

Question ID 88b4e212

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 88b4e212

Jackie Ormes’s *Torchy Brown in Dixie to Harlem* (1937–38) was the first comic strip by a Black woman to appear in a widely read newspaper. The strip tells the story of Torchy, a young woman who leaves Mississippi to become a performer in New York City. Torchy’s story reflects the experience of the Great Migration (1910–1970), when millions of Black Americans left the South in search of opportunities in other parts of the United States. *Torchy Brown* thus shows how Ormes used comics to comment humorously on issues affecting Black Americans, which she continued to do throughout her career.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To show how Ormes’s *Torchy Brown* inspired other Black women to write comic strips in the 1930s
- B. To illustrate how the subjects Ormes addressed in her comic strips changed over the course of her career
- C. To give an example of how Ormes presented the experiences of Black Americans in her comic strips
- D. To claim that several characters in *Torchy Brown* were based on people that Ormes knew personally

ID: 88b4e212 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text describes how *Torchy Brown* depicted the experiences of a young Black woman experiencing America’s Great Migration. It further states that Ormes continued to use comics throughout her career to humorously comment on important issues impacting Black Americans.

Choice A is incorrect. The text never mentions other Black women comic strip writers. Choice B is incorrect. The text never mentions any changes in the subjects Ormes addressed. Choice D is incorrect. The text never mentions the inspiration for characters in *Torchy Brown*.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e2666b77

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: e2666b77

The following text is from Srimati Svarna Kumari Devi’s 1894 novel *The Fatal Garland* (translated by A. Christina Albers in 1910). Shakti is walking near a riverbank that she visited frequently during her childhood.

She crossed the woods she knew so well. The trees seemed to extend their branches like welcoming arms. They greeted her as an old friend. Soon she reached the river-side.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It suggests that Shakti feels uncomfortable near the river.
- B. It indicates that Shakti has lost her sense of direction in the woods.
- C. It emphasizes Shakti’s sense of belonging in the landscape.
- D. It conveys Shakti’s appreciation for her long-term friendships.

ID: e2666b77 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence of the text states that Shakti knows the woods she is walking in well. The next sentence, which is underlined, emphasizes Shakti’s familiarity with, and sense of security within, the woods by describing how the tree branches are friendly and “welcoming,” as they are depicted as extending open arms to her. The remainder of the text also shows that Shakti is comfortable and content in the woods by describing her as “an old friend” of the trees. Thus, the function of the underlined portion is to emphasize Shakti’s sense of belonging in the wooded landscape that she visits.

Choice A is incorrect because the text and underlined portion suggest that Shakti is comfortable, not uncomfortable, in her surroundings: the trees around her are described as welcoming and reassuring. Moreover, the underlined portion discusses Shakti’s feelings in the forest, not the river, since she hasn’t reached the river yet. Choice B is incorrect because the text and underlined portion emphasize Shakti’s familiarity with the woods. The trees are inviting, and she feels like “an old friend” to the woods, so she isn’t lost or confused there. Choice D is incorrect because the third sentence uses the phrase “as an old friend” figuratively in reference to Shakti’s sense of familiarity with the landscape, not in reference to her long-standing friendships with other people, and the text and underlined portion never discuss her feelings about such friendships.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6d533192

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 6d533192

The majority of plastics today wind up in landfills or are, at best, recycled into materials that have a very limited range of applications. To address this problem, chemist Guoliang Liu and colleagues designed a reactor that melts polyethylene and polypropylene—two widely used plastics—into a wax. The wax can then be transformed into a surfactant (a chemical compound usable as a detergent). With this promising new method, plastic waste could be turned into a range of useful cleaning products.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined portion of the text?

- A. It clarifies the meaning of a scientific term.
- B. It describes an environmental concern.
- C. It explains the significance of a scientific discovery.
- D. It identifies a result that confused the team.

ID: 6d533192 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined phrase functions in the text as a whole. The text states that the wax produced by Liu and colleagues’ reactor can be turned into a surfactant. The underlined phrase, which is set off with parentheses, then provides a definition for the term "surfactant," explaining that it’s a chemical compound that can be used as a detergent. Thus, the underlined portion of the text functions to clarify the meaning of a scientific term.

Choice B is incorrect. Though the text as a whole focuses broadly on an environmental concern, the underlined phrase does not; it simply indicates what a surfactant is. Choice C is incorrect. Though the text as a whole focuses on a scientific discovery (Liu and colleagues’ solution to the problem of plastic recycling), the underlined phrase does not explain its significance; it simply defines a scientific term used in the discussion. Choice D is incorrect. Though the text as a whole includes discussion of the result found by Liu and colleagues, the underlined phrase does not discuss it; it simply defines a scientific term used in the discussion. Additionally, at no point in the text is it mentioned that the team was confused.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID c014a78c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: c014a78c

In many agricultural environments, the banks of streams are kept forested to protect water quality, but it’s been unclear what effects these forests may have on stream biodiversity. To investigate the issue, biologist Xingli Giam and colleagues studied an Indonesian oil palm plantation, comparing the species richness of forested streams with that of nonforested streams. Giam and colleagues found that species richness was significantly higher in forested streams, a finding the researchers attribute to the role leaf litter plays in sheltering fish from predators and providing food resources.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It discusses research intended to settle a debate about how agricultural yields can be increased without negative effects on water quality.
- B. It explains the differences between stream-protection strategies used in oil palm plantations and stream-protection strategies used in other kinds of agricultural environments.
- C. It describes findings that challenge a previously held view about how fish that inhabit streams in agricultural environments attempt to avoid predators.
- D. It presents a study that addresses an unresolved question about the presence of forests along streams in agricultural environments.

ID: c014a78c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The author first describes an unresolved question: what effect do bank forests have on stream biodiversity? Then the author presents a study that answers the question: bank forests increase stream biodiversity.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn’t the main purpose of the text. The text never mentions agricultural yields. Choice B is incorrect. This isn’t the main purpose of the text. The text never mentions other kinds of agricultural environments. Choice C is incorrect. This isn’t the main purpose of the text. The text never mentions any previously held view about how fish in these streams try to avoid predators.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID bb453c44

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: bb453c44

Wakako Yamauchi is best known for *And the Soul Shall Dance*, her 1977 play about a Japanese American family in Southern California. The play is based on a short story Yamauchi had published three years earlier. Adapting the story wasn’t easy. Theater relies on dialogue between characters, but the original story features little dialogue and instead describes its characters’ silent thoughts. To transform the story into a play, Yamauchi created situations where characters reveal their thoughts by speaking them aloud during conversations with each other.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It offers information about how Yamauchi adapted her short story into a play.
- B. It argues that Yamauchi’s play influenced later playwrights.
- C. It explains why Yamauchi’s short story is better known than the play adaptation is.
- D. It describes how Yamauchi chose the actors who performed in the play.

ID: bb453c44 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it best describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. According to the text, it was hard for Yamauchi to adapt her short story into the play *And the Soul Shall Dance* because the story had included little dialogue, instead describing the characters’ silent thoughts. The underlined sentence offers information about how Yamauchi ultimately succeeded in adapting the story into a play: it explains that Yamauchi created situations where the characters of the play could reveal their internal thoughts while speaking with each other.

Choice B is incorrect because neither the underlined sentence nor the text as a whole makes any mention of playwrights other than Yamauchi or how the play might have influenced them. Choice C is incorrect because the text states that Yamauchi is best known for her play *And the Soul Shall Dance*, which conveys that the play is better known than the short story it’s based on is. Choice D is incorrect because neither the underlined sentence nor the text as a whole mentions the actors who performed in the play or Yamauchi’s approach to choosing them.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d27d34bc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: d27d34bc

Ordinary soap bubbles usually exist for a minute or less before popping due to either a rupture forced by gravity-induced drainage or the evaporation of the liquid from which the bubble is composed. But physicist Aymeric Roux and colleagues discovered ways to mitigate these factors, resulting in bubbles that can last for a year or more. For example, glycerol tends to adhere to water molecules, so a bubble with a shell that contains both water and glycerol is able to draw additional water molecules from the surrounding air and thereby compensate for evaporation.

Which choice best states the purpose of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It describes the effects of a process devised by researchers that increases the longevity of an object discussed in the text.
- B. It details the circumstances that prompted the research discussed in the text.
- C. It presents a reason why the phenomenon discussed in the text that the researchers wanted to avoid will inevitably occur.
- D. It mentions a method discussed in the text that researchers intend to test in future experiments.

ID: d27d34bc Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it describes how the underlined portion of the sentence functions in the text as a whole. The text begins by discussing ordinary soap bubbles, objects that usually exist for less than a minute before popping due to either evaporation or gravity-induced drainage. The text then goes on to mention work by researchers Aymeric Roux and colleagues, who have discovered how to increase the longevity of bubbles by altering their chemical composition. Finally, the underlined portion of the text describes how this process works: since the bubble contains both water and glycerol, it can draw water molecules from the surrounding air to replace those lost to evaporation. Therefore, the underlined portion of the sentence describes the effects of a process devised by researchers that increases the longevity of an object described in the text.

Choice B is incorrect because the circumstance that prompted the research is discussed in the first sentence of the text, not the underlined portion. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined portion of the text does not address why soap bubbles must eventually rupture. Rather, it explains how the longevity of soap bubbles can be extended. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined portion of the text does not mention any future experiments.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID a69df884

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: a69df884

The following text is adapted from Cynthia Kadohata’s 2004 novel *Kira-Kira*.

[Uncle Katsuhisa] was as loud as my father was quiet. Even when he wasn’t talking, he made a lot of noise, clearing his throat and sniffing and tapping his fingers.

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Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A. It lists the kinds of topics Uncle Katsuhisa enjoys discussing.
- B. It suggests that Uncle Katsuhisa dislikes meeting new people.
- C. It contrasts Uncle Katsuhisa with the narrator’s father.
- D. It describes a conversation between the narrator and the narrator’s father.

ID: a69df884 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The underlined sentence establishes a difference between Uncle Katsuhisa and the narrator’s father by describing Uncle Katsuhisa as "loud" and the narrator’s father as "quiet." The text then elaborates on that contrast, describing some ways Uncle Katsuhisa is very noisy even when he isn’t speaking.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate what kinds of topics Uncle Katsuhisa enjoys discussing, only that he is loud even when he isn’t speaking. Choice B is incorrect because the text never indicates how Uncle Katsuhisa feels about meeting new people, only how loud he is. Choice D is incorrect because the text never describes a conversation occurring between any people; it refers to talking only when stating that Uncle Katsuhisa is loud even when he isn’t speaking.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 27bccd45

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 27bccd45

Some bird species don't raise their own chicks. Instead, adult females lay their eggs in other nests, next to another bird species' own eggs. Female cuckoos have been seen quickly laying eggs in the nests of other bird species when those birds are out looking for food. After the eggs hatch, the noncuckoo parents will typically raise the cuckoo chicks as if they were their own offspring, even if the cuckoos look very different from the other chicks.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It introduces a physical feature of female cuckoos that is described later in the text.
- B. It describes the appearance of the cuckoo nests mentioned earlier in the text.
- C. It offers a detail about how female cuckoos carry out the behavior discussed in the text.
- D. It explains how other birds react to the female cuckoo behavior discussed in the text.

ID: 27bccd45 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first two sentences establish that birds of some species don't raise their own young; instead, they lay their eggs in the nests of birds of other species. The underlined sentence then states that female cuckoo birds engage in this behavior, having been observed specifically laying their eggs in other nests while the other birds are out finding food. According to the text, the cuckoo chicks are then raised by the other birds. Thus, the underlined sentence provides a particular detail about how female cuckoos carry out the behavior of laying eggs for other birds to raise.

Choice A is incorrect. Rather than mentioning a physical feature of female cuckoos, the underlined sentence introduces a specific behavior of female cuckoos: laying eggs in the nests of birds of other species when the other birds are away. The only reference to physical features is the last sentence's general mention of cuckoo chicks looking different from chicks of other species. Choice B is incorrect because the underlined sentence refers to the nests of birds other than cuckoos and doesn't describe how any nests look, cuckoo or otherwise. Instead, the sentence addresses how female cuckoos use other birds' nests. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined sentence describes only female cuckoo behavior (laying eggs in the nests of birds of other species when the other birds are away); it's the last sentence of the text that addresses the other birds' reaction, indicating that those birds usually raise the cuckoo chicks once they've hatched.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6b16c91b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 6b16c91b

The following text is adapted from George Bernard Shaw’s 1912 play *Pygmalion*. Henry Higgins has just arrived at the house of his mother (Mrs. Higgins). She is expecting her friends to visit soon.

MRS. HIGGINS: I’m serious, Henry. You offend all my friends: they stop coming whenever they meet you.
HIGGINS: Nonsense! I know I have no small talk; but people don’t mind.
MRS. HIGGINS: Oh! don’t they? Small talk indeed! What about your large talk? Really, dear, you mustn’t stay.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To describe what Henry’s mother does when she goes out with her friends
 - B. To show that Henry’s mother wants him to leave
 - C. To present a detailed account of what Henry’s home looks like
 - D. To explain why Henry often visits his mother

ID: 6b16c91b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately states the main purpose of the text, which is to show that Henry’s mother, Mrs. Higgins, wants Henry to leave her house. In the text, Mrs. Higgins complains that Henry offends all her friends and that they stop coming when he’s also visiting. She then tells him directly, "you mustn’t stay." The overall exchange conveys Mrs. Higgins’s intention for Henry to leave so as not to drive away her friends with his behavior.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate what Henry’s mother does when she’s out with her friends. Instead, it focuses on what goes on when Henry and her friends visit her at the same time, indicating that since her friends find Henry’s company disagreeable, she wishes him to leave before they arrive. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t contain an account of what Henry’s home looks like. The setting is established as the house of Henry’s mother, and the dialogue focuses solely on her wish that Henry should depart before her friends arrive. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t mention how often Henry visits his mother nor does it provide any explanation for why he visits his mother. Instead, it indicates that she thinks her friends dislike Henry and that she therefore wants him to depart before they arrive.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 98fff85c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 98fff85c

Companies are providing consumers with more opportunities to purchase customized products than ever before. Whether buying customized sneakers, jewelry, or clothing, consumers can participate in the design of products to meet their specific needs and tastes. In turn, companies profit too: studies have shown that consumers are willing to pay more and wait longer for a customized product. Still, it can be difficult for companies to offer customization while keeping costs low, as the standard methods of mass production may not be able to accommodate making a unique product each time.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It discusses several recent innovations in product manufacturing and then suggests some potential applications of those innovations.
- B. It describes a company’s recent success with new products and then explains multiple factors that may have contributed to that success.
- C. It introduces a trend in consumer products and then explains how the trend both benefits and poses a challenge to companies.
- D. It presents two contrasting product-marketing techniques and then provides examples of one of those techniques.

ID: 98fff85c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents the best description of the overall structure of the text. The text begins by stating that companies are increasingly giving consumers opportunities to customize products, allowing them to make design choices when buying certain sneakers, jewelry, and clothing. The text then indicates that although this trend benefits companies because they can successfully charge buyers more for customized products and don’t have to rush production, it also poses a challenge because producing unique items may require different and more expensive methods than the ones typically used for mass production, raising the companies’ costs. Thus, the text first introduces a trend in consumer products and then explains how the trend both benefits and poses a challenge to companies.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t present the customization of various products as a recent innovation—the fact that there are "more opportunities" now indicates that there were opportunities before—and no other innovations, in product manufacturing or otherwise, are discussed. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t discuss any particular company or example and instead speaks broadly about the trend of companies providing customizable products. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text discusses companies offering something that consumers like and are willing to pay more for—the ability to

customize products—it doesn't characterize this as a product-marketing technique and doesn't compare it to any other kind of offering or technique.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b4a053c7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: b4a053c7

In the early days of television in the 1940s, many people thought that US television programs would rely on the financial support of ad agencies and commercial sponsors, much like radio did. But advertisers hesitated to jump into a new space, particularly at a time when the manufacturing of new television sets was stalled due to the US’s involvement in World War II. Broadcasters, like the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), needed to persuade advertisers to support their programming despite not knowing whether there would be a robust television audience to begin with.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined phrase in the text as a whole?

- A. It compares the beginnings of radio programming with the beginnings of television programming in the United States.
- B. It identifies a specific reason behind some advertisers’ hesitance to support television.
- C. It describes how broadcasters attempted to convince advertisers to support television.
- D. It explains why a type of television programming was popular at the time.

ID: b4a053c7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it accurately describes the function of the underlined phrase in the text as a whole. According to the text, advertisers were reluctant to support television in its early days. The underlined phrase then indicates that this reluctance was partly due to the US’s involvement in World War II, which hindered television production. Thus, the underlined phrase identifies a specific reason behind some advertisers’ hesitance to support television.

Choice A is incorrect. The text merely mentions that television was expected to be financed through advertising, as radio was at the time. Nothing in the text compares the origins of radio and television. Choice C is incorrect. The underlined phrase focuses on a reason advertisers were reluctant to support television, not measures taken to convince advertisers to support television. Choice D is incorrect. The underlined phrase focuses on a reason advertisers were reluctant to support television, not what types of television programming were popular.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 40614504

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 40614504

In 1801, a Blackfoot chief named Ac Ko Mok Ki drew a finely detailed map of the Upper Missouri region. This work demonstrates a vast amount of topographic knowledge, as the map features specific names of mountains and rivers, as well as the first-known sketch of the drainage network of the Missouri River. The map is especially notable because Ac Ko Mok Ki also included details about the numerous tribes that lived in the area.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It emphasizes Ac Ko Mok Ki’s desire to represent other tribes on the map.
- B. It explains how Ac Ko Mok Ki developed an interest in mapmaking.
- C. It identifies some reasons why the map is impressive.
- D. It details how the map was used for hunting and trading purposes.

ID: 40614504 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The text presents information about a map drawn by Blackfoot chief Ac Ko Mok Ki in 1801. The underlined sentence states that the map "demonstrates a vast amount of topographic knowledge" and mentions that it features the "specific names of mountains and rivers" and includes the first-known sketch of the Missouri River’s drainage network. These are all characteristics that indicate that the map was executed with remarkable skill. Thus, the underlined sentence identifies some reasons why the map is impressive.

Choice A is incorrect. Though the sentence after the underlined sentence in the text mentions that Ac Ko Mok Ki included information about other tribes on his map, the underlined sentence itself does not address this topic. Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the underlined sentence indicates how Ac Ko Mok Ki became interested in mapmaking, only that his mapmaking skills are impressive. Choice D is incorrect because though the underlined sentence describes several features of the map, it does not specifically describe how the map was used.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6b04681b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 6b04681b

The following text is adapted from Pam Muñoz Ryan’s 2020 novel *Mañanaland*. In the village where Max lives, there is an old fortress called La Reina. Children in the village say that the fortress is haunted.

For as long as he could remember, Max had begged Papá [his father] to take him to see La Reina and the ruins up close. He’d be a hero among his friends if he was the first boy to cross the haunted gates! Just because Papá didn’t believe in ghosts didn’t mean they weren’t there. Maybe this summer Papá would finally take him. He was almost twelve.

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Which choice best describes the overall purpose of the text?

- A. To portray how proud Max’s father is of Max
- B. To explain why Max doesn’t want to grow up yet
- C. To criticize Max for disliking summer
- D. To show how much Max wants to visit La Reina

ID: 6b04681b Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall purpose of the text. The text indicates that "for as long as he could remember," Max had "begged" his father to take him to La Reina. This point is later emphasized in the text by indicating that "this summer" his father might "finally take" Max to visit La Reina. Thus, the purpose of the text as a whole is to show how much Max wants to visit La Reina.

Choice A is incorrect. The text does not discuss Papa’s feelings toward Max. Rather, it mentions that Max has long wanted Papa to take him to La Reina and that, unlike Max and some other children, Papa does not believe that La Reina is haunted. Choice B is incorrect. The text mentions that Max is "almost twelve" at the time, which suggests anticipation of growing up rather than refusal to. Choice C is incorrect. The text indicates that Max hopes to visit La Reina during the current summer, but nothing suggests that Max dislikes summer.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 90380e5c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 90380e5c

Were penguins always flightless? Theresa Cole and her team argue that penguins could fly at some point, but that they lost that ability more than 60 million years ago as they adapted to marine life. After examining various penguin fossils and genetic information, the researchers concluded that over time penguins developed underwater vision, blood oxygenation, and bone density better suited for swimming than flying. Thus, environmental conditions might have driven penguins to change from flyers to swimmers.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It defines a scientific term used in the sentence that follows.
- B. It contradicts a description in the sentence that follows.
- C. It provides an answer to the question in the previous sentence.
- D. It notes that the question in the previous sentence has not been researched.

ID: 90380e5c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The text begins with a question: have penguins always been unable to fly? The underlined sentence then presents an answer that has been offered by researchers, indicating that Theresa Cole and her team believe that penguins were once able to fly but lost that ability long ago as they began living in the sea. The text then describes the research that led to that answer. Thus, the function of the underlined sentence is to provide an answer to the question in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because none of the terms used in the sentence that follows are defined in the underlined sentence; no definitions are given at all. Instead, the sentence presents Theresa Cole and her team’s answer to the earlier question about penguins’ ability to fly. Choice B is incorrect because there is no contradiction between the underlined sentence and the sentence that follows since both convey that at some point penguins underwent adaptations that limited their ability to fly and helped them swim and live in the sea. Instead of contradicting later information, the underlined sentence presents an answer to the earlier question about penguins’ ability to fly. Choice D is incorrect because the question in the previous sentence is about penguins’ ability to fly and the underlined sentence presents Theresa Cole and her team’s answer to that question based on their research into penguin flight, which is described in the rest of the text.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 02e06d14

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 02e06d14

Streams and rivers carry soil and rocks from one location to another. But there is another way for these geological materials to move. Scientists call this process “aeolian transport.” In aeolian transport, winds move small particles of soil or rock over potentially great distances. Geologist Melisa Diaz and her team studied dust in Antarctica to find out if it was moved by aeolian transport. They discovered that the dust matched geological material in Australia. Aeolian transport had carried it from one continent to another, across thousands of miles of open ocean.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It presents Melisa Diaz’s remarks about difficulties that her team encountered.
- B. It introduces a scientific term that is used in the discussion that follows.
- C. It emphasizes the surprising nature of the findings that are presented.
- D. It explains the difference between two kinds of geological material.

ID: 02e06d14 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole. The first two sentences introduce the idea that soil and rocks can be moved from one location to another by something other than rivers and streams. The underlined sentence then states that the term used by scientists to refer to this process is “aeolian transport.” The discussion that follows explains what aeolian transport is (the movement of small geological materials over potentially great distances by the wind) and describes an example of a study that found that dust particles had been moved by aeolian transport from Australia to Antarctica. Thus, the underlined portion introduces a scientific term that is used in the discussion that follows.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined portion of the text doesn’t present any remarks from Melisa Diaz, nor does it suggest that Diaz and her team encountered difficulties in their study. Instead, the phrase in quotation marks in the underlined portion simply presents a term that is used by scientists to refer to a specific process discussed in the text. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in either the underlined portion or the text as a whole suggests that the findings of the study presented in the text were surprising or unexpected. In fact, the text suggests that Diaz and her team wanted to see if aeolian transport could explain the appearance of certain geological materials in Antarctica, and their findings did indeed confirm the involvement of aeolian transport. Choice D is incorrect. Although the first sentence of the text mentions soil and rocks, which are two different kinds of geological material, the underlined portion doesn’t refer to these materials, nor does it explain the difference between them. Rather, the underlined portion introduces the scientific term “aeolian transport,” which is used in the discussion that follows.

Question ID 2e6f2fb0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 2e6f2fb0

Researchers have found a nearly 164,000-year-old molar from a member of the archaic human species known as Denisovans in a cave in Laos, suggesting that Denisovans lived in a wider range of environments than indicated by earlier evidence. Before the discovery, Denisovans were thought to have lived only at high altitudes in relatively cold climates in what are now Russia and China, but the discovery of the tooth in Laos suggests that they may have lived at low altitudes in relatively warm climates in Southeast Asia as well.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It dismisses as untrue the research presented in the previous sentence.
- B. It defines a term used in the description that follows in the rest of the sentence.
- C. It emphasizes the main goal of the research introduced in the previous sentence.
- D. It provides context that clarifies the significance of the information that follows in the rest of the sentence.

ID: 2e6f2fb0 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text describes how a new discovery expands our understanding of Denisovans. The underlined portion describes what we used to believe about Denisovans, which helps the reader understand the significance of the discovery of the molar: it suggests that they lived in more places than we'd previously thought.

Choice A is incorrect. The underlined portion doesn't do this. Instead, it explains what we used to believe about Denisovans before the discovery—it doesn't dismiss the new discovery as false. Choice B is incorrect. The underlined portion doesn't do this. No term is defined here. Choice C is incorrect. The underlined portion doesn't do this. The text never tells us what the "goal" of the research was, just what its discovery was.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8be97589

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 8be97589

Hiroshi Senju is known worldwide for his paintings of waterfalls. These paintings are large and tend not to show the entire waterfall. Instead, Senju focuses on just the point where the falling water reaches the pool below, keeping the top of the waterfall out of view. While Senju’s paintings are rooted in art movements originating in the United States, the artist uses traditional Japanese techniques and materials that make his work instantly recognizable.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It introduces an artist and then explains some common characteristics of well-known paintings by that artist.
- B. It explains a specific painting technique and then provides examples of artists who use the technique.
- C. It describes a famous painting and then compares it to a lesser-known painting from the same time period.
- D. It gives an opinion on an artist and then suggests multiple reasons why the artist’s work has been largely overlooked.

ID: 8be97589 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The first sentence introduces Senju as a famous artist, while the next three sentences describe the defining features of his art, such as it only showing part of the waterfall and its origins in US art movements and Japanese techniques.

Choice B is incorrect. The text doesn’t provide examples of any other artists who use Senju’s techniques. Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn’t describe any single famous painting or make comparisons between paintings. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn’t provide an opinion on Senju (just facts), nor does it suggest that his art has been overlooked—in fact, it states that he is “known worldwide.”

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 36f95e96

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 36f95e96

The following text is from Georgia Douglas Johnson’s 1922 poem “Benediction.”

Go forth, my son,
Winged by my heart’s desire!
Great reaches, yet unknown,
Await
For your possession.
I may not, if I would,
Retrace the way with you,
My pilgrimage is through,
But life is calling you!

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To express hope that a child will have the same accomplishments as his parent did
- B. To suggest that raising a child involves many struggles
- C. To warn a child that he will face many challenges throughout his life
- D. To encourage a child to embrace the experiences life will offer

ID: 36f95e96 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it accurately states the text’s main purpose. The poem begins with the speaker urging a child to “go forth” with her encouragement (“my heart’s desire”). The speaker goes on to suggest that new experiences (“Great reaches, yet unknown”) lie ahead for the son that “life is calling” him to seek out. Thus, the main purpose is to encourage a child to embrace the experiences available to him in his life.

Choice A is incorrect because the speaker encourages the child to pursue new experiences (“Great reaches”) without knowing exactly what those experiences will be (“yet unknown”) or suggesting that they should match the speaker’s own accomplishments. Choice B is incorrect because the speaker focuses on positive possibilities for her son (“Great reaches, yet unknown”) and her enthusiastic encouragement to embrace those possibilities (“life is calling you!”), while there is no mention of raising a child or associated struggles. Choice C is incorrect because the speaker frames the possibilities for her son in a positive light when she says that “great reaches, yet unknown” are waiting for him, and this positive outlook for the son is consistent throughout the text.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ce4a476d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: ce4a476d

The following text is adapted from Louisa May Alcott’s 1869 novel *An Old-Fashioned Girl*. Polly, a teenager, is visiting her friend Fanny.

Fanny’s friends did not interest Polly much; she was rather afraid of them [because] they seemed so much older and wiser than herself, even those younger in years. They talked about things of which she knew nothing and when Fanny tried to explain, she didn’t find them interesting; indeed, some of them rather shocked and puzzled her.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To portray Polly’s reaction to Fanny’s friends
- B. To identify the topics Polly talks about with Fanny’s friends
- C. To explain how Fanny met some of her friends
- D. To illustrate how Fanny’s friends feel about Polly

ID: ce4a476d Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to show how Polly reacted to some of Fanny’s other friends. The text describes Polly as being frightened of Fanny’s friends because they seemed “much older and wiser” to her and elaborates that they “talked about things of which” Polly was unfamiliar, uninterested, and shocked. Thus, the main purpose of the text is to describe Polly’s impressions of Fanny’s other friends.

Choice B is incorrect because the text does not provide any of the topics Polly discussed with Fanny’s friends, stating only that Polly found the topics unfamiliar, uninteresting, and shocking. Choice C is incorrect because the text says nothing about how Fanny and her other friends first met. Choice D is incorrect because the focus of the text is on Polly’s feelings about Fanny’s other friends, not on the other friends’ feelings about Polly.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 74ce57b4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 74ce57b4

Genetic studies have led researchers to suggest that turtles are most closely related to the group that includes modern crocodiles. But studies of fossils have suggested instead that turtles are most closely related to other groups, such as the one that contains modern snakes. However, many of the fossil studies have relied on incomplete data sets. For a 2022 investigation, biologist Tiago R. Simões and colleagues examined more than 1,000 reptile fossils collected worldwide. From this large data set, they found clear agreement with the results of the genetic studies.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A. It offers an overview of the tools scientists use to examine fossils.
- B. It describes a limitation of some studies about the origin of turtles.
- C. It summarizes previous research on the evolution of crocodiles.
- D. It criticizes a widely held belief about genetic studies of reptiles.

ID: 74ce57b4 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence mentions that some fossil studies have relied on incomplete data sets, suggesting that these studies are limited in what they can tell us about turtles’ origins.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the incompleteness of the data sets studied, it doesn’t mention any tools or techniques used to examine fossils. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence doesn’t mention anything about the evolution of crocodiles. Choice D is incorrect. This sentence doesn’t directly mention or criticize any "widely held belief," and it focuses on a limitation of fossil studies of reptiles, not genetic studies.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 01785861

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 01785861

In most building demolitions, the building materials are destroyed and sent to landfills. City officials in Portland, Oregon, wanted to reduce this waste. The officials passed a law requiring demolition companies to deconstruct some buildings instead. Deconstruction involves carefully taking buildings apart piece by piece. Damage to the materials is avoided so that they can be reused in new constructions. A 2019 study found that 27 percent of materials from deconstructions in Portland were able to be reused. The remaining materials were processed for recycling instead of going to a landfill.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To explain an effort made by the city of Portland to reduce demolition waste and some results of that effort
- B. To show that popular support for measures that reduce demolition waste has increased since 2019
- C. To argue that building deconstruction is not as effective as other measures at reducing demolition waste
- D. To discuss laws aimed to reduce demolition waste in Portland and compare them to similar laws in other cities

ID: 01785861 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The author first describes a Portland law aimed at reducing demolition waste, and then goes on to explain that 27% of materials from building deconstructions were able to be reused and the rest were recycled.

Choice B is incorrect. The text never discusses the popularity of the law. Choice C is incorrect. The text never compares building deconstruction to other measures designed to reduce demolition waste. Choice D is incorrect. The text never mentions laws in cities other than Portland, Oregon.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 5085d3c6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 5085d3c6

In 2007, computer scientist Luis von Ahn was working on converting printed books into a digital format. He found that some words were distorted enough that digital scanners couldn’t recognize them, but most humans could easily read them. Based on that finding, von Ahn invented a simple security test to keep automated “bots” out of websites. The first version of the reCAPTCHA test asked users to type one known word and one of the many words scanners couldn’t recognize. Correct answers proved the users were humans and added data to the book-digitizing project.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To discuss von Ahn’s invention of reCAPTCHA
- B. To explain how digital scanners work
- C. To call attention to von Ahn’s book-digitizing project
- D. To indicate how popular reCAPTCHA is

ID: 5085d3c6 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main purpose of the text. After providing a brief introduction to computer scientist Luis von Ahn, the text focuses on discussing how von Ahn’s digitization work led to the invention of a digital security test known as reCAPTCHA.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t address how digital scanners work. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text mentions von Ahn’s book-digitizing project, that information is provided as a detail, not as the main purpose of the text. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t provide any indication of reCAPTCHA’s popularity; instead, it describes reCAPTCHA’s origin.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID dbcaf826

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: dbcaf826

Many films from the early 1900s have been lost. These losses include several films by the first wave of Black women filmmakers. We know about these lost movies only from small pieces of evidence. For example, an advertisement for Jennie Louise Touissant Welcome’s documentary *Doing Their Bit* still exists. There’s a reference in a magazine to Tressie Souders’s film *A Woman’s Error*. And Maria P. Williams’s *The Flames of Wrath* is mentioned in a letter and a newspaper article, and one image from the movie was discovered in the 1990s.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The text identifies a complex problem, then presents examples of unsuccessful attempts to solve that problem.
- B. The text summarizes a debate among researchers, then gives reasons for supporting one side in that debate.
- C. The text describes a general situation, then illustrates that situation with specific examples.
- D. The text discusses several notable individuals, then explains commonly overlooked differences between those individuals.

ID: dbcaf826 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The first three sentences describe the general situation: these early films have been lost, and we only know about them from small pieces of evidence. The rest of the text offers specific examples of the small pieces of evidence.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn’t the overall structure. The fact that we only know about these lost early films from small pieces of evidence isn’t presented as a “complex problem”—that’s too extreme. And the examples presented are not “unsuccessful attempts” to solve it. If anything, the examples represent a success, because we discovered that these films existed in the first place. Choice B is incorrect. This isn’t the overall structure. There’s no “debate” presented in the text, so there’s no “side” for the text to support. Choice D is incorrect. This isn’t the overall structure. The text doesn’t discuss any “differences” between the filmmakers.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 03241e06

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 03241e06

Archaeologists studying the ancient city of Pompeii in Italy recently discovered a well-preserved food shop known as a *thermopolium*. The site contains food remains, artworks, and decorations. These items give researchers a better understanding of what daily life in Pompeii may have been like. For example, the archaeologists found a ceramic jar that they believe likely contained a meat and seafood stew.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To compare ancient artworks with modern ones
- B. To discuss the political system of Italy
- C. To present a recent archaeological discovery
- D. To describe a region’s climate

ID: 03241e06 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The text states that archaeologists recently discovered a well-preserved food shop, or *thermopolium*, in Pompeii, Italy. The text then further describes the contents of the discovery and provides an example of what was found. Thus, the overall purpose of the text is to present a recent archaeological discovery.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text states that archaeologists found ancient artworks, it doesn’t compare these artworks to modern ones or to any other artworks. Choice B is incorrect. Although the archaeological discovery discussed in the text was made in Italy, the text doesn’t provide any information about politics or government in Italy. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t discuss the climate where the archaeological discovery was made or in any other region.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 2e3e4808

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 2e3e4808

In the 1950s, scientists didn’t know much about the ocean floor. Many scientists at the time believed that the ocean floor was mostly flat. But geologist Marie Tharp and her research partner, Bruce Heezen, proved that this idea was wrong. Using sonar data collected from the Atlantic Ocean, Tharp and Heezen showed that the floor was filled with canyons, mountains, and valleys.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It identifies a scientific belief that Tharp and Heezen showed to be wrong.
- B. It describes the design of Tharp and Heezen’s experiment.
- C. It emphasizes a disagreement between Tharp and Heezen.
- D. It presents data to support a claim that Tharp and Heezen made.

ID: 2e3e4808 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence of the text establishes that scientists didn’t know much about the ocean floor in the 1950s. The second sentence, which is underlined, describes what many scientists thought at the time—that the ocean floor was mostly flat. The remainder of the text establishes that the ocean floor is far from flat, citing research conducted by Marie Tharp and Bruce Heezen. Thus, the purpose of the underlined sentence is to identify a scientific belief that Tharp and Heezen showed to be wrong.

Choice B is incorrect. Although Tharp and Heezen’s work with sonar data in the Atlantic Ocean is mentioned later in the text, the underlined sentence doesn’t describe the design of their experiment. Instead, it identifies a belief held by scientists that Tharp and Heezen demonstrated to be wrong. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined sentence presents a belief held by many scientists in the 1950s; nowhere does the text mention a disagreement between Tharp and Heezen, whom the text describes as research partners working together to map the ocean floor. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn’t present data in support of a claim; instead, it presents a scientific belief that Tharp and Heezen’s work showed to be wrong.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 1a3cbb81

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 1a3cbb81

The following text is adapted from Oscar Wilde’s 1897 nonfiction work *De Profundis*.

People whose desire is solely for self-realisation never know where they are going. They can’t know. In one sense of the word it is of course necessary to know oneself: that is the first achievement of knowledge. But to recognise that the soul of a man is unknowable, is the ultimate achievement of wisdom. The final mystery is oneself. When one has weighed the sun in the balance, and measured the steps of the moon, and mapped out the seven heavens star by star, there still remains oneself. Who can calculate the orbit of his own soul?

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined question in the text as a whole?

- A. It reinforces the text’s skepticism about the possibility of truly achieving self-knowledge.
- B. It speculates that some readers will share the doubts expressed in the text about the value of self-knowledge.
- C. It cautions readers that the text’s directions for how to achieve self-knowledge are hard to follow.
- D. It concedes that the definition of self-knowledge advanced in the text is unpopular.

ID: 1a3cbb81 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text repeatedly claims that true self-knowledge can’t possibly be achieved, and this rhetorical question emphasizes that point.

Choice B is incorrect. The underlined question doesn’t do this. The text never expresses doubts about the value of self-knowledge—rather, the text expresses doubts about the possibility of achieving self-knowledge. Choice C is incorrect. The underlined question doesn’t do this. The text doesn’t provide directions for how to achieve self-knowledge—rather, it claims that true self-knowledge is impossible to achieve. Choice D is incorrect. The underlined question doesn’t do this. The text doesn’t ever define self-knowledge, and popularity isn’t mentioned in the text at all.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 0ea2bc8b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 0ea2bc8b

Jazz tap is a dance form that was first developed in African American communities. Jazz tap was heavily influenced by jazz music, which became widely popular in the United States in the 1920s. Tap dancers were inspired by jazz music’s quick rhythms and by the way jazz musicians would make up melodies as they played. As jazz music continued to develop in the 1930s and 1940s, jazz tap evolved with it. Because of jazz music’s influence, jazz tap quickly developed into a dance form that was very different from earlier kinds of tap dance.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It explains why audiences prefer some kinds of music over others.
- B. It discusses the development of a dance form.
- C. It describes how to play a musical instrument.
- D. It emphasizes the popularity of a famous dancer.

ID: 0ea2bc8b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best describes the main purpose of the text. The text indicates where and when jazz tap first developed (in African American communities in the 1920s) and what influenced it (the quick rhythms and improvisations in jazz music) and then explains that it evolved alongside jazz music in the 1930s and 1940s, resulting in a very different form of tap dance than had existed before. Therefore, the main purpose of the text is to discuss jazz tap’s development.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text indicates that jazz music became widely popular in the US in the 1920s and describes some of jazz music’s qualities, the text never explains why audiences prefer some kinds of music—jazz or otherwise—over others. Choice C is incorrect because the text never mentions any musical instruments and doesn’t describe how to play one. Choice D is incorrect because the text discusses jazz tap generally and never identifies a particular dancer, famous or otherwise.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 9115eb54

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 9115eb54

Composer Florence Price won first place for her score Symphony in E Minor at the 1932 Wanamaker Foundation Awards. The piece was performed the following year by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a significant recognition of its quality. Price continued to compose many musical pieces throughout her career, blending traditional Black spirituals with classical European Romantic musical traditions. In recent years, Price’s concertos and symphonies have been performed and recorded by several major orchestras, further preserving her work for others to enjoy.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To provide examples of Price’s importance as a composer
 - B. To argue that more major orchestras should perform Price’s compositions
 - C. To describe the musical styles that inspired many of Price’s symphonies
 - D. To compare Price’s scores with those of classical European composers

ID: 9115eb54 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text provides an overview of Florence Price’s importance by describing her success at the 1932 Wanamaker Foundation Awards, her blending of Black spirituals and classical European Romantic musical traditions, and the recent performances and recordings of her concertos and symphonies by major orchestras.

Choice B is incorrect. The text does mention that Price’s compositions have been performed and recorded by major orchestras, but it doesn’t argue that more orchestras should do so. Choice C is incorrect. The text does mention the blending of Black spirituals and classical European Romantic musical traditions, but only briefly, as part of a broader overview of Price’s career. Choice D is incorrect. The text mentions Price’s blending of Black spirituals with classical European Romantic musical traditions, but it doesn’t directly compare Price’s scores with those of classical European composers.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 74910ef4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 74910ef4

The following text is from Joan Didion’s memoir *The Year of Magical Thinking*. In the text, the author discusses her home life.

[I]n California we heated our houses by building fires. We built fires even on summer evenings, because the fog came in. Fires said we were home, we had drawn the circle, we were safe through the night.

©2005 by Joan Didion

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It illustrates that a fire provides comfort beyond physical warmth.
- B. It summarizes the information that came before it in the text.
- C. It explains that the house remains cold even in summer.
- D. It suggests that the author feels comfortable in her home with or without a fire.

ID: 74910ef4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first two sentences of the text establish that in California, houses were heated by building fires year-round. The underlined portion then indicates that the fires didn’t merely provide physical warmth: they also represented being "home" and feeling protected. The underlined portion thus illustrates that a fire provides comfort beyond physical warmth.

Choice B is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn’t summarize information that came before it. Whereas the previous two sentences describe fires’ ability to provide physical warmth to homes, the underlined portion focuses on the psychological comfort the fires offered. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text’s second sentence mentions that fires were built in the summer because fog came in, which may have cooled the house, this detail isn’t the focus of the underlined portion. Instead, the underlined portion indicates that fires were built for reasons beyond physical warmth: to create a sense of being home and safe. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined portion focuses on the emotional significance the author places on having a fire going inside the home. There is no indication that the author feels equally comfortable without a fire present.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 45f3c80a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 45f3c80a

Historians Tiya Miles and Roy E. Finkenbine have both documented the assistance Indigenous peoples gave to Black freedom seekers leaving the South before the US Civil War. Much of the historical evidence of this help comes from Indigenous oral traditions and from autobiographies written by the freedom seekers. One such narrative is Jermain Loguen’s autobiography, which tells about how Neshnabé (Potawatomi) villagers offered him food, lodging, and directions during his 1835 journey from Tennessee to Canada.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A. It provides an example of an autobiography that describes help given by an Indigenous people to a Black freedom seeker.
- B. It shows why Loguen decided to write in great detail about his experiences traveling from Tennessee to Canada in his autobiography.
- C. It argues that autobiographies are particularly important sources of information about geography in the United States before the Civil War.
- D. It suggests that most historians believe that Neshnabé villagers were more successful in assisting freedom seekers than other people were.

ID: 45f3c80a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The previous sentence broadly mentions "autobiographies written by the freedom seekers." This sentence identifies Loguen’s autobiography as a specific example.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence never explains why Loguen chose to write about his experiences. Choice C is incorrect. The previous sentence identifies autobiographies as useful sources of historical information about a specific topic, but not for "information about geography." The underlined sentence provides details of one autobiography as an example of a source of information about that specific topic (interactions between Indigenous people and Black freedom seekers). Choice D is incorrect. The text never discusses other specific people who helped freedom seekers, and therefore can’t make a comparison between the Neshnabé and anyone else.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID df5d1a01

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: df5d1a01

The following text is from Holly Goldberg Sloan’s 2017 novel *Short*.

More than two years ago my parents bought a piano from some people who were moving to Utah. Mom and Dad gave it to my brothers and me for Christmas. I had to act really happy because it was such a big present, but I pretty much hated the thing from the second it was carried into the hallway upstairs, which is right next to my bedroom. The piano glared at me. It was like a songbird in a cage. It wanted to be set free.

©2017 by Holly Goldberg Sloan

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. It explains why the narrator always wanted a piano close to her bedroom.
 - B. It establishes how the narrator feels about the piano.
 - C. It suggests that the narrator’s brothers are talented piano players.
 - D. It describes the event that led the narrator’s parents to buy a piano.

ID: df5d1a01 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best states the main purpose of the text, which is to establish the narrator’s feelings about the piano. The narrator reveals that she “had to act really happy” about the piano even though she “pretty much hated the thing” as soon as it was placed upstairs near her bedroom. The narrator also describes the piano as glaring at her and compares it to a caged bird that wants to be set free. These details establish the narrator’s feelings about the piano, suggesting that it makes her uneasy.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that the narrator hated having the piano upstairs right next to her bedroom, not that she wanted a piano to be close to her bedroom. Choice C is incorrect because the only information provided in the text about the narrator’s brothers is that they were given the piano along with the narrator. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not describe the event that led the narrator’s parents to buy the piano from the people moving to Utah. Instead, the text focuses on the narrator’s feelings about the piano after it was given to her and her brothers.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID fc9fc0c1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: fc9fc0c1

The following text is adapted from Jason Reynolds’s 2016 novel *Ghost*. The narrator, who is in middle school, is at a bus stop.

I just go there [to the bus stop] to look at the people working out. See, the gym across the street has this big window—like the whole wall is a window—and they have those machines that make you feel like you walking up steps and so everybody just be facing the bus stop, looking all crazy like they’re about to pass out. And trust me, there ain’t nothing funnier than that. So I check that out for a little while like it’s some kind of movie: *The About to Pass Out Show*, starring stair-stepper person one through ten.

©2016 by Jason Reynolds

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To give a reason why the narrator is excited to start middle school
- B. To describe an activity that the narrator finds amusing
- C. To explain a problem that the narrator has overcome
- D. To discuss a movie that the narrator saw in a theater

ID: fc9fc0c1 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The text describes how the narrator watches people working out at a gym through a window near a bus stop. The narrator says that "there ain’t nothing funnier" than watching people try to work out on the stair climber machine. Thus, the main purpose of the text is to describe an activity that the narrator finds amusing.

Choice A is incorrect because the text isn’t about the narrator beginning middle school. The text describes how the narrator finds people working out at a gym amusing and makes no mention of school life. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t mention any problems that the narrator currently has or has overcome. It just describes how the narrator finds watching people work out amusing. Choice D is incorrect because the narrator invents the made-up movie mentioned in the text. The text doesn’t indicate that the narrator has seen a movie in a theater. The focus of the text is on the narrator watching people at the gym, not watching a movie.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b40343d6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: b40343d6

Oral histories—whether they consist of interviews or recordings of songs and stories—can offer researchers a rich view of people’s everyday experiences. For her book about coal mining communities in Kentucky during the twentieth century, Karida Brown therefore relied in part on interviews with coal miners and their families. By doing so, she gained valuable insights into her subjects’ day-to-day lives.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It provides a little-known geographical fact about Kentucky.
- B. It argues that Karida Brown is an expert on United States politics.
- C. It presents a major historical event that took place in the twentieth century.
- D. It describes how Karida Brown benefited from incorporating oral history in her book.

ID: b40343d6 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The text begins by pointing out one of the advantages of oral histories: that they allow researchers to document the daily experiences of people. The text then goes on to describe how Karida Brown utilized interviews with coal miners and their families for her book about twentieth-century coal mining in Kentucky. The underlined sentence affirms that the general advantages of oral histories mentioned earlier in the text were also benefits in Brown’s particular case. Thus, the underlined sentence describes how Karida Brown benefited from incorporating oral history in her book.

Choice A is incorrect because though the text mentions coal miners who live in Kentucky, the underlined sentence does not offer a geographical fact about Kentucky. Choice B is incorrect because the underlined sentence does not mention United States politics or that Brown is an expert in this particular area. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text mentions that Brown’s book revolved around coal miners during the twentieth century, the underlined sentence does not focus on a major historical event during this time.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 98ed45b9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 98ed45b9

The following text is adapted from Charles Chesnutt’s 1899 short story “Mars Jeems’s Nightmare.” The narrator and his wife have recently moved to the southern United States, and Julius is their carriage driver.

Julius [was] very useful when we moved to our new residence. He had a thorough knowledge of the neighborhood, was familiar with the roads and the watercourses, knew the qualities of the various soils and what they would produce, and where the best hunting and fishing were to be had. He was a marvelous hand in the management of horses and dogs.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To compare the narrator’s reaction to a new home with his wife’s reaction
 - B. To give an example of Julius’s knowledge about soil
 - C. To show that the narrator and Julius often hunt and fish together
 - D. To explain different ways in which Julius was helpful

ID: 98ed45b9 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to explain different ways in which Julius was helpful. The text begins with the narrator stating that Julius was very helpful to him and his wife when they moved to their new residence. The narrator then provides a list of examples to illustrate Julius’s helpfulness. For instance, the narrator states that Julius was familiar with the neighborhood’s roads, which suggests that he was helpful in navigating them, and that Julius helped manage the horses and dogs. The text’s many examples of Julius’s usefulness reinforce just how helpful he was and in how many different ways.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t portray either the narrator’s or his wife’s reaction to their new home. Rather, the text focuses on how Julius was useful to the narrator and his wife in their new home. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text states that Julius was knowledgeable about the soil, this is one of several supporting details that illustrate how helpful Julius was. Moreover, the text merely states that Julius was knowledgeable about soil; it doesn’t provide an example of that knowledge. Choice C is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text to suggest the frequency with which the narrator and Julius hunted and fished together. In fact, it’s unclear from the text whether the narrator and Julius hunted and fished together at all. The text merely indicates that Julius knew the best places to hunt and fish—a detail that supports the text’s main purpose by conveying Julius’s usefulness.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 398f2cb7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: 398f2cb7

The following text is adapted from Jean Webster’s 1912 novel *Daddy-Long-Legs*. The narrator is a young college student writing letters detailing her weekly experiences.

[The college is] organizing the Freshman basket-ball team and there’s just a chance that I shall make it. I’m little of course, but terribly quick and wiry and tough. While the others are hopping about in the air, I can dodge under their feet and grab the ball.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To compare basketball with other sports
- B. To provide details of how to play basketball
- C. To state how players will be chosen for the basketball team
- D. To explain why the narrator thinks she might make the basketball team

ID: 398f2cb7 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. In the first sentence of the text, the narrator states that she thinks there’s a chance she will become part of the basketball team at her college. She goes on to explain that she is "quick" and "tough." Based on these characteristics, she thinks she has a chance to join the team. Thus, the main purpose of the text is to explain why the narrator thinks she might make the basketball team.

Choice A is incorrect because the text focuses solely on basketball and doesn’t mention any other kinds of sports. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t describe aspects of the game of basketball. Instead, it provides the narrator’s reasoning for thinking that she might make her school basketball team. Choice C is incorrect. Although the narrator explains why she thinks she will be chosen for the basketball team at her school, the text doesn’t go into the general decision-making process or the requirements for being picked for the team.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID aebe704b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	Easy

ID: aebe704b

San Francisco is known for the colorful murals painted on many of its buildings. The densest collection of murals is found on Balmy Alley in the Mission District neighborhood. In the 1970s, Latina artists painted vivid scenes of community life on walls along this block. As the original murals have faded, later generations of artists have painted new ones over them. As a result, Balmy Alley has become a living showcase of San Francisco’s artistic spirit, with its murals reflecting changes in the cultural life of the city.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To compare the Balmy Alley murals to other murals in San Francisco
- B. To offer an overview of the history and importance of the Balmy Alley murals
- C. To urge people to protect the murals of San Francisco from decay
- D. To describe the rise of mural painting in San Francisco beginning in the 1970s

ID: aebe704b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best states the main purpose of the text. The text begins by briefly stating that San Francisco is known for its murals, then transitions to a discussion of a single collection of murals, which is found on Balmy Alley in the city’s Mission District. The text explains that the murals in this area were originally created in the 1970s, then observes that they have changed over time: as some have faded through the decades, others have been painted in their place. The text ends by emphasizing that these murals are significant because they reflect San Francisco’s artistic spirit and cultural life. Therefore, the text provides an overview of the history and importance of the Balmy Alley murals.

Choice A is incorrect. Although it can be inferred from the text that there are murals in other areas of San Francisco besides Balmy Alley, the text doesn’t specifically discuss murals in other areas or compare the murals of Balmy Alley to those in other areas. Choice C is incorrect. By observing that some of the murals of Balmy Alley have been replaced due to fading, the text implies that murals can decay, but it never urges readers to protect this specific collection of murals—or any murals elsewhere in San Francisco, for that matter. Indeed, by describing the ever-changing murals of Balmy Alley as “a living showcase of San Francisco’s artistic spirit,” the text emphasizes the positive aspects of the fact that the original Balmy Alley murals have faded and been replaced with new murals. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t describe the rise of mural painting in San Francisco generally or note when this occurred. The only historical development of the 1970s mentioned in the text is the origin of the murals in a specific area of the city: Balmy Alley in the Mission District.

Question Difficulty: Easy