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Reading & Writing

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Central Ideas and Details (key)





Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 57485f5e

The following text is adapted from Johanna Spyri's 1881 novel *Heidi* (translated by Elisabeth Stork in 1915). Eight-year-old Heidi and her friend's grandmother are looking at some illustrated books.

Heidi had come and was looking with wondering eyes at the splendid pictures in the large books, that Grandmama was showing her. Suddenly she screamed aloud, for there on the picture she saw a peaceful flock grazing on a green pasture. In the middle a shepherd was standing, leaning on his crook. The setting sun was shedding a golden light over everything. With glowing eyes Heidi devoured the scene.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Heidi is upset until she sees a serene image of a pasture in one of Grandmama's books.
- B. Heidi is delighted and fascinated by an image she sees in one of Grandmama's books.
- C. Heidi is initially frightened by an image in one of Grandmama's books but quickly comes to appreciate its beauty.
- D. Heidi is inspecting an image in one of Grandmama's books because she has never seen a shepherd with his sheep before.

ID: 57485f5e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most effectively states the main idea of the text, which is that Heidi is delighted and fascinated by an image she sees in one of Grandmama's books. In the text, Heidi screams upon first seeing the picture of the green pasture. In another context, such a reaction might suggest fear, but here the reaction is followed by descriptions of an image that's peaceful rather than scary. The text goes on to describe Heidi's eyes as "glowing" and states that she "devoured the scene," suggesting that the image delights and fascinates her so much that she wants to examine every detail. Together, these descriptions suggest that Heidi is thrilled and intrigued by the image in the book.

Choice A is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that Heidi is upset before seeing the peaceful image of the green pasture. Before Heidi sees that image, the text describes her as "looking with wondering eyes at the splendid pictures" in the book, suggesting that Heidi is intrigued, not that she's unhappy. Choice C is incorrect. Although Heidi screams upon first seeing the image, the text's description of the image and Heidi's other reactions to it suggest that she is screaming with delight, not fear. The text describes the images in the book as "splendid" and the particular image that causes her to scream as peaceful rather than frightening. It also describes Heidi's eyes as "glowing" and states that she "devoured the scene," suggesting that the image of the green pasture delights and fascinates her so much that she wants to examine every detail. Choice D is incorrect because it's unclear from the text whether Heidi has ever seen a shepherd

with his sheep before. The text merely suggests that she is delighted and fascinated by the image of the shepherd and his sheep.



Question Difficulty: Easy



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 8a8236e1

Scent is tightly interwoven with our daily lives, often evoking significant memories and important social events. This connection is of growing interest to archaeologists who hope to use it to better understand ancient rituals, trade, social hierarchies, and medicine. Although the speed at which odor molecules dissipate makes identifying ancient scents challenging, advancements in biomolecular technologies show promise in unlocking ancient aromas from preserved artifacts. Archaeological studies making use of these advancements may provide new insights into past societies.

According to the text, what is one reason some archaeologists are interested in recovering scents from ancient artifacts?

- A. They are investigating whether people's sense of smell has declined in recent centuries.
- B. They believe the scents could illuminate important aspects of ancient life.
- C. They think that ancient scents would be enjoyable to people today.
- D. They hope to develop new medicines using ancient scent molecules.

ID: 8a8236e1 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text states that archaeologists are interested in using scents to better understand "ancient rituals, trade, social hierarchies, and medicine," all of which are important aspects of ancient life.

Choice A is incorrect. The text doesn't say anything about investigating if people's sense of smell has declined in recent centuries. It says that scents fade over time—not that people have gotten worse at smelling scents. Choice C is incorrect. The text says that archaeologists are interested in using scents to better understand "ancient rituals, trade, social hierarchies, and medicine," but it doesn't say anything about ancient scents being enjoyable to people today. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't say anything about developing new medicines. Rather, it says that archaeologists are interested in using scents to better understand "ancient rituals, trade, social hierarchies, and medicine."

Question Difficulty: Easy



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 2592e0de

Bicycles were first mass-produced in the late nineteenth century throughout Europe and North America, allowing individuals remarkable freedom to travel longer distances quickly and comfortably. This freedom, coupled with the affordability of the vehicle, made the bicycle immensely popular. Individuals were able to live farther from their workplaces, easily visit neighboring towns, and participate in new leisure and sport activities. Bicycling quickly became a popular social endeavor, with enthusiasts forming local cycling clubs to enjoy these newfound activities with others.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The widespread adoption of the bicycle in the late nineteenth century provided new opportunities for people.
- B. The affordability of the bicycle in the late nineteenth century made it the preferred way to travel.
- C. The popularity of the bicycle in the late nineteenth century gave rise to the first cycling clubs.
- D. The mass production of the bicycle in the late nineteenth century made it safer for people to use.

ID: 2592e0de Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text discusses how the mass production of bicycles in the late nineteenth century allowed people to travel longer distances, live farther from their workplaces, visit neighboring towns, and participate in new activities and social clubs. All of these are new opportunities that were provided by the widespread adoption of the bicycle.

Choice B is incorrect. The text never says this. It does say that the bicycle was “affordable,” and that the “freedom to travel longer distances quickly and comfortably” made the bicycle “popular,” but it never says that the bicycle was more popular than any other way of traveling (like cars or trains or horses). Choice C is incorrect. This is a detail mentioned in the text, but not the main idea. Cycling clubs are only one of the new opportunities that arose from the popularity of the mass-produced bicycle. A “main idea” should capture more of the information in the text. Choice D is incorrect. The text never says this. It doesn’t mention the safety of the mass-produced bicycle at all.

Question Difficulty: Easy



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 89961e26

Artist Justin Favela explained that he wanted to reclaim the importance of the piñata as a symbol in Latinx culture. To do so, he created numerous sculptures from strips of tissue paper, which is similar to the material used to create piñatas. In 2017, Favela created an impressive life-size piñata-like sculpture of the Gypsy Rose lowrider car, which was displayed at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, California. The Gypsy Rose lowrider was famously driven by Jesse Valadez, an early president of the Los Angeles Imperials Car Club.

According to the text, which piece of Favela’s art was on display in the Petersen Automotive Museum in 2017?

- A. A painting of Los Angeles
- B. A sculpture of a lowrider car
- C. A painting of a piñata
- D. A sculpture of Jesse Valadez

ID: 89961e26 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text describes Favela’s approach to sculpture, and then describes the lowrider car that he depicted in 2017.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn’t what the text says. The Petersen Automotive Museum is located in Los Angeles, but Favela’s artwork isn’t a painting, and it doesn’t depict L.A. Choice C is incorrect. This isn’t what the text says. Favela makes sculptures similar to piñatas, not paintings of them. Choice D is incorrect. This isn’t what the text says. Jesse Valadez owned the lowrider car that Favela depicted in sculpture.

Question Difficulty: Easy



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: de0a5b4e

In 2022, researchers rediscovered ancient indigenous glyphs, or drawings, on the walls of a cave in Alabama. The cave's ceiling was only a few feet high, affording no position from which the glyphs, being as wide as ten feet, could be viewed or photographed in their entirety. However, the researchers used a technique called photogrammetry to assemble numerous photos of the walls into a 3D model. They then worked with representatives of tribes originally from the region, including the Chickasaw Nation, to understand the significance of the animal and humanoid figures adorning the cave.

According to the text, what challenge did the researchers have to overcome to examine the glyphs?

- A. The cave was so remote that the researchers couldn't easily reach it.
- B. Some of the glyphs were so faint that they couldn't be photographed.
- C. The researchers were unable to create a 3D model of the cave.
- D. The cave's dimensions prevented the researchers from fully viewing the glyphs.

ID: de0a5b4e Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text describes the very low ceiling of the cave, making it impossible to photograph the very wide glyphs all at once.

Choice A is incorrect. The text doesn't say this. It never suggests that the cave was remote or difficult to access, just that the cave itself was difficult to photograph well. Choice B is incorrect. The text doesn't say this. The glyphs were so wide that they couldn't be photographed completely. Choice C is incorrect. The text states the opposite of this. The researchers "used a technique called photogrammetry to assemble numerous photos of the walls into a 3D model."

Question Difficulty: Easy



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 6675c5c3

The following text is from Shyam Selvadurai's 1994 novel *Funny Boy*. The seven-year-old narrator lives with his family in Sri Lanka. Radha Aunty is the narrator's aunt.

Radha Aunty, who was the youngest in my father's family, had left for America four years ago when I was three, and I could not remember what she looked like. I went into the corridor to look at the family photographs that were hung there. But all the pictures were old ones, taken when Radha Aunty was a baby or young girl. Try as I might, I couldn't get an idea of what she looked like now. My imagination, however, was quick to fill in this void. ©1994 by Shyam Selvadurai.

According to the text, why does the narrator consult some family photographs?

- A. He wants to use the photographs as inspiration for a story he is writing.
- B. He is curious about how his father dressed a long time ago.
- C. He hopes the photographs will help him recall what his aunt looked like.
- D. He wants to remind his aunt of an event that is shown in an old photograph.

ID: 6675c5c3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text states that the narrator couldn't remember what his Radha Aunty looked like, so he went to look at the family photographs she was in.

Choice A is incorrect. There's no mention of any story that the narrator is writing. Rather, we're told that the narrator couldn't remember what his aunt looked like, so he went to look at the family photographs she was in. Choice B is incorrect. The text doesn't mention how the narrator's father dressed. Rather, we're told that the narrator couldn't remember what his aunt looked like, so he went to look at the family photographs she was in. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't mention any events shown in the photographs. Rather, we're told that the narrator couldn't remember what his aunt looked like, so he went to look at the family photographs she was in.

Question Difficulty: Easy



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 0b696a0c

NASA's *Cassini* probe has detected an unusual wobble in the rotation of Mimas, Saturn's smallest moon. Using a computer model to study Mimas's gravitational interactions with Saturn and tidal forces, geophysicist Alyssa Rhoden and colleagues have proposed that this wobble could be due to a liquid ocean moving beneath the moon's icy surface. The researchers believe other moons should be examined to see if they too might have oceans hidden beneath their surfaces.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Rhoden and colleagues were the first to confirm that several of Saturn's moons contain hidden oceans.
- B. Research has failed to identify signs that there is an ocean hidden beneath the surface of Mimas.
- C. Rhoden and colleagues created a new computer model that identifies moons with hidden oceans without needing to analyze the moons' rotation.
- D. Research has revealed that an oddity in the rotation of Mimas could be explained by an ocean hidden beneath its surface.

ID: 0b696a0c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The study isn't definitive, but it says that Mimas's wobbly rotation could be explained by the hidden ocean.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice goes too far beyond the information in the text. Rhoden's team proposed that one moon of Saturn could have a liquid ocean beneath its surface, and that other moons should also be examined, but no one has confirmed anything. Choice B is incorrect. This choice conflicts with the text. Research has identified at least one sign—the unusual wobble in Mimas's rotation—that might be due to a hidden ocean beneath its surface. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't reflect the text. The computer model studies "gravitational interactions," which seem to account for the wobbly rotation of Mimas.

Question Difficulty: Easy



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 23a7038f

Shimmering is a collective defense behavior that researchers have observed in giant honeybee colonies. When shimmering, different groups of bees flip their bodies up and down in what looks like waves. This defense is initiated when hornets hover near a colony, serving to deter the hornets from approaching the bees. Researchers hypothesize that this behavior is a specialized defense response to hornets, as it is not observed when other, larger predators approach the colony.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Researchers are unsure how giant honeybees defend against predators larger than hornets.
- B. Researchers think that shimmering in giant honeybees is a specific defense against hornets.
- C. Hornets are known to be the main predator of giant honeybees.
- D. Several different species of insects use shimmering to defend against hornets.

ID: 23a7038f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text describes a study about how giant honeybees use shimmering to defend against hornets, but not other predators. The researchers conclude that shimmering could be a specialized defense response to hornets.

Choice A is incorrect. The text says that giant honeybees don't appear to use shimmering against other, larger predators. However, it never suggests that researchers don't know which other defenses giant honeybees do use for those predators. Choice C is incorrect. The text says that hornets are one predator of giant honeybees, but it doesn't say that hornets are the main predator of giant honeybees. This choice also fails to mention "shimmering," which is a major focus of the text. Choice D is incorrect. The text only discusses the shimmering of giant honeybees—it doesn't discuss other insects' defense responses at all.

Question Difficulty: Easy



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ID: 7921b86b

Oluwaseyi Moejoh cofounded U-recycle Initiative Africa when she was only a teenager. Moejoh and her team founded the organization to teach young people how their actions affect the environment and why recycling is important. For example, the organization put on an exhibit of art made using recycled materials.

According to the text, what is one reason Moejoh and others founded U-recycle Initiative Africa?

- A. To bring attention to overlooked African artists
- B. To teach young people why recycling is important
- C. To help adults gain important outdoor skills
- D. To give teenagers advice about starting businesses

ID: 7921b86b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it describes a reason that Moejoh and team founded U-recycle Initiative Africa. The text mentions two reasons the initiative was founded: to teach young people about how they affect the environment and to teach them “why recycling is important.” Thus, teaching the importance of recycling to young people accurately describes a motivation that the text cites as a reason for the initiative’s founding.

Choice A is incorrect. Although art is mentioned in the text, there are no details about artists or whether they are being overlooked. Choice C is incorrect because the text is explicitly about young people and their relationship to the environment and recycling. There is no mention of adults or outdoor skills. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text discusses young people, which likely includes teenagers, there is no mention of starting businesses.

Question Difficulty: Easy



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: dc5edbf6

Microplastics are pieces of plastic that are smaller than a grain of rice. These small plastics can be found in large quantities in ocean waters. Ecologist Jessica Reichert and her team are studying the role reef-building corals have in capturing microplastics from ocean waters. Through research, her team has found that these corals may be storing up to 20 million kilograms of microplastics each year in their skeletons and tissues.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Ecologists are interested in learning more about how certain corals build large reefs.
- B. Questions remain around the impact certain corals have on ocean ecosystems.
- C. Microplastics are small pieces of plastic that can be found in ocean waters.
- D. Ecologists predict that corals store large amounts of microplastics from ocean waters.

ID: dc5edbf6 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text describes a study about how reef-building corals capture microplastics from ocean waters, which found that these corals are storing 20 million kilograms of microplastics in their skeletons and tissues.

Choice A is incorrect. While the researchers are studying “reef-building corals,” the focus of their study isn’t how the corals build the reefs. Rather, they’re studying how corals may be storing microplastics from ocean waters. Choice B is incorrect. The text doesn’t mention any unanswered questions about the impact of corals on ocean ecosystems—rather, the study assesses one interaction between corals and microplastics. Choice C is incorrect. The text does say this, but it’s a detail—not the main idea. The main idea of the text is about the study that found that corals may be storing microplastics from ocean waters in their skeletons and tissues.

Question Difficulty: Easy



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: d8758c3b

Psychologists wanted to test how young children think about rewards and fairness. In an experiment, two teachers handed out rewards while children (ages four to six) watched. The teachers gave out the same number of rewards, but one of them counted the rewards out loud. The children were then asked who was fairer. 73% chose the teacher who counted. The psychologists think that counting showed the children that the teacher wanted to be fair. The children may have believed that the teacher who did not count did not care about fairness.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Psychologists think children cannot understand the concept of fairness until they are six years old.
- B. An experiment found that counting out loud is the best way to teach mathematical concepts to children.
- C. Psychologists think young children expect to be rewarded when the children show that they care about fairness.
- D. An experiment showed that the way rewards are given out may affect whether young children think the situation is fair.

ID: d8758c3b Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text describes a study assessing how children think of rewards and fairness and its results. It concludes that the children in the study may have thought that a teacher who counted out loud when giving rewards cared more about fairness than a teacher who did not count out loud.

Choice A is incorrect. The children in the study are described as being “four to six,” and the text doesn’t mention any differences among the different ages. Choice B is incorrect. The experiment wasn’t about teaching math—rather, it was about how counting out loud affected the children’s perception of fairness. Choice C is incorrect. The experiment doesn’t focus on whether the children care about fairness, and the text never mentions the children’s expectations of being rewarded.

Question Difficulty: Easy



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 0e3b4967

Scrapbooks of saved fabric pieces were commonly kept by women in the nineteenth-century United States, but few are as meticulously detailed as Hannah Ditzler Alspaugh's work. Alongside each piece of fabric, Alspaugh recorded intimate memories, such as dressmaking with her sister. Additionally, she listed the prices and how she used the fabric. Historians note that by representing fifty years of changing textures, patterns, and dress styles, the scrapbook is a record of nineteenth-century textiles and dressmaking as well as Alspaugh's life.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Alspaugh inspired other women to save pieces of fabric in scrapbooks and provide historical records of nineteenth-century fashions in the United States.
- B. Historians rely on fabric scrapbooks to understand how fashions changed throughout the nineteenth-century United States.
- C. Fabric scrapbooks were a popular hobby for many women in the nineteenth-century United States.
- D. Alspaugh's scrapbook provides a detailed account of her life and historical record of fashion trends in the nineteenth-century United States.

ID: 0e3b4967 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is correct. The text describes how Alspaugh's scrapbook is both a record of her life and a historical record of nineteenth-century textiles and dressmaking.

Choice A is incorrect. The text says that it was common for American women to keep scrapbooks of fabric pieces in the nineteenth century, and it says that Alspaugh was one of these women. However, it never says that other women were inspired by Alspaugh. Choice B is incorrect. This is too general and too strong. The text says that Alspaugh's scrapbook is a historical record of nineteenth-century textiles and dressmaking, but it never says that historians rely on such scrapbooks in general to understand how fashions changed throughout that time period. This choice also fails to even mention Alspaugh, who is the real focus of the text. Choice C is incorrect. The text does say this, but it's a detail—not the main idea. The text is mainly about one woman's scrapbook (Alspaugh's), and this choice doesn't even mention her.

Question Difficulty: Easy



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ID: a842db60

To make her art more widely available, graphic artist Elizabeth Catlett turned to linocuts. In linocut printing, an artist carves an image into a sheet of linoleum to create a stamp that is used to mass-produce prints. In the linocut series *The Black Woman* (1946–1947), Catlett depicts the everyday experiences of Black women alongside the achievements of well-known Black women. This pairing invites the viewer to draw connections among the women. The linocut process enabled Catlett’s work to reach a wide audience and supported her aim to unite Black women through her art.

According to the text, what is significant about Catlett’s use of linocut printing?

- A. Linocut printing involved using materials that were readily available to Catlett.
- B. Linocut printing helped Catlett use art to connect people, especially Black women.
- C. Catlett became commercially successful once she started using linocut printing.
- D. Catlett was one of the first Black artists to use linocut printing.

ID: a842db60 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The last sentence states that the linocut process “supported her [Catlett’s] aim to unite Black women through her art.”

Choice A is incorrect. The text briefly describes the linocut printing process but doesn’t discuss the availability of the materials used in the process. Choice C is incorrect. The text says that the linocut process “enabled Catlett’s work to reach a wide audience,” but that doesn’t mean that linocuts made her “commercially successful.” In other words, we don’t know how much money she made off her linocuts—we only know that more people were able to see her work. Choice D is incorrect. The text says that Catlett depicted Black women in her linocuts, but not that she was one of the first Black artists to use linocut printing.

Question Difficulty: Easy



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ID: 1e85caa9

The following text is from Edith Nesbit's 1902 novel *Five Children and It*. Five young siblings have just moved with their parents from London to a house in the countryside that they call the White House.

It was not really a pretty house at all; it was quite ordinary, and mother thought it was rather inconvenient, and was quite annoyed at there being no shelves, to speak of, and hardly a cupboard in the place. Father used to say that the ironwork on the roof and coping was like an architect's nightmare. But the house was deep in the country, with no other house in sight, and the children had been in London for two years, without so much as once going to the seaside even for a day by an excursion train, and so the White House seemed to them a sort of Fairy Palace set down in an Earthly Paradise.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Although their parents believe the house has several drawbacks, the children are enchanted by it.
- B. The children don't like the house nearly as much as their parents do.
- C. Each member of the family admires a different characteristic of the house.
- D. The house is beautiful and well built, but the children miss their old home in London.

ID: 1e85caa9 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text lists complaints about the house made by the mother and father, but then it says that the children thought the house was a "Fairy Palace" and "Earthly Paradise."

Choice B is incorrect. The text states the opposite of this. It describes how the mother and father dislike the house and says the children think the house seems like paradise. Choice C is incorrect. This isn't what the text says. Only the children are said to admire the house; mother and father both complain about the house. Choice D is incorrect. The text states the opposite of this. It tells us the house was ugly and poorly built ("an architect's nightmare") and suggests the children were tired of London.

Question Difficulty: Easy



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 87aa7bab

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

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

- A. Factors other than the rise of photography may be more directly responsible for the portrait miniature's decline.
- B. Although portrait miniatures became less common than photographs, they were widely regarded as having more artistic merit.
- C. The popularity of the portrait miniature likely persisted for longer than art historians have assumed.
- D. As demand for portrait miniatures decreased, portrait artists likely shifted their creative focus to photography.

ID: 87aa7bab Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Medium



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ID: 602b47c7

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

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Barve's investigation shows that some species of Himalayan songbirds have evolved feathers that better regulate body temperature than do the feathers of other species, contradicting previous predictions.
- B. Barve found an association between habitat temperature and feather structure among Himalayan songbirds, lending new support to a general prediction.
- C. Barve discovered that songbirds have adapted to their environment by growing feathers without flat and smooth sections, complicating an earlier hypothesis.
- D. The results of Barve's study suggest that the ability of birds to withstand cold temperatures is determined more strongly by feather length than feather structure, challenging an established belief.

ID: 602b47c7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Medium



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SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 11a9f635

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

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

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

ID: 11a9f635 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Medium



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e677fa6c

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

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

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

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

ID: e677fa6c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Medium



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 5325b3cc

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

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

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

ID: 5325b3cc Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Medium



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: dc3ea63e

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

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

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

ID: dc3ea63e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Medium



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

ID: a59245a1

The painter María Izquierdo played an important role in the development of twentieth-century Mexican art, but her work has never been well-known in the United States except among art historians. One reason for Izquierdo's relative obscurity is the enormous popularity of some of her peers. In particular, the painters Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera have so captivated the interest of US audiences that Izquierdo and other Mexican artists from the period often get overlooked, despite the high quality of their work.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Izquierdo's work is not as well-known in the United States as it should be because Kahlo and Rivera draw so much of the public's attention.
- B. During Izquierdo's lifetime, her paintings were displayed in galleries in the United States much more frequently than paintings by Kahlo and Rivera were.
- C. Izquierdo painted some of the same subjects that Kahlo and Rivera painted but used different techniques than they used.
- D. Few of Izquierdo's works are in galleries today because she produced only a small number of paintings.

ID: a59245a1 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by stating that María Izquierdo was an important figure in the history of twentieth-century Mexican art, but despite her importance, her work hasn't received widespread recognition in the United States. According to the text, one reason for this is that Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera are so famous in the US that they overshadow other important Mexican artists, including Izquierdo. Thus, the main idea of the text is that Izquierdo's work is less well known in the US than it should be because Kahlo and Rivera draw most of the public's attention.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss the appearance of Izquierdo's paintings in galleries in the US during her lifetime, nor does it suggest that her paintings were displayed more frequently than paintings by Kahlo or Rivera were. Instead, the text focuses on the fact that Izquierdo has been overlooked in the US because of Kahlo's and Rivera's greater popularity. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss either the subject matter of Izquierdo's paintings or the techniques she used, nor does it compare these aspects of her paintings with those of Kahlo's and Rivera's paintings. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't mention how many of Izquierdo's paintings appear in galleries today, nor does it state that she produced only a small number of paintings.

Question Difficulty: Medium



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f8befe75

Many intellectual histories of the Black Power movement of the 1960s and 1970s rely heavily on essays and other explicitly ideological works as primary sources, a tendency that can overrepresent the perspectives of a small number of thinkers, most of whom were male. Historian Ashley D. Farmer has shown that expanding the array of primary sources to encompass more types of print material—including political cartoons, advertisements, and artwork—leads to a much better understanding of the movement and the crucial and diverse roles that Black women played in shaping it.

Which choice best describes the main idea of the text?

- A. Farmer's methods and research have enriched the historical understanding of the Black Power movement and Black women's contributions to it.
- B. Before Farmer's research, historians had largely ignored the intellectual dimensions of the Black Power movement.
- C. Other historians of the Black Power movement have criticized Farmer's use of unconventional primary sources.
- D. The figures in the Black Power movement whom historians tend to cite would have agreed with Farmer's conclusions about women's roles in the movement.

ID: f8befe75 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It best describes the main idea of the text. The text starts by saying that historians of the Black Power movement are too reliant on openly ideological works, which were written mostly by men, as sources. The text then describes Farmer's research: she has shown that including other kinds of sources leads to a better understanding of the Black Power movement and the role Black women played in it.

Choice B is incorrect. This doesn't describe the main idea of the text. In fact, it conflicts with the text. The text says that historians have relied on "essays and other explicitly ideological works," which suggests that they *have* studied at least some of the intellectual dimensions of the Black Power movement. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn't describe the main idea of the text. The text never mentions how other historians of the Black Power movement view Farmer's use of unconventional sources. In fact, the text itself argues in favor of Farmer's research, claiming that it has led to a "much better understanding of the movement." Choice D is incorrect. This doesn't describe the main idea of the text. The text never mentions what any figures in the Black Power movement thought about women's roles in the movement.

Question Difficulty: Medium



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3f05e40f

In many of his sculptures, artist Richard Hunt uses broad forms rather than extreme accuracy to hint at specific people or ideas. In his first major work, *Arachne* (1956), Hunt constructed the mythical character Arachne, a weaver who was changed into a spider, by welding bits of steel together into something that, although vaguely human, is strange and machine-like. And his large bronze sculpture *The Light of Truth* (2021) commemorates activist and journalist Ida B. Wells using mainly flowing, curved pieces of metal that create stylized flame.

Which choice best states the text's main idea about Hunt?

- A. He often depicts the subjects of his sculptures using an unrealistic style.
- B. He uses different kinds of materials depending on what kind of sculpture he plans to create.
- C. He tends to base his art on important historical figures rather than on fictional characters.
- D. He has altered his approach to sculpture over time, and his works have become increasingly abstract.

ID: 3f05e40f Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. According to the text, many of Richard Hunt's sculptures "use broad forms rather than extreme accuracy"—in other words, they are more abstract than realistic. To illustrate Hunt's abstract approach, the text characterizes his sculpture of Arachne as "vaguely human" and his work in honor of Ida B. Wells as "using mainly flowing, curved pieces of metal that create stylized flame." Thus, the main idea is that Hunt often depicts the subjects of his sculptures using an unrealistic style.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text indicates that one of Hunt's sculptures is made of steel and another of bronze, there is no mention of why he chose these materials. Choice C is incorrect because the text says nothing about how Hunt chose the subjects for his sculptures. Furthermore, of the two examples provided in the text, only Ida B. Wells is an important historical figure; Arachne is a "mythical character." Choice D is incorrect because the text says nothing about how Hunt's style changed over time. In fact, although the two examples of Hunt's work discussed in the text were created 65 years apart, they are both described as heavily stylized rather than realistic, which may suggest that some aspects of Hunt's style haven't changed over that time.

Question Difficulty: Medium



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 659c6c1d

The following text is adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson's 1883 novel *Treasure Island*. Bill is a sailor staying at the Admiral Benbow, an inn run by the narrator's parents.

Every day when [Bill] came back from his stroll he would ask if any seafaring men had gone by along the road. At first we thought it was the want of company of his own kind that made him ask this question, but at last we began to see he was desirous to avoid them. When a seaman did [stay] at the Admiral Benbow (as now and then some did) he would look in at him through the curtained door before he entered the parlour; and he was always sure to be as silent as a mouse when any such was present.

According to the text, why does Bill regularly ask about "seafaring men"?

- A. He's hoping to find an old friend and fellow sailor.
- B. He's trying to secure a job as part of the crew on a new ship.
- C. He isn't sure that other guests at the inn will be welcoming of sailors.
- D. He doesn't want to encounter any other sailor unexpectedly.

ID: 659c6c1d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The narrator says that, at first, they thought Bill asked regularly about other seafarers because he wanted their company, but eventually they realized that Bill actually wanted to avoid them.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn't the reason the text gives for why Bill regularly asks about "seafaring men." The narrator says that, at first, they thought Bill asked regularly about other seafarers because he wanted their company, but eventually they realized that Bill wanted to avoid them. Choice B is incorrect. This isn't the reason the text gives for why Bill regularly asks about "seafaring men." The narrator says that, at first, they thought Bill asked regularly about other seafarers because he wanted their company, but eventually they realized that Bill wanted to avoid them. Choice C is incorrect. This isn't the reason the text gives for why Bill regularly asks about "seafaring men." The narrator says that, at first, they thought Bill asked regularly about other seafarers because he wanted their company, but eventually they realized that Bill wanted to avoid them.

Question Difficulty: Medium



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d5c2a4d4

The following text is adapted from Guy de Maupassant's nineteenth-century short story "The Trip of Le Horla" (translated by Albert M. C. McMaster, A. E. Henderson, Mme. Quesada, et al.). The narrator is part of a group traveling in a hot-air balloon at night.

The earth no longer seems to exist, it is buried in milky vapors that resemble a sea. We are now alone in space with the moon, which looks like another balloon travelling opposite us; and our balloon, which shines in the air, appears like another, larger moon, a world wandering in the sky amid the stars, through infinity. We no longer speak, think nor live; we float along through space in delicious inertia. The air which is bearing us up has made of us all beings which resemble itself, silent, joyous, irresponsible beings, peculiarly alert, although motionless.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The narrator feels a growing sense of isolation even though his companions are nearby during the balloon ride.
- B. The narrator and his companions are completely absorbed in the change in perspective they gain while riding in the balloon.
- C. The narrator and his companions are troubled by the disorienting effects of the altitude while riding in the balloon.
- D. The narrator is pleasantly surprised by his companions' unrestrained enthusiasm about the sensation of riding in the balloon.

ID: d5c2a4d4 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The narrator describes the view he and his companions have from the balloon: the earth lies beneath "milky vapors," and the balloon itself looks like another moon. The narrator goes on to explain how the people riding in the balloon are affected by the ride, explaining that they are immersed in the experience: floating along in "delicious inertia," or inactivity, like "silent, joyous, irresponsible beings." Thus, the main idea is that the narrator and his companions are completely absorbed in the change in perspective they gain while riding in the balloon.

Choice A is incorrect because the narrator never describes himself as feeling isolated from his companions; instead, he characterizes riding in the balloon as an experience he is sharing with them. And although he does imply a sense of isolation, it is isolation from those on the ground, as when he says of himself and his companions, "We are now alone." Choice C is incorrect because the narrator doesn't suggest that he or his companions are troubled by the effects of the balloon ride. Instead, he describes himself and his companions as "joyous" and the experience of floating in the balloon as "delicious." Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the narrator is surprised by his companions' response to the balloon ride. In fact, the

text indicates that the narrator and his companions are having the same experience: they're described as "silent" and "motionless," rather than as having unrestrained enthusiasm.

Question Difficulty: Medium



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>

ID: ad680167

The recovery of a 1,000-year-old Chinese shipwreck in the Java Sea near present-day Indonesia has yielded a treasure trove of artifacts, including thousands of small ceramic bowls. Using a portable X-ray fluorescence analyzer tool, Lisa Niziolek and her team were able to detect the chemical composition of these bowls without damaging them. By comparing the chemical signatures of the bowls with those of the materials still at old Chinese kiln sites, Niziolek and her team can pinpoint which Chinese kilns likely produced the ceramic bowls.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Because of a new technology, researchers can locate and recover more shipwrecks than they could in the past.
- B. Researchers have been able to identify the location of a number of Chinese kilns in operation 1,000 years ago.
- C. With the help of a special tool, researchers have determined the likely origin of bowls recovered from a shipwreck.
- D. Before the invention of portable X-ray fluorescence, researchers needed to take a small piece out of an artifact to analyze its components.

ID: ad680167 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. According to the text, thousands of ceramic bowls were found in a recovered Chinese shipwreck. The text goes on to say that Niziolek and her team used a special tool, a portable X-ray fluorescence analyzer, to determine the bowls' chemical signatures. Comparing these chemical signatures with the chemical signatures of materials they had collected from old Chinese kiln sites, the text says, allowed the researchers to identify which kilns had produced the bowls. In other words, the researchers determined the bowls' origin.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text indicates that the researchers used technology in the form of a portable X-ray fluorescence analyzer, it doesn't specifically state that this technology is new. In addition, the text says that Niziolek and her team used the tool to determine the chemical composition of bowls that were found in a Chinese shipwreck, not to locate and recover the shipwreck itself. There's no indication in the text that a new technology can help researchers locate and recover shipwrecks. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that the researchers collected materials from old kiln sites for chemical comparison with the ceramic bowls, which means that the researchers must have already known the location of those kiln sites. Rather than identifying the location of the kilns, the researchers determined which kilns in operation 1,000 years ago had likely produced the bowls that were found in the shipwreck. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text says that using a portable X-ray fluorescence analyzer tool enabled Niziolek and her team to analyze artifacts in the form of ceramic bowls without damaging them, the text doesn't discuss how researchers

analyzed artifacts before this tool was invented. Moreover, the point that the bowls were left undamaged isn't the text's main idea. Rather, it's a detail that's provided to develop the main idea, which is that the researchers used a special tool to determine where the bowls had been produced.

Question Difficulty: Medium



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: adbcace0

The following text is adapted from Christina Rossetti's 1881 poem "Monna Innominata 2."

I wish I could remember that first day,
First hour, first moment of your meeting me,
If bright or dim the season, it might be
Summer or Winter for [all] I can say;
So unrecorded did it slip away,
So blind was I to see and to foresee,
So dull to mark the budding of my tree
That would not blossom yet for many a May.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The speaker celebrates how the passage of time has strengthened a relationship that once seemed unimportant.
- B. Because the speaker did not anticipate how important a relationship would become, she cannot recall how the relationship began, which she regrets.
- C. As the anniversary of the beginning of an important relationship approaches, the speaker feels conflicted about how best to commemorate it.
- D. After years of neglecting a once valuable relationship, the speaker worries it may be too late for her to salvage the relationship.

ID: adbcace0 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The speaker says that they wish they could remember when they first met someone, but they can't remember the meeting at all, because they didn't know at the time that the relationship would "blossom" later on.

Choice A is incorrect. The speaker does say that the relationship has "blossomed" over time, but only briefly at the end—and they don't really "celebrate" that fact. Rather, the text has a more regretful tone: it's about how the speaker can't remember first meeting this person, and they wish they could. Choice C is incorrect. The speaker doesn't mention an anniversary—in fact, the speaker can't remember when they met the person they're talking about. Choice D is incorrect. The speaker doesn't say that they neglected the relationship. In fact, the speaker suggests that the relationship has become very important to them—that's why the speaker wishes that they could remember their first meeting.

Question Difficulty: Medium



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

ID: 95146ebb

The ice melted on a Norwegian mountain during a particularly warm summer in 2019, revealing a 1,700-year-old sandal to a mountaineer looking for artifacts. The sandal would normally have degraded quickly, but it was instead well preserved for centuries by the surrounding ice. According to archaeologist Espen Finstad and his team, the sandal, like those worn by imperial Romans, wouldn't have offered any protection from the cold in the mountains, so some kind of insulation, like fabric or animal skin, would have needed to be worn on the feet with the sandal.

What does the text indicate about the discovery of the sandal?

- A. Temperatures contributed to both protecting and revealing the sandal.
- B. The discovery revealed that the Roman Empire had more influence on Norway than archaeologists previously assumed.
- C. Archaeologists would have found the sandal eventually without help from the general public.
- D. The sandal would have degraded if it hadn't been removed from the ice.

ID: 95146ebb Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. A "particularly warm summer" revealed the sandal, and centuries of ice kept it "well preserved."

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't reflect the information in the text. The sandal is similar to Roman sandals, but there is no indication that it was a result of Roman influence. Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn't support this choice. We don't have enough information to know whether or not archaeologists would have found the sandal without people like the treasure-hunting mountaineer. Choice D is incorrect. The text says the opposite of this choice. The sandal was preserved by the ice for centuries.

Question Difficulty: Medium



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 409058ee

To protect themselves when being attacked, hagfish—jawless marine animals that resemble eels—will release large quantities of slimy, mucus-like threads. Because these threads are unusually strong and elastic, scientist Atsuko Negishi and her colleagues have been trying to recreate them in a lab as an eco-friendly alternative to petroleum-based fibers that are often used in fabrics. The researchers want to reproduce the threads in the lab because farming hagfish for their slime would be expensive and potentially harmful to the hagfish.

Which choice best states the text’s main idea?

- A. The slimy threads that hagfish release might help researchers create a new kind of fabric.
- B. Hagfish have inspired researchers to develop a new petroleum-based fabric.
- C. Hagfish are not well suited to being raised in captivity.
- D. The ability of hagfish to slime their attackers compensates for their being jawless.

ID: 409058ee Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text first describes hagfish slime and its properties, then it transitions to talking about the possibilities of using lab-made equivalents to use in eco-friendly fabrics.

Choice B is incorrect. The text says the opposite of this choice. The researchers are developing an alternative to petroleum-based fabric. Choice C is incorrect. This choice is too narrow to be the main point of the text. Only one line describes how farming would be “potentially harmful” to the hagfish. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn’t supported by the text. We don’t know from the text whether being jawless makes the hagfish more vulnerable.

Question Difficulty: Medium



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

ID: ed314256

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

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

- A. The choice of a New York City venue likely enabled the play's creators to experiment with the use of theatrical space in a way that venues from earlier productions could not.
- B. Audience members likely find the experience of the play disappointing because they generally cannot make their way through the entire venue.
- C. The production's dependence on a particular performance environment would likely make it difficult to reproduce exactly in a different theatrical space.
- D. Audience members who navigate the space according to a recommended itinerary will likely have a better grasp of the play's narrative than audience members who depart from that itinerary.

ID: ed314256 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Hard



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

ID: 1a2b29c9

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

It is a saying in the capital of Mexico that Dr. Malsufrido carries more family secrets under his hat than any archbishop.

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

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

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

ID: 1a2b29c9 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Hard



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

ID: 2fdfe002

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

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

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

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

ID: 2fdfe002 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Hard



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

ID: 96802cc0

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

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The recent verification of a pathway between the VTA and the cerebellum confirms the cerebellum's long-suspected role in motor coordination.
- B. Recent advances in the field of neuroscience have challenged widely accepted claims about the function of a pathway connecting the VTA and the cerebellum.
- C. The cerebellum has primarily been thought to regulate motor functioning, but in recent years neuroscience researchers have been uncovering additional functions.
- D. Technological limitations have historically hindered the study of the cerebellum, but the recent development of new technologies has led to greater insights into its functions.

ID: 96802cc0 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Hard



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

ID: d0fbf1ae

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

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

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

ID: d0fbf1ae Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Hard



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

ID: 14189fbb

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

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

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

ID: 14189fbb Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Hard



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

ID: 4d3e3c52

In a paper about p-i-n planar perovskite solar cells (one of several perovskite cell architectures designed to collect and store solar power), Lyndsey McMillon-Brown et al. describe a method for fabricating the cell's electronic transport layer (ETL) using a spray coating. Conventional ETL fabrication is accomplished using a solution of nanoparticles. The process can result in a loss of up to 80% of the solution, increasing the cost of manufacturing at scale—an issue that may be obviated by spray coating fabrication, which the researchers describe as “highly reproducible, concise, and practical.”

What does the text most strongly suggest about conventional ETL fabrication?

- A. It is less suitable for manufacturing large volumes of planar p-i-n perovskite solar cells than an alternative fabrication method may be.
- B. It is more expensive when manufacturing at scale than are processes for fabricating ETLs used in other perovskite solar cell architectures.
- C. It typically entails a greater loss of nanoparticle solution than do other established approaches for ETL fabrication.
- D. It is somewhat imprecise and therefore limits the potential effectiveness of p-i-n planar perovskite solar cells at capturing and storing solar power.

ID: 4d3e3c52 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Conventional solar cell fabrication increases “the cost of manufacturing at scale,” but spray coating might get rid of that problem.

Choice B is incorrect. This is not completely supported by the text. While it's true that conventional ETL fabrication is expensive at scale, there's nothing in the text that mentions other perovskite solar cell architectures. Choice C is incorrect. This choice does not match the text. Only one conventional method of ETL fabrication is described, so we can't compare the solution loss in this method to that of other conventional methods. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn't supported by the text. The text never suggests that the effectiveness of solar cells changes based on their method of fabrication.

Question Difficulty: Hard



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

ID: d1b8a9ad

Disco remains one of the most ridiculed popular music genres of the late twentieth century. But as scholars have argued, the genre is far less superficial than many people believe. Take the case of disco icon Donna Summer: she may have been associated with popular songs about love and heartbreak (subjects hardly unique to disco, by the way), but like many Black women singers before her, much of her music also reflects concerns about community and identity. These concerns are present in many of the genre’s greatest songs, and they generally don’t require much digging to reveal.

What does the text most strongly suggest about the disco genre?

- A. It has been unjustly ignored by most scholars despite the importance of the themes addressed by many of the genre’s songs.
- B. It evolved over time from a superficial genre focused on romance to a genre focused on more serious concerns.
- C. It has been unfairly dismissed for the inclusion of subject matter that is also found in other musical genres.
- D. It gave rise to a Black women’s musical tradition that has endured even though the genre itself faded in the late twentieth century.

ID: d1b8a9ad Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text argues that disco is "far less superficial" than its popular perception might indicate, and that love and heartbreak are "subjects hardly unique to disco."

Choice A is incorrect. This choice conflicts with the text, which says that scholars argue that disco "is far less superficial than many people believe." Choice B is incorrect. This choice says the opposite of what the text suggests. The writer argues that the genre is not as superficial as commonly believed, but that it always reflected "concerns about community and identity." Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn’t support this choice. There’s nothing in the text about disco giving rise to an enduring Black women’s musical tradition.

Question Difficulty: Hard



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

ID: d2e0cba5

In a study of new technology adoption, Davit Marikyan et al. examined negative disconfirmation (which occurs when experiences fall short of one's expectations) to determine whether it could lead to positive outcomes for users. The team focused on established users of "smart home" technology, which presents inherent utilization challenges but tends to attract users with high expectations, often leading to feelings of dissonance. The researchers found that many users employed cognitive mechanisms to mitigate those feelings, ultimately reversing their initial sense of disappointment.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Research suggests that most users of smart home technology will not achieve a feeling of satisfaction given the utilization challenges of such technology.
- B. Although most smart home technology is aimed at meeting or exceeding users' high expectations, those expectations in general remain poorly understood.
- C. Research suggests that users with high expectations for a new technology can feel content with that technology even after experiencing negative disconfirmation.
- D. Although negative disconfirmation has often been studied, little is known about the cognitive mechanisms shaping users' reactions to it in the context of new technology adoption.

ID: d2e0cba5 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The passage begins by describing the study, and concludes with its results: "many users employed cognitive mechanisms to mitigate those feelings [of negative disconfirmation]."

Choice A is incorrect. This is the opposite of what the text claims. Rather, the researchers found that "many users" reversed "their initial sense of disappointment." Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't reflect the text. What the expectations of smart home tech users are is not discussed. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't reflect the text. How often these topics have been studied is not mentioned.

Question Difficulty: Hard



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

ID: 7c9a65bb

Optical tweezers are specialized scientific tools—particularly useful in biology and medicine—that use high-powered beams of light to trap and manipulate minuscule particles for study. Use of the tool has led to several scientific and medical breakthroughs over the last few decades, but the particles are often under prolonged exposure to the intense heat of the light beams. To overcome the risk of overheating, and thereby damage, researchers sometimes attach nano-sized glass beads to particles, allowing the light to focus on the beads instead of the particles.

Based on the text, what is one advantage of attaching glass beads to particles when using optical tweezers?

- A. It decreases the time it takes for the optical tweezers to locate and capture the particles.
- B. It facilitates the maneuvering of particles without directly heating the particles themselves.
- C. It allows researchers to use weaker light beams to manipulate particles.
- D. It adds a material to which particles can transfer any heat absorbed from the optical tweezers' light beam.

ID: 7c9a65bb Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text says that the glass beads get the "focus" of the light beams so that the particles don't overheat. From this, we can infer that the beads allow the particles to be manipulated without being directly heated by the light beams.

Choice A is incorrect. The text never says that attaching the glass beads saves time in any way. Choice C is incorrect. The text never says that attaching the glass beads allows researchers to use weaker light beams. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't say that the particles can transfer heat to the glass beads—rather, it says the heat from the light focuses on the glass beads instead of the particles.

Question Difficulty: Hard



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

ID: a3fb5e77

Some animal-behavior studies involve observing wild animals in their natural habitat, and some involve capturing wild animals and observing them in a laboratory. Each approach has advantages over the other. In wild studies, researchers can more easily presume that the animals are behaving normally, and in lab studies, researchers can more easily control factors that might affect the results. But if, for example, the results from a wild study and a lab study of Western scrub-jays (*Aphelocoma californica*) contradict each other, one or both of the studies must have failed to account for some factor that was relevant to the birds' behavior.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. When the results of a natural-habitat study and those from a lab study of a wild animal such as the Western scrub-jay conflict, the study in the natural habitat is more likely than the lab study to have accurate results.
- B. Studying wild animals such as the Western scrub-jay in both their natural habitat and lab settings is likely to yield conflicting results that researchers cannot fully resolve.
- C. Wild animals such as the Western scrub-jay can be effectively studied in their natural habitat and in the lab, but each approach has drawbacks that could affect the accuracy of the findings.
- D. Differing results between natural-habitat and lab studies of wild animals such as the Western scrub-jay are a strong indication that both of the studies had design flaws that affected the accuracy of their results.

ID: a3fb5e77 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by explaining that wild animals can be studied in their natural habitat or in a laboratory setting, with each setting offering unique advantages to researchers. The text then highlights an instance in which Western scrub-jays were studied in both settings but with conflicting results, indicating that one or both studies may have failed to account for the disadvantages of its research setting. Thus, the main idea of the text is that while wild animals can be effectively studied in natural or lab settings, there are drawbacks to each that need to be considered to ensure accurate results.

Choice A is incorrect because the text does not position one study setting (natural or lab) as superior to the other; rather, the text states that each one has advantages over the other. Choice B is incorrect. The text provides a hypothetical example of two studies in different environments with conflicting results, but this single example cannot be extrapolated to a general claim about the likelihood that results of studies in different environments will conflict. Additionally, the text does not assert anything about how researchers can or cannot resolve conflicting study results. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not state that discrepancies between natural-habitat and lab-based animal behavior studies are due to both of the designs

being flawed. Rather, the text states that the conflict in results can be the consequence of one or both of the studies having failed to account for some factor.



Question Difficulty: Hard