



Tone and Style

About These Problems

In critical reading sections you will be given a long passage and will be asked questions about the purpose and tone etc. Tone and style questions inquire about an author's message. Look for key words that show the author's mood. Is it positive or negative? Use this information to answer the question.

Question. What does the author's tone convey about his feelings to people who spend beyond their means?

In a world where credit cards are easier to get than candy, we spend and spend and spend beyond our means and drive our possibilities of a future into the ground. How can you afford college when you spend nearly 23,000 dollars on a new car? Does your \$500 dress put food on the table? It is despicable how materialistic we have become, especially when we cannot afford to be.

- A. He disapproves of them
- B. He supports them
- C. He is indifferent to them
- D. He strongly believes they should continue their behavior
- E. He feels bad for them

Answer. A: The author uses a harsh negative tone with words like "despicable." The only negative option is answer A.