

SET 5. Discrete Questions: Hard

For Questions 1 to 6, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. For some time now, _____ has been presumed not to exist: the cynical conviction that everybody has an angle is considered wisdom.

(A) rationality

(B) flexibility

(C) diffidence

(D) disinterestedness

(E) insincerity

2. Human nature and long distances have made exceeding the speed limit a (i) _____ in the state, so the legislators surprised no one when, acceding to public demand, they (ii) _____ increased penalties for speeding.

Blank (i)

(A) controversial habit

(B) cherished tradition

(C) disquieting ritual

Blank (ii)

(D) endorsed

(E) considered

(F) rejected

3. Serling's account of his employer's reckless decision making (i) _____ that company's image as (ii) _____ bureaucracy full of wary managers.

Blank (i)

(A) belies

(B) exposes

(C) overshadows

Blank (ii)

(D) an injudicious

(E) a disorganized

(F) a cautious

4. No other contemporary poet's work has such a well-earned reputation for (i) _____, and there are few whose moral vision is so imperiously unsparing. Of late, however, the almost belligerent demands of his severe and densely forbidding poetry have taken an improbable turn. This new collection is the poet's fourth book in six years—an ample output even for poets of sunny disposition, let alone for one of such (ii) _____ over the previous 50 years. Yet for all his newfound (iii) _____, his poetry is as thorny as ever.

Blank (i)

(A) patent accessibility
(B) intrinsic frivolity
(C) near impenetrability

Blank (ii)

(D) penitential austerity
(E) intractable prolixity
(F) impetuous prodigality

Blank (iii)

(G) taciturnity
(H) volubility
(I) pellucidity

5. Managers who think that strong environmental performance will (i) _____ their company's financial performance often (ii) _____ claims that systems designed to help them manage environmental concerns are valuable tools. By contrast, managers who perceive environmental performance to be (iii) _____ to financial success may view an environmental management system as extraneous. In either situation, and whatever their perceptions, it is a manager's commitment to achieving environmental improvement rather than the mere presence of a system that determines environmental performance.

Blank (i)

(A) eclipse
(B) bolster
(C) degrade

Blank (ii)

(D) uncritically accept
(E) appropriately acknowledge
(F) hotly dispute

Blank (iii)

(G) complementary
(H) intrinsic
(I) peripheral

6. Philosophy, unlike most other subjects, does not try to extend our knowledge by discovering new information about the world. Instead it tries to deepen our understanding through (i) _____ what is already closest to us—the experiences, thoughts, concepts, and activities that make up our lives but that ordinarily escape our notice precisely because they are so familiar. Philosophy begins by finding (ii) _____ the things that are (iii) _____.

Blank (i)

(A) attainment of
(B) rumination on
(C) detachment from

Blank (ii)

(D) essentially irrelevant
(E) utterly mysterious
(F) thoroughly commonplace

Blank (iii)

(G) most prosaic
(H) somewhat hackneyed
(I) refreshingly novel

For Questions 7 to 9, 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.

7. The government's implementation of a new code of ethics appeared intended to shore up the ruling party's standing with an increasingly _____ electorate at a time when the party is besieged by charges that it trades favors for campaign money.
- ☐ A aloof
 - ☐ B placid
 - ☐ C restive
 - ☐ D skittish
 - ☐ E tranquil
 - ☐ F vociferous
8. Overlarge, uneven, and ultimately disappointing, the retrospective exhibition seems too much like special pleading for a forgotten painter of real but _____ talents.
- ☐ A limited
 - ☐ B partial
 - ☐ C undiscovered
 - ☐ D circumscribed
 - ☐ E prosaic
 - ☐ F hidden
9. Newspapers report that the former executive has been trying to keep a low profile since his _____ exit from the company.
- ☐ A celebrated
 - ☐ B mysterious
 - ☐ C long-awaited
 - ☐ D fortuitous
 - ☐ E indecorous
 - ☐ F unseemly

SET 6. Reading Comprehension Questions: Hard

For each of Questions 1 to 8, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

1. In the United States between 1850 and 1880, the number of farmers continued to increase, but at a rate lower than that of the general population.

Which of the following statements directly contradicts the information presented above?

- (A) The number of farmers in the general population increased slightly in the 30 years between 1850 and 1880.
- (B) The rate of growth of the United States labor force and the rate of growth of the general population rose simultaneously in the 30 years between 1850 and 1880.
- (C) The proportion of farmers in the United States labor force remained constant in the 30 years between 1850 and 1880.
- (D) The proportion of farmers in the United States labor force decreased from 64 percent in 1850 to 49 percent in 1880.
- (E) The proportion of farmers in the general population increased from 68 percent in 1850 to 72 percent in 1880.

2. A ten-year comparison between the United States and the Soviet Union in terms of crop yields per acre revealed that when only planted acreage is compared, Soviet yields were equal to 68 percent of United States yields. When total agricultural acreage (planted acreage plus fallow acreage) is compared, however, Soviet yield was 114 percent of United States yield.

From the information above, which of the following can be most reliably inferred about United States and Soviet agriculture during the ten-year period?

- (A) A higher percentage of total agricultural acreage was fallow in the United States than in the Soviet Union.
- (B) The United States had more fallow acreage than planted acreage.
- (C) Fewer total acres of available agricultural land were fallow in the Soviet Union than in the United States.
- (D) The Soviet Union had more planted acreage than fallow acreage.
- (E) The Soviet Union produced a greater volume of crops than the United States produced.

Questions 3 and 4 are based on the following reading passage.

For hot desert locations with access to seawater, a new greenhouse design generates freshwater and cool air. Oriented to the prevailing wind, the front wall of perforated cardboard, moistened and cooled by a trickle of seawater pumped in, cools and moistens hot air blowing in. This cool, humidified air accelerates plant growth; little water evaporates from leaves. Though greenhouses normally capture the heat of sunlight, a double-layered roof, the inner layer coated to reflect infrared light outward, allows visible sunlight in but traps solar heat between the two layers. This heated air, drawn down from the roof, then mixes with the greenhouse air as it reaches a second seawater-moistened cardboard wall at the back of the greenhouse. There the air absorbs more moisture, which then condenses on a metal wall cooled by seawater, and thus distilled water for irrigating the plants collects.

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

3. It can be inferred that the process described in the passage makes use of which of the following?
- ☐ A The tendency of hot air to rise
 - ☐ B The directional movement of wind
 - ☐ C The temperature differential between the sea and the desert

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

4. It can be inferred that the greenhouse roof is designed to allow for which of the following?
- ☐ A The avoidance of intense solar heat inside the greenhouse
 - ☐ B The entry of sunlight into the greenhouse to make the plants grow
 - ☐ C The mixture of heated air with greenhouse air to enhance the collection of moisture

Questions 5 to 8 are based on the following reading passage.

Many critics of Emily Brontë's novel *Wuthering Heights* see its second part as a counterpoint that comments on, if it does not reverse, the first part, where a romantic reading receives more confirmation. Seeing the two parts as a whole is encouraged by the novel's sophisticated structure, revealed in its complex use of narrators and time shifts. Granted that the presence of these elements need not argue for an authorial awareness of novelistic construction comparable to that of Henry James, their presence does encourage attempts to unify the novel's heterogeneous parts. However, any interpretation that seeks to unify all of the novel's diverse elements is bound to be somewhat unconvincing. This is not because such an interpretation necessarily stiffens into a thesis (although rigidity in any interpretation of this or of any novel is always a danger), but because *Wuthering Heights* has recalcitrant elements of undeniable power that, ultimately, resist inclusion in an all-encompassing interpretation. In this respect, *Wuthering Heights* shares a feature of *Hamlet*.

5. According to the passage, which of the following is a true statement about the first and second parts of *Wuthering Heights*?
 - (A) The second part has received more attention from critics.
 - (B) The second part has little relation to the first part.
 - (C) The second part annuls the force of the first part.
 - (D) The second part provides less substantiation for a romantic reading.
 - (E) The second part is better because it is more realistic.

6. Which of the following inferences about Henry James's awareness of novelistic construction is best supported by the passage?
 - (A) James, more than any other novelist, was aware of the difficulties of novelistic construction.
 - (B) James was very aware of the details of novelistic construction.
 - (C) James's awareness of novelistic construction derived from his reading of Brontë.
 - (D) James's awareness of novelistic construction has led most commentators to see unity in his individual novels.
 - (E) James's awareness of novelistic construction precluded him from violating the unity of his novels.

7. The author of the passage would be most likely to agree that an interpretation of a novel should
 - (A) not try to unite heterogeneous elements in the novel
 - (B) not be inflexible in its treatment of the elements in the novel
 - (C) not argue that the complex use of narrators or of time shifts indicates a sophisticated structure
 - (D) concentrate on those recalcitrant elements of the novel that are outside the novel's main structure
 - (E) primarily consider those elements of novelistic construction of which the author of the novel was aware

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

8. The author of the passage suggests which of the following about *Hamlet*?
- ☐ A *Hamlet* has usually attracted critical interpretations that tend to stiffen into theses.
 - ☐ B *Hamlet* has elements that are not amenable to an all-encompassing critical interpretation.
 - ☐ C *Hamlet* is less open to an all-encompassing critical interpretation than is *Wuthering Heights*.