evidence that interactions between Neanderthals and modern humans occurred 10,000 years earlier than was previously \_\_\_\_\_ finding that, if true, would overturn current theories about *H. sapiens* migration during the Upper Paleolithic.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. supposed; a
- B. supposed. A
- C. supposed a
- D. supposed, a

## ID: 0b005ae2 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the main clause ("Recently...supposed") and the supplementary element ("a finding...Paleolithic") that provides additional information about the implications of the Neronian tool discovery.

Choice A is incorrect because a semicolon can't be used in this way to join the main clause ("Recently...supposed") and the supplementary element ("a finding...Paleolithic"). Choice B is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "a finding." Choice C is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The main clause ("Recently...supposed") and the supplementary element ("a finding...Paleolithic") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a427a52c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: a427a52c

The Lion Light system, developed by Kenyan inventor Richard Turere, consists of LED lights installed around the perimeter of livestock pastures. Powered with \_\_\_\_\_ the blinking LEDs keep lions away at night, thus protecting the livestock without risking harm to the endangered lions.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. energy collected, by solar panels, during the day
- B. energy collected by solar panels during the day
- C. energy collected by solar panels during the day,
- D. energy, collected by solar panels during the day,

## ID: a427a52c Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a supplementary phrase and a main clause. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the supplementary phrase ("powered...day"), which describes how the LEDs are powered, and the main clause ("the blinking...night").

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the supplementary phrase and the main clause with appropriate punctuation. Furthermore, placing commas around the phrase "by solar panels" suggests that it could be removed without affecting the coherence of the sentence, which isn't the case. Choice B is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the supplementary phrase and the main clause with appropriate punctuation. Choice D is incorrect. Placing commas around the phrase "collected by solar panels during the day" suggests that it could be removed without affecting the coherence of the sentence, which isn't the case.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 3daf126e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 3daf126e

A model created by biologist Luis Valente predicts that the rate of speciation—the rate at which new species form—on an isolated island located approximately 5,000 kilometers from the nearest mainland \_\_\_\_\_ triple the rate of speciation on an island only 500 kilometers from the mainland.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. being
- B. to be
- C. to have been
- D. will be

## ID: 3daf126e Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is finite and nonfinite verb forms within a sentence. Relative clauses, such as the one beginning with “that,” require a finite verb, a verb that can function as the main verb of a clause. This choice correctly supplies the clause with the finite future tense verb “will be.”

Choice A is incorrect because the nonfinite participle “being” doesn’t supply the clause with a finite verb. Choice B is incorrect because the nonfinite to-infinitive “to be” doesn’t supply the clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because the nonfinite to-infinitive “to have been” doesn’t supply the clause with a finite verb.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 5ee7fb04

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 5ee7fb04

In modern plays, actors typically won't acknowledge the \_\_\_\_\_ do so breaks the fourth wall, a metaphorical barrier between actors and audiences that allows viewers to suspend the knowledge that they're watching a staged performance.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. audience. As to
- B. audience to
- C. audience. To
- D. audience, to

## ID: 5ee7fb04 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence ("In modern...audience") and another ("To do...performance").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "as." Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences ("In modern...audience" and "To do...performance") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID a12e3b8a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: a12e3b8a

Customers who are satisfied with how a company resolves a service issue may regard that company more positively than they would if no such issue had occurred. This idea is known as the service recovery \_\_\_\_\_ research suggests that it has important implications for customer loyalty and retention.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. paradox,
- B. paradox
- C. paradox, and
- D. paradox and,

## ID: a12e3b8a Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma and the coordinating conjunction "and" to join the first main clause ("This idea...paradox") and the second main clause ("research...retention").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice D is incorrect because when coordinating two longer main clauses such as these, it's conventional to use a comma before the coordinating conjunction, not after it.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c04e9136

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: c04e9136

The 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to three pioneers in the field of click chemistry: two-time Nobel laureate Barry Sharpless, who coined the term “click chemistry” in 1998; Carolyn Bertozzi, founder of the Bertozzi Group at \_\_\_\_\_ and Morten Meldal, a professor at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Stanford
- B. Stanford,
- C. Stanford:
- D. Stanford;

## ID: c04e9136 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This choice correctly uses a semicolon to punctuate a complex list (which is made up of items that have commas in them).

Choice A is incorrect. This is a complex list, indicated by the semicolon between "1998" and "Carolyn Bertozzi." What comes after the blank is a separate list item, so punctuation is needed after "Stanford." Choice B is incorrect. This is a complex list, indicated by the semicolon between "1998" and "Carolyn Bertozzi." The items in this list have internal punctuation in the form of commas and must therefore be separated by semicolons to avoid confusion. Choice C is incorrect. This is a complex list, indicated by the semicolon between "1998" and "Carolyn Bertozzi." Colons aren't used to separate items in a list.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID c49e946e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: c49e946e

As the fourteenth US librarian of Congress, Carla Hayden has many responsibilities. These include overseeing the Library of Congress's collections, which boast more than 162 million \_\_\_\_\_ the US Copyright Office, which registers copyright claims and advises Congress on copyright law; and appointing the US poet laureate.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. items managing
- B. items, managing
- C. items; managing
- D. items. Managing

## ID: c49e946e Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of elements in a complex series. It's conventional to use a semicolon to separate items in a complex series with internal punctuation, and in this choice, the semicolon after "items" is conventionally used to separate the first item ("overseeing...items") and the second item ("managing...law") in a list of Hayden's responsibilities.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the first item and the second item in the complex series. Choice B is incorrect because a comma after "items" doesn't match the semicolon used later to separate the second and third items in the series ("managing...law" and "and appointing the US poet laureate"). Choice D is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "Managing."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID fe41f258

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: fe41f258

In ancient Greece, an Epicurean was a follower of Epicurus, a philosopher whose beliefs revolved around the pursuit of pleasure. Epicurus defined pleasure as “the absence of pain in the body and of trouble in the \_\_\_\_\_ that all life’s virtues derived from this absence.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. soul,” positing
- B. soul”: positing
- C. soul”; positing
- D. soul.” Positing

## ID: fe41f258 Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a main clause and a participial phrase. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the main clause (“Epicurus...soul”) and the participial phrase (“positing...absence”) that provides additional information about how Epicurus defined pleasure.

Choice B is incorrect because a colon can’t be used in this way to join a main clause and a participial phrase. Choice C is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used in this way to join a main clause and a participial phrase. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with “positing.”

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 4c06427b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 4c06427b

Interest in mechanotransduction, the mechanism by which cells sense and convert mechanical stimuli into biochemical signals, is expanding because of innovative work by biomedical scientists—many of whom, like neuroscience and biophysics expert Elba Serrano, \_\_\_\_\_ this mechanism to better understand how the body's neurological and biomechanical systems interact.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. is studying
- B. has studied
- C. study
- D. studies

## ID: 4c06427b Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The plural verb "study" agrees in number with the plural subject "many."

Choice A is incorrect because the singular verb "is studying" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "many." Choice B is incorrect because the singular verb "has studied" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "many." Choice D is incorrect because the singular verb "studies" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "many."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 8a264a54

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 8a264a54

With a blend of traditional design elements, such as arched Gothic ceilings, and modern ones, such as floor-to-ceiling \_\_\_\_\_ design splits the difference between old and new, a mixture that is increasingly seen in home interiors in the US.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. windows; transitional
- B. windows—transitional
- C. windows. Transitional
- D. windows, transitional

## ID: 8a264a54 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the introductory subordinate clause ("With...windows") and the main clause ("transitional design splits the difference between old and new").

Choice A is incorrect because a semicolon can't be used in this way to separate the subordinate clause ("With...windows") from the main clause ("transitional...new"). Choice B is incorrect because a dash can't be used in this way to separate the subordinate clause ("With...windows") from the main clause ("transitional...new"). Choice C is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "with."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 8790d061

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 8790d061

While constructing the Limyra Bridge, ancient Roman builders relied on temporary wooden beams to support the stone and brick structure. These temporary supports, a construction system known as \_\_\_\_\_ were removed when the bridge was completed.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. falsework;
- B. falsework
- C. falsework,
- D. falsework:

## ID: 8790d061 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. The comma after "falsework" pairs with the comma after "supports" to separate the supplementary element "a construction system known as falsework" from the rest of the sentence. This supplementary element functions to clarify the term "these temporary supports," and the pair of commas indicates that this element could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because a semicolon can't be paired with a comma in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplemental element from the rest of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because a colon can't be paired with a comma in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 1c65db8f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: 1c65db8f

A species of *Byropsis* algae produces toxins to avoid being eaten by predators. However, in some cases, the toxins the organism uses to protect itself from predation actually \_\_\_\_\_ its attractiveness to predators. The Hawaiian sea slug, for example, not only tolerates *Byropsis* toxins but actually uses them for protection in the same way the algae does.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. is increasing
- B. increase
- C. increases
- D. has increased

## ID: 1c65db8f Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The plural verb "increase" agrees in number with the plural subject "toxins."

Choice A is incorrect because the singular verb "is increasing" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "toxins."

Choice C is incorrect because the singular verb "increases" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "toxins." Choice D is incorrect because the singular verb "has increased" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "toxins."

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID cd2443c0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: cd2443c0

A pioneer in the field of taphonomy (the study of how organic remains become fossils), \_\_\_\_\_ may be just as prevalent in the fossil record as those of thick-shelled organisms.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. fossils of thin-shelled organisms, Anna Behrensmeyer demonstrated in a 2005 analysis,
- B. Anna Behrensmeyer demonstrated in a 2005 analysis that fossils of thin-shelled organisms
- C. it was demonstrated in a 2005 analysis by Anna Behrensmeyer that fossils of thin-shelled organisms
- D. a 2005 analysis—by Anna Behrensmeyer—demonstrated that fossils of thin-shelled organisms

## ID: cd2443c0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** B

### Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice makes the noun phrase “Anna Behrensmeyer” the subject of the sentence and places it immediately after the modifying phrase “a pioneer...fossils.” In doing so, this choice clearly establishes that Anna Behrensmeyer—and not another noun in the sentence—is a pioneer in the field of taphonomy.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “fossils of thin-shelled organisms” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the “fossils” are a pioneer in the field of taphonomy. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the pronoun “it” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that “it” is a pioneer in the field of taphonomy. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase “a 2005 analysis” immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that “a 2005 analysis” is a pioneer in the field of taphonomy.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID e44db0a0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

## ID: e44db0a0

Because a cycle of lunar phases \_\_\_\_\_ 29.5 days to complete, it's possible to observe two full moons in a single month, one at the beginning and one at the end.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. are taking
- B. have taken
- C. take
- D. takes

## ID: e44db0a0 Answer

**Correct Answer:** D

### Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "takes" agrees in number with the singular subject "a cycle of lunar phases."

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "are taking" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "a cycle of lunar phases." Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "have taken" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "a cycle of lunar phases." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "take" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "a cycle of lunar phases."

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 2c4cd76d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 2c4cd76d

Researchers studying magnetosensation have determined why some soil-dwelling roundworms in the Southern Hemisphere move in the opposite direction of Earth's magnetic field when searching for \_\_\_\_\_ in the Northern Hemisphere, the magnetic field points down, into the ground, but in the Southern Hemisphere, it points up, toward the surface and away from worms' food sources.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. food:
- B. food,
- C. food while
- D. food

## ID: 2c4cd76d Answer

**Correct Answer:** A

### Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is colon use within a sentence. A colon used in this way introduces information that illustrates or explains information that has come before it. In this case, the colon introduces the following explanation of why some roundworms in the Southern Hemisphere move in the opposite direction of Earth's magnetic field.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can't be used in this way to join two long independent clauses ("Researchers...food" and "in...sources") such as these. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two clauses ("Researchers...food" and "in...sources") are fused without punctuation. Furthermore, the conjunction "while" fails to indicate that what follows is an explanation of why some roundworms in the Southern Hemisphere move in the opposite direction of Earth's magnetic field. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two clauses ("Researchers...food" and "in...sources") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard

# Question ID 3ed5ebb4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 3ed5ebb4

In her analysis of Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* (1905), scholar Candace Waid observes that the novel depicts the upper classes of New York society as "consumed by the appetite of a soulless \_\_\_\_\_ an apt assessment given that *The House of Mirth* is set during the Gilded Age, a period marked by rapid industrialization, economic greed, and widening wealth disparities.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. materialism"; and
- B. materialism" and
- C. materialism,"
- D. materialism"

## ID: 3ed5ebb4 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a main clause and a supplementary noun phrase. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the main clause ("scholar...materialism") and the supplementary noun phrase ("an apt assessment") that describes Waid's observation about how *The House of Mirth* depicts the upper classes of New York society.

Choice A is incorrect because a semicolon and the conjunction "and" can't be used in this way to mark the boundary between a main clause and a supplementary noun phrase. Choice B is incorrect. Joining the main clause ("scholar...materialism") and the following noun phrase with the conjunction "and" results in a confusing and illogical sentence that suggests that the novel depicts the upper classes of New York society as "an apt assessment," which doesn't make sense in this context. Choice D is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the main clause and the supplementary noun phrase with appropriate punctuation.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 67614549

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

**ID: 67614549**

After winning the 1860 presidential election, Abraham Lincoln appointed Edward Bates, Salmon P. Chase, and William H. Seward to his cabinet. Lincoln's decision was surprising, since each of these men had run against him, but historians have praised it, noting that Lincoln \_\_\_\_\_ his rivals' diverse talents to strengthen his administration.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. has leveraged
- B. is leveraging
- C. will leverage
- D. leveraged

**ID: 67614549 Answer**

**Correct Answer:** D

## Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The subject of the verb is "Lincoln," and the first sentence tells us that we're talking about something that Abraham Lincoln did in 1860. So the simple past tense "leveraged" fits the logic of the text.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice creates a tense issue. "Has leveraged" is the present perfect tense, which is used for an action that began in the past and continues into the present. Lincoln started leveraging his rivals' talents in 1860—it's definitely not still happening today. So the present perfect tense isn't appropriate. Choice B is incorrect. This choice creates a tense issue. "Is leveraging" is the present tense, but Lincoln leveraged his rivals' talents in 1860, so the present tense isn't appropriate. Choice C is incorrect. This choice creates a tense issue. "Will leverage" is the future tense, but Lincoln leveraged his rivals' talents in 1860, so the future tense isn't appropriate.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium

# Question ID 78b88c04

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	

## ID: 78b88c04

Joshua Hinson, director of the language revitalization program of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, helped produce the world's first Indigenous-language instructional app, Chickasaw \_\_\_\_\_ Chickasaw TV, in 2010; and a Rosetta Stone language course in Chickasaw, in 2015.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Basic; in 2009, an online television network;
- B. Basic; in 2009, an online television network,
- C. Basic, in 2009; an online television network,
- D. Basic, in 2009, an online television network,

## ID: 78b88c04 Answer

**Correct Answer:** C

### Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of items in a complex series. It's conventional to use a semicolon to separate items in a complex series with internal punctuation, and in this choice, the semicolon after "2009" is conventionally used to separate the first item ("the world's...2009") and the second item ("an online...2010") in the series of things that Hinson helped create. Further, the comma after "Basic" correctly pairs with the comma after "app," and the comma after "network" correctly pairs with the comma after "TV" to set off the supplemental elements ("Chickasaw Basic" and "Chickasaw TV") that provide the names of the app and the TV network, respectively. Altogether, the punctuation in this choice results in a sentence that clearly indicates that Hinson helped make a language app in 2009, an online TV network in 2010, and a language course in 2015.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to punctuate the complex series in a way that makes clear that Hinson helped make a language app in 2009, an online TV network in 2010, and a language course in 2015. Choice B is incorrect because it fails to punctuate the complex series in a way that makes clear that Hinson helped make a language app in 2009, an online TV network in 2010, and a language course in 2015. Choice D is incorrect because the comma after "2009" doesn't match the semicolon used to separate the second and third items in the complex series.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard