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3 GRE® Verbal Reasoning

Your goals for this chapter

- Learn the three types of GRE® Verbal Reasoning questions
- Get tips for answering each question type
- Study examples of GRE Verbal Reasoning questions

Overview of the Verbal Reasoning Measure

The Verbal Reasoning measure assesses your ability to analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it, to analyze relationships among component parts of sentences, and to recognize relationships among words and concepts.

Verbal Reasoning questions appear in several formats, each of which is discussed in detail below. About half of the measure requires you to read passages and answer questions on those passages. The other half requires you to read, interpret, and complete existing sentences, groups of sentences, or paragraphs. Many, but not all, of the questions are standard multiple-choice questions, in which you are required to select a single correct answer; others ask you to select multiple correct answers; and still others ask you to select a sentence from the passage. The number of choices varies depending on the type of question.

Verbal Reasoning Question Types

The Verbal Reasoning measure contains three types of questions:

- Reading Comprehension
- Text Completion
- Sentence Equivalence

In this section you will study each of these question types one by one, and you'll learn valuable strategies for answering each type. Turn the page to begin.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Reading Comprehension questions are designed to test a wide range of abilities required to read and understand the kinds of prose commonly encountered in graduate school. Those abilities include

- understanding the meaning of individual words
- understanding the meaning of individual sentences
- understanding the meaning of paragraphs and larger bodies of text
- distinguishing between minor and major points
- summarizing a passage
- drawing conclusions from the information provided
- reasoning from incomplete data, inferring missing information
- understanding the structure of a text, how the parts relate to one another
- identifying the author's perspective
- identifying the author's assumptions
- analyzing a text and reaching conclusions about it
- identifying strengths and weaknesses
- developing and considering alternative explanations

As this list implies, reading and understanding a piece of text requires far more than a passive understanding of the words and sentences it contains—it requires active engagement with the text, asking questions, formulating and evaluating hypotheses, and reflecting on the relationship of the particular text to other texts and information.

Each Reading Comprehension question is based on a passage, which may range in length from one paragraph to several paragraphs. The test contains approximately ten passages; the majority of the passages in the test are one paragraph in length, and only one or two are several paragraphs long. Passages are drawn from the physical sciences, the biological sciences, the social sciences, the arts and humanities, and everyday topics, and are based on material found in books and periodicals, both academic and nonacademic.

Typically, about half of the questions on the test will be based on passages, and the number of questions based on a given passage can range from one to six. Questions can cover any of the topics listed above, from the meaning of a particular word to assessing evidence that might support or weaken points made in the passage. Many, but not all, of the questions are standard multiple-choice questions, in which you are required to select a single correct answer; others ask you to select multiple correct answers, and still others ask you to select a sentence from the passage. These question types are presented in more detail below, and you should make sure that you are familiar with the differences among them.

General Advice

Reading passages are drawn from many different disciplines and sources, so you may encounter material with which you are not familiar. Do not be discouraged when this happens; all the questions can be answered on the basis of the information provided in the passage, and you are not expected to rely on any outside knowledge. If, however, you encounter a passage that seems particularly hard or unfamiliar, you may want to save it for last.

- Read and analyze the passage carefully before trying to answer any of the questions and pay attention to clues that help you understand less explicit aspects of the passage.
 - Try to distinguish main ideas from supporting ideas or evidence.
 - Try to distinguish ideas that the author is advancing from those he or she is merely reporting.
 - Similarly, try to distinguish ideas that the author is strongly committed to from those he or she advances as hypothetical or speculative.
 - Try to identify the main transitions from one idea to the next.
 - Try to identify the relationship between different ideas. For example:
 - Are they contrasting? Are they consistent?
 - Does one support the other?
 - Does one spell another out in greater detail?
 - Is one an application of another to a particular circumstance?
- Read each question carefully and be certain that you understand exactly what is being asked.
- Answer each question on the basis of the information provided in the passage and do not rely on outside knowledge. Sometimes your own views or opinions may conflict with those presented in a passage; if this happens, take special care to work within the context provided by the passage. You should not expect to agree with everything you encounter in the reading passages.

Reading Comprehension Multiple-choice Questions: Select One Answer Choice

Description

These are the traditional multiple-choice questions with five answer choices of which you must select one.



Tips for Answering

- **Read all the answer choices before making your selection**, even if you think you know what the answer is in advance.
- **Don't be misled by answer choices that are only partially true or only partially answer the question.** The correct answer is the one that most accurately and most completely answers the question posed. Be careful also not to pick an answer choice simply because it is a true statement.
- **Pay attention to context.** When the question asks about the meaning of a word in the passage, be sure that the answer choice you select correctly represents the way the word is being used in the passage. Many words have quite different meanings in different contexts.

Reading Comprehension Multiple-choice Questions: Select One or More Answer Choices

Description

These provide three answer choices and ask you to select all that are correct; one, two, or all three of the answer choices may be correct. To gain credit for these questions, you must select all the correct answers, and only those; there is no credit for partially correct answers. These questions are marked with square boxes beside the answer choices, not circles or ovals.

Tips for Answering

- **Evaluate each answer choice separately on its own merits.** When evaluating one answer choice, do not take the others into account.
- **Make sure the answer choice you pick accurately and completely answers the question posed.** Be careful not to be misled by answer choices that are only partially true or only partially answer the question. Be careful also not to pick an answer choice simply because it is a true statement.
- **Do not be disturbed if you think all three answer choices are correct.** Questions of this type can have three correct answer choices.

Reading Comprehension Questions: Select-in-Passage

Description

The question asks you to click on the sentence in the passage that meets a certain description. To answer the question, choose one of the sentences and click on it; clicking anywhere on a sentence will highlight it. In longer passages, the question will usually apply to only one or two specified paragraphs, marked by an arrow (➔); clicking on a sentence elsewhere in the passage will not highlight it.

Note. Because this type of question requires the use of the computer, it does not appear in the paper-based General Test. Similar multiple-choice questions are used in its place.

Tips for Answering

- **Be careful to evaluate each of the relevant sentences in the passage separately before selecting your answer.** Do not evaluate any sentences that are outside the paragraphs under consideration.
- **Do not select a sentence if the description given in the question only partially applies.** A correct answer choice must accurately match the description in the question. Note, however, that the description need not be complete, that is, there may be aspects of the sentence that are not fully described in the question.

Sample Question Set



Questions 1 to 3 are based on the following reading passage.

Reviving the practice of using elements of popular music in classical composition, an approach that had been in hibernation in the United States during the 1960s, composer Philip Glass (born 1937) embraced the ethos of popular music in his compositions. Glass based two symphonies on music by rock musicians David Bowie and Brian Eno, but the symphonies' sound is distinctively his. Popular elements do not appear out of place in Glass's classical music, which from its early days has shared certain harmonies and rhythms with rock music. Yet this use of popular elements has not made Glass a composer of popular music. His music is not a version of popular music packaged to attract classical listeners; it is high art for listeners steeped in rock rather than the classics.

Select only one answer choice.

1. The passage addresses which of the following issues related to Glass's use of popular elements in his classical compositions?
 - (A) How it is regarded by listeners who prefer rock to the classics
 - (B) How it has affected the commercial success of Glass's music
 - (C) Whether it has contributed to a revival of interest among other composers in using popular elements in their compositions
 - (D) Whether it has had a detrimental effect on Glass's reputation as a composer of classical music
 - (E) Whether it has caused certain of Glass's works to be derivative in quality

Consider each of the three choices separately and select all that apply.

2. The passage suggests that Glass's work displays which of the following qualities?
 - (A) A return to the use of popular music in classical compositions
 - (B) An attempt to elevate rock music to an artistic status more closely approximating that of classical music
 - (C) A long-standing tendency to incorporate elements from two apparently disparate musical styles
3. Select the sentence that distinguishes two ways of integrating rock and classical music.

Explanation

The passage describes in general terms how Philip Glass uses popular music in his classical compositions and explores how Glass can do this without being imitative. Note that there are no opposing views discussed; the author is simply presenting his or her views.

Question 1: One of the important points that the passage makes is that when Glass uses popular elements in his music, the result is very much his own creation (it is "distinctively his"). In other words, the music is far from being derivative. Thus one issue

that the passage addresses is the one referred to in answer **Choice E**—it answers it in the negative. The passage does not discuss the impact of Glass’s use of popular elements on listeners, on the commercial success of his music, on other composers, nor on Glass’s reputation, so none of Choices A through D is correct.

The correct answer is **Choice E**.

Question 2: To answer this question, it is important to assess each answer choice independently. Since the passage says that Glass revived the use of popular music in classical compositions, answer **Choice A** is clearly correct. On the other hand, the passage also denies that Glass composes popular music or packages it in a way to elevate its status, so answer Choice B is incorrect. Finally, since Glass’s style has always mixed elements of rock with classical elements, **Choice C** is correct.

Thus the correct answer is **Choice A** and **Choice C**.

Question 3: Almost every sentence in the passage refers to incorporating rock music in classical compositions, but only the last sentence distinguishes two ways of doing so. It distinguishes between writing rock music in a way that will make it attractive to classical listeners and writing classical music that will be attractive to listeners familiar with rock.

Thus the correct answer is **the last sentence of the passage**.

Text Completion Questions

Description

As mentioned above, skilled readers do not simply absorb the information presented on the page; instead, they maintain a constant attitude of interpretation and evaluation, reasoning from what they have read so far to create a picture of the whole and revising that picture as they go. Text Completion questions test this ability by omitting crucial words from short passages and asking the test taker to use the remaining information in the passage as a basis for selecting words or short phrases to fill the blanks and create a coherent, meaningful whole.

Question Structure

- Passage composed of one to five sentences
- One to three blanks
- Three answer choices per blank (five answer choices in the case of a single blank)
- The answer choices for different blanks function independently; that is, selecting one answer choice for one blank does not affect what answer choices you can select for another blank
- Single correct answer, consisting of one choice for each blank; no credit for partially correct answers



Tips for Answering

Do not merely try to consider each possible combination of answers; doing so will take too long and is open to error. Instead, try to analyze the passage in the following way:

- **Read through the passage to get an overall sense of it.**
- **Identify words or phrases that seem particularly significant,** either because they emphasize the structure of the passage (words like *although* or *moreover*) or because they are central to understanding what the passage is about.
- **Think up your own words for the blanks.** Try to fill in the blanks with words or phrases that seem to you to fit and then see if similar words are offered among the answer choices.
- **Do not assume that the first blank is the one that should be filled first.** Perhaps one of the other blanks is easier to fill first. Select your choice for that blank, and then see whether you can complete another blank. If none of the choices for the other blank seem to make sense, go back and reconsider your first selection.
- **Double-check your answers.** When you have made your selection for each blank, check to make sure that the passage is logically, grammatically, and stylistically coherent.

Sample Questions

For each blank select one entry from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. It is refreshing to read a book about our planet by an author who does not allow facts to be (i)_____ by politics: well aware of the political disputes about the effects of human activities on climate and biodiversity, this author does not permit them to (ii)_____ his comprehensive description of what we know about our biosphere. He emphasizes the enormous gaps in our knowledge, the sparseness of our observations, and the (iii)_____, calling attention to the many aspects of planetary evolution that must be better understood before we can accurately diagnose the condition of our planet.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) overshadowed	(D) enhance	(G) plausibility of our hypotheses
(B) invalidated	(E) obscure	(H) certainty of our entitlement
(C) illuminated	(F) underscore	(I) superficiality of our theories

Explanation

The overall tone of the passage is clearly complimentary. To understand what the author of the book is being complimented on, it is useful to focus on the second blank.

Here, we must determine what word would indicate something that the author is praised for not permitting. The only answer choice that fits the case is “obscure,” since enhancing and underscoring are generally good things to do, not things one should refrain from doing. Choosing “obscure” clarifies the choice for the first blank; the only choice that fits well with “obscure” is “overshadowed.” Notice that trying to fill blank (i) without filling blank (ii) first is very hard—each choice has at least some initial plausibility. Since the third blank requires a phrase that matches “enormous gaps” and “sparseness of our observations,” the best choice is “superficiality of our theories.”

Thus the correct answer is **overshadowed** (Choice A), **obscure** (Choice E), and **superficiality of our theories** (Choice I).

2. Vain and prone to violence, Caravaggio could not handle success: the more his (i) _____ as an artist increased, the more (ii) _____ his life became.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

(A) temperance	(D) tumultuous
(B) notoriety	(E) providential
(C) eminence	(F) dispassionate

Explanation

In this sentence, what follows the colon must explain or spell out what precedes it. So roughly what the second part must say is that as Caravaggio became more successful, his life got more out of control. When one looks for words to fill the blanks, it becomes clear that “**tumultuous**” is the best fit for blank (ii), since neither of the other choices suggests being **out of control**. And for blank (i), the best choice is “eminence,” since to increase in eminence is a consequence of becoming more successful. It is true that Caravaggio might also increase in notoriety, but an increase in notoriety as an artist is not as clear a sign of success as an increase in eminence.

Thus the correct answer is **eminence** (Choice C) and **tumultuous** (Choice D).

3. In parts of the Arctic, the land grades into the landfast ice so _____ that you can walk off the coast and not know you are over the hidden sea.

(A) permanently
(B) imperceptibly
(C) irregularly
(D) precariously
(E) relentlessly

Explanation

The word that fills the blank has to characterize how the land grades into the ice in a way that explains how you can walk off the coast and over the sea without knowing it. The word that does that is “imperceptibly”; if the land grades imperceptibly into the ice, you might well not know that you had left the land. Describing the shift from land to ice as permanent, irregular, precarious, or relentless would not help to explain how you would fail to know.

Thus the correct answer is **imperceptibly** (Choice B).

Sentence Equivalence Questions

Description

Like Text Completion questions, Sentence Equivalence questions test the ability to reach a conclusion about how a passage should be completed on the basis of partial information, but to a greater extent they focus on the meaning of the completed whole. Sentence Equivalence questions consist of a single sentence with just one blank, and they ask you to find two choices that both lead to a complete, coherent sentence and that produce sentences that mean the same thing.

Question Structure

- Consists of:
 - a single sentence
 - one blank
 - six answer choices
- Requires you to select two of the answer choices; no credit for partially correct answers.

These questions are marked with square boxes beside the answer choices, not circles or ovals.

Tips for Answering

Do not simply look among the answer choices for two words that mean the same thing. This can be misleading for two reasons. First, the answer choices may contain pairs of words that mean the same thing but do not fit coherently into the sentence, and thus do not constitute a correct answer. Second, the pair of words that do constitute the correct answer may not mean exactly the same thing, since all that matters is that the resultant sentences mean the same thing.

- **Read the sentence to get an overall sense of it.**
- **Identify words or phrases that seem particularly significant,** either because they emphasize the structure of the sentence (words like *although* or *moreover*) or because they are central to understanding what the sentence is about.
- **Think up your own words for the blanks.** Try to fill in the blank with a word that seems to you to fit and then see if two similar words are offered among the answer choices. If you find some word that is similar to what you are expecting but cannot find a second one, do not become fixated on your interpretation; instead, see whether there are other words among the answer choices that can be used to fill the blank coherently.
- **Double-check your answers.** When you have selected your pair of answer choices for the blank, check to make sure that each one produces a sentence that is logically, grammatically, and stylistically coherent, and that the two sentences mean the same thing.

Sample Questions

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

1. Although it does contain some pioneering ideas, one would hardly characterize the work as _____.
- ☐ A orthodox
 - ☐ B eccentric
 - ☐ C original
 - ☐ D trifling
 - ☐ E conventional
 - ☐ F innovative

Explanation

The word “Although” is a crucial signpost here. The work contains some pioneering ideas, but apparently it is not overall a pioneering work. Thus the two words that could fill the blank appropriately are “original” and “innovative.” Note that “orthodox” and “conventional” are two words that are very similar in meaning, but neither one completes the sentence sensibly.

Thus the correct answer is **original** (Choice C) and **innovative** (Choice F).

2. It was her view that the country’s problems had been _____ by foreign technocrats, so that to ask for such assistance again would be counterproductive.
- ☐ A ameliorated
 - ☐ B ascertained
 - ☐ C diagnosed
 - ☐ D exacerbated
 - ☐ E overlooked
 - ☐ F worsened

Explanation

The sentence relates a piece of reasoning, as indicated by the presence of “so that”: asking for the assistance of foreign technocrats would be counterproductive because of the effects such technocrats have had already. This means that the technocrats must have had bad effects; that is, they must have “exacerbated” or “worsened” the country’s problems.

Thus the correct answer is **exacerbated** (Choice D) and **worsened** (Choice F).

4 **GRE®** Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions

Your goals for this chapter

- Practice answering *GRE®* Verbal Reasoning questions on your own
- Study answer explanations, particularly for questions you answered incorrectly

This chapter contains six sets of GRE Verbal Reasoning practice questions. Three of the practice sets consist of examples of the discrete question types, Text Completion and Sentence Equivalence; and the other three sets consist of Reading Comprehension questions. The sets are arranged in order of increasing difficulty. The first two are easy, the next two are medium, and the final two are hard.

Following the last set is an answer key for quick reference. Then, at the end of the chapter, you will find complete explanations for every question. Each explanation is presented with the corresponding question, so that you can easily see what was asked and what the various answer choices were.

Sharpen your GRE Verbal Reasoning skills by working your way through these question sets. Begin with the easy sets and then move on to the medium-difficulty and hard sets. Review the answer explanations carefully, paying particular attention to the explanations for questions that you answered incorrectly. Turn the page to begin.

SET 1. Discrete Questions: Easy

For Questions 1 to 5, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. Dominant interests often benefit most from _____ of governmental interference in business, since they are able to take care of themselves if left alone.

- | |
|---------------------|
| (A) intensification |
| (B) authorization |
| (C) centralization |
| (D) improvisation |
| (E) elimination |

2. Kagan maintains that an infant's reactions to its first stressful experiences are part of a natural process of development, not harbingers of childhood unhappiness or _____ signs of adolescent anxiety.

- | |
|----------------|
| (A) prophetic |
| (B) normal |
| (C) monotonous |
| (D) virtual |
| (E) typical |

3. An investigation that is _____ can occasionally yield new facts, even notable ones, but typically the appearance of such facts is the result of a search in a definite direction.

- | |
|-------------------|
| (A) timely |
| (B) unguided |
| (C) consistent |
| (D) uncomplicated |
| (E) subjective |

4. It is (i) _____ that so many portrait paintings hang in art museums, since the subject matter seems to dictate a status closer to pictures in the family photograph album than to high art. But perhaps it is the artistic skill with which the portraits are painted that (ii) _____ their presence in art museums.

Blank (i)

- | |
|--------------------|
| (A) surprising |
| (B) understandable |
| (C) irrelevant |

Blank (ii)

- | |
|----------------|
| (D) challenges |
| (E) justifies |
| (F) changes |

5. In stark contrast to his later (i)_____, Simpson was largely (ii)_____ politics during his college years, despite the fact that the campus he attended was rife with political activity.

Blank (i)

<input type="radio"/> (A) activism
<input type="radio"/> (B) apathy
<input type="radio"/> (C) affability

Blank (ii)

<input type="radio"/> (D) devoted to
<input type="radio"/> (E) indifferent to
<input type="radio"/> (F) shaped by

For Questions 6 to 8, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

6. As my eyesight began to _____, I spent a lot of time writing about it—both poems and “eye journals”—describing what I saw as I looked out through damaged eyes.
- ☐ (A) deteriorate
 - ☐ (B) sharpen
 - ☐ (C) improve
 - ☐ (D) decline
 - ☐ (E) recover
 - ☐ (F) adjust
7. The judge’s standing in the legal community, though shaken by phony allegations of wrongdoing, emerged, at long last, _____ .
- ☐ (A) unqualified
 - ☐ (B) undiminished
 - ☐ (C) undecided
 - ☐ (D) undamaged
 - ☐ (E) unresolved
 - ☐ (F) unprincipled
8. Modern agricultural practices have been extremely successful in increasing the productivity of major food crops, yet despite heavy use of pesticides, _____ losses to diseases and insect pests are sustained each year.
- ☐ (A) incongruous
 - ☐ (B) reasonable
 - ☐ (C) significant
 - ☐ (D) considerable
 - ☐ (E) equitable
 - ☐ (F) fortuitous

SET 2. Reading Comprehension Questions: Easy

For each of Questions 1 to 9, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

1. A person who agrees to serve as mediator between two warring factions at the request of both abandons by so agreeing the right to take sides later. To take sides at a later point would be to suggest that the earlier presumptive impartiality was a sham.







The passage above emphasizes which of the following points about mediators?

- (A) They should try to form no opinions of their own about any issue that is related to the dispute.
- (B) They should not agree to serve unless they are committed to maintaining a stance of impartiality.
- (C) They should not agree to serve unless they are equally acceptable to all parties to a dispute.
- (D) They should feel free to take sides in the dispute right from the start, provided that they make their biases publicly known.
- (E) They should reserve the right to abandon their impartiality so as not to be open to the charge of having been deceitful.

Questions 2 to 5 are based on the following reading passage.

Was Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) a great composer? On its face, the question seems absurd. One of the most gifted prodigies in the history of music, he produced his first masterpiece at sixteen. From then on, he was recognized as an artist of preternatural abilities, not only as a composer but also as a pianist and conductor. But Mendelssohn's enduring popularity has often been at odds—sometimes quite sharply—with his critical standing. Despite general acknowledgment of his genius, there has been a noticeable reluctance to rank him with, say, Schumann or Brahms. As Haggin put it, Mendelssohn, as a composer, was a “minor master . . . working on a small scale of emotion and texture.”

2. Select a sentence in the passage whose function is to indicate the range of Mendelssohn's musical talents. 
3. The passage suggests that anyone attempting to evaluate Mendelssohn's career must confront which of the following dichotomies? 
- (A) The tension between Mendelssohn's career as a composer and his career as a pianist and conductor
 - (B) The contrast between Mendelssohn's popularity and that of Schumann and Brahms
 - (C) The discrepancy between Mendelssohn's popularity and his standing among critics
 - (D) The inconsistency between Mendelssohn's reputation during his lifetime and his reputation since his death
 - (E) The gap between Mendelssohn's prodigious musical beginnings and his decline in later years
4. It can be inferred that the “reluctance” mentioned in the passage is being ascribed to 
- (A) most composers since Mendelssohn
 - (B) Schumann and Brahms
 - (C) the music-listening public
 - (D) music critics generally
 - (E) Haggin exclusively
5. The author mentions Schumann and Brahms primarily in order to 
- (A) provide examples of composers who are often compared with Mendelssohn
 - (B) identify certain composers who are more popular than Mendelssohn
 - (C) identify composers whom Mendelssohn influenced
 - (D) establish the milieu in which Mendelssohn worked
 - (E) establish a standard of comparison for Mendelssohn as a composer

Questions 6 and 7 are based on the following reading passage.

While most scholarship on women's employment in the United States recognizes that the Second World War (1939–1945) dramatically changed the role of women in the workforce, these studies also acknowledge that few women remained in manufacturing jobs once men returned from the war. But in agriculture, unlike other industries where women were viewed as temporary workers, women's employment did not end with the war. Instead, the expansion of agriculture and a steady decrease in the number of male farmworkers combined to cause the industry to hire more women in the postwar years. Consequently, the 1950s saw a growing number of women engaged in farm labor, even though rhetoric in the popular media called for the return of women to domestic life.

6. It can be inferred from the passage that the manufacturing and agricultural sectors in the United States following the Second World War differed in which of the following respects?
- (A) The rate of expansion in each sector
 - (B) The percentage of employees in each sector who were men
 - (C) The trend in the wages of men employed in each sector
 - (D) The attitude of the popular media toward the employment of women in each sector
 - (E) The extent to which women in each sector were satisfied with their jobs
7. Which of the following statements about women's employment in the United States during and after the Second World War is most clearly supported by the passage?
- (A) Most women who joined the workforce during the Second World War wanted to return to domestic life when the war ended.
 - (B) The great majority of women who joined the workforce during the Second World War were employed in manufacturing jobs.
 - (C) The end of the Second World War was followed by a large-scale transfer of women workers from manufacturing to agriculture.
 - (D) The increase in women's employment that accompanied the Second World War was longer lasting in agriculture than it was in manufacturing.
 - (E) The popular media were more forceful in calling for women to join the workforce during the Second World War than in calling for women to return to domestic life after the war.



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

Since the Hawaiian Islands have never been connected to other land masses, the great variety of plants in Hawaii must be a result of the long-distance dispersal of seeds, a process that requires both a method of transport and an equivalence between the ecology of the source area and that of the recipient area.

5 There is some dispute about the method of transport involved. Some biologists argue that ocean and air currents are responsible for the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii. Yet the results of flotation experiments and the low temperatures of air currents cast doubt on these hypotheses. More probable is bird transport, either externally, by accidental attachment of the seeds to feathers, or internally, by the swallowing of
10 fruit and subsequent excretion of the seeds. While it is likely that fewer varieties of plant seeds have reached Hawaii externally than internally, more varieties are known to be adapted to external than to internal transport.

8. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with
- (A) discussing different approaches biologists have taken to testing theories about the distribution of plants in Hawaii
 - (B) discussing different theories about the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (C) discussing the extent to which air currents are responsible for the dispersal of plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (D) resolving a dispute about the adaptability of plant seeds to bird transport
 - (E) resolving a dispute about the ability of birds to carry plant seeds long distances
9. The author mentions the results of flotation experiments on plant seeds (lines 7–8) most probably in order to
- (A) support the claim that the distribution of plants in Hawaii is the result of the long-distance dispersal of seeds
 - (B) lend credibility to the thesis that air currents provide a method of transport for plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (C) suggest that the long-distance dispersal of seeds is a process that requires long periods of time
 - (D) challenge the claim that ocean currents are responsible for the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (E) refute the claim that Hawaiian flora evolved independently from flora in other parts of the world



SET 3. Discrete Questions: Medium

For Questions 1 to 5, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. It comes as no surprise that societies have codes of behavior; the character of the codes, **on the other hand**, can often be _____ .



(A) predictable
(B) unexpected
(C) admirable
(D) explicit
(E) confusing

2. Like Béla Bartók, Ruth Crawford not only brought a composer's acumen to the notation of folk music, she also had a marked (i)_____ the task. This was clear in her agonizing over how far to try to represent the minute details of a performance in a written text, and this (ii)_____ makes her work a landmark in ethnomusicology.



Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

(A) reverence for
(B) detachment from
(C) curiosity about

(D) fastidiousness
(E) didacticism
(F) iconoclasm

3. Political advertising may well be the most (i)_____ kind of advertising: political candidates are usually quite (ii)_____, yet their campaign advertisements often hide important differences behind smoke screens of smiles and empty slogans.



Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

(A) polemical
(B) effective
(C) deceptive

(D) interchangeable
(E) dissimilar
(F) vocal

4. Richard M. Russell said 52 percent of the nation's growth since the Second World War had (i)_____ invention. He said, (ii)_____ research, the government's greatest role in assuring continuing innovation is promoting a strong, modern patent office. "Unless we can (iii)_____ original ideas, we will not have invention," Mr. Russell said. Speculating on the state of innovation over the next century, several inventors agreed that the future lay in giving children the tools to think creatively and the motivation to invent.



Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) been at the expense of	(D) in addition to restricting	(G) evaluate
(B) no bearing on	(E) aside from supporting	(H) protect
(C) come through	(F) far from exaggerating	(I) disseminate

5. Statements presented as fact in a patent application are (i)_____ unless a good reason for doubt is found. The invention has only to be deemed "more likely than not" to work in order to receive initial approval. And, although thousands of patents are challenged in court for other reasons, no incentive exists for anyone to expend effort (ii)_____ the science of an erroneous patent. For this reason the endless stream of (iii)_____ devices will continue to yield occasional patents.



Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) presumed verifiable	(D) corroborating	(G) novel
(B) carefully scrutinized	(E) advancing	(H) bogus
(C) considered capricious	(F) debunking	(I) obsolete

For Questions 6 to 8, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

6. Ever a **demanding reader** of the fiction of others, the novelist Chase was **likewise** often the object of _____ analyses by his contemporaries.

☐ A exacting
☐ B copious
☐ C respectful
☐ D acerbic
☐ E scathing
☐ F meticulous



7. Her _____ should not be confused with miserliness; as long as I have known her, she has always been willing to assist those who are in need.

☐ A stinginess
☐ B diffidence
☐ C frugality
☐ D illiberality
☐ E intolerance
☐ F thrift



8. A misconception frequently held by novice writers is that sentence structure mirrors thought: the more convoluted the structure, the more _____ the ideas.

☐ A complicated
☐ B engaged
☐ C essential
☐ D fanciful
☐ E inconsequential
☐ F involved



SET 4. Reading Comprehension Questions: Medium

For each of Questions 1 to 9, select **one** answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

Questions 1 and 2 are based on the following reading passage.

I enjoyed *A Dream of Light & Shadow: Portraits of Latin American Women Writers* for the same reasons that, as a child, I avidly consumed women's biographies: the fascination with how the biographical details of another female's life are represented and interpreted.

A Dream offers a rich read, varied in both the lives and texts of the women portrayed, and the perspectives and styles of the sixteen essayists. Yet, as an adult, I have come to demand of any really "great" book a self-consciousness about the tenuous nature of representations of reality, a critical contextualization of florid detail, and a self-awareness of the role of ideology in our lives. In these critical senses, *A Dream* is inadequate.

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

1. The author of the passage suggests that *A Dream* falls short in which of the following respects?
 - ☐ (A) It does not appear to recognize that representations of reality can be unreliable.
 - ☐ (B) It seems to focus on stylistic variety at the expense of accuracy of detail.
 - ☐ (C) It offers a wealth of detail without sufficient critical examination of that detail.
2. Which of the following best describes the function of the second sentence ("*A Dream* . . . essayists") in the context of the passage as a whole?
 - ☐ (A) To give examples of how *A Dream* presents fascinating portraits that display awareness of the tenuous nature of representations of reality
 - ☐ (B) To elaborate on how *A Dream* fulfills the author's childhood criteria for a pleasurable book
 - ☐ (C) To suggest that the author enjoyed *A Dream* for reasons more sophisticated than the reasons she enjoyed certain books as a child
 - ☐ (D) To illustrate ways in which the author finds *A Dream* to be inadequate in certain critical senses
 - ☐ (E) To imply that *A Dream* is too varied in focus to provide a proper contextualization of the biographical details it offers

3. During the day in Lake Constance, the zooplankton *D. hyalina* departs for the depths where food is scarce and the water cold. *D. galeata* remains near the warm surface where food is abundant. Even though *D. galeata* grows and reproduces much faster, its population is often outnumbered by *D. hyalina*.

Which of the following, if true, would help resolve the apparent paradox presented above?



- Ⓐ The number of species of zooplankton living at the bottom of the lake is twice that of species living at the surface.
- Ⓑ Predators of zooplankton, such as whitefish and perch, live and feed near the surface of the lake during the day.
- Ⓒ In order to make the most of scarce food resources, *D. hyalina* matures more slowly than *D. galeata*.
- Ⓓ *D. galeata* clusters under vegetation during the hottest part of the day to avoid the Sun's rays.
- Ⓔ *D. galeata* produces twice as many offspring per individual in any given period of time as does *D. hyalina*.

Questions 4 and 5 are based on the following reading passage.

Tocqueville, apparently, was wrong. Jacksonian America was not a fluid, egalitarian society where individual wealth and poverty were ephemeral conditions. At least so argues E. Pessen in his iconoclastic study of the very rich in the United States between 1825 and 1850.

Pessen does present a quantity of examples, together with some refreshingly intelligible statistics, to establish the existence of an inordinately wealthy class. Though active in commerce or the professions, most of the wealthy were not self-made but had inherited family fortunes. In no sense mercurial, these great fortunes survived the financial panics that destroyed lesser ones. Indeed, in several cities the wealthiest one percent constantly increased its share until by 1850 it owned half of the community's wealth. Although these observations are true, Pessen overestimates their importance by concluding from them that the undoubted progress toward inequality in the late eighteenth century continued in the Jacksonian period and that the United States was a class-ridden, plutocratic society even before industrialization.

4. According to the passage, Pessen indicates that all of the following were true of the very wealthy in the United States between 1825 and 1850 EXCEPT:
- (A) They formed a distinct upper class.
 - (B) Many of them were able to increase their holdings.
 - (C) Some of them worked as professionals or in business.
 - (D) Most of them accumulated their own fortunes.
 - (E) Many of them retained their wealth in spite of financial upheavals.
5. Which of the following best states the author's main point?
- (A) Pessen's study has overturned the previously established view of the social and economic structure of early-nineteenth-century America.
 - (B) Tocqueville's analysis of the United States in the Jacksonian era remains the definitive account of this period.
 - (C) Pessen's study is valuable primarily because it shows the continuity of the social system in the United States throughout the nineteenth century.
 - (D) The social patterns and political power of the extremely wealthy in the United States between 1825 and 1850 are well documented.
 - (E) Pessen challenges a view of the social and economic systems in the United States from 1825 to 1850, but he draws conclusions that are incorrect.



Questions 6 to 9 are based on the following reading passage.

The evolution of intelligence among early large mammals of the grasslands was due in great measure to the interaction between two ecologically synchronized groups of these animals, the hunting carnivores and the herbivores that they hunted. The interaction resulting from the differences between predator and prey led to a general
 line improvement in brain functions; however, certain components of intelligence were
 5 improved far more than others.

The kind of intelligence favored by the interplay of increasingly smarter catchers and increasingly keener escapers is defined by attention—that aspect of mind carrying consciousness forward from one moment to the next. It ranges from a passive, free-
 10 floating awareness to a highly focused, active fixation. The range through these states is mediated by the arousal system, a network of tracts converging from sensory systems to integrating centers in the brain stem. From the more relaxed to the more vigorous levels, sensitivity to novelty is increased. The organism is more awake, more vigilant; this increased vigilance results in the apprehension of ever more subtle signals as the
 15 organism becomes more sensitive to its surroundings. The processes of arousal and concentration give attention its direction. Arousal is at first general, with a flooding of impulses in the brain stem; then gradually the activation is channeled. Thus begins concentration, the holding of consistent images. One meaning of intelligence is the way in which these images and other alertly searched information are used in the context of
 20 previous experience. Consciousness links past attention to the present and permits the integration of details with perceived ends and purposes.

The elements of intelligence and consciousness come together marvelously to produce different styles in predator and prey. Herbivores and carnivores develop different kinds of attention related to escaping or chasing. Although in both kinds of animal,
 25 arousal stimulates the production of adrenaline and norepinephrine by the adrenal glands, the effect in herbivores is primarily fear, whereas in carnivores the effect is primarily aggression. For both, arousal attunes the animal to what is ahead. Perhaps it does not experience forethought as we know it, but the animal does experience something like it. The predator is searchingly aggressive, inner-directed, tuned by the
 30 nervous system and the adrenal hormones, but aware in a sense closer to human consciousness than, say, a hungry lizard's instinctive snap at a passing beetle. Using past events as a framework, the large mammal predator is working out a relationship between movement and food, sensitive to possibilities in cold trails and distant sounds—and yesterday's unforgotten lessons. The herbivore prey is of a different mind. Its
 35 mood of wariness rather than searching and its attitude of general expectancy instead of anticipating are silk-thin veils of tranquillity over an explosive endocrine system.

6. The author refers to a hungry lizard (line 31) primarily in order to
- (A) demonstrate the similarity between the hunting methods of mammals and those of nonmammals
 - (B) broaden the application of the argument by including an insectivore as an example
 - (C) make a distinction between higher and lower levels of consciousness
 - (D) provide an additional illustration of the brutality characteristic of predators
 - (E) offer an objection to suggestions that all animals lack consciousness



7. It can be inferred from the passage that in animals less intelligent than the mammals discussed in the passage
- (A) past experience is less helpful in ensuring survival
 - (B) attention is more highly focused
 - (C) muscular coordination is less highly developed
 - (D) there is less need for competition among species
 - (E) environment is more important in establishing the proper ratio of prey to predator
8. According to the passage, improvement in brain function among early large mammals resulted primarily from which of the following?
- (A) Interplay of predator and prey
 - (B) Persistence of free-floating awareness in animals of the grasslands
 - (C) Gradual dominance of warm-blooded mammals over cold-blooded reptiles
 - (D) Interaction of early large mammals with less intelligent species
 - (E) Improvement of the capacity for memory among herbivores and carnivores
9. According to the passage, as the process of arousal in an organism continues, all of the following may occur EXCEPT
- (A) the production of adrenaline
 - (B) the production of norepinephrine
 - (C) a heightening of sensitivity to stimuli
 - (D) an increase in selectivity with respect to stimuli
 - (E) an expansion of the range of states mediated by the brain stem



SET 5. Discrete Questions: Hard

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

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



(A) rationality
(B) flexibility
(C) diffidence
(D) disinterestedness
(E) insincerity

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



Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

(A) controversial habit
(B) cherished tradition
(C) disquieting ritual

(D) endorsed
(E) considered
(F) rejected

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

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)



(A) belies
(B) exposes
(C) overshadows

(D) an injudicious
(E) a disorganized
(F) a cautious

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



Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) patent accessibility	(D) penitential austerity	(G) taciturnity
(B) intrinsic frivolity	(E) intractable prolixity	(H) volubility
(C) near impenetrability	(F) impetuous prodigality	(I) pellucidity

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



Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) eclipse	(D) uncritically accept	(G) complementary
(B) bolster	(E) appropriately acknowledge	(H) intrinsic
(C) degrade	(F) hotly dispute	(I) peripheral

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



Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) attainment of	(D) essentially irrelevant	(G) most prosaic
(B) rumination on	(E) utterly mysterious	(H) somewhat hackneyed
(C) detachment from	(F) thoroughly commonplace	(I) refreshingly novel

For Questions 7 to 9, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

7. The government's implementation of a new code of ethics appeared intended to shore up the ruling party's standing with an increasingly _____ electorate at a time when the party is besieged by charges that it trades favors for campaign money.

☐ A aloof
☐ B placid
☐ C restive
☐ D skittish
☐ E tranquil
☐ F vociferous



8. Overlarge, uneven, and ultimately disappointing, the retrospective exhibition seems too much like special pleading for a forgotten painter of real but _____ talents.

☐ A limited
☐ B partial
☐ C undiscovered
☐ D circumscribed
☐ E prosaic
☐ F hidden



9. Newspapers report that the former executive has been trying to keep a low profile since his _____ exit from the company.

☐ A celebrated
☐ B mysterious
☐ C long-awaited
☐ D fortuitous
☐ E indecorous
☐ F unseemly



SET 6. Reading Comprehension Questions: Hard

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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




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

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

5. According to the passage, which of the following is a true statement about the first and second parts of *Wuthering Heights*?
- (A) The second part has received more attention from critics.
 - (B) The second part has little relation to the first part.
 - (C) The second part annuls the force of the first part.
 - (D) The second part provides less substantiation for a romantic reading.
 - (E) The second part is better because it is more realistic.
6. Which of the following inferences about Henry James's awareness of novelistic construction is best supported by the passage?
- (A) James, more than any other novelist, was aware of the difficulties of novelistic construction.
 - (B) James was very aware of the details of novelistic construction.
 - (C) James's awareness of novelistic construction derived from his reading of Brontë.
 - (D) James's awareness of novelistic construction has led most commentators to see unity in his individual novels.
 - (E) James's awareness of novelistic construction precluded him from violating the unity of his novels.
7. The author of the passage would be most likely to agree that an interpretation of a novel should
- (A) not try to unite heterogeneous elements in the novel
 - (B) not be inflexible in its treatment of the elements in the novel
 - (C) not argue that the complex use of narrators or of time shifts indicates a sophisticated structure
 - (D) concentrate on those recalcitrant elements of the novel that are outside the novel's main structure
 - (E) primarily consider those elements of novelistic construction of which the author of the novel was aware

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

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

ANSWER KEY**SET 1. Discrete Questions: Easy**

1. **Choice E:** elimination
2. **Choice A:** prophetic
3. **Choice B:** unguided
4. **Choice A:** surprising; **Choice E:** justifies
5. **Choice A:** activism; **Choice E:** indifferent to
6. **Choice A:** deteriorate; AND **Choice D:** decline
7. **Choice B:** undiminished; AND **Choice D:** undamaged
8. **Choice C:** significant; AND **Choice D:** considerable

SET 2. Reading Comprehension Questions: Easy

1. **Choice B:** They should not agree to serve unless they are committed to maintaining a stance of impartiality.
2. **Sentence 4:** From then on, he was recognized as an artist of preternatural abilities, not only as a composer but also as a pianist and conductor.
3. **Choice C:** The discrepancy between Mendelssohn's popularity and his standing among critics
4. **Choice D:** music critics generally
5. **Choice E:** establish a standard of comparison for Mendelssohn as a composer
6. **Choice B:** The percentage of employees in each sector who were men
7. **Choice D:** The increase in women's employment that accompanied the Second World War was longer lasting in agriculture than it was in manufacturing.
8. **Choice B:** discussing different theories about the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii
9. **Choice D:** challenge the claim that ocean currents are responsible for the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii

SET 3. Discrete Questions: Medium

1. **Choice B:** unexpected
2. **Choice A:** reverence for; **Choice D:** fastidiousness
3. **Choice C:** deceptive; **Choice E:** dissimilar
4. **Choice C:** come through; **Choice E:** aside from supporting; **Choice H:** protect
5. **Choice A:** presumed verifiable; **Choice F:** debunking; **Choice H:** bogus
6. **Choice A:** exacting; AND **Choice F:** meticulous
7. **Choice C:** frugality; AND **Choice F:** thrift
8. **Choice A:** complicated; **Choice F:** involved

SET 4. Reading Comprehension Questions: Medium

1. **Choice A:** It does not appear to recognize that representations of reality can be unreliable; AND **Choice C:** It offers a wealth of detail without sufficient critical examination of that detail.
2. **Choice B:** To elaborate on how *A Dream* fulfills the author's childhood criteria for a pleasurable book
3. **Choice B:** Predators of zooplankton, such as whitefish and perch, live and feed near the surface of the lake during the day.
4. **Choice D:** Most of them accumulated their own fortunes.
5. **Choice E:** Pessen challenges a view of the social and economic systems in the United States from 1825 to 1850, but he draws conclusions that are incorrect.
6. **Choice C:** make a distinction between higher and lower levels of consciousness
7. **Choice A:** past experience is less helpful in ensuring survival
8. **Choice A:** Interplay of predator and prey
9. **Choice E:** an expansion of the range of states mediated by the brain stem

SET 5. Discrete Questions: Hard

1. **Choice D:** disinterestedness
2. **Choice B:** cherished tradition; **Choice F:** rejected
3. **Choice A:** belies; **Choice F:** a cautious
4. **Choice C:** near impenetrability; **Choice D:** penitential austerity; **Choice H:** volubility
5. **Choice B:** bolster; **Choice D:** uncritically accept; **Choice I:** peripheral
6. **Choice B:** rumination on; **Choice E:** utterly mysterious; **Choice G:** most prosaic
7. **Choice C:** restive; AND **Choice D:** skittish
8. **Choice A:** limited; AND **Choice D:** circumscribed
9. **Choice E:** indecorous; AND **Choice F:** unseemly

SET 6. Reading Comprehension Questions: Hard

1. **Choice E:** The proportion of farmers in the general population increased from 68 percent in 1850 to 72 percent in 1880.
2. **Choice A:** A higher percentage of total agricultural acreage was fallow in the United States than in the Soviet Union.
3. **Choice B:** The directional movement of wind; AND **Choice C:** The temperature differential between the sea and the desert.
4. **Choice A:** The avoidance of intense solar heat inside the greenhouse; AND **Choice B:** The entry of sunlight into the greenhouse to make the plants grow; AND **Choice C:** The mixture of heated air with greenhouse air to enhance the collection of moisture.
5. **Choice D:** The second part provides less substantiation for a romantic reading.
6. **Choice B:** James was very aware of the details of novelistic construction.
7. **Choice B:** not be inflexible in its treatment of the elements in the novel
8. **Choice B:** *Hamlet* has elements that are not amenable to an all-encompassing critical interpretation.

Answers and Explanations

SET 1. Discrete Questions: Easy

For Questions 1 to 5, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. Dominant interests often benefit most from _____ of governmental interference in business, since they are able to take care of themselves if left alone.

(A) intensification
(B) authorization
(C) centralization
(D) improvisation
(E) elimination

Explanation

The sentence explains why dominant interests often benefit from a certain condition. Since the explanation is that they are able to take care of themselves if left alone, it follows that the condition is one in which interference is absent. Thus the best answer is “elimination.” None of the other answer choices suggests an absence of interference—indeed “intensification,” “authorization,” and “centralization” suggest quite the opposite.

Thus the correct answer is **elimination** (Choice E).

2. Kagan maintains that an infant’s reactions to its first stressful experiences are part of a natural process of development, not harbingers of childhood unhappiness or _____ signs of adolescent anxiety.

(A) prophetic
(B) normal
(C) monotonous
(D) virtual
(E) typical

Explanation

The sentence contrasts the infant’s reactions, part of a normal developmental process, with future unhappiness and anxiety. The missing word describes signs of adolescent anxiety as they relate to the infant. Choice A is correct: “prophetic” signs, like harbingers, foretell future occurrences, and for the infant, adolescent anxiety is a future occurrence. Since an infant cannot literally display signs of adolescent anxiety, “normal,” “monotonous,” and “typical” are all incorrect. And “virtual” is incorrect, because virtual signs are not real signs, and what Kagan is denying is that the infant’s reactions are not real signs of later unhappiness.

Thus the correct answer is **prophetic** (Choice A).

3. An investigation that is _____ can occasionally yield new facts, even notable ones, but typically the appearance of such facts is the result of a search in a definite direction.

(A) timely
(B) unguided
(C) consistent
(D) uncomplicated
(E) subjective

Explanation

As the words “can occasionally” and “but typically” indicate, the missing word describes an investigation that contrasts with a “search in a definite direction.” Among the answer choices, only “unguided” provides a contrasting description; none of the other choices suggests an appropriate contrast.

Thus the correct answer is **unguided** (Choice B).

4. It is (i) _____ that so many portrait paintings hang in art museums, since the subject matter seems to dictate a status closer to pictures in the family photograph album than to high art. But perhaps it is the artistic skill with which the portraits are painted that (ii) _____ their presence in art museums.

Blank (i)

(A) surprising
(B) understandable
(C) irrelevant

Blank (ii)

(D) challenges
(E) justifies
(F) changes

Explanation

In the part following “since,” the first sentence of the paragraph suggests that the subject matter of portraits might not seem to fit with the idea of “high art.” So the suggestion is that the presence of portrait paintings in art museums is in that sense odd or unfitting. Of the choices available for Blank (i), “surprising” is the one that expresses this sense. The second sentence, in contrast to the first, offers a point in favor of portraits—“artistic skill.” So the second sentence is offering a reason why portraits should be in art museums. Of the choices for Blank (ii), “justifies” is the one that completes that thought.

Thus the correct answer is **surprising** (Choice A) and **justifies** (Choice E).

5. In stark contrast to his later (i) _____, Simpson was largely (ii) _____ politics during his college years, despite the fact that the campus he attended was rife with political activity.

Blank (i)

(A) activism
(B) apathy
(C) affability

Blank (ii)

(D) devoted to
(E) indifferent to
(F) shaped by

Explanation

The sentence tells us that there is a contrast between the way Simpson related to politics in his college years and how he related to politics later in life. So the choices that complete the blanks must contrast with each other. The part of the sentence beginning with “despite” indicates that Simpson’s relation to politics in his college years did not involve engagement in the political activity that was “rife.” Of the choices for Blank (ii), only “indifferent to” conveys that nonengagement. And of the choices for Blank (i), only “activism” supplies the required contrast with “indifferent to.”

Thus the correct answer is **activism** (Choice A) and **indifferent to** (Choice E).

For Questions 6 to 8, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

6. As my eyesight began to _____, I spent a lot of time writing about it—both poems and “eye journals”—describing what I saw as I looked out through damaged eyes.
- ☐ A deteriorate
 - ☐ B sharpen
 - ☐ C improve
 - ☐ D decline
 - ☐ E recover
 - ☐ F adjust

Explanation

The author has “damaged” eyes, and any word that fills the blank must reflect that fact. The words that best do so are “deteriorate” and “decline” (Choices A and D), which generate sentences alike in meaning. “Sharpen” and “improve” produce sentences alike in meaning, but neither word makes sense when inserted into the blank. Though “adjust” makes some sense when inserted into the blank, no other option produces a sentence similar in meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **deteriorate** (Choice A) and **decline** (Choice D).

7. The judge’s standing in the legal community, though shaken by phony allegations of wrongdoing, emerged, at long last, _____.
- ☐ A unqualified
 - ☐ B undiminished
 - ☐ C undecided
 - ☐ D undamaged
 - ☐ E unresolved
 - ☐ F unprincipled

Explanation

The use of the word “though” establishes a contrast between the blank, which requires a description of the judge’s standing, and “phony allegations of wrongdoing.” Thus the words that best complete the blank must indicate that the judge’s reputation was not

adversely affected by these allegations. The only words that do so are “undiminished” and “undamaged” (Choices B and D), which produce sentences alike in meaning. “Undecided” and “unresolved” also produce sentences alike in meaning, but neither word makes sense when inserted into the blank.

Thus the correct answer is **undiminished** (Choice B) and **undamaged** (Choice D).

8. Modern agricultural practices have been extremely successful in increasing the productivity of major food crops, yet despite heavy use of pesticides, _____ losses to diseases and insect pests are sustained each year.

☐ A incongruous
☐ B reasonable
☐ C significant
☐ D considerable
☐ E equitable
☐ F fortuitous

Explanation

The word “despite” suggests the level of losses is somehow surprising given the heavy use of pesticides. The only words that describe an appropriate level of losses are “significant” and “considerable” (Choices C and D), which produce sentences alike in meaning. “Reasonable” and “equitable” also produce sentences alike in meaning, but neither word generates the contrast necessary for the sentence to make sense.

Thus the correct answer is **significant** (Choice C) and **considerable** (Choice D).

SET 2. Reading Comprehension Questions: Easy

For each of Questions 1 to 9, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

1. A person who agrees to serve as mediator between two warring factions at the request of both abandons by so agreeing the right to take sides later. To take sides at a later point would be to suggest that the earlier presumptive impartiality was a sham.

The passage above emphasizes which of the following points about mediators?

- ☐ A They should try to form no opinions of their own about any issue that is related to the dispute.
☐ B They should not agree to serve unless they are committed to maintaining a stance of impartiality.
☐ C They should not agree to serve unless they are equally acceptable to all parties to a dispute.
☐ D They should feel free to take sides in the dispute right from the start, provided that they make their biases publicly known.
☐ E They should reserve the right to abandon their impartiality so as not to be open to the charge of having been deceitful.

Explanation

By pointing out the consequences of abandoning impartiality, the paragraph points out the importance for mediators of maintaining impartiality at all times. This is the point made in **Choice B**, which is therefore the correct answer. Choice A is incorrect, because it goes further than anything asserted in the passage. The passage does not rule out the possibility that one can have an opinion about issues related to a dispute without taking sides in the actual dispute. Choice C is incorrect because it is a presupposition on which the passage is based rather than the point of the passage; that is, the fact that the mediator is acceptable to both parties is a given, since they both ask the mediator to serve. Choices D and E are both inconsistent with the main point of the passage, the importance of impartiality at all times, so both are incorrect.

Questions 2 to 5 are based on the following reading passage.

Was Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) a great composer? On its face, the question seems absurd. One of the most gifted prodigies in the history of music, he produced his first masterpiece at sixteen. From then on, he was recognized as an artist of preternatural abilities, not only as a composer but also as a pianist and conductor. But Mendelssohn's enduring popularity has often been at odds—sometimes quite sharply—with his critical standing. Despite general acknowledgment of his genius, there has been a noticeable reluctance to rank him with, say, Schumann or Brahms. As Haggin put it, Mendelssohn, as a composer, was a “minor master . . . working on a small scale of emotion and texture.”

Description

The passage starts by outlining the popular view that Mendelssohn was a great composer and then points out that critics do not generally accord him that status.

2. Select a sentence in the passage whose function is to indicate the range of Mendelssohn's musical talents.

Explanation

This question asks which sentence in the passage serves to indicate the range of Mendelssohn's musical talents. The correct answer is the **fourth sentence** (“From then . . . conductor”), the only sentence in the passage that mentions Mendelssohn's achievements across three different realms: composing, piano performance, and conducting. All the other sentences can be eliminated because, while they consider the question of Mendelssohn's claim to greatness, they do not specifically discuss the broad range of his musical talents.

3. The passage suggests that anyone attempting to evaluate Mendelssohn's career must confront which of the following dichotomies?
- (A) The tension between Mendelssohn's career as a composer and his career as a pianist and conductor
 - (B) The contrast between Mendelssohn's popularity and that of Schumann and Brahms
 - (C) The discrepancy between Mendelssohn's popularity and his standing among critics
 - (D) The inconsistency between Mendelssohn's reputation during his lifetime and his reputation since his death
 - (E) The gap between Mendelssohn's prodigious musical beginnings and his decline in later years

Explanation

The passage clearly presents the discrepancy between Mendelssohn's popularity and his critical standing as an interpretive problem. Therefore, **Choice C** is correct. The other answer choices are incorrect because the passage never indicates that there was any conflict among the different aspects of Mendelssohn's professional life; never discusses Schumann's and Brahms's popularity; does not discuss any differences between Mendelssohn's reputation during his lifetime and after his death; and makes no mention of a decline in Mendelssohn's later life.

4. It can be inferred that the "reluctance" mentioned in the passage is being ascribed to
- (A) most composers since Mendelssohn
 - (B) Schumann and Brahms
 - (C) the music-listening public
 - (D) music critics generally
 - (E) Haggin exclusively

Explanation

Choice D is correct. The "reluctance" is mentioned in the context of a discussion about Mendelssohn's critical standing and thus is being ascribed to music critics generally. Choices A and B can be eliminated because the passage does not discuss any composers' views of Mendelssohn. Choice C is incorrect because the word "reluctance" is mentioned only after the passage turns from discussing the popular view of Mendelssohn to the critical view. Choice E is incorrect because the words "As Haggin put it" indicate that Haggin is only one example of critics who have this reluctance.

5. The author mentions Schumann and Brahms primarily in order to
- (A) provide examples of composers who are often compared with Mendelssohn
 - (B) identify certain composers who are more popular than Mendelssohn
 - (C) identify composers whom Mendelssohn influenced
 - (D) establish the milieu in which Mendelssohn worked
 - (E) establish a standard of comparison for Mendelssohn as a composer

Explanation

Schumann and Brahms are mentioned as a way of explaining how critics rank Mendelssohn—that is, as less accomplished than some other composers who are widely acknowledged as major. Therefore, **Choice E** is correct. Choice A might look like a correct answer at first glance. However, careful consideration reveals that the point the author is making when Schumann and Brahms are mentioned is not the frequency of that comparison but the results of it. Therefore, Choice A can be eliminated. Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the passage does not discuss Schumann's and Brahms's popularity, Mendelssohn's influence on other composers, or the milieu in which Mendelssohn worked.

Questions 6 and 7 are based on the following reading passage.

While most scholarship on women's employment in the United States recognizes that the Second World War (1939–1945) dramatically changed the role of women in the workforce, these studies also acknowledge that few women remained in manufacturing jobs once men returned from the war. But in agriculture, unlike other industries where women were viewed as temporary workers, women's employment did not end with the war. Instead, the expansion of agriculture and a steady decrease in the number of male farmworkers combined to cause the industry to hire more women in the postwar years. Consequently, the 1950s saw a growing number of women engaged in farm labor, even though rhetoric in the popular media called for the return of women to domestic life.

Description

The first sentence states that the Second World War led to significant changes in women's employment, but that these changes were largely reversed in manufacturing after the war. The second sentence discusses the fact that unlike in other industries, employment of women in agriculture was more permanent; the third provides more detail regarding the trend in agriculture and the reasons for it; and the fourth summarizes the consequences of the trend.

6. It can be inferred from the passage that the manufacturing and agricultural sectors in the United States following the Second World War differed in which of the following respects?
- (A) The rate of expansion in each sector
 - (B) The percentage of employees in each sector who were men
 - (C) The trend in the wages of men employed in each sector
 - (D) The attitude of the popular media toward the employment of women in each sector
 - (E) The extent to which women in each sector were satisfied with their jobs

Explanation

The correct choice for this question is **Choice B**. We are told that few women remained in the manufacturing sector once men returned from the war, while the number of women who worked in agriculture increased after the war as the number of men in agriculture decreased. It is therefore inferable that the percentage of employees working in manufacturing who were men increased while the percentage of employees working in agriculture who were men decreased. Choices A, C, and E are incorrect

because the passage provides no information about rates of expansion, wage trends, or women's job satisfaction. Choice D is incorrect because the only mention of the popular media occurs in the final sentence, and no distinction is made between the sectors there.

7. Which of the following statements about women's employment in the United States during and after the Second World War is most clearly supported by the passage?
- (A) Most women who joined the workforce during the Second World War wanted to return to domestic life when the war ended.
 - (B) The great majority of women who joined the workforce during the Second World War were employed in manufacturing jobs.
 - (C) The end of the Second World War was followed by a large-scale transfer of women workers from manufacturing to agriculture.
 - (D) The increase in women's employment that accompanied the Second World War was longer lasting in agriculture than it was in manufacturing.
 - (E) The popular media were more forceful in calling for women to join the workforce during the Second World War than in calling for women to return to domestic life after the war.

Explanation

The correct choice for this question is **Choice D**. We are told in the passage that women's employment in manufacturing fell quickly after men returned from the war. However, not only did women's employment in agriculture not decline after the end of the war, it actually increased. The other choices are incorrect because the passage provides no information about what women who joined the workforce wanted to do; about the distribution of women across industries; about what happened to women who left manufacturing; nor about media appeals for women to join the wartime workforce.

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

Since the Hawaiian Islands have never been connected to other land masses, the great variety of plants in Hawaii must be a result of the long-distance dispersal of seeds, a process that requires both a method of transport and an equivalence between the ecology of the source area and that of the recipient area.

line

- 5 There is some dispute about the method of transport involved. Some biologists argue that ocean and air currents are responsible for the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii. Yet the results of flotation experiments and the low temperatures of air currents cast doubt on these hypotheses. More probable is bird transport, either externally, by accidental attachment of the seeds to feathers, or internally, by the swallowing of fruit and subsequent excretion of the seeds. While it is likely that fewer varieties of plant seeds have reached Hawaii externally than internally, more varieties are known to be adapted to external than to internal transport.

10

Description

The passage raises the question of how seeds reached the Hawaiian Islands. It introduces one possible method—ocean and air currents—but refers to evidence that casts doubt on that method. It then introduces a second method—bird transport—and discusses two ways in which that might occur.

8. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with
- (A) discussing different approaches biologists have taken to testing theories about the distribution of plants in Hawaii
 - (B) discussing different theories about the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (C) discussing the extent to which air currents are responsible for the dispersal of plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (D) resolving a dispute about the adaptability of plant seeds to bird transport
 - (E) resolving a dispute about the ability of birds to carry plant seeds long distances

Explanation

Given the description of the passage above, it is clear that **Choice B** is correct: the passage focuses on “different theories about the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii.” Choice A can be eliminated: while the passage does refer to flotation experiments, it does not elaborate on experimental methods. Choice C identifies an idea that is part of the passage’s main concern, but since this is only one of the competing theories discussed in the passage, not the primary focus, Choice C is incorrect. Choices D and E are incorrect because the passage does not resolve any disputes.

9. The author mentions the results of flotation experiments on plant seeds (lines 7–8) most probably in order to
- (A) support the claim that the distribution of plants in Hawaii is the result of the long-distance dispersal of seeds
 - (B) lend credibility to the thesis that air currents provide a method of transport for plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (C) suggest that the long-distance dispersal of seeds is a process that requires long periods of time
 - (D) challenge the claim that ocean currents are responsible for the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (E) refute the claim that Hawaiian flora evolved independently from flora in other parts of the world

Explanation

This question asks why the author mentions flotation experiments. Flotation experiments are mentioned in the passage in order to show that some evidence casts doubt on the claim that ocean currents were the means by which seeds were transported to Hawaii. Thus, **Choice D** is correct. Choice A is incorrect since the claim that plant distribution in Hawaii is the result of long-distance dispersal of seeds is a given in the passage, not an idea that the author feels a need to substantiate. Choice B is eliminable since the flotation experiments are introduced at a point where the author is challenging, rather than lending credibility to, the air current hypothesis and because flotation experiments would more likely reflect on ocean currents than air currents. Choice C is eliminable since the passage does not address the length of time required for long-distance seed dispersal. Finally, Choice E is eliminable since it too describes an idea that is not discussed in the passage.

SET 3. Discrete Questions: Medium

For Questions 1 to 5, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. It comes as no surprise that societies have codes of behavior; the character of the codes, on the other hand, can often be _____.

(A) predictable
(B) unexpected
(C) admirable
(D) explicit
(E) confusing

Explanation

The words “on the other hand” indicate that while the existence of societal codes of behavior is no surprise, their character may be quite surprising. Thus the correct answer is Choice B, **unexpected**, which means the same as surprising. “Predictable” is the very opposite of surprising, and none of the other answer choices means “surprising.”

Thus the correct answer is **unexpected** (Choice B).

2. Like Béla Bartók, Ruth Crawford not only brought a composer’s acumen to the notation of folk music, she also had a marked (i)_____ the task. This was clear in her agonizing over how far to try to represent the minute details of a performance in a written text, and this (ii)_____ makes her work a landmark in ethnomusicology.

Blank (i)

(A) reverence for
(B) detachment from
(C) curiosity about

Blank (ii)

(D) fastidiousness
(E) didacticism
(F) iconoclasm

Explanation

In this example, both blanks can be filled by focusing on the statement that Crawford agonized over the details in her representations of folk music performances. The only choice for blank (ii) that matches this description is “fastidiousness”; neither “didacticism” nor “iconoclasm” reflects the notion of agonizing over details. Similarly, only “reverence for” fits in Blank (i), since neither “detachment from” nor “curiosity about” reflects the degree of care Crawford took.

Thus the correct answer is **reverence for** (Choice A) and **fastidiousness** (Choice D).

3. Political advertising may well be the most (i)_____ kind of advertising: political candidates are usually quite (ii)_____, yet their campaign advertisements often hide important differences behind smoke screens of smiles and empty slogans.

Blank (i)

(A) polemical
(B) effective
(C) deceptive

Blank (ii)

(D) interchangeable
(E) dissimilar
(F) vocal

Explanation

Looking at Blank (i), it is hard to select a correct answer, since all three answer choices fit the immediate context well. Looking to the second part of the sentence, however, we can see such expressions as “hide” and “smoke screens,” both of which suggest that the correct answer for Blank (i) is “deceptive.” Making that assumption, we can go on to see that the answer for Blank (ii) is “dissimilar,” since what is deceptive about political advertisements is that they hide important differences. Reading the sentence again with “deceptive” and “dissimilar” in place confirms those choices.

Thus the correct answer is **deceptive** (Choice C) and **dissimilar** (Choice E).

4. Richard M. Russell said 52 percent of the nation’s growth since the Second World War had (i)_____ invention. He said, (ii)_____ research, the government’s greatest role in assuring continuing innovation is promoting a strong, modern patent office. “Unless we can (iii)_____ original ideas, we will not have invention,” Mr. Russell said. Speculating on the state of innovation over the next century, several inventors agreed that the future lay in giving children the tools to think creatively and the motivation to invent.

Blank (i)

(A) been at the expense of
(B) no bearing on
(C) come through

Blank (ii)

(D) in addition to restricting
(E) aside from supporting
(F) far from exaggerating

Blank (iii)

(G) evaluate
(H) protect
(I) disseminate

Explanation

A quick overview of the paragraph shows that its topic is the encouragement of invention and innovation. This implies that Blank (i) should be filled with “come through,” which emphasizes the importance of invention; the other choices suggest that invention is irrelevant or somehow harmed by growth. Again, the only one of the choices for Blank (ii) that continues the theme of encouraging invention is “aside from supporting.” Finally, the second sentence emphasizes the importance for innovation of a strong patent office, and this thought is reaffirmed in the following quotation from Mr. Russell, which requires “protect” in Blank (iii).

Thus the correct answer is **come through** (Choice C), **aside from supporting** (Choice E), and **protect** (Choice H).

5. Statements presented as fact in a patent application are (i) _____ unless a good reason for doubt is found. The invention has only to be deemed “more likely than not” to work in order to receive initial approval. And, although thousands of patents are challenged in court for other reasons, no incentive exists for anyone to expend effort (ii) _____ the science of an erroneous patent. For this reason the endless stream of (iii) _____ devices will continue to yield occasional patents.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) presumed verifiable	(D) corroborating	(G) novel
(B) carefully scrutinized	(E) advancing	(H) bogus
(C) considered capricious	(F) debunking	(I) obsolete

Explanation

The paragraph appears to be explaining some odd or unexpected aspect of the patent process. The third sentence helps to clarify what this aspect is; it discusses challenges to patents. The only choice for Blank (ii) that is concerned with challenging a patent is “debunking,” since “corroborating” and “advancing” suggest support instead. This in turn provides the answer for the third blank, since the preceding sentence does explain how “bogus” devices may nonetheless get a patent. And we can also now better understand the first sentence—it too must help explain how bogus devices get patents, which it can do only if the blank is filled with “presumed verifiable,” suggesting that patent applications are taken at face value and not dismissed out of hand nor subjected to careful scrutiny.

Thus the correct answer is **presumed verifiable** (Choice A), **debunking** (Choice F), and **bogus** (Choice H).

For Questions 6 to 8, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

6. Ever a demanding reader of the fiction of others, the novelist Chase was likewise often the object of _____ analyses by his contemporaries.
- (A) exacting
 - (B) copious
 - (C) respectful
 - (D) acerbic
 - (E) scathing
 - (F) meticulous

Explanation

The use of the word “likewise” indicates that the analyses of Chase’s work by contemporaries were like the readings he gave the fiction of others. Since he is described as a “demanding reader,” the words that best fit the blank will be similar in meaning to

“demanding.” The words that meet this requirement are “exacting” (Choice A) and “meticulous” (Choice F), and they produce sentences that are alike in meaning. Although “acerbic analyses” means close to the same thing as “scathing analyses,” both “acerbic” and “scathing” have meanings that are quite different from “demanding,” so neither fits well in the blank.

Thus the correct answer is **exacting** (Choice A) and **meticulous** (Choice F).

7. Her _____ should not be confused with miserliness; as long as I have known her, she has always been willing to assist those who are in need.
- ☐ A stinginess
 - ☐ B diffidence
 - ☐ C frugality
 - ☐ D illiberality
 - ☐ E intolerance
 - ☐ F thrift

Explanation

The sentence explains that the person spoken of is not miserly, since she is quite prepared to be generous. So for the sentence to make sense, the word filling the blank has to be something that is consistent with generosity and yet might, by those without a full understanding of her behavior, be mistaken for miserliness. The words “frugality” and “thrift” fulfill this requirement and yield two sentences that are alike in meaning, so that pair forms the correct answer. Neither “stinginess” nor “illiberality” makes sense in the sentence, since they are synonymous with “miserliness” and inconsistent with generosity. Other choices, such as “diffidence,” might perhaps make a sensible sentence if placed in the blank but do not form part of the correct answer since they have no companion word that would make a sentence of similar meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **frugality** (Choice C) and **thrift** (Choice F).

8. A misconception frequently held by novice writers is that sentence structure mirrors thought: the more convoluted the structure, the more _____ the ideas.
- ☐ A complicated
 - ☐ B engaged
 - ☐ C essential
 - ☐ D fanciful
 - ☐ E inconsequential
 - ☐ F involved

Explanation

Because the second half of the sentence illustrates the idea that “structure mirrors thought,” any word that fills the blank must be similar in meaning to “convoluted.” The two words that are similar to “convoluted” are “complicated” and “involved” (Choices A and F), which produce sentences alike in meaning. “Fanciful,” while somewhat similar in meaning to “convoluted,” is not as similar to either “complicated” or “involved” as those words are to each other. The other answer choices are not similar in meaning to “convoluted,” and thus do not produce coherent sentences.

Thus the correct answer is **complicated** (Choice A) and **involved** (Choice F).

SET 4. Reading Comprehension Questions: Medium

For each of Questions 1 to 9, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

Questions 1 and 2 are based on the following reading passage.

I enjoyed *A Dream of Light & Shadow: Portraits of Latin American Women Writers* for the same reasons that, as a child, I avidly consumed women's biographies: the fascination with how the biographical details of another female's life are represented and interpreted.

A Dream offers a rich read, varied in both the lives and texts of the women portrayed, and the perspectives and styles of the sixteen essayists. Yet, as an adult, I have come to demand of any really "great" book a self-consciousness about the tenuous nature of representations of reality, a critical contextualization of florid detail, and a self-awareness of the role of ideology in our lives. In these critical senses, *A Dream* is inadequate.

Description

The passage follows the following structure: the first sentence discusses a collection of biographical sketches and what the author found particularly appealing about similar works as a child; the second sentence describes several positive aspects of this particular collection and how it satisfies the author's early interests; the third sentence describes a demanding set of criteria that the author now applies when assessing such work; and in the fourth sentence the author says the collection being discussed does not meet those criteria.

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

1. The author of the passage suggests that *A Dream* falls short in which of the following respects?
 - ☐ A It does not appear to recognize that representations of reality can be unreliable.
 - ☐ B It seems to focus on stylistic variety at the expense of accuracy of detail.
 - ☐ C It offers a wealth of detail without sufficient critical examination of that detail.

Explanation

Choices A and C are correct. We know from the final sentence that the collection falls short of several criteria established by the author.

Choice A is correct: the book does not demonstrate sufficient awareness of the "tenuous nature of representations of reality."

Choice B is incorrect: there is no mention in the passage of any concern on the part of the author about the accuracy of detail.

Choice C is correct: the book does not offer an adequate "critical contextualization of florid detail."

2. Which of the following best describes the function of the second sentence (“*A Dream . . .* essayists”) in the context of the passage as a whole?
- (A) To give examples of how *A Dream* presents fascinating portraits that display awareness of the tenuous nature of representations of reality
 - (B) To elaborate on how *A Dream* fulfills the author’s childhood criteria for a pleasurable book
 - (C) To suggest that the author enjoyed *A Dream* for reasons more sophisticated than the reasons she enjoyed certain books as a child
 - (D) To illustrate ways in which the author finds *A Dream* to be inadequate in certain critical senses
 - (E) To imply that *A Dream* is too varied in focus to provide a proper contextualization of the biographical details it offers

Explanation

This question asks about the function of the second sentence. The correct choice is **Choice B**. As discussed in the description of the passage, that sentence describes what is appealing about the collection in the context of the author’s childhood tastes. Choice A is incorrect both because the sentence does not provide examples and because the collection does not display an awareness of the tenuous nature of representations of reality. Choice C is not correct: although one might suspect that the author’s enjoyment of collections as an adult would be on a more sophisticated level than when she was young, there is no discussion or even suggestion of that in the passage. Choice D is incorrect because the sentence describes the virtues of the collection. The aspects of the collection that the author finds inadequate are not addressed until later. Choice E is incorrect because, according to the passage, the fact that the collection is varied makes it a “rich” read. There is no suggestion that the variety hinders proper contextualization.

3. During the day in Lake Constance, the zooplankton *D. hyalina* departs for the depths where food is scarce and the water cold. *D. galeata* remains near the warm surface where food is abundant. Even though *D. galeata* grows and reproduces much faster, its population is often outnumbered by *D. hyalina*. Which of the following, if true, would help resolve the apparent paradox presented above?
- (A) The number of species of zooplankton living at the bottom of the lake is twice that of species living at the surface.
 - (B) Predators of zooplankton, such as whitefish and perch, live and feed near the surface of the lake during the day.
 - (C) In order to make the most of scarce food resources, *D. hyalina* matures more slowly than *D. galeata*.
 - (D) *D. galeata* clusters under vegetation during the hottest part of the day to avoid the Sun’s rays.
 - (E) *D. galeata* produces twice as many offspring per individual in any given period of time as does *D. hyalina*.

Description

The paragraph presents an apparent paradox: the zooplankton that spends the day in less hospitable conditions often outnumbers the one that stays in more hospitable conditions.

Explanation

The presence of predators of zooplankton feeding near the surface during the day would suggest that *D. galeata* is consumed at a higher rate than *D. hyalina*; this would explain why *D. hyalina* is often more numerous, so **Choice B** is correct. Choices C and E are incorrect because although they help to explain why the two zooplankton reproduce at different rates, they do not help to resolve the apparent paradox. Choices A and D are incorrect because nothing is said in the paragraph to show the relevance of the presence of other species of zooplankton, nor of the habit of clustering under vegetation, to the relative population size of the two species.

Questions 4 and 5 are based on the following reading passage.

Tocqueville, apparently, was wrong. Jacksonian America was not a fluid, egalitarian society where individual wealth and poverty were ephemeral conditions. At least so argues E. Pessen in his iconoclastic study of the very rich in the United States between 1825 and 1850.

Pessen does present a quantity of examples, together with some refreshingly intelligible statistics, to establish the existence of an inordinately wealthy class. Though active in commerce or the professions, most of the wealthy were not self-made but had inherited family fortunes. In no sense mercurial, these great fortunes survived the financial panics that destroyed lesser ones. Indeed, in several cities the wealthiest one percent constantly increased its share until by 1850 it owned half of the community's wealth. Although these observations are true, Pessen overestimates their importance by concluding from them that the undoubted progress toward inequality in the late eighteenth century continued in the Jacksonian period and that the United States was a class-ridden, plutocratic society even before industrialization.

Description

The passage describes Pessen's argument that Jacksonian America was not fluid and egalitarian but class-ridden and plutocratic, and criticizes it for leaping to an unjustified conclusion.

4. According to the passage, Pessen indicates that all of the following were true of the very wealthy in the United States between 1825 and 1850 EXCEPT:
- (A) They formed a distinct upper class.
 - (B) Many of them were able to increase their holdings.
 - (C) Some of them worked as professionals or in business.
 - (D) Most of them accumulated their own fortunes.
 - (E) Many of them retained their wealth in spite of financial upheavals.

Explanation

For this question, you are to identify the one statement that CANNOT be correctly attributed to Pessen. Therefore, you must first determine which of the statements given can be attributed to Pessen. According to the passage, Pessen maintains all of the following: there was a class of "inordinately wealthy" Americans (Choice A); in some places that class "constantly increased its share" (Choice B); its members were "active in commerce or the professions" (Choice C); and "these great fortunes survived the financial panics that destroyed lesser ones" (Choice E). However, Pessen also maintains, in contradiction to Choice D, that "most of the wealthy were not self-made but had inherited family fortunes." Therefore, **Choice D** is correct.

5. Which of the following best states the author's main point?
- (A) Pessen's study has overturned the previously established view of the social and economic structure of early-nineteenth-century America.
 - (B) Tocqueville's analysis of the United States in the Jacksonian era remains the definitive account of this period.
 - (C) Pessen's study is valuable primarily because it shows the continuity of the social system in the United States throughout the nineteenth century.
 - (D) The social patterns and political power of the extremely wealthy in the United States between 1825 and 1850 are well documented.
 - (E) Pessen challenges a view of the social and economic systems in the United States from 1825 to 1850, but he draws conclusions that are incorrect.

Explanation

It is important to realize that although most of the passage is devoted to describing Pessen's study, the author's main point is to criticize the conclusion Pessen draws. Choices A, C, and D omit any reference to the author's critical evaluation of Pessen's study, and hence are not statements of the author's main point. Choice B is also incorrect. Because Pessen criticizes Tocqueville and the author criticizes Pessen, it might seem that the author's main point is to defend Tocqueville's analysis. However, the passage does not indicate that Tocqueville's analysis is definitive. **Choice E** is correct. According to the first paragraph, Pessen challenges Tocqueville's view, but according to the second paragraph, Pessen's conclusions are incorrect.

Questions 6 to 9 are based on the following reading passage.

The evolution of intelligence among early large mammals of the grasslands was due in great measure to the interaction between two ecologically synchronized groups of these animals, the hunting carnivores and the herbivores that they hunted. The interaction resulting from the differences between predator and prey led to a general
 line improvement in brain functions; however, certain components of intelligence were
 5 improved far more than others.

The kind of intelligence favored by the interplay of increasingly smarter catchers and increasingly keener escapers is defined by attention—that aspect of mind carrying consciousness forward from one moment to the next. It ranges from a passive, free-
 10 floating awareness to a highly focused, active fixation. The range through these states is mediated by the arousal system, a network of tracts converging from sensory systems to integrating centers in the brain stem. From the more relaxed to the more vigorous levels, sensitivity to novelty is increased. The organism is more awake, more vigilant; this increased vigilance results in the apprehension of ever more subtle signals as the
 15 organism becomes more sensitive to its surroundings. The processes of arousal and concentration give attention its direction. Arousal is at first general, with a flooding of impulses in the brain stem; then gradually the activation is channeled. Thus begins concentration, the holding of consistent images. One meaning of intelligence is the way in which these images and other alertly searched information are used in the context of
 20 previous experience. Consciousness links past attention to the present and permits the integration of details with perceived ends and purposes.

The elements of intelligence and consciousness come together marvelously to produce different styles in predator and prey. Herbivores and carnivores develop different kinds of attention related to escaping or chasing. Although in both kinds of animal,
 25 arousal stimulates the production of adrenaline and norepinephrine by the adrenal

glands, the effect in herbivores is primarily fear, whereas in carnivores the effect is primarily aggression. For both, arousal attunes the animal to what is ahead. Perhaps it does not experience forethought as we know it, but the animal does experience something like it. The predator is searchingly aggressive, inner-directed, tuned by the nervous system and the adrenal hormones, but aware in a sense closer to human consciousness than, say, a hungry lizard's instinctive snap at a passing beetle. Using past events as a framework, the large mammal predator is working out a relationship between movement and food, sensitive to possibilities in cold trails and distant sounds—and yesterday's unforgotten lessons. The herbivore prey is of a different mind. Its mood of wariness rather than searching and its attitude of general expectancy instead of anticipating are silk-thin veils of tranquillity over an explosive endocrine system.

Description

The passage describes improvements in certain components of intelligence among early large mammals of the grasslands. The second paragraph focuses on attention as a primary area of improvement, and the third paragraph outlines how attention differs in predator and prey species.

6. The author refers to a hungry lizard (line 31) primarily in order to
- (A) demonstrate the similarity between the hunting methods of mammals and those of nonmammals
 - (B) broaden the application of the argument by including an insectivore as an example
 - (C) make a distinction between higher and lower levels of consciousness
 - (D) provide an additional illustration of the brutality characteristic of predators
 - (E) offer an objection to suggestions that all animals lack consciousness

Explanation

Choice C is correct. The “hungry lizard’s instinctive snap” is contrasted with the mammal’s higher level of awareness. Choices A and B are incorrect. The example of the hungry lizard provides a contrast; it does not demonstrate a similarity or extend the author’s argument. Choices D and E are incorrect. Brutality is not mentioned in the passage as a characteristic of predators, and there is no suggestion that all animals lack consciousness.

7. It can be inferred from the passage that in animals less intelligent than the mammals discussed in the passage
- (A) past experience is less helpful in ensuring survival
 - (B) attention is more highly focused
 - (C) muscular coordination is less highly developed
 - (D) there is less need for competition among species
 - (E) environment is more important in establishing the proper ratio of prey to predator

Explanation

Choice A is correct. In lines 18–20, the author defines intelligence in terms of an animal’s use of past experience. In the context of the entire passage, it can be inferred that

more intelligent animals, such as the grassland mammals discussed, are better able to use past experience to help them survive than less intelligent animals are. Choice B is incorrect. The second paragraph of the passage indicates that attention is more highly focused in animals of greater, rather than less, intelligence. Choices C, D, and E are incorrect. The author does not discuss muscular coordination as an element in intelligence, gives no indication that in less intelligent species there is less need for competition, and does not discuss how a proper ratio of prey to predator is established.

8. According to the passage, improvement in brain function among early large mammals resulted primarily from which of the following?
- (A) Interplay of predator and prey
 - (B) Persistence of free-floating awareness in animals of the grasslands
 - (C) Gradual dominance of warm-blooded mammals over cold-blooded reptiles
 - (D) Interaction of early large mammals with less intelligent species
 - (E) Improvement of the capacity for memory among herbivores and carnivores

Explanation

Choice A is correct. It directly paraphrases the statement in lines 3–5, which describes the author’s view of the development of improved brain function in early mammals. Choice B is incorrect. It is likely that the persistence of “free-floating awareness” played a part in the animals’ survival, but there is no indication in the passage that brain function improved because of it. Choices C and D are incorrect: the passage does not discuss the relationship between mammals and reptiles or the interaction between large mammals and less intelligent species. Choice E is incorrect. Improved capacity for memory is an improvement in brain function, rather than a reason for improved brain function.

9. According to the passage, as the process of arousal in an organism continues, all of the following may occur EXCEPT
- (A) the production of adrenaline
 - (B) the production of norepinephrine
 - (C) a heightening of sensitivity to stimuli
 - (D) an increase in selectivity with respect to stimuli
 - (E) an expansion of the range of states mediated by the brain stem

Explanation

This question asks you what does NOT occur during arousal. To answer the question, you must first determine what does occur. According to the passage, arousal does stimulate the production of adrenaline and norepinephrine (lines 24–26); does increase sensitivity to stimuli (lines 12–13); and does increase concentration on specific stimuli (lines 16–18). Thus Choices A through D all describe consequences of arousal. Only **Choice E** is correct. There is no indication in the passage that the range of states mediated by the brain stem expands during arousal.

SET 5. Discrete Questions: Hard

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

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

(A) rationality
(B) flexibility
(C) diffidence
(D) disinterestedness
(E) insincerity

Explanation

The colon indicates that the second part of the sentence will explain the first part. The missing word will describe the opposite of the cynical conviction that “everybody has an angle,” that is, that each person is concerned primarily with his or her own interests. Since “disinterestedness” means lack of self-interest, Choice D is correct. None of the other answer choices means something that is contrasted with or opposed to being primarily concerned with one’s own interests.

Thus the correct answer is **disinterestedness** (Choice D).

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

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

(A) controversial habit	(D) endorsed
(B) cherished tradition	(E) considered
(C) disquieting ritual	(F) rejected

Explanation

The reference to human nature and long distances suggest that it is rather routine for drivers to exceed the speed limit in this state. “Cherished tradition” best fits this context for Blank (i), since there is nothing in the sentence to suggest that speeding here is “controversial” or “disquieting.” In Blank (ii) we need to consider what the legislature would do that would surprise no one with regard to increased penalties for speeding. Given what we have learned so far, “rejected” is the best answer; it would be surprising if the legislature “endorsed” or even “considered” increased penalties for speeding.

Thus the correct answer is **cherished tradition** (Choice B) and **rejected** (Choice F).

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

Blank (i)

(A) belies
(B) exposes
(C) overshadows

Blank (ii)

(D) an injudicious
(E) a disorganized
(F) a cautious

Explanation

The correct answer for Blank (i) must support, or at least be consistent with, the contrast between Serling's account, which emphasizes the recklessness of the company's decision making, and the company's image, that of a bureaucracy full of wary managers. For Blank (i), "belies" is the best choice since Serling's account would certainly belie or contradict the company's image. "Exposes" makes little sense since the image presumably is already out in the open, and there is nothing in the sentence that suggests Serling's account "overshadows" the company's image. As for Blank (ii), "a cautious" is the most logical choice. Neither "an injudicious" nor "a disorganized" makes sense in Blank (ii) as they both go against the notion of wariness.

Thus the correct answer is **belies** (Choice A) and **a cautious** (Choice F).

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

Blank (i)

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

Blank (ii)

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

Blank (iii)

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

Explanation

Since the author of the paragraph has described the poet's reputation as "well-earned," the correct completion for Blank (i) must be something that is consistent with what the rest of the passage says about the poet's work. Only "near impenetrability" fulfills this requirement, since the next sentence tells us that the poet's work is "severe" and "densely forbidding," which rule out both accessibility and frivolity. The Blank (ii) completion must contrast with "ample output," and of the available options, only "penitential austerity" does so. Finally, the word in Blank (iii), since it is preceded by "newfound," must refer to the change that has occurred in the poet's work. The change the paragraph has described is an increase in output, so "volubility" is the correct choice.

Thus the correct answer is **near impenetrability** (Choice C), **penitential austerity** (Choice D), and **volubility** (Choice H).

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

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) eclipse	(D) uncritically accept	(G) complementary
(B) bolster	(E) appropriately acknowledge	(H) intrinsic
(C) degrade	(F) hotly dispute	(I) peripheral

Explanation

The first two sentences introduce two contrasting sets of managers. The managers identified in the second sentence view systems designed to help manage environmental concerns as “extraneous,” suggesting that they would view environmental performance to be “peripheral” (Choice I) to financial performance. The other options for Blank (iii) —“complementary” and “intrinsic”—are not consistent with the idea that environmental management systems are extraneous. With Blank (iii) filled in, we can go back to Blanks (i) and (ii) with greater confidence: “bolster” works best in Blank (i), since the two sets of managers have contrasting views. Blank (ii) is not straightforward—clearly these managers would not “hotly dispute” this claim, but “appropriately acknowledge” is less easily ruled out. “Uncritically accept” makes sense and is confirmed when we look at the final sentence in which the author warns that, in either situation, “the mere presence of a system” is not enough to achieve environmental improvement. In fact, a system is not even necessary. Thus the author of the paragraph does not regard the systems as particularly valuable, ruling out “appropriately acknowledge.”

Thus the correct answer is **bolster** (Choice B), **uncritically accept** (Choice D), and **peripheral** (Choice I).

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

Blank (i)

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

Blank (ii)

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

Blank (iii)

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

Explanation

The first two sentences present a contrast between extending our knowledge by discovering “new information about the world”—which we are told philosophy does not do—and extending knowledge through some activity involving “things that are closest to us.” The first blank asks us to identify that activity, and although “attainment” makes little sense in context, both “rumination on” and “detachment from” have some appeal. However, the clear implication that philosophy attends to things that ordinarily escape our notice eliminates “detachment from” as a correct answer. Blank (ii) requires something that suggests the importance of familiar things as subjects of philosophical rumination, and “utterly mysterious” does just that. “Essentially irrelevant” and “thoroughly commonplace” do not fit logically since they suggest that these “familiar” things are unimportant. Similarly, Blank (iii) needs to be consistent with the description of those things as familiar and close. “Most prosaic” fits that idea while “refreshingly novel” goes in the other direction. “Somewhat hackneyed” has some plausibility but is too negative given the overall tone of the sentence; there is no indication that those things are in any way trite.

Thus the correct answer is **rumination on** (Choice B), **utterly mysterious** (Choice E), and **most prosaic** (Choice G).

For Questions 7 to 9, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

7. The government’s implementation of a new code of ethics appeared intended to shore up the ruling party’s standing with an increasingly _____ electorate at a time when the party is besieged by charges that it trades favors for campaign money.
- (A) aloof
 - (B) placid
 - (C) restive
 - (D) skittish
 - (E) tranquil
 - (F) vociferous

Explanation

The words filling the blank must be consistent with the idea that the ruling party needs to “shore up” its standing with the electorate. In their own way, Choices A, C, D, and F are consistent with that idea, but only two of these when taken together—“restive” and “skittish”—produce sentences that are alike in meaning. “Aloof” fits the blank reasonably well, but there is no other word offered that is nearly alike in meaning. The same holds for “vociferous.” “Placid” and “tranquil” are similar in meaning but do not fit the context of the sentence.

Thus the correct answer is **restive** (Choice C) and **skittish** (Choice D).

8. Overlarge, uneven, and ultimately disappointing, the retrospective exhibition seems too much like special pleading for a forgotten painter of real but _____ talents.

☐ A limited
☐ B partial
☐ C undiscovered
☐ D circumscribed
☐ E prosaic
☐ F hidden

Explanation

The sentence is explaining why the exhibition of the painter’s work was unsatisfactory, and since it says that the painter’s talents were real, the word in the blank has to indicate why those talents were not, in the opinion of the author of the sentence, good enough. The words “limited” and “circumscribed” do so and also produce sentences that are alike in meaning, so this pair forms the correct answer. Although “undiscovered” and “hidden” are similar in meaning, they do not make sense in the context of the sentence, since they do not indicate why the painter’s talents were not adequate. Other choices, such as “partial” and “prosaic” might make sense in context, but none of the other choices that meets that criterion also has a companion choice that would produce another sentence alike in meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **limited** (Choice A) and **circumscribed** (Choice D).

9. Newspapers report that the former executive has been trying to keep a low profile since his _____ exit from the company.

☐ A celebrated
☐ B mysterious
☐ C long-awaited
☐ D fortuitous
☐ E indecorous
☐ F unseemly

Explanation

The sentence needs to be completed with a word that suggests a reason for the executive to wish to keep a low profile. The words “indecorous” and “unseemly” both suggest such a reason, and the sentences completed with those two choices

are alike in meaning. Therefore, that pair forms the correct answer. Although one might get a sensible sentence by filling the blank with another choice, such as “long-awaited,” none of the other choices that meets that criterion also has a companion choice that would produce another sentence alike in meaning.

Thus the correct answer is **indecorous** (Choice E) and **unseemly** (Choice F).

SET 6. Reading Comprehension Questions: Hard

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

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

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

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

Explanation

The given sentence indicates that the proportion of farmers in the general population decreased from 1850 to 1880. **Choice E** says exactly the opposite—that this proportion increased—and therefore it contradicts the passage and is the correct response. Choice A is incorrect because it agrees with the given sentence, and Choices B, C, and D are all incorrect because they refer to the labor force, about which the given sentence says nothing.

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

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

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

Explanation

If crop yield per planted acre was less in the Soviet Union than it was in the United States, yet crop yield per total (planted plus fallow) agricultural acreage was greater in the Soviet Union than it was in the United States, the percentage of the total acreage that was left fallow must have been lower in the Soviet Union than in the United States. Therefore, **Choice A** is the correct answer. Since the information provided in the paragraph is given in terms of yield per acre, no conclusion can be drawn about actual acreage, so Choices B, C, and D are all incorrect. Similarly, it is impossible to determine the total volume of crops produced in the Soviet Union, so Choice E is incorrect.

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

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

Description

The passage describes a greenhouse design and the process by which the design generates freshwater and cool air in a desert environment lacking in these things.

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

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

Explanation

Choices B and C are correct. This question asks the reader which of the three phenomena listed in the answer choices is used in the process described in the passage.

Choice A is incorrect: the passage does not indicate that the tendency of hot air to rise is used in the process, and in fact says that heated air is drawn down, not up, as part of the greenhouse design.

Choice B is correct: the second sentence describes the orientation of a perforated cardboard wall toward the prevailing wind so that hot air blows in and is moistened.

Choice C is correct: the passage describes the use of seawater to cool hot desert air and to provide moisture that is absorbed by heated air and then condensed on a seawater-cooled surface for the purpose of irrigating the plants.

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

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

Explanation

All three choices are correct. This question asks the reader which of the three effects listed in the answer choices are intended as part of the design of the greenhouse roof.

Choice A is correct: the purpose of the double-layered roof is to trap solar heat before it gets inside the greenhouse proper.

Choice B is correct: the coating on the inner layer of the roof allows visible sunlight into the greenhouse.

Choice C is correct: the last two sentences of the passage describe how heated air from the roof is drawn down to mix with greenhouse air, resulting in the collection of distilled water for irrigation purposes.

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

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

Description

The passage discusses a critical view concerning the unity of structure of *Wuthering Heights*, then, following the use of "However," expresses a reservation about that view.

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

Explanation

This question requires the reader to identify which of the given relationships between the novel's first and second parts is one that is described in the passage. According to the first sentence, the first part of the novel tends to confirm the "romantic" reading more strongly than the second. Therefore, **Choice D** is correct. Nothing in the passage suggests that critics have paid more attention to the second part, that the two parts have little relation, or that the second part is better. Therefore, Choices A, B, and E are incorrect. Choice C is a more extreme statement than any found in the passage, and therefore it is incorrect.

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

Explanation

This question focuses on the passage's mention of Henry James and asks what can be inferred from it. The third sentence implies that James represents a very high degree of authorial awareness of novelistic construction and that no such claim is necessarily being made for Brontë. Thus, **Choice B** is the correct answer. Choice A is incorrect, since the passage does not imply that there are particular difficulties that James understood uniquely among novelists. Choice C is incorrect because the passage does not state or imply that James read Brontë. The passage also does not say anything about commentators' opinions of the unity of James's works; therefore Choice D is incorrect. Choice E is incorrect because the passage itself offers no information about the unity of James's novels.

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

Explanation

This question requires the reader to determine what can be inferred from the passage about its author's view of the interpretation of novels. Choice A may seem attractive because in the passage the author says that *Wuthering Heights* has heterogeneous elements that resist inclusion in a unifying interpretive scheme. Choice A is incorrect, however, because the author does not indicate that the unification of different elements is to be avoided in interpretation generally. By contrast, the author's parenthetical statement about rigidity does present a general warning against inflexibility of interpretation, and it is this that supports **Choice B** as the correct answer. Choice C is incorrect, as the author actually suggests the contrary of this view in the second sentence of the passage. Although the author mentions recalcitrant elements of *Wuthering Heights*, there is no suggestion by the author that such elements deserve a special focus in interpretation. Therefore Choice D is incorrect. The author of the passage does not indicate which elements, if any, of novelistic construction are most worthy of consideration. Therefore Choice E is incorrect.

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

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

Explanation

Choice B is correct. This question asks the reader which of the three statements about *Hamlet* listed in the answer choices are suggested by the author of the passage.

Choice A is incorrect: the passage does not provide information about the characteristics of the usual critical interpretations of *Hamlet*.

Choice B is correct: *Hamlet* is mentioned only in the final sentence of the passage, which refers to “this respect” in which *Hamlet* and *Wuthering Heights* are similar. The previous sentence reveals the point of similarity referred to: *Wuthering Heights* has elements that resist inclusion in an all-encompassing interpretive framework.

Choice C is incorrect: the passage mentions only a feature shared between *Hamlet* and *Wuthering Heights*. It does not suggest anything about a difference in their openness to a particular critical interpretation.