

SECTION IV

Time—35 minutes

27 Questions

Directions: Each passage in this section is followed by a group of questions to be answered on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage. For some of the questions, more than one of the choices could conceivably answer the question. However, you are to choose the best answer; that is, the response that most accurately and completely answers the question, and blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

- Social scientists have traditionally defined multipolar international systems as consisting of three or more nations, each of roughly equal military and economic strength. Theoretically, the members of such
- (5) systems create shifting, temporary alliances in response to changing circumstances in the international environment. Such systems are, thus, fluid and flexible. Frequent, small confrontations are one attribute of multipolar systems and are usually the result of less
- (10) powerful members grouping together to counter threats from larger, more aggressive members seeking hegemony. Yet the constant and inevitable counterbalancing typical of such systems usually results in stability. The best-known example of a
- (15) multipolar system is the Concert of Europe, which coincided with general peace on that continent lasting roughly 100 years beginning around 1815.

- Bipolar systems, on the other hand, involve two major members of roughly equal military and
- (20) economic strength vying for power and advantage. Other members of lesser strength tend to coalesce around one or the other pole. Such systems tend to be rigid and fixed, in part due to the existence of only one axis of power. Zero-sum political and military
- (25) maneuverings, in which a gain for one side results in an equivalent loss for the other, are a salient feature of bipolar systems. Overall superiority is sought by both major members, which can lead to frequent confrontations, debilitating armed conflict, and,
- (30) eventually, to the capitulation of one or the other side. Athens and Sparta of ancient Greece had a bipolar relationship, as did the United States and the USSR during the Cold War.

- However, the shift in the geopolitical landscape
- (35) following the end of the Cold War calls for a reassessment of the assumptions underlying these two theoretical concepts. The emerging but still vague multipolar system in Europe today brings with it the unsettling prospect of new conflicts and shifting
- (40) alliances that may lead to a diminution, rather than an enhancement, of security. The frequent, small confrontations that are thought to have kept the Concert of Europe in a state of equilibrium would today, as nations arm themselves with modern
- (45) weapons, create instability that could destroy the system. And the larger number of members and shifting alliance patterns peculiar to multipolar systems would create a bewildering tangle of conflicts.

- This reassessment may also lead us to look at the
- (50) Cold War in a new light. In 1914 smaller members of

- the multipolar system in Europe brought the larger members into a war that engulfed the continent. The aftermath—a crippled system in which certain members were dismantled, punished, or voluntarily
- (55) withdrew—created the conditions that led to World War II. In contrast, the principal attributes of bipolar systems—two major members with only one possible axis of conflict locked in a rigid yet usually stable struggle for power—may have created the necessary
- (60) parameters for general peace in the second half of the twentieth century.

1. Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of the passage?
- (A) Peace can be maintained in Europe only if a new bipolar system emerges to replace Cold War alliances.
- (B) All kinds of international systems discussed by social scientists carry within themselves the seeds of their own collapse and ultimately endanger international order.
- (C) The current European geopolitical landscape is a multipolar system that strongly resembles the Concert of Europe which existed through most of the nineteenth century.
- (D) Multipolarity fostered the conditions that led to World War II and is incompatible with a stable, modern Europe.
- (E) The characterization of multipolar systems as stable and bipolar systems as open to debilitating conflict needs to be reconsidered in light of the realities of post-Cold War Europe.

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2. Which one of the following statements most accurately describes the function of the final paragraph?
- (A) The weaknesses of both types of systems are discussed in the context of twentieth-century European history.
 - (B) A prediction is made regarding European security based on the attributes of both types of systems.
 - (C) A new argument is introduced in favor of European countries embracing a new bipolar system.
 - (D) Twentieth-century European history is used to expand on the argument in the previous paragraph.
 - (E) The typical characteristics of the major members of a bipolar system are reviewed.
3. The author's reference to the possibility that confrontations may lead to capitulation (lines 27–30) serves primarily to
- (A) indicate that bipolar systems can have certain unstable characteristics
 - (B) illustrate how multipolar systems can transform themselves into bipolar systems
 - (C) contrast the aggressive nature of bipolar members with the more rational behavior of their multipolar counterparts
 - (D) indicate the anarchic nature of international relations
 - (E) suggest that military and economic strength shifts in bipolar as frequently as in multipolar systems

4. With respect to the Cold War, the author's attitude can most accurately be described as
- (A) fearful that European geopolitics may bring about a similar bipolar system
 - (B) surprised that it did not end with a major war
 - (C) convinced that it provides an important example of bipolarity maintaining peace
 - (D) regretful that the major European countries were so ambivalent about it
 - (E) confident it will mark only a brief hiatus between long periods of European multipolarity
5. Which one of the following statements concerning the Concert of Europe (lines 14–17) can most reasonably be inferred from the passage?
- (A) Each of the many small confrontations that occurred under the Concert of Europe threatened the integrity of the system.
 - (B) It provided the highest level of security possible for Europe in the late nineteenth century.
 - (C) All the factors contributing to stability during the late nineteenth century continue to contribute to European security.
 - (D) Equilibrium in the system was maintained as members grouped together to counterbalance mutual threats.
 - (E) It was more stable than most multipolar systems because its smaller members reacted promptly to aggression by its larger members.

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- In spite of a shared language, Latin American poetry written in Spanish differs from Spanish poetry in many respects. The Spanish of Latin American poets is more open than that of Spanish poets, more exposed
- (5) to outside influences—indigenous, English, French, and other languages. While some literary critics maintain that there is as much linguistic unity in Latin American poetry as there is in Spanish poetry, they base this claim on the fact that Castilian Spanish, the
- (10) official and literary version of the Spanish language based largely on the dialect originally spoken in the Castile region of Spain, was transplanted to the Americas when it was already a relatively standardized idiom. Although such unity may have characterized the
- (15) earliest Latin American poetry, after centuries in the Americas the language of Latin American poetry cannot help but reveal the influences of its unique cultural history.

- Latin American poetry is critical or irreverent in its
- (20) attitude toward language, where that of Spanish poets is more accepting. For example, the Spanish-language incarnations of modernism and the avant-garde, two literary movements that used language in innovative and challenging ways, originated with Latin American
- (25) poets. By contrast, when these movements later reached Spain, Spanish poets greeted them with reluctance. Spanish poets, even those of the modern era, seem to take their language for granted, rarely using it in radical or experimental ways.

- (30) The most distinctive note in Latin American poetry is its enthusiastic response to the modern world, while Spanish poetry displays a kind of cultural conservatism—the desire to return to an ideal culture of the distant past. Because no Spanish-language
- (35) culture lies in the equally distant (i.e., pre-Columbian) past of the Americas, but has instead been invented by Latin Americans day by day, Latin American poetry has no such long-standing past to romanticize. Instead, Latin American poetry often displays a curiosity about
- (40) the literature of other cultures, an interest in exploring poetic structures beyond those typical of Spanish poetry. For example, the first Spanish-language haiku—a Japanese poetic form—were written by José Juan Tablada, a Mexican. Another of the Latin
- (45) American poets' responses to this absence is the search for a world before recorded history—not only that of Spain or the Americas, but in some cases of the planet; the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda's work, for example, is noteworthy for its development of an ahistorical
- (50) mythology for the creation of the earth. For Latin American poets there is no such thing as the pristine cultural past affirmed in the poetry of Spain: there is only the fluid interaction of all world cultures, or else the extensive time before cultures began.

6. The discussion in the second paragraph is intended primarily to
- (A) argue that Latin American poets originated modernism and the avant-garde
- (B) explain how Spanish poetry and Latin American poetry differ in their attitudes toward the Spanish language
- (C) demonstrate why Latin American poetry is not well received in Spain
- (D) show that the Castilian Spanish employed in Spanish poetry has remained relatively unchanged by the advent of modernism and the avant-garde
- (E) illustrate the extent to which Spanish poetry romanticizes Spanish-language culture
7. Given the information in the passage, which one of the following is most analogous to the evolution of Latin American poetry?
- (A) A family moves its restaurant to a new town and incorporates local ingredients into its traditional recipes.
- (B) A family moves its business to a new town after the business fails in its original location.
- (C) A family with a two-hundred-year-old house labors industriously in order to restore the house to its original appearance.
- (D) A family does research into its ancestry in order to construct its family tree.
- (E) A family eagerly anticipates its annual vacation but never takes photographs or purchases souvenirs to preserve its memories.
8. The passage's claims about Spanish poetry would be most weakened if new evidence indicating which one of the following were discovered?
- (A) Spanish linguistic constructs had greater influence on Latin American poets than had previously been thought.
- (B) Castilian Spanish was still evolving linguistically at the time of the inception of Latin American poetry.
- (C) Spanish poets originated an influential literary movement that used language in radical ways.
- (D) Castilian Spanish was influenced during its evolution by other Spanish dialects.
- (E) Spanish poets rejected the English and French incarnations of modernism.

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9. The passage affirms each of the following EXCEPT:
- (A) The first haiku in the Spanish language were written by a Latin American poet.
 - (B) Spanish poetry is rarely innovative or experimental in its use of language.
 - (C) Spanish poetry rarely incorporates poetic traditions from other cultures.
 - (D) Latin American poetry tends to take the Spanish language for granted.
 - (E) Latin American poetry incorporates aspects of various other languages.
10. Which one of the following can most reasonably be inferred from the passage about Latin American poetry's use of poetic structures from other world cultures?
- (A) The use of poetic structures from other world cultures is an attempt by Latin American poets to create a cultural past.
 - (B) The use of poetic structures from other world cultures by Latin American poets is a response to their lack of a long-standing Spanish-language cultural past in the Americas.
 - (C) The use of poetic structures from other world cultures has led Latin American poets to reconsider their lack of a long-standing Spanish-language cultural past in the Americas.
 - (D) Latin American poets who write about a world before recorded history do not use poetic structures from other world cultures.
 - (E) Latin American poetry does not borrow poetic structures from other world cultures whose literature exhibits cultural conservatism.

11. Based on the passage, the author most likely holds which one of the following views toward Spanish poetry's relationship to the Spanish cultural past?
- (A) This relationship has inspired Spanish poets to examine their cultural past with a critical eye.
 - (B) This relationship forces Spanish poets to write about subjects with which they feel little natural affinity.
 - (C) This relationship is itself the central theme of much Spanish poetry.
 - (D) This relationship infuses Spanish poetry with a romanticism that is reluctant to embrace the modern era.
 - (E) This relationship results in poems that are of little interest to contemporary Spanish readers.
12. Which one of the following inferences is most supported by the passage?
- (A) A tradition of cultural conservatism has allowed the Spanish language to evolve into a stable, reliable form of expression.
 - (B) It was only recently that Latin American poetry began to incorporate elements of other languages.
 - (C) The cultural conservatism of Spanish poetry is exemplified by the uncritical attitude of Spanish poets toward the Spanish language.
 - (D) Latin American poets' interest in other world cultures is illustrated by their use of Japanese words and phrases.
 - (E) Spanish poetry is receptive to the influence of some Spanish-language poets outside of Spain.

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- According to the theory of gravitation, every particle of matter in the universe attracts every other particle with a force that increases as either the mass of the particles increases, or their proximity to one another increases, or both. Gravitation is believed to shape the structures of stars, galaxies, and the entire universe. But for decades cosmologists (scientists who study the universe) have attempted to account for the finding that at least 90 percent of the universe seems to be missing: that the total amount of observable matter—stars, dust, and miscellaneous debris—does not contain enough mass to explain why the universe is organized in the shape of galaxies and clusters of galaxies. To account for this discrepancy, cosmologists hypothesize that something else, which they call “dark matter,” provides the gravitational force necessary to make the huge structures cohere.

- What is dark matter? Numerous exotic entities have been postulated, but among the more attractive candidates—because they are known actually to exist—are neutrinos, elementary particles created as a by-product of nuclear fusion, radioactive decay, or catastrophic collisions between other particles. Neutrinos, which come in three types, are by far the most numerous kind of particle in the universe; however, they have long been assumed to have no mass. If so, that would disqualify them as dark matter. Without mass, matter cannot exert gravitational force; without such force, it cannot induce other matter to cohere.

- But new evidence suggests that a neutrino does have mass. This evidence came by way of research findings supporting the existence of a long-theorized but never observed phenomenon called oscillation, whereby each of the three neutrino types can change into one of the others as it travels through space. Researchers held that the transformation is possible only if neutrinos also have mass. They obtained experimental confirmation of the theory by generating one neutrino type and then finding evidence that it had oscillated into the predicted neutrino type. In the process, they were able to estimate the mass of a neutrino at from 0.5 to 5 electron volts.

- While slight, even the lowest estimate would yield a lot of mass given that neutrinos are so numerous, especially considering that neutrinos were previously assumed to have no mass. Still, even at the highest estimate, neutrinos could only account for about 20 percent of the universe’s “missing” mass. Nevertheless, that is enough to alter our picture of the universe even if it does not account for all of dark matter. In fact, some cosmologists claim that this new evidence offers the best theoretical solution yet to the dark matter problem. If the evidence holds up, these cosmologists believe, it may add to our understanding of the role elementary particles play in holding the universe together.

13. Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Although cosmologists believe that the universe is shaped by gravitation, the total amount of observable matter in the universe is greatly insufficient to account for the gravitation that would be required to cause the universe to be organized into galaxies.
 - (B) Given their inability to account for more than 20 percent of the universe’s “missing” mass, scientists are beginning to speculate that our current understanding of gravity is significantly mistaken.
 - (C) Indirect evidence suggesting that neutrinos have mass may allow neutrinos to account for up to 20 percent of dark matter, a finding that could someday be extended to a complete solution of the dark matter problem.
 - (D) After much speculation, researchers have discovered that neutrinos oscillate from one type into another as they travel through space, a phenomenon that proves that neutrinos have mass.
 - (E) Although it has been established that neutrinos have mass, such mass does not support the speculation of cosmologists that neutrinos constitute a portion of the universe’s “missing” mass.
14. Which one of the following titles most completely and accurately expresses the contents of the passage?
- (A) “The Existence of Dark Matter: Arguments For and Against”
 - (B) “Neutrinos and the Dark Matter Problem: A Partial Solution?”
 - (C) “Too Little, Too Late: Why Neutrinos Do Not Constitute Dark Matter”
 - (D) “The Role of Gravity: How Dark Matter Shapes Stars”
 - (E) “The Implications of Oscillation: Do Neutrinos Really Have Mass?”

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15. Based on the passage, the author most likely holds which one of the following views?
- (A) Observable matter constitutes at least 90 percent of the mass of the universe.
 - (B) Current theories are incapable of identifying the force that causes all particles in the universe to attract one another.
 - (C) The key to the problem of dark matter is determining the exact mass of a neutrino.
 - (D) It is unlikely that any force other than gravitation will be required to account for the organization of the universe into galaxies.
 - (E) Neutrinos probably account for most of the universe's "missing" mass.
16. As described in the last paragraph of the passage, the cosmologists' approach to solving the dark matter problem is most analogous to which one of the following?
- (A) A child seeking information about how to play chess consults a family member and so learns of a book that will instruct her in the game.
 - (B) A child seeking to earn money by delivering papers is unable to earn enough money for a bicycle and so decides to buy a skateboard instead.
 - (C) A child hoping to get a dog for his birthday is initially disappointed when his parents bring home a cat but eventually learns to love the animal.
 - (D) A child seeking money to attend a movie is given some of the money by one of his siblings and so decides to go to each of his other siblings to ask for additional money.
 - (E) A child enjoys playing sports with the neighborhood children but her parents insist that she cannot participate until she has completed her household chores.

17. The author's attitude toward oscillation can most accurately be characterized as being
- (A) satisfied that it occurs and that it suggests that neutrinos have mass
 - (B) hopeful that it will be useful in discovering other forms of dark matter
 - (C) concerned that it is often misinterpreted to mean that neutrinos account for all of dark matter
 - (D) skeptical that it occurs until further research can be done
 - (E) convinced that it cannot occur outside an experimental setting
18. Which one of the following phrases could replace the word "cohere" at line 30 without substantively altering the author's meaning?
- (A) exert gravitational force
 - (B) form galactic structures
 - (C) oscillate into another type of matter
 - (D) become significantly more massive
 - (E) fuse to produce new particles
19. The passage states each of the following EXCEPT:
- (A) There are more neutrinos in the universe than there are non-neutrinos.
 - (B) Observable matter cannot exert enough gravitational force to account for the present structure of the universe.
 - (C) Scientific experiments support the theory of neutrino oscillation.
 - (D) Neutrinos likely cannot account for all of the universe's "missing" mass.
 - (E) Dark matter may account for a large portion of the universe's gravitational force.

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Leading questions—questions worded in such a way as to suggest a particular answer—can yield unreliable testimony either by design, as when a lawyer tries to trick a witness into affirming a particular

- (5) version of the evidence of a case, or by accident, when a questioner unintentionally prejudices the witness's response. For this reason, a judge can disallow such questions in the courtroom interrogation of witnesses. But their exclusion from the courtroom by no means
- (10) eliminates the remote effects of earlier leading questions on eyewitness testimony. Alarmingly, the beliefs about an event that a witness brings to the courtroom may often be adulterated by the effects of leading questions that were introduced intentionally or
- (15) unintentionally by lawyers, police investigators, reporters, or others with whom the witness has already interacted.

Recent studies have confirmed the ability of leading questions to alter the details of our memories

- (20) and have led to a better understanding of how this process occurs and, perhaps, of the conditions that make for greater risks that an eyewitness's memories have been tainted by leading questions. These studies suggest that not all details of our experiences become
- (25) clearly or stably stored in memory—only those to which we give adequate attention. Moreover, experimental evidence indicates that if subtly introduced new data involving remembered events do not actively conflict with our stored memory data, we
- (30) tend to process such new data similarly whether they correspond to details as we remember them, or to gaps in those details. In the former case, we often retain the new data as a reinforcement of the corresponding aspect of the memory, and in the latter case, we often
- (35) retain them as a construction to fill the corresponding gap. An eyewitness who is asked, prior to courtroom testimony, "How fast was the car going when it passed the stop sign?" may respond to the query about speed without addressing the question of the stop sign. But
- (40) the "stop sign" datum has now been introduced, and when later recalled, perhaps during courtroom testimony, it may be processed as belonging to the original memory even if the witness actually saw no stop sign.

(45) The farther removed from the event, the greater the chance of a vague or incomplete recollection and the greater the likelihood of newly suggested information blending with original memories. Since we can be

- more easily misled with respect to fainter and more
- (50) uncertain memories, tangential details are more apt to become constructed out of subsequently introduced information than are more central details. But what is tangential to a witness's original experience of an event may nevertheless be crucial to the courtroom issues
- (55) that the witness's memories are supposed to resolve. For example, a perpetrator's shirt color or hairstyle might be tangential to one's shocked observance of an armed robbery, but later those factors might be crucial to establishing the identity of the perpetrator.

20. Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of the passage?

- (A) The unreliability of memories about incidental aspects of observed events makes eyewitness testimony especially questionable in cases in which the witness was not directly involved.
- (B) Because of the nature of human memory storage and retrieval, the courtroom testimony of eyewitnesses may contain crucial inaccuracies due to leading questions asked prior to the courtroom appearance.
- (C) Researchers are surprised to find that courtroom testimony is often dependent on suggestion to fill gaps left by insufficient attention to detail at the time that the incident in question occurred.
- (D) Although judges can disallow leading questions from the courtroom, it is virtually impossible to prevent them from being used elsewhere, to the detriment of many cases.
- (E) Stricter regulation should be placed on lawyers whose leading questions can corrupt witnesses' testimony by introducing inaccurate data prior to the witnesses' appearance in the courtroom.

21. It can be reasonably inferred from the passage that which one of the following, if it were effectively implemented, would most increase the justice system's ability to prevent leading questions from causing mistaken court decisions?

- (A) a policy ensuring that witnesses have extra time to answer questions concerning details that are tangential to their original experiences of events
- (B) thorough revision of the criteria for determining which kinds of interrogation may be disallowed in courtroom testimony under the category of "leading questions"
- (C) increased attention to the nuances of all witnesses' responses to courtroom questions, even those that are not leading questions
- (D) extensive interviewing of witnesses by all lawyers for both sides of a case prior to those witnesses' courtroom appearance
- (E) availability of accurate transcripts of all interrogations of witnesses that occurred prior to those witnesses' appearance in court

22. Which one of the following is mentioned in the passage as a way in which new data suggested to a witness by a leading question are sometimes processed?

- (A) They are integrated with current memories as support for those memories.
- (B) They are stored tentatively as conjectural data that fade with time.
- (C) They stay more vivid in memory than do previously stored memory data.
- (D) They are reinterpreted so as to be compatible with the details already stored in memory.
- (E) They are retained in memory even when they conflict with previously stored memory data.

23. In discussing the tangential details of events, the passage contrasts their original significance to witnesses with their possible significance in the courtroom (lines 52–59). That contrast is most closely analogous to which one of the following?
- (A) For purposes of flavor and preservation, salt and vinegar are important additions to cucumbers during the process of pickling, but these purposes could be attained by adding other ingredients instead.
 - (B) For the purpose of adding a mild stimulant effect, caffeine is included in some types of carbonated drinks, but for the purposes of appealing to health-conscious consumers, some types of carbonated drinks are advertised as being caffeine-free.
 - (C) For purposes of flavor and tenderness, the skins of apples and some other fruits are removed during preparation for drying, but grape skins are an essential part of raisins, and thus grape skins are not removed.
 - (D) For purposes of flavor and appearance, wheat germ is not needed in flour and is usually removed during milling, but for purposes of nutrition, the germ is an important part of the grain.
 - (E) For purposes of texture and appearance, some fat may be removed from meat when it is ground into sausage, but the removal of fat is also important for purposes of health.
24. Which one of the following questions is most directly answered by information in the passage?
- (A) In witnessing what types of crimes are people especially likely to pay close attention to circumstantial details?
 - (B) Which aspects of courtroom interrogation cause witnesses to be especially reluctant to testify in extensive detail?
 - (C) Can the stress of having to testify in a courtroom situation affect the accuracy of memory storage and retrieval?
 - (D) Do different people tend to possess different capacities for remembering details accurately?
 - (E) When is it more likely that a detail of an observed event will be accurately remembered?
25. The second paragraph consists primarily of material that
- (A) corroborates and adds detail to a claim made in the first paragraph
 - (B) provides examples illustrating the applications of a theory discussed in the first paragraph
 - (C) forms an argument in support of a proposal that is made in the final paragraph
 - (D) anticipates and provides grounds for the rejection of a theory alluded to by the author in the final paragraph
 - (E) explains how newly obtained data favor one of two traditional theories mentioned elsewhere in the second paragraph
26. It can be most reasonably inferred from the passage that the author holds that the recent studies discussed in the passage
- (A) have produced some unexpected findings regarding the extent of human reliance on external verification of memory details
 - (B) shed new light on a longstanding procedural controversy in the law
 - (C) may be of theoretical interest despite their tentative nature and inconclusive findings
 - (D) provide insights into the origins of several disparate types of logically fallacious reasoning
 - (E) should be of more than abstract academic interest to the legal profession
27. Which one of the following can be most reasonably inferred from the information in the passage?
- (A) The tendency of leading questions to cause unreliable courtroom testimony has no correlation with the extent to which witnesses are emotionally affected by the events that they have observed.
 - (B) Leading questions asked in the process of a courtroom examination of a witness are more likely to cause inaccurate testimony than are leading questions asked outside the courtroom.
 - (C) The memory processes by which newly introduced data tend to reinforce accurately remembered details of events are not relevant to explaining the effects of leading questions.
 - (D) The risk of testimony being inaccurate due to certain other factors tends to increase as an eyewitness's susceptibility to giving inaccurate testimony due to the effects of leading questions increases.
 - (E) The traditional grounds on which leading questions can be excluded from courtroom interrogation of witnesses have been called into question by the findings of recent studies.

S T O P

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY.
DO NOT WORK ON ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.

Acknowledgment is made to the following sources from which material has been adapted for use in this test booklet:

John J. Mearsheimer, "Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War." © 1990 by John J. Mearsheimer.

Octavio Paz, *Convergences: Essays on Art and Literature*. tr. Helen Lane. © 1987 by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.

James R. Reich, Jr., "The Eyewitness: Imperfect Interface between Stimuli and Story." © 1993 by the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

William K. Stevens, "Western Butterfly is Shifting North as the Global Climate Warms." © 1996 by the New York Times.

Curt Suplee, "Putting the Universe on the Scales." © 1995 by The Washington Post.

DATE _____

LSAT WRITING SAMPLE TOPIC

The Brighton Land Conservancy, an organization dedicated to protecting wilderness areas, is contemplating its next land acquisition. It has been offered two tracts of environmentally sensitive land, but it has sufficient funds in its budget to acquire only one. Write an essay in which you argue for the purchase of one tract over the other based on the following considerations.

- The Land Conservancy wants to preserve as much of the most environmentally sensitive land in the area as it can.
- The Land Conservancy wants to increase public appreciation of and contact with natural places.

The first tract, Elkton Marsh, consists of 3 square miles (5 square kilometers) of freshwater tidal marsh land. The parcel is relatively small and is surrounded by commercial development, but it is home to six officially endangered native plant species. The marsh ecosystem functions as a nursery, pollution filter, and water purifier for a nearby river. It also serves as a rare haven for migratory waterfowl passing through the area. Elkton Marsh is close to major population centers and will be open to the public for nature study if it is acquired by the Conservancy; however, because of its small size and delicate ecology, it can sustain only a small number of visitors.

The second tract, Cobbett Woods, is a 7 square mile (11 square kilometer) parcel of wooded wetland comprising the area's best example of a coastal-plain forest. The woods contain eight rare plant species, two of which have been officially classified as endangered. They are also home to a native species of owl whose numbers are declining precipitously. The parcel features the area's oldest willow oak tree, a massive 300 year-old specimen. Cobbett Woods is contiguous to a 5 square mile (8 square kilometer) tract that is already protected from development by conservation easements. The combined tracts will be open for camping and nature study if the Conservancy acquires Cobbett Woods, which is located in a sparsely populated area approximately an hour's drive from the nearest large city.

[illegible]

DIRECTIONS:

1. Use the Answer Key on the next page to check your answers.
2. Use the Scoring Worksheet below to compute your Raw Score.
3. Use the Score Conversion Chart to convert your Raw Score into the 120-180 scale.

SCORING WORKSHEET

1. Enter the number of questions you answered correctly in each section

NUMBER
CORRECT

SECTION I..... _____

SECTION II..... _____

SECTION III..... _____

SECTION IV..... _____

2. Enter the sum here: _____ THIS IS YOUR
RAW SCORE.

CONVERSION CHART

**For converting Raw Score to the 120-180 LSAT Scaled Score
LSAT Prep Test XL**

<u>REPORTED SCORE</u>	<u>LOWEST RAW SCORE</u>	<u>HIGHEST RAW SCORE</u>
180	99	101
179	—*	—*
178	98	98
177	97	97
176	96	96
175	—*	—*
174	95	95
173	94	94
172	93	93
171	92	92
170	91	91
169	89	90
168	88	88
167	87	87
166	85	86
165	84	84
164	83	83
163	81	82
162	79	80
161	78	78
160	76	77
159	74	75
158	73	73
157	71	72
156	69	70
155	67	68
154	66	66
153	64	65
152	62	63
151	60	61
150	58	59
149	57	57
148	55	56
147	53	54
146	51	52
145	50	50
144	48	49
143	46	47
142	44	45
141	42	43
140	41	41
139	39	40
138	37	38
137	36	36
136	34	35
135	33	33
134	31	32
133	29	30
132	28	28
131	27	27
130	25	26
129	24	24
128	22	23
127	21	21
126	20	20
125	19	19
124	18	18
123	16	17
122	15	15
121	—*	—*
120	0	14

*There is no raw score that will produce this scaled score for this test.