

SECTION 4  
Verbal Reasoning  
Time—35 minutes  
25 Questions

For Questions 1 to 4, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

1. Only by ignoring decades of mismanagement and inefficiency could investors conclude that a fresh infusion of cash would provide anything other than a \_\_\_\_\_ solution to the company's financial woes.
  - ☐ A complete
  - ☐ B fleeting
  - ☐ C momentary
  - ☐ D premature
  - ☐ E trivial
  - ☐ F total
  
2. Some scientists argue that carbon compounds play such a central role in life on Earth because of the possibility of \_\_\_\_\_ resulting from the carbon atom's ability to form an unending series of different molecules.
  - ☐ A diversity
  - ☐ B deviation
  - ☐ C variety
  - ☐ D reproduction
  - ☐ E stability
  - ☐ F invigoration
  
3. Given the flood of information presented by the mass media, the only way for someone to keep abreast of the news is to rely on \_\_\_\_\_ accounts.
  - ☐ A synoptic
  - ☐ B abridged
  - ☐ C sensational
  - ☐ D copious
  - ☐ E lurid
  - ☐ F understated

4. Always circumspect, she was reluctant to make judgments, but once arriving at a conclusion, she was \_\_\_\_\_ in its defense.

☐ A deferential  
☐ B intransigent  
☐ C lax  
☐ D negligent  
☐ E obsequious  
☐ F resolute

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For each of Questions 5 to 9, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

Questions 5 and 6 are based on the following reading passage.

When marine organisms called phytoplankton photosynthesize, they absorb carbon dioxide dissolved in seawater, potentially causing a reduction in the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide, a gas that contributes to global warming. However, phytoplankton flourish only in surface waters where iron levels are sufficiently high. Martin therefore hypothesized that adding iron to iron-poor regions of the ocean could help alleviate global warming. While experiments subsequently confirmed that such a procedure increases phytoplankton growth, field tests have shown that such growth does not significantly lower atmospheric carbon dioxide. When phytoplankton utilize carbon dioxide for photosynthesis, the carbon becomes a building block for organic matter, but the carbon leaks back into the atmosphere when predators consume the phytoplankton and respire carbon dioxide.

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

5. It can be inferred from the passage that Martin's hypothesis includes which of the following elements?
- ☐ A A correct understanding of how phytoplankton photosynthesis utilizes carbon dioxide
  - ☐ B A correct prediction about how the addition of iron to iron-poor waters would affect phytoplankton growth
  - ☐ C An incorrect prediction about how phytoplankton growth would affect the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide
6. It can be inferred that the author of the passage mentions predators (line 10) primarily in order to
- ☐ A help explain why Martin's hypothesis is incorrect
  - ☐ B identify one effect of adding iron to iron-poor waters
  - ☐ C indicate how some carbon dioxide is converted to solid organic matter
  - ☐ D help account for differences in the density of phytoplankton between different regions of the ocean
  - ☐ E point out a factor that was not anticipated by the scientists who conducted the field tests mentioned in the passage

Question 7 is based on the following reading passage.

Sparva, unlike Treland's other provinces, requires automobile insurers to pay for any medical treatment sought by someone who has been involved in an accident; in the other provinces, insurers pay for nonemergency treatment only if they preapprove the treatment. Clearly, Sparva's less restrictive policy must be the explanation for the fact that altogether insurers there pay for far more treatments after accidents than insurers in other provinces, even though Sparva does not have the largest population.

7. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?
- (A) Car insurance costs more in Sparva than in any other province.
  - (B) The cost of medical care in Sparva is higher than the national average.
  - (C) Different insurance companies have different standards for determining what constitutes emergency treatment.
  - (D) Fewer insurance companies operate in Sparva than in any other province.
  - (E) There are fewer traffic accidents annually in Sparva than in any of the provinces of comparable or greater population.

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Questions 8 and 9 are based on the following reading passage.

*Elements of the Philosophy of Newton*, published by Voltaire in 1738, was an early attempt to popularize the scientific ideas of Isaac Newton. In the book's frontispiece, Voltaire is seen writing at his desk, and over him a shaft of light from heaven, the light of truth, passes through Newton to Voltaire's collaborator Madame du Châtelet; she reflects that light onto the inspired Voltaire. Voltaire's book commanded a wide audience, according to Feingold, because "he was neither a mathematician nor a physicist, but a literary giant aloof from the academic disputes over Newtonian ideas." In other words, Voltaire's amateurism in science "was a source of his contemporary appeal, demonstrating for the first time the accessibility of Newton's ideas to nonspecialists."

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

8. Which of the following statements about Voltaire's *Elements of the Philosophy of Newton* can be inferred from the passage?
- ☐ A Voltaire's literary stature helped secure a large audience for this attempt to popularize Newton's ideas.
  - ☐ B Voltaire's status as a nonscientist was an advantage in this effort to bring Newtonian science to the attention of the general public.
  - ☐ C The frontispiece of the book implies that Voltaire's understanding of Newton's ideas was not achieved without assistance.
9. Select the sentence that describes an allegory for Voltaire's acquisition of knowledge concerning Newton's ideas.

For Questions 10 to 13, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

10. Ironically, the writer so wary of (i) \_\_\_\_\_ was (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ with ink and paper, his novel running to 2,500 shagreen-bound folio pages—a fortune in stationery at the time.

Blank (i)

<input type="radio"/> A probity
<input type="radio"/> B extravagance
<input type="radio"/> C disapprobation

Blank (ii)

<input type="radio"/> D acquisitive
<input type="radio"/> E illiberal
<input type="radio"/> F profligate

11. What readers most commonly remember about John Stuart Mill's classic exploration of the liberty of thought and discussion concerns the danger of (i) \_\_\_\_\_: in the absence of challenge, one's opinions, even when they are correct, grow weak and flabby. Yet Mill had another reason for encouraging the liberty of thought and discussion: the danger of partiality and incompleteness. Since one's opinions, even under the best circumstances, tend to (ii) \_\_\_\_\_, and because opinions opposed to one's own rarely turn out to be completely (iii) \_\_\_\_\_, it is crucial to supplement one's opinions with alternative points of view.

Blank (i)

(A) tendentiousness
(B) complacency
(C) fractiousness

Blank (ii)

(D) embrace only a portion of the truth
(E) change over time
(F) focus on matters close at hand

Blank (iii)

(G) erroneous
(H) antithetical
(I) immutable

12. Just as the authors' book on eels is often a key text for courses in marine vertebrate zoology, their ideas on animal development and phylogeny \_\_\_\_\_ teaching in this area.

(A) prevent
(B) defy
(C) replicate
(D) inform
(E) use

13. Mechanisms develop whereby every successful species can \_\_\_\_\_ its innate capacity for population growth with the constraints that arise through its interactions with the natural environment.

(A) enhance
(B) replace
(C) produce
(D) surpass
(E) reconcile

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For each of Questions 14 to 16, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

Questions 14 to 16 are based on the following reading passage.

It would be expected that a novel by a figure as prominent as W.E.B. DuBois would attract the attention of literary critics. Additionally, when the novel subtly engages the issue of race, as DuBois' *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* (1911) does, it would be a surprise not to encounter an abundance of scholarly work about that text. But though valuable scholarship has examined DuBois' political and historical thought, his novels have received scant attention. Perhaps DuBois the novelist must wait his turn behind DuBois the philosopher, historian, and editor. But what if the truth lies elsewhere: what if his novels do not speak to current concerns?

14. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage regarding DuBois' *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*?
- (A) The lack of attention devoted to *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* can be attributed to the fact that it was DuBois' first novel.
  - (B) Among DuBois' novels, *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* is unusual in that it has received scant attention from scholars.
  - (C) *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* has at least one feature that typically would attract the attention of literary scholars.
  - (D) *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*, given its subtle exploration of race, is probably the best novel written by DuBois.
  - (E) Much of the scholarly work that has focused on *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* has been surprisingly critical of it.
15. In the fourth sentence ("Perhaps DuBois . . . editor."), the author of the passage is most likely suggesting that
- (A) scholars will find that DuBois' novels are more relevant to current concerns than is his work as philosopher, historian, and editor
  - (B) more scholarly attention will be paid to *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* than to DuBois' other novels
  - (C) DuBois' novels will come to overshadow his work as philosopher, historian, and editor
  - (D) DuBois' novels may eventually attract greater scholarly interest than they have to date
  - (E) it will be shown that DuBois' work as philosopher, historian, and editor had an important influence on his work as novelist



16. Which of the following best describes the central issue with which the passage is concerned?

- (A) The perfunctoriness of much of the critical work devoted to DuBois' novels
- (B) The nature of DuBois' engagement with the issue of race in *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*
- (C) Whether DuBois' novels are of high quality and relevant to current concerns
- (D) The relationship between DuBois the novelist and DuBois the philosopher, historian, and editor
- (E) The degree of consideration that has been given to DuBois' novels, including *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*

**For Questions 17 to 20, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.**

17. In the midst of so many evasive comments, this forthright statement, whatever its intrinsic merit, plainly stands out as \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                   |
|-------------------|
| (A) a paradigm    |
| (B) a misnomer    |
| (C) a profundity  |
| (D) an inaccuracy |
| (E) an anomaly    |

18. The activists' energetic work in the service of both woman suffrage and the temperance movement in the late nineteenth century (i) \_\_\_\_\_ the assertion that the two movements were (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

Blank (i)

- |                 |
|-----------------|
| (A) undermines  |
| (B) supports    |
| (C) underscores |

Blank (ii)

- |                 |
|-----------------|
| (D) diffuse     |
| (E) inimical    |
| (F) predominant |

19. There is nothing quite like this movie, and indeed I am not altogether sure there is much more to it than its lovely (i) \_\_\_\_\_. At a moment when so many films strive to be as (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ as possible, it is gratifying to find one that is so subtle and puzzling.

Blank (i)

- |                     |
|---------------------|
| (A) peculiarity     |
| (B) pellucidity     |
| (C) conventionality |

Blank (ii)

- |               |
|---------------|
| (D) indirect  |
| (E) assertive |
| (F) enigmatic |

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20. Wills argues that certain malarial parasites are especially (i) \_\_\_\_\_ because they have more recently entered humans than other species and therefore have had (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ time to evolve toward (iii) \_\_\_\_\_. Yet there is no reliable evidence that the most harmful *Plasmodium* species has been in humans for a shorter time than less harmful species.

Blank (i)

(A) populous
(B) malignant
(C) threatened

Blank (ii)

(D) ample
(E) insufficient
(F) adequate

Blank (iii)

(G) virulence
(H) benignity
(I) variability

For each of Questions 21 to 25, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

**Question 21 is based on the following reading passage.**

Saturn's giant moon Titan is the only planetary satellite with a significant atmosphere and the only body in the solar system other than Earth that has a thick atmosphere dominated by molecular nitrogen. For a long time, the big question about Titan's atmosphere was how it could be so thick, given that Jupiter's moons Ganymede and Callisto, which are the same size as Titan, have none. The conditions for acquiring and retaining a thick nitrogen atmosphere are now readily understood. The low temperature of the protosaturnian nebula enabled Titan to acquire the moderately volatile compounds methane and ammonia (later converted to nitrogen) in addition to water. The higher temperatures of Jupiter's moons, which were closer to the Sun, prevented them from acquiring such an atmosphere.

21. According to the passage, Titan differs atmospherically from Ganymede and Callisto because of a difference in
- (A) rate of heat loss
  - (B) proximity to the Sun
  - (C) availability of methane and ammonia
  - (D) distance from its planet
  - (E) size

Question 22 is based on the following reading passage.

Observations of the Arctic reveal that the Arctic Ocean is covered by less ice each summer than the previous summer. If this warming trend continues, within 50 years the Arctic Ocean will be ice free during the summer months. This occurrence would in itself have little or no effect on global sea levels, since the melting of ice floating in water does not affect the water level. However, serious consequences to sea levels would eventually result, because \_\_\_\_\_.

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

- (A) large masses of floating sea ice would continue to form in the wintertime
- (B) significant changes in Arctic sea temperatures would be accompanied by changes in sea temperatures in more temperate parts of the world
- (C) such a warm Arctic Ocean would trigger the melting of massive land-based glaciers in the Arctic
- (D) an ice-free Arctic Ocean would support a very different ecosystem than it does presently
- (E) in the spring, melting sea ice would cause more icebergs to be created and to drift south into shipping routes

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Questions 23 to 25 are based on the following reading passage.

In a recent study, David Cressy examines two central questions concerning English immigration to New England in the 1630s: what kinds of people immigrated and why? Using contemporary literary evidence, shipping lists, and customs records, Cressy finds that most adult immigrants were skilled in farming or crafts, were literate, and were organized in families. Each of these characteristics sharply distinguishes the 21,000 people who left for New England in the 1630s from most of the approximately 377,000 English people who had immigrated to America by 1700.

With respect to their reasons for immigrating, Cressy does not deny the frequently noted fact that some of the immigrants of the 1630s, most notably the organizers and clergy, advanced religious explanations for departure, but he finds that such explanations usually assumed primacy only in retrospect. When he moves beyond the principal actors, he finds that religious explanations were less frequently offered, and he concludes that most people immigrated because they were recruited by promises of material improvement.

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

23. The passage indicates that Cressy would agree with which of the following statements about the organizers among the English immigrants to New England in the 1630s?  
☐ A Some of them offered a religious explanation for their immigration.  
☐ B They did not offer any reasons for their immigration until some time after they had immigrated.  
☐ C They were more likely than the average immigrant to be motivated by material considerations.
24. Select the sentence that provides Cressy's opinion about what motivated English immigrants to go to New England in the 1630s.
25. In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with  
☐ A summarizing the findings of an investigation  
☐ B analyzing a method of argument  
☐ C evaluating a point of view  
☐ D hypothesizing about a set of circumstances  
☐ E establishing categories

**STOP. This is the end of Section 4.**