SECTION I

Time—35 minutes

28 Questions

<u>Directions</u>: Each passage in this section is followed by a group of questions to be answered on the basis of what is <u>stated</u> or <u>implied</u> 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 <u>best</u> answer; that is, the response that most accurately and completely answers the question, and blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

One of the most prominent characteristics of the literature by United States citizens of Mexican descent is that it is frequently written in a combination of English and Spanish. By not limiting

- (5) itself to one language, such writing resonates with its authors' bicultural experiences. Their work is largely Mexican in its sensibility, its traditions, and its myths, but its immediate geographical setting is the United States. And though Mexican American literature is
- (10) solidly grounded in Mexican culture, it distinguishes itself from Mexican literature in its content and concerns

Many Mexican Americans are only a generation away from the mostly agrarian culture of their

- (15) ancestors, and the work of most Mexican American writers shows evidence of heavy influence from this culture. Their novels are often simple in structure, and some of the common themes in these novels include the struggle to overcome the agricultural
- (20) adversity that caused their families to emigrate, and a feeling of being distanced from the traditions of rural Mexico and yet striving to hold on to them. These themes coexist with ever-present images of the land, which symbolizes the values of the characters'
- (25) culture, such as the spiritual and religious benefits of working the land.

Much of Mexican writing, on the other hand, has been criticized for being dominated by the prominent literary establishment concentrated in Mexico City.

- (30) Literary reputation and success in Mexico—including the attainment of publicly sponsored positions in the arts—are often bestowed or denied by this literary establishment. Moreover, the work of Mexican writers is often longer in form and marked by greater
- (35) cosmopolitanism and interest in theoretical ideas and arguments than is Mexican American writing. Not surprisingly, the Mexican literary community views Mexican American literature as a variety of "regional" writing. But the apparent simplicity of
- (40) what this community sees as parochial concerns belies the thematic richness of Mexican American writing.

The work of Mexican American writers can be richly textured in its complex mixture of concerns;

- (45) among other things, their work is distinguished by an overarching concern with the complexities of cultural transition. Many Mexican American writers assert that rather than working to be absorbed into U.S. society, they are engaged in the process of creating a new
- (50) identity. Physically distanced from Mexico and yet convinced of its importance, these writers depict a

- new reality by creating "in-between" characters. These characters inhabit a social and cultural milieu which is neither that of Mexico nor that of the U.S.
- (55) And while this new setting reflects the contemporary social realities of both Mexico and the U.S., it also derives a great deal of emotional power from an evocation of a romanticized memory of Mexico. What results is an intermediate cultural borderland in
- (60) which nostalgia and reality are combined in the service of forging a new identity.
- 1. Which one of the following most accurately states the main point of the passage?
 - (A) Mexican American literature is characterized by a strong sense of transition, which is due to its writers' physical distance from Mexico and their clear vision of the future of Mexican culture.
 - (B) Unlike Mexican writing, which is largely tied to an urban literary establishment, Mexican American writing is a movement that attempts through its works to develop a literary voice for agrarian workers.
 - (C) The work of Mexican American writers reflects Mexican Americans' bicultural experiences, both in its close links with the culture of rural Mexico and in its striving to develop a new identity out of elements of Mexican culture and U.S. culture.
 - (D) Mexican American literature, although unique in its content and concerns as well as in its stylistic innovations, has not yet achieved the prominence and reputation of Mexican literature.
 - (E) Many Mexican Americans are only a generation away from the culture of their ancestors and because of this, Mexican American literature is distinguished by the presence of powerful spiritual images, which are an organic part of the Mexican American agrarian culture.

- 2. It can most reasonably be inferred from the passage that the author would agree with which one of the following statements?
 - (A) While Mexican American writers are in the process of shaping their body of literature, one of their goals is to create a literary establishment in the U.S. essentially like the one concentrated in Mexico City.
 - (B) The use of a mixture of both Spanish and English in current Mexican American literature is evidence of a brief transitional period.
 - (C) The use of a romanticized Mexico in Mexican
 American literature is offensive to writers of the
 literary establishment of Mexico City, who find
 the images to be caricatures of their culture.
 - (D) Mexican American literature is noteworthy more for its thematic content than for its narrative structure.
 - (E) Mexican American writers are concerned that the importance of Mexico, currently central to their culture, will be diminished, and that Mexican American literature will be impoverished as a result.
- 3. It can most reasonably be inferred from the passage that many Mexican American writers tend to value which one of the following?
 - (A) stylistic innovations that distinguish their work from that of Mexican writers
 - (B) recognition from a U.S. literary establishment that is significantly different from that of Mexico
 - (C) an identity that resists absorption by U.S. culture
 - (D) critical acceptance of bilingual forms of literary expression
 - (E) the ability to express in their literature a more complex fabric of concerns than is found in most U.S. literature

- 4. To which one of the following questions does the passage most clearly provide an answer?
 - (A) What is an example of a specific literary work by a Mexican American writer?
 - (B) For what reason are many Mexican American writings concerned with agrarian themes or topics?
 - (C) What is the prevailing view of Mexican American literature among critics in the United States?
 - (D) How has the literature of the United States influenced Mexican American writers?
 - (E) Are the works of Mexican American writers written more in Spanish or in English?
- 5. It can most reasonably be inferred from the passage that the author holds which one of the following views?
 - (A) Mexican American literature advocates an agrarian way of life as a remedy for the alienation of modern culture.
 - (B) The Mexican American "in-between" character is an instance of a type found in the literature of immigrant groups in general.
 - (C) A predominant strength of Mexican American writers is that they are not tied to a major literary establishment and so are free to experiment in a way many Mexican writers are not.
 - (D) Writers of "regional" literature find it more difficult to attain reputation and success in Mexico than writers whose work is concerned with more urban themes.
 - (E) History has an importance in Mexican American culture that it does not have in Mexican culture because Mexican Americans have attached greater importance to their ancestry.

In many Western societies, modern bankruptcy laws have undergone a shift away from a focus on punishment and toward a focus on bankruptcy as a remedy for individuals and corporations in financial

- (5) trouble—and, perhaps unexpectedly, for their creditors. This shift has coincided with an everincreasing reliance on declarations of bankruptcy by individuals and corporations with excessive debt, a trend that has drawn widespread criticism. However,
- (10) any measure seeking to make bankruptcy protection less available would run the risk of preventing continued economic activity of financially troubled individuals and institutions. It is for this reason that the temptation to return to a focus on punishment of
- (15) individuals or corporations that become insolvent must be resisted. Modern bankruptcy laws, in serving the needs of an interdependent society, serve the varied interests of the greatest number of citizens.

The harsh punishment for insolvency in centuries (20) past included imprisonment of individuals and dissolution of enterprises, and reflected societies' beliefs that the accumulation of excessive debt resulted either from debtors' unwillingness to meet obligations or from their negligence. Insolvent debtors

(25) were thought to be breaking sacrosanct social contracts; placing debtors in prison was considered necessary in order to remove from society those who would violate such contracts and thereby defraud creditors. But creditors derive little benefit from

(30) imprisoned debtors unable to repay even a portion of their debt. And if the entity to be punished is a large enterprise, for example, an auto manufacturer, its dissolution would cause significant unemployment and the disruption of much-needed services.

(35)Modern bankruptcy law has attempted to address the shortcomings of the punitive approach. Two beliefs underlie this shift: that the public good ought to be paramount in considering the financial insolvency of individuals and corporations; and that

(40) the public good is better served by allowing debt-heavy corporations to continue to operate, and indebted individuals to continue to earn wages, than by disabling insolvent economic entities. The mechanism for executing these goals is usually a

(45) court-directed reorganization of debtors' obligations to creditors. Such reorganizations typically comprise debt relief and plans for court-directed transfers of certain assets from debtor to creditor. Certain strictures connected to bankruptcy—such as the fact

(50) that bankruptcies become matters of public record and are reported to credit bureaus for a number of years—may still serve a punitive function, but not by denying absolution of debts or financial reorganization. Through these mechanisms, today's

(55) bankruptcy laws are designed primarily to assure continued engagement in productive economic activity, with the ultimate goal of restoring businesses and individuals to a degree of economic health and providing creditors with the best hope of collecting.

- Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of the passage?
 - The modern trend in bankruptcy law away from punishment and toward the maintenance of economic activity serves the best interests of society and should not be abandoned.
 - (B) Bankruptcy laws have evolved in order to meet the needs of creditors, who depend on the continued productive activity of private citizens and profit-making enterprises.
 - Modern bankruptcy laws are justified on humanitarian grounds, even though the earlier punitive approach was more economically efficient.
 - (D) Punishment for debt no longer holds deterrent value for debtors and is therefore a concept that has been largely abandoned as ineffective.
 - Greater economic interdependence has (E) triggered the formation of bankruptcy laws that reflect a convergence of the interests of debtors and creditors.
- In stating that bankruptcy laws have evolved "perhaps unexpectedly" (line 5) as a remedy for creditors, the author implies that creditors
 - are often surprised to receive compensation in bankruptcy courts
 - (B) have unintentionally become the chief beneficiaries of bankruptcy laws
 - were a consideration, though not a primary one, in the formulation of bankruptcy laws
 - are better served than is immediately apparent by laws designed in the first instance to provide a remedy for debtors
 - (E) were themselves active in the formulation of modern bankruptcy laws
- The author's attitude toward the evolution of bankruptcy law can most accurately be described as
 - approval of changes that have been made to inefficient laws
 - (B) confidence that further changes to today's laws will be unnecessary
 - neutrality toward laws that, while helpful to many, remain open to abuse
 - skepticism regarding the possibility of solutions to the problem of insolvency
 - (E) concern that inefficient laws may have been replaced by legislation too lenient to debtors

- 9. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (A) offer a critique of both past and present approaches to insolvency
 - (B) compare the practices of bankruptcy courts of the past with those of bankruptcy courts of the present
 - (C) criticize those who would change the bankruptcy laws of today
 - (D) reexamine today's bankruptcy laws in an effort to point to further improvements
 - (E) explain and defend contemporary bankruptcy laws
- 10. Which one of the following claims would a defender of the punitive theory of bankruptcy legislation be most likely to have made?
 - (A) Debt that has become so great that repayment is impossible is ultimately a moral failing and thus a matter for which the law should provide punitive sanctions.
 - (B) Because insolvency ultimately harms the entire economy, the law should provide a punitive deterrent to insolvency.
 - (C) The insolvency of companies or individuals is tolerable if the debt is the result of risk-taking, profit-seeking ventures that might create considerable economic growth in the long run.
 - (D) The dissolution of a large enterprise is costly to the economy as a whole and should not be allowed, even when that enterprise's insolvency is the result of its own fiscal irresponsibility.
 - (E) The employees of a large bankrupt enterprise should be considered just as negligent as the owner of a bankrupt sole proprietorship.
- 11. Which one of the following sentences could most logically be appended to the end of the last paragraph of the passage?
 - (A) Only when today's bankruptcy laws are ultimately seen as inadequate on a large scale will bankruptcy legislation return to its original intent.
 - (B) Punishment is no longer the primary goal of bankruptcy law, even if some of its side effects still function punitively.
 - (C) Since leniency serves the public interest in bankruptcy law, it is likely to do so in criminal law as well.
 - (D) Future bankruptcy legislation could include punitive measures, but only if such measures ultimately benefit creditors.
 - (E) Today's bankruptcy laws place the burden of insolvency squarely on the shoulders of creditors, in marked contrast to the antiquated laws that weighed heavily on debtors.

- 12. The information in the passage most strongly suggests which one of the following about changes in bankruptcy laws?
 - (A) Bankruptcy laws always result from gradual changes in philosophy followed by sudden shifts in policy.
 - (B) Changes in bankruptcy law were initiated by the courts and only grudgingly adopted by legislators.
 - (C) The adjustment of bankruptcy laws away from a punitive focus was at first bitterly opposed by creditors.
 - (D) Bankruptcy laws underwent change because the traditional approach proved inadequate and contrary to the needs of society.
 - (E) The shift away from a punitive approach to insolvency was part of a more general trend in society toward rehabilitation and away from retribution.
- 13. Which one of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's argument against harsh punishment for debtors?
 - (A) Extensive study of the economic and legal history of many countries has shown that most individuals who served prison time for bankruptcy subsequently exhibited greater economic responsibility.
 - (B) The bankruptcy of a certain large company has had a significant negative impact on the local economy even though virtually all of the affected employees were able to obtain similar jobs within the community.
 - (C) Once imprisonment was no longer a consequence of insolvency, bankruptcy filings increased dramatically, then leveled off before increasing again during the 1930s.
 - (D) The court-ordered liquidation of a large and insolvent company's assets threw hundreds of people out of work, but the local economy nevertheless demonstrated robust growth in the immediate aftermath.
 - (E) Countries that continue to imprison debtors enjoy greater economic health than do comparable countries that have ceased to do so.

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As the twentieth century draws to a close, we are learning to see the extent to which accounts and definitions of cultures are influenced by human biases and purposes, benevolent in what they include,

- (5) incorporate, and validate, less so in what they exclude and demote. A number of recent studies have argued that the anxieties and agendas of the present exert an extraordinary influence on the national identities we construct from the cultural past. For example, Greek
- (10) civilization was known originally to have had roots in Egyptian and various other African and Eastern cultures, but some current scholars charge that its identity was revised during the course of the nineteenth century to support an image of European
- (15) cultural dominance—its African and other cultural influences either actively purged or hidden from view by European scholars. Because ancient Greek writers themselves openly acknowledged their culture's hybrid past, nineteenth-century European
- (20) commentators habitually passed over these acknowledgments without comment.

Another example is the use of "tradition" to determine national identity. Images of European authority over other cultures were shaped and

- (25) reinforced during the nineteenth century, through the manufacture and reinterpretation of rituals, ceremonies, and traditions. At a time when many of the institutions that had helped maintain imperial societies were beginning to recede in influence, and
- (30) when the pressures of administering numerous overseas territories and large new domestic constituencies mounted, the ruling elites of Europe felt the clear need to project their power backward in time, giving it a legitimacy that only longevity could
- (35) impart. Thus in 1876, Queen Victoria of England was declared empress of India and was celebrated in numerous "traditional" jamborees, as if her rule were not mainly a matter of recent edict but of age-old custom.
- (40) Similar constructions have also been made by native cultures about their precolonial past, as in the case of Algeria during its war of independence from France, when decolonization encouraged Algerians to create idealized images of what they believed their
- (45) culture to have been prior to French occupation. This strategy is at work in what many revolutionary poets say and write during wars of independence elsewhere, giving their adherents something to revive and admire.
- (50) Though for the most part colonized societies have won their independence, in many cultures the imperial attitudes of uniqueness and superiority underlying colonial conquest remain. There is in all nationally defined cultures an aspiration to
- (55) sovereignty and dominance that expresses itself in definitions of cultural identity. At the same time, paradoxically, we have never been as aware as we are now of the fact that historical and cultural experiences partake of many social and cultural
- (60) domains and even cross national boundaries,

- despite the claims to the contrary made by purveyors of nationalist dogma. Far from being unitary, monolithic, or autonomous, cultures actually include more "foreign" elements than
- (65) they consciously exclude.
- 14. Which one of the following statements most accurately expresses the main point of the passage?
 - (A) Either by ignoring a native culture's own selfunderstanding or by substituting fabricated traditions and rituals, imperial societies often obscure the heterogeneous cultures of the peoples they colonize.
 - (B) Attempts to reconstruct a native, precolonial culture by members of decolonized societies are essentially no different from European colonial creation of traditions and rituals to validate their authority.
 - (C) In attempting to impose a monolithic culture on the peoples they colonize, imperial societies adopt artifices very similar to the tactics employed by revisionist historians of ancient Greek culture.
 - (D) While most colonized societies have regained their independence, they retain trappings of imperial culture that will need to be discarded if they are to regain the traditions of their past.
 - (E) Despite nationalistic creation of images of cultures as unified and monolithic, we now more clearly understand the extent to which cultures are in fact made up of heterogeneous elements.
- 15. The passage provides information to answer all of the following questions EXCEPT:
 - (A) What kinds of influences affect the national identities people construct from their past?
 - (B) Why did nineteenth-century European commentators ignore some discussion of Greek culture by ancient Greek writers?
 - (C) In what ways did African cultural influence affect the culture of ancient Greece?
 - (D) Why was Queen Victoria of England declared empress of India in 1876?
 - (E) What is one reason why revolutionary poets speak and write as they do?

- (A) overall agreement with their conclusion about influences on cultural identity
- (B) reservation over their preoccupation with colonialism
- (C) skepticism toward the relevance of the examples they cite
- (D) concern that they fail to explain ancient Greek
- (E) unqualified disagreement with their insistence that cultures are monolithic
- 17. The author's use of the word "traditional" in line 37 is intended to indicate that the jamborees
 - (A) had been revived after centuries of neglect
 - (B) were legitimized by their historic use in the native culture
 - (C) exemplified the dominance of the imperial culture
 - (D) conferred spurious historical legitimacy upon colonial authority
 - (E) combined historic elements of imperial and native cultures
- 18. The "purveyors of nationalist dogma" mentioned in line 62 would be most likely to agree with which one of the following?
 - (A) Colonized nations should not attempt to regain their historical cultures.
 - (B) Imperial cultures should incorporate the traditions of their colonies.
 - (C) The cultural traditions of a nation should remain untainted by outside influences.
 - (D) A country's cultural identity partakes of many social and cultural domains.
 - (E) National histories are created to further aspirations to sovereignty and dominance.

- 19. Which one of the following would most likely be an example of one of the "rituals, ceremonies, and traditions" mentioned in lines 26–27?
 - (A) an annual ceremony held by an institution of the colonizing culture to honor the literary and theatrical achievements of members of the native culture
 - (B) a religious service of the colonizing culture that has been adapted to include elements of the native culture in order to gain converts
 - (C) a traditional play that is part of a colonized nation's original culture, but is highly popular among the leaders of the imperial culture
 - (D) a ritual dance, traditionally used to commemorate the union of two native deities, that is modified to depict the friendship between the colonial and native cultures
 - (E) a traditional village oratory competition in which members of the native culture endeavor to outdo one another in allegorical criticisms of the colonizing culture
- 20. In the context of the passage, the examples in the second and third paragraphs best exemplify which one of the following generalizations?
 - (A) Apparent traditions may be products of artifice.
 - (B) National identity generally requires cultural uniformity.
 - (C) Most colonial cultures are by nature artificial and contrived.
 - (D) Historical and cultural experiences may cross national boundaries.
 - (E) Revolutionary cultures are often more authentic than imperial cultures.
- 21. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (A) argue for the creation of a global culture made up of elements from many national cultures
 - (B) explain how the desire for cultural uniformity supports imperialist attitudes
 - (C) stress the importance of objectivity in studying the actual sources of cultural identity
 - (D) advance the claim that present concerns motivate the shaping of cultural identities
 - (E) reveal the imperialist motivations of some nineteenth-century scholarship

One of the foundations of scientific research is that an experimental result is credible only if it can be replicated—only if performing the experiment a second time leads to the same result. But physicists

- (5) John Sommerer and Edward Ott have conceived of a physical system in which even the least change in the starting conditions—no matter how small, inadvertent, or undetectable—can alter results radically. The system is represented by a computer model of a
- (10) mathematical equation describing the motion of a particle placed in a particular type of force field.

Sommerer and Ott based their system on an analogy with the phenomena known as riddled basins of attraction. If two bodies of water bound a large

- (15) landmass and water is spilled somewhere on the land, the water will eventually make its way to one or the other body of water, its destination depending on such factors as where the water is spilled and the geographic features that shape the water's path and
- (20) velocity. The basin of attraction for a body of water is the area of land that, whenever water is spilled on it, always directs the spilled water to that body.

In some geographical formations it is sometimes impossible to predict, not only the exact destination

- (25) of the spilled water, but even which body of water it will end up in. This is because the boundary between one basin of attraction and another is riddled with fractal properties; in other words, the boundary is permeated by an extraordinarily high number of
- (30) physical irregularities such as notches or zigzags. Along such a boundary, the only way to determine where spilled water will flow at any given point is actually to spill it and observe its motion; spilling the water at any immediately adjacent point could give
- (35) the water an entirely different path, velocity, or destination.

In the system posited by the two physicists, this boundary expands to include the whole system: i.e., the entire force field is riddled with fractal properties,

- (40) and it is impossible to predict even the general destination of the particle given its starting point. Sommerer and Ott make a distinction between this type of uncertainty and that known as "chaos"; under chaos, a particle's general destination would be
- (45) predictable but its path and exact destination would

There are presumably other such systems because the equation the physicists used to construct the computer model was literally the first one they

- (50) attempted, and the likelihood that they chose the only equation that would lead to an unstable system is small. If other such systems do exist, metaphorical examples of riddled basins of attraction may abound in the failed attempts of scientists to replicate
- (55) previous experimental results—in which case, scientists would be forced to question one of the basic principles that guide their work.

- 22. Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of the passage?
 - (A) Sommerer and Ott's model suggests that many of the fundamental experimental results of science are unreliable because they are contaminated by riddled basins of attraction.
 - (B) Sommerer and Ott's model suggests that scientists who fail to replicate experimental results might be working within physical systems that make replication virtually impossible.
 - (C) Sommerer and Ott's model suggests that experimental results can never be truly replicated because the starting conditions of an experiment can never be re-created exactly.
 - (D) Sommerer and Ott's model suggests that most of the physical systems studied by scientists are in fact metaphorical examples of riddled basins of attraction.
 - (E) Sommerer and Ott's model suggests that an experimental result should not be treated as credible unless that result can be replicated.
- 23. The discussion of the chaos of physical systems is intended to perform which one of the following functions in the passage?
 - (A) emphasize the extraordinarily large number of physical irregularities in a riddled basin of attraction
 - (B) emphasize the unusual types of physical irregularities found in Sommerer and Ott's model
 - (C) emphasize the large percentage of a riddled basin of attraction that exhibits unpredictability
 - (D) emphasize the degree of unpredictability in Sommerer and Ott's model
 - (E) emphasize the number of fractal properties in a riddled basin of attraction
- 24. Given the information in the passage, Sommerer and Ott are most likely to agree with which one of the following?
 - (A) It is sometimes impossible to determine whether a particular region exhibits fractal properties.
 - (B) It is sometimes impossible to predict even the general destination of a particle placed in a chaotic system.
 - (C) It is sometimes impossible to re-create exactly the starting conditions of an experiment.
 - (D) It is usually possible to predict the exact path water will travel if it is spilled at a point not on the boundary between two basins of attraction.
 - (E) It is usually possible to determine the path by which a particle traveled given information about where it was placed and its eventual destination.

- 25. Which one of the following most accurately describes the author's attitude toward the work of Sommerer and Ott?
 - (A) skeptical of the possibility that numerous unstable systems exist but confident that the existence of numerous unstable systems would call into question one of the foundations of science
 - (B) convinced of the existence of numerous unstable systems and unsure if the existence of numerous unstable systems calls into question one of the foundations of science
 - (C) convinced of the existence of numerous unstable systems and confident that the existence of numerous unstable systems calls into question one of the foundations of science
 - (D) persuaded of the possibility that numerous unstable systems exist and unsure if the existence of numerous unstable systems would call into question one of the foundations of science
 - (E) persuaded of the possibility that numerous unstable systems exist and confident that the existence of numerous unstable systems would call into question one of the foundations of science
- 26. According to the passage, Sommerer and Ott's model differs from a riddled basin of attraction in which one of the following ways?
 - (A) In the model, the behavior of a particle placed at any point in the system is chaotic; in a riddled basin of attraction, only water spilled at some of the points behaves chaotically.
 - (B) In a riddled basin of attraction, the behavior of water spilled at any point is chaotic; in the model, only particles placed at some of the points in the system behave chaotically.
 - (C) In the model, it is impossible to predict the destination of a particle placed at any point in the system; in a riddled basin of attraction, only some points are such that it is impossible to predict the destination of water spilled at each of those points.
 - (D) In a riddled basin of attraction, water spilled at two adjacent points always makes its way to the same destination; in the model, it is possible for particles placed at two adjacent points to travel to different destinations.
 - (E) In the model, two particles placed successively at a given point always travel to the same destination; in a riddled basin of attraction, water spilled at the same point on different occasions may make its way to different destinations.

- 27. Which one of the following best defines the term "basin of attraction," as that term is used in the passage?
 - (A) the set of all points on an area of land for which it is possible to predict the destination, but not the path, of water spilled at that point
 - (B) the set of all points on an area of land for which it is possible to predict both the destination and the path of water spilled at that point
 - (C) the set of all points on an area of land that are free from physical irregularities such as notches and zigzags
 - (D) the set of all points on an area of land for which water spilled at each point will travel to a particular body of water
 - (E) the set of all points on an area of land for which water spilled at each point will travel to the same exact destination
- 28. Which one of the following is most clearly one of the "metaphorical examples of riddled basins of attraction" mentioned in lines 52–53?
 - (A) A scientist is unable to determine if mixing certain chemicals will result in a particular chemical reaction because the reaction cannot be consistently reproduced since sometimes the reaction occurs and other times it does not despite starting conditions that are in fact exactly the same in each experiment.
 - (B) A scientist is unable to determine if mixing certain chemicals will result in a particular chemical reaction because the reaction cannot be consistently reproduced since it is impossible to bring about starting conditions that are in fact exactly the same in each experiment.
 - (C) A scientist is unable to determine if mixing certain chemicals will result in a particular chemical reaction because the reaction cannot be consistently reproduced since it is impossible to produce starting conditions that are even approximately the same from one experiment to the next.
 - (D) A scientist is able to determine that mixing certain chemicals results in a particular chemical reaction because it is possible to consistently reproduce the reaction even though the starting conditions vary significantly from one experiment to the next.
 - (E) A scientist is able to determine that mixing certain chemicals results in a particular chemical reaction because it is possible to consistently reproduce the reaction despite the fact that the amount of time it takes for the reaction to occur varies significantly depending on the starting conditions of the experiment.