

Assignment 2 Solutions

QUESTION 1

Choice A is the best answer. The narrator admits that his job is “irksome” (line 7) and reflects on the reasons for his dislike. The narrator admits that his work is a “dry and tedious task” (line 9) and that he has a poor relationship with his superior: “the antipathy which had sprung up between myself and my employer striking deeper root and spreading denser shade daily, excluded me from every glimpse of the sunshine of life” (lines 28-31).

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the narrator does not become increasingly competitive with his employer, publicly defend his choice of occupation, or exhibit optimism about his job.

QUESTION 2

Choice B is the best answer. The first sentence of the passage explains that people do not like to admit when they’ve chosen the wrong profession and that they will continue in their profession for a while before admitting their unhappiness. This statement mirrors the narrator’s own situation, as the narrator admits he finds his own occupation “irksome” (line 7) but that he might “long have borne with the nuisance” (line 10) if not for his poor relationship with his employer.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the first sentence does not discuss a controversy, focus on the narrator’s employer, Edward Crimsworth, or provide any evidence of malicious conduct.

QUESTION 3

Choice C is the best answer. The first paragraph shifts from a general discussion of how people deal with choosing an occupation they later regret (lines 1-6) to the narrator’s description of his own dissatisfaction with his occupation (lines 6-33).

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the first paragraph does not focus on the narrator’s self-doubt, his expectations of life as a tradesman, or his identification of alternatives to his current occupation.

QUESTION 4

Choice A is the best answer. In lines 27-33, the narrator is describing the hostile relationship between him and his superior, Edward Crimsworth. This relationship causes the narrator to feel like he lives in the “shade” and in “humid darkness.” These words evoke the narrator’s feelings of dismay toward his current occupation and his poor relationship with his superior — factors that cause him to live without “the sunshine of life.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the words “shade” and “darkness” do not reflect the narrator’s sinister thoughts, his fear of confinement, or his longing for rest.

QUESTION 5

Choice D is the best answer. The narrator states that Crimsworth dislikes him because the narrator may “one day make a successful tradesman” (line 43). Crimsworth recognizes that the narrator is not “inferior to him” but rather more intelligent, someone who keeps “the padlock of silence on mental wealth in which [Crimsworth] was no sharer” (lines 44-48). Crimsworth feels inferior to the narrator and is jealous of the narrator’s intellectual and professional abilities.

Choices A and C are incorrect because the narrator is not described as exhibiting “high spirits” or “rash actions,” but “Caution, Tact, [and] Observation” (line 51). Choice B is incorrect because the narrator’s “humble background” is not discussed.

QUESTION 6

Choice B is the best answer. Lines 61-62 state that the narrator “had long ceased to regard Mr. Crimsworth as my brother.” In these lines, the term “brother” means friend or ally, which suggests that the narrator and Crimsworth were once friendly toward one another.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the narrator originally viewed Crimsworth as a friend, or ally, and later as a hostile superior; he never viewed Crimsworth as a harmless rival, perceptive judge, or demanding mentor.

QUESTION 7

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 61-62, the narrator states that he once regarded Mr. Crimsworth as his “brother.” This statement provides evidence that the narrator originally viewed Crimsworth as a sympathetic ally.

Choices A, B, and C do not provide the best evidence for the claim that Crimsworth was a sympathetic ally. Rather, choices A, B, and C provide evidence of the hostile relationship that currently exists between the narrator and Crimsworth.

QUESTION 8

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 48-53, the narrator states that he exhibited “Caution, Tact, [and] Observation” at work and watched Mr. Crimsworth with “lynx-eyes.” The narrator acknowledges that Crimsworth was “prepared to steal snake-like” if he caught the narrator acting without tact or being disrespectful toward his superiors (lines 53-56). Thus, Crimsworth was trying to find a reason to place the narrator “in a ridiculous or mortifying position” (lines 49-50) by accusing the narrator of acting unprofessionally. The use of the lynx and snake serve to emphasize the narrator and Crimsworth’s adversarial, or hostile, relationship.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the description of the lynx and snake does not contrast two hypothetical courses of action or convey a resolution. Choice C is incorrect because while lines 48-56 suggest that Crimsworth is trying to find a reason to fault the narrator’s work, they do not imply that an altercation, or heated dispute, between the narrator and Crimsworth is likely to occur.

QUESTION 9

Choice B is the best answer. Lines 73-74 state that the narrator noticed there was no “cheering red gleam” of fire in his sitting-room fireplace. The lack of a “cheering,” or comforting, fire suggests that the narrator sometimes found his lodgings to be dreary or bleak.

Choices A and D are incorrect because the narrator does not find his living quarters to be treacherous or intolerable. Choice C is incorrect because while the narrator is walking home he speculates about the presence of a fire in his sitting-room’s fireplace (lines 69-74), which suggests that he could not predict the state of his living quarters.

QUESTION 10

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 68-74, the narrator states that he did not see the “cheering” glow of a fire in his sitting-room fireplace. This statement provides evidence that the narrator views his lodgings as dreary or bleak.

Choices A, B, and C do not provide the best evidence that the narrator views his lodgings as dreary. Choices A and C are incorrect because they do not provide the narrator’s opinion of his lodgings, and choice B is incorrect because lines 21-23 describe the narrator’s lodgings only as “small.”

QUESTION 11

Choice C is the best answer. The author states that “demographic inversion is not a proxy for population growth” (lines 32-33). In other words, demographic inversion is distinct from population growth. The author also notes that demographic inversion is evident in many American cities, as it “can occur in cities that are growing, those whose numbers are flat, and even in those undergoing a modest decline in size” (lines 33-35).

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not summarize the first paragraph.

QUESTION 12

Choice D is the best answer. The author notes that one of “the most powerful demographic events of the past decade [was] the movement of African Americans out of central cities” (lines 14-17).

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the author does not state that the unemployed, immigrants, or young professionals moved away from central-city areas in large numbers in the early 2000s.

QUESTION 13

Choice A is the best answer. The author states that democratic inversion “can occur in cities that are growing, those whose numbers are flat, and even in those undergoing a modest decline in size” (lines 33-35). In this context, cities whose “numbers,” or population size, are “flat” have static, or unchanging, populations.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in this context, “flat” does not mean deflated, featureless, or obscure.

QUESTION 14

Choice B is the best answer. The author states that many major American cities are currently experiencing economic hardship, or “enormous fiscal problems,” because of “public pension obligations they incurred in the more prosperous years of the past two decades” (lines 36-39). The author then provides the example of Chicago, a city that can no longer afford to pay the “public services to which most of [its] citizens have grown to feel entitled” (lines 41-43). The author is arguing that many major American cities face economic hardship due to past promises (such as public services) they made to their constituents.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the passage does not discuss expected tax increases, an inner-city tax base, or manufacturing production as they relate to the financial status of many major American cities.

QUESTION 15

Choice A is the best answer. In lines 36-39, the author provides evidence that many major American cities are currently experiencing economic hardship due to promises made in past years: “America’s major cities face enormous fiscal problems, many of them the result of public pension obligations they incurred in the more prosperous years of the past two decades.” America’s major cities made past promises, such as “public pension obligations,” to their citizens, which caused their current financial situation.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not provide evidence that many major American cities are currently experiencing economic hardship due to promises made in past years.

QUESTION 16

Choice C is the best answer. The author explains how sociologist Ernest W. Burgess determined that urban areas have a traditional four-zone structure (lines 54-63). He then states that Burgess was “right about the urban America of 1974” (line 65) as it also followed the traditional four-zone structure: “Virtually every city in the country had a downtown, where the commercial life of the metropolis was conducted; it had a factory district just beyond; it had districts of working-class residences just beyond that; and it had residential suburbs for the wealthy and the upper middle class at the far end of the continuum” (lines 66-71).

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the passage does not imply that American cities in 1974 were witnessing the flight of minority populations to the suburbs, had begun to lose their manufacturing sectors, or were already experiencing demographic inversion.

QUESTION 17

Choice C is the best answer. In lines 66-71, the author provides evidence that American cities in 1974 had a traditional four-zone structure: “Virtually every city in the country had a downtown, where the commercial life of the metropolis was conducted; it had a factory district just beyond; it had districts of working-class residences just beyond that; and it had residential suburbs for the wealthy and the upper middle class at the far end of the continuum.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not provide evidence that American urban cities in 1974 had a traditional four-zone structure. Choice A references a seminal paper on the layout of American cities, choice B identifies Burgess’s original theory, and choice D focuses on movement to the suburbs.

QUESTION 18

Choice A is the best answer. In lines 66-68, the author notes that American cities in 1974 each had a “downtown, where the commercial life of the metropolis was conducted.” In this context, the author is stating that these cities “conducted,” or carried out, business, the “commercial life,” in downtown areas.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in this context, “conducted” does not mean supervised, regulated, or inhibited.

QUESTION 19

Choice B is the best answer. Chart 1 shows the percentage of the US population in 2010 that lived in non-metro, small metro, and large metro areas. While the author cites census numbers, he notes that “when it comes to measuring demographic inversion, raw census numbers are an ineffective blunt instrument” (lines 11-13). Census data refer to the number of people living in a specific area

and the demographic information that's been collected on them. The author would most likely consider the information in chart 1 to be possibly accurate but an "ineffective blunt instrument" that's not truly informative.

Choices A and C are incorrect because the author would not consider census data to be excellent or compelling. Choice D is incorrect because while the author does not believe the census completely explains demographic inversion, he would be unlikely to disagree with the census data.

QUESTION 20

Choice A is the best answer. Chart 2 shows that the growth of all metropolitan areas in the 1990s was higher than the growth in all metropolitan areas in the 2000s: large metro areas experienced a growth of 14.3% in the 1990s versus a growth of 10.9% in the 2000s, small metro areas experienced a growth of 13.1% in the 1990s versus a growth of 10.3% in the 2000s, and non-metro areas experienced a growth of 9.0% in the 1990s versus a growth of 4.5% in the 2000s.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not accurately characterize the US growth rate by metro size from 2000-2010 as illustrated in chart 2.

QUESTION 21

Choice D is the best answer. Chart 2 shows that in the 1990s the US population increased in large metro, small metro, and non-metro areas when compared to the population growth experienced in the 1980s. Large metro areas experienced a growth of 12.5% in the 1980s versus a growth of 14.3% in the 1990s, small metro areas experienced a growth of 8.8% in the 1980s versus a growth of 13.1% in the 1990s, and non-metro areas experienced a growth of 1.8% in the 1980s versus a growth of 9.0% in the 1990s. Given this information, the population grew more in all metro areas in the 1990s when compared to the growth of those areas in the 1980s.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they do not draw an accurate conclusion about the US growth rate in the 1990s.

QUESTION 22

Choice C is the best answer. The author of Passage 1 indicates that people can benefit from using screen-based technologies as these technologies strengthen “certain cognitive skills” (line 3) and the “brain functions related to fast-paced problem solving” (lines 14-15).

Choice A is incorrect because the author of Passage 1 cites numerous studies of screen-based technologies. Choice B is incorrect because it is not supported by Passage 1, and choice D is incorrect because while the author mentions some benefits to screen-based technologies, he does not encourage their use.

QUESTION 23

Choice A is the best answer. In lines 3-4, the author of Passage 1 provides evidence that the use of screen-based technologies has some positive effects: “Certain cognitive skills are strengthened by our use of computers and the Net.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not provide the best evidence that the use of screen-based technologies has some positive effects. Choices B, C, and D introduce and describe the author’s reservations about screen-based technologies.

QUESTION 24

Choice B is the best answer. The author of Passage 1 cites Patricia Greenfield’s study, which found that people’s use of screen-based technologies weakened their ability to acquire knowledge, perform “inductive analysis” and “critical thinking,” and be imaginative and reflective (lines 34-38). The author of Passage 1 concludes that the use of screen-based technologies interferes with people’s ability to think “deeply” (lines 47-50).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the author of Passage 1 does not address how using the Internet affects people’s health, social contacts, or self-confidence.

QUESTION 25

Choice C is the best answer. In lines 39-41, the author states, “We know that the human brain is highly plastic; neurons and synapses change as circumstances change.” In this context, the brain is “plastic” because it is malleable, or able to change.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in this context “plastic” does not mean creative, artificial, or sculptural.

QUESTION 26

Choice B is the best answer. In lines 60-65, the author of Passage 2 explains how speed-reading does not “revamp,” or alter, how the brain processes information. He supports this statement by explaining how Woody Allen’s reading of *War and Peace* in one sitting caused him to describe the novel as “about Russia.” Woody Allen was not able to comprehend the “famously long” novel by speed-reading it.

Choices A and D are incorrect because Woody Allen’s description of *War and Peace* does not suggest he disliked Tolstoy’s writing style or that he regretted reading the book. Choice C is incorrect because the anecdote about Woody Allen is unrelated to multitasking.

QUESTION 27

Choice D is the best answer. The author of Passage 2 states that people like novelists and scientists improve in their profession by “immers[ing] themselves in their fields” (line 79). Both novelists and scientists, in other words, become absorbed in their areas of expertise.

Choices A and C are incorrect because the author of Passage 2 does not suggest that novelists and scientists both take risks when they pursue knowledge or are curious about other subjects. Choice B is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 states that “accomplished people” don’t perform “intellectual calisthenics,” or exercises that improve their minds (lines 77-78).

QUESTION 28

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 83-90, the author of Passage 2 criticizes media critics for their alarmist writing: “Media critics write as if the brain takes on the qualities of whatever it consumes, the informational equivalent of ‘you are what you eat.’” The author then compares media critics’ “you are what you eat” mentality to ancient people’s belief that “eating fierce animals made them fierce.” The author uses this analogy to discredit media critics’ belief that consumption of electronic media alters the brain.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the final sentence of Passage 2 does not use ornate language, employ humor, or evoke nostalgia for the past.

QUESTION 29

Choice D is the best answer. The author of Passage 1 argues that online and other screen-based technologies affect people’s abilities to think deeply (lines 47-50). The author of Passage 2 argues that the effects of consuming electronic media are less drastic than media critics suggest (lines 81-82).

Choices A and B are incorrect because they discuss points made in the passages but not the main purpose of the passages. Choice C is incorrect because neither passage argues in favor of increasing financial support for certain studies.

QUESTION 30

Choice B is the best answer. The author of Passage 1 cites scientific research that suggests online and screen-based technologies have a negative effect on the brain (lines 25-38). The author of Passage 2 is critical of the research highlighted in Passage 1: “Critics of new media sometimes use science itself to press their case, citing research that shows how ‘experience can change the brain.’ But cognitive neuroscientists roll their eyes at such talk” (lines 51-54).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not accurately describe the relationship between the two passages. Passage 1 does not take a clinical approach to the topic. Passage 2 does not take a high-level view of a finding examined in depth in Passage 1, nor does it predict negative reactions to the findings discussed in paragraph 1.

QUESTION 31

Choice C is the best answer. In Passage 1, the author cites psychologist Patricia Greenfield’s finding that “every medium develops some cognitive skills at the expense of others” (lines 29-31). In Passage 2, the author states “If you train people to do one thing (recognize shapes, solve math puzzles, find hidden words), they get better at doing that thing, but almost nothing else” (lines 71-74). Both authors would agree that an improvement in one cognitive area, such as visual-spatial skills, would not result in improved skills in other areas.

Choice A is incorrect because hand-eye coordination is not discussed in Passage 2. Choice B is incorrect because Passage 1 does not suggest that critics of electronic media tend to overreact. Choice D is incorrect because neither passage discusses whether Internet users prefer reading printed texts or digital texts.

QUESTION 32

Choice B is the best answer. In Passage 1, the author cites Michael Merzenich's claim that when people adapt to a new cultural phenomenon, including the use of a new medium, we end up with a "different brain" (lines 41-43). The author of Passage 2 somewhat agrees with Merzenich's claim by stating, "Yes, every time we learn a fact or skill the wiring of the brain changes" (lines 54-56).

Choices A, C, and D do not provide the best evidence that the author of Passage 2 would agree to some extent with Merzenich's claim. Choices A and D are incorrect because the claims are attributed to critics of new media. Choice C is incorrect because it shows that the author of Passage 2 does not completely agree with Merzenich's claim about brain plasticity.

QUESTION 33

Choice B is the best answer. In lines 15-30, Stanton argues that men make all the decisions in "the church, the state, and the home." This absolute power has led to a disorganized society, a "fragmentary condition of everything." Stanton confirms this claim when she states that society needs women to "lift man up into the higher realms of thought and action" (lines 59-60).

Choices A and D are incorrect because Stanton does not focus on women's lack of equal educational opportunities or inability to hold political positions. Choice C is incorrect because although Stanton implies women are not allowed to vote, she never mentions that "poor candidates" are winning elections.

QUESTION 34

Choice A is the best answer. Stanton argues that women are repressed in society because men hold "high carnival," or have all the power, and make the rules in "the church, the state, and the home" (lines 15-30). Stanton claims that men have total control over women, "overpowering the feminine element everywhere" (line 17).

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because Stanton does not use the term "high carnival" to emphasize that the time period is freewheeling, or unrestricted; that there has been a scandalous decline in moral values; or that the power of women is growing.

QUESTION 35

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 15-22, Stanton states that men's absolute rule in society is "crushing out all the diviner qualities in human nature," such that society knows very "little of true manhood and womanhood." Stanton argues that society knows less about womanhood than manhood, because womanhood has "scarce been recognized as a power until within the last century." This statement indicates that society's acknowledgment of "womanhood," or women's true character, is a fairly recent historical development.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because Stanton describes men's control of society, their domination of the domestic sphere, and the prevalence of war and injustice as long-established realities.

QUESTION 36

Choice B is the best answer. In lines 15-22, Stanton provides evidence for the claim that society's acknowledgment of "womanhood," or women's true character, is a fairly recent historical development: "[womanhood] has scarce been recognized as a power until within the last century."

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not provide the best evidence that society's acknowledgment of "womanhood," or women's true character, is a fairly recent historical development. Rather, choices A, C, and D discuss men's character, power, and influence.

QUESTION 37

Choice B is the best answer. In lines 22-25, Stanton states, "Society is but the reflection of man himself, untempered by woman's thought; the hard iron rule we feel alike in the church, the state, and the home." In this context, man's "rule" in "the church, the state, and the home" means that men have a controlling force in all areas of society.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in this context "rule" does not mean a general guideline, an established habit, or a procedural method.

QUESTION 38

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 31-34, Stanton argues that people use the term "the strong-minded" to refer to women who advocate for "the right of suffrage," or the right to vote in elections. In this context, people use the term "the strong-minded" to criticize female suffragists, as they believe voting will make women too "masculine."

Choices A and B are incorrect because Stanton does not suggest that people use the term "the strong-minded" as a compliment. Choice C is incorrect because Stanton suggests that "the strong-minded" is a term used to criticize women who want to vote, not those who enter male-dominated professions.

QUESTION 39

Choice C is the best answer. In lines 35-38, Stanton states that society contains hardly any women in the “best sense,” and clarifies that too many women are “reflections, varieties, and dilutions of the masculine gender.” Stanton is suggesting that there are few “best,” or genuine, women who are not completely influenced or controlled by men.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in this context “best” does not mean superior, excellent, or rarest.

QUESTION 40

Choice A is the best answer. In lines 53-55, Stanton argues that man “mourns,” or regrets, how his power has caused “falsehood, selfishness, and violence” to become the “law” of society. Stanton is arguing that men are lamenting, or expressing regret about, how their governance has created problems.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because Stanton does not suggest that men are advocating for women’s right to vote or for female equality, nor are they requesting women’s opinions about improving civic life.

QUESTION 41

Choice B is the best answer. In lines 53-55, Stanton provides evidence that men are lamenting the problems they have created, as they recognize that their actions have caused “falsehood, selfishness, and violence [to become] the law of life.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not provide the best evidence that men are lamenting the problems they have created. Choice A explains society’s current fragmentation. Choices C and D present Stanton’s main argument for women’s enfranchisement.

QUESTION 42

Choice D is the best answer. In the sixth paragraph, Stanton differentiates between men and masculine traits. Stanton argues that masculine traits or “characteristics,” such as a “love of acquisition and conquest,” serve to “subjugate one man to another” (lines 67-78). Stanton is suggesting that some masculine traits position men within certain power structures.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the sixth paragraph does not primarily establish a contrast between men and women or between the spiritual and material worlds. Choice C is incorrect because although Stanton argues that not “all men are hard, selfish, and brutal,” she does not discuss what constitutes a “good” man.

changing, and the opinions of men change also; and as government is for the living, and not for the dead, it is the living only that has any right in it” (lines 73-76).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not identify the main purpose of both passages.

QUESTION 43

Choice C is the best answer. The author explains that a “powerful volcano” erupted around 750 years ago and caused “a centuries-long cold snap known as the Little Ice Age” (lines 1-3). The author then states that a group of scientists believe the volcano Samalas was this “powerful volcano,” and she explains how the scientists’ research supports this claim (lines 17-78).

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not identify the main purpose of the passage.

QUESTION 44

Choice B is the best answer. The author begins the passage by explaining how the Little Ice Age was a “centuries-long cold snap” that was likely caused by a volcanic eruption (lines 1-3). The author then explains how scientists used radiocarbon analysis to determine when the Little Ice Age began and how a volcanic eruption triggered the cooling temperatures (lines 17-25).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the passage does not criticize a scientific model, offer a new method of measuring sulfates, or shift from the use of radiocarbon dating to an examination of volcanic glass.

QUESTION 45

Choice A is the best answer. In lines 17-25, the passage shifts focus from describing a recorded event to providing evidence that the Little Ice Age was likely caused by a volcanic eruption. The passage states that scientists used “radiocarbon dating of dead plant material from beneath the ice caps on Baffin Island and Iceland, as well as ice and sediment core data” to determine when the Little Ice Age began and how it was connected to the “mystery” volcanic eruption.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not provide the best evidence that the passage shifts focus from a description of a recorded event to its likely cause. Choices B, C, and D all focus on the scientists’ research but do not explain what caused the Little Ice Age.

QUESTION 46

Choice D is the best answer. According to lines 5-8, “That a powerful volcano erupted somewhere in the world, sometime in the Middle Ages, is written in polar ice cores in the form of layers of sulfate

deposits and tiny shards of volcanic glass.” The phrase “is written in” reinforces the idea that the polar ice caps contain evidence of the volcanic eruption, and that scientists can interpret this evidence by examining the “sulfate deposits and tiny shards of volcanic glass.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the author does not use the phrase “is written in” to demonstrate the concept of the hands-on nature of the scientists’ work, highlight the fact that scientists often write about their work, or underscore the sense of importance scientists have about their work.

QUESTION 47

Choice A is the best answer. The scientists believe the volcano Samalas, located in Indonesia, was most likely the medieval volcanic eruption (lines 33-35). The eruption likely occurred near the equator because an equatorial location is “consistent with the apparent climate impacts” the scientists observed (lines 61-67).

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the scientists do not suggest that the medieval volcanic eruption was located in the Arctic region, the Antarctic region, or Ecuador.

QUESTION 48

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 61-64, the author cites geochemist Gifford Miller’s findings that provide evidence that the medieval volcanic eruption most likely occurred in Indonesia near the equator: “It’s not a total surprise that an Indonesian volcano might be the source of the eruption, Miller says. ‘An equatorial eruption is more consistent with the apparent climate impacts.’”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they do not provide evidence that the medieval volcanic eruption most likely occurred in Indonesia near the equator. Rather, choices A, B, and C focus on the medieval volcano’s power, impact, and magnitude.

QUESTION 49

Choice C is the best answer. In lines 68-71, the author states, “Another possible candidate — both in terms of timing and geographical location — is Ecuador’s Quilotoa, estimated to have last erupted between 1147 and 1320 C.E.” The phrase “another possible candidate” implies that the scientists believe that in the Middle Ages a different volcanic eruption, such as an eruption from the volcano Quilotoa, could have been responsible for the onset of the Little Ice Age.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the phrase “another possible candidate” does not imply the frequency or effects of volcanic eruptions, or that some volcanoes have large calderas.

QUESTION 50

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 71-75, the author explains how Lavigne’s team proved that Quilotoa’s eruption did not cause the Little Ice Age:

“But when Lavigne’s team examined shards of volcanic glass from this volcano, they found that they didn’t match the chemical composition of the glass found in polar ice cores, whereas the Samalas glass is a much closer match.” These findings show that Samalas, not Quilotoa, was responsible for the onset of the Little Ice Age.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they focus on the difficulty of identifying the volcano responsible for the Little Ice Age, the magnitude of the volcanic eruption, and the researchers’ experiment.

QUESTION 51

Choice C is the best answer. The data in the figure show the greatest below-average temperature variation occurred in 1675 CE, as the temperature reached a variation of -1.0° Celsius.

Choice A is incorrect because the figure shows that the temperature in 1200 CE was above average ($+0.25^{\circ}$ Celsius). Choices B and D are incorrect because the below-average temperature variation reported in 1675 CE (at -1.0° Celsius) was greater than the below-average temperature variation reported for 1375 CE (around -0.25° Celsius) and 1750 CE (around -0.5° Celsius).

QUESTION 52

Choice B is the best answer. The passage says that the Little Ice Age began “about 750 years ago” (line 1) and that “the cold summers and ice growth began abruptly between 1275 and 1300 C.E.” (lines 23-24). The figure indicates that average temperatures in central England began to drop around 1275 CE, and this drop in temperatures continued “through the 1700s” (line 32).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the passage and figure do not indicate that the Little Ice Age began around 1150 CE, just before 1500 CE, or around 1650 CE.

QUESTION 53

Choice A is the best answer. The figure shows that the greatest cooling period of the Little Ice Age occurred between 1500 and 1700 CE; it also shows that the greatest warming period of the Medieval Warm Period occurred between 1150 and 1250 CE. Therefore, the Little Ice Age’s greatest cooling occurred a couple of centuries, or “hundreds of years,” after the temperature peaks of the Medieval Warm Period.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the figure does not focus on equatorial volcanic eruptions, pyroclastic flows, or radiocarbon analysis.