



Direct Comprehension

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. Direct comprehension questions ask about the purpose of a portion and the author's intent. Tips for these are re-reading the portion the question describes, taking notes and highlighting key words.

Question. What is the purpose of the second paragraph in the passage below?

In 2009 a high school student took the SAT and performed poorly. He couldn't understand it. He had spent all summer learning new vocabulary words and reviewing algebra. How could someone who was doing so well in school perform so poorly on a simple test? After all CollegeBoard claimed that the SAT was designed to assess how ready a student is to go to college.

After taking scores of practice tests and making a list of questions he got wrong, he realized he was making the same mistakes again and again. Instead of aimlessly practicing, he only reviewed topics he performed poorly on. After only two months of practicing he improved nearly 300 points and achieved his dream score.

Four years later after being accepted into a prestigious university it still bothered him that the SAT makes so many students doubt themselves. Talent cannot be measured by a four-hour test. He decided to start a company to help students ace the SAT.

- A. To recount his tale of success
- B. To vent anger over a problem
- C. To empathize with a community
- D. To confess to a mistake

E. To dream and believe in a better future

Answer. A: Re-reading the passage, it is clear that it describes the author's work ethic and success. The last sentence is about improving nearly 300 points. The answer is clearly option A.