Passage.

The ponerines are the most diverse of all the ant groups and are global in distribution. They cannot really be thought of as sophisticated superorganisms, though, for they tend to live in small colonies of a few tens to a few thousand individuals, with one Australian species living in colonies of just a dozen. Like Stone Age human hunters who specialized in killing woolly mammoths, the ponerines tend to specialize in hunting one or a few kinds of prey. That the great success of the ponerines is achieved despite their primitive social organization presents entomologists with what is known as the ponerine paradox. It lacks a widely accepted solution, but researchers suspect that the ponerines’ predilection to seek specialized types of prey limits their colony size (for such specialized hunters cannot gather enough food to develop large and sophisticated colonies). If this is the case, then the very characteristic that helps the ponerines to diversify and survive in a wide variety of environments also prevents them from attaining superorganism status.

Q.1

According to the passage, ponerines’ tendency to seek specialized prey helps to account for which of the following?

Their worldwide spreadThe size of each colonyTheir inability to store food

Text Explanation

Answer: (A) and (B)

(A) can be supported by the first noting that: "The ponerines are the most diverse ... global in distribution,” and then looking to this sentence: “the very characteristic…wide variety of environments.”

(B) is supported by the fact that the ponerines limited colony size helps it flourish in a “wide variety of environments.”

(C) is wrong because the passage does not say the ponerines are unable to store food; it only says that they are unable to collect enough food to form a "superorganism."

Q 2.

In the context in which it appears, “predilection” most nearly means

abilityassumptiontendencyaversionnotoriety

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

The ponerines are likely to seek only a few types of prey. (B) and (D) are out. (E) is too negative in connotation. ‘Ability’ doesn’t necessarily mean that the ponerines actually hunt, just that they are able to. From the context of the passage, they clearly hunt specialized types of prep. Therefore, (C) is the answer.

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In his magnificent biography of Keats, Nicholas Roe chronicles a forward-looking spirit, whose poetry offered a strikingly modern amalgam of the arts and sciences. Medical allusions to nerves, arteries, bone and blood developed in tandem with deepening thoughts on human pain and suffering, says Roe. Keats’s vaunted “negative capability” allowed him to engage imaginatively with life’s transience and his own consumptive state (he suffered from tuberculosis and was not expected to live for long). The rueful melancholy of “To Autumn” and “Ode to a Nightingale” speaks of a courageous reckoning with mortality.

Lord Byron, with customary disdain, regarded Keats as a mere dilettante of sensation and “his imagination”. Roe will have little of this. The imagination at work in a poem such as “Isabella, or, the Pot of Basil” derived from Keats’s professional exposure to dissecting-room corpses. As the son of a Moorfields livery stables manager, Keats knew how the poor could serve as fodder for scalpels. Hospitals were complicit in the body-snatching trade, as the science of anatomy was in its infancy and trainee surgeons were required to practice their skills.

Q3.

According to the passage, Lord Byron’s attitude toward Keats is suspect primarily because

Keats drew on his experience with death to write some of his poemsKeats’ poems combined ideas that were a synthesis of art and scienceKeats’ succumbed at a relatively young age to tuberculosisByron himself was known for his whimsical imaginationByron did not know Keats personally

## Text Explanation

Answer: (A)

Lord Byron claimed that Keats was using his imagination when writing about death. The passage shows this clearly was not the case: Keats was deathly ill (“he suffered from tuberculosis”) and had experienced death first hand working in hospitals. (A) paraphrases this.

(B) is an instance in which the answer is supported by the passage but does not answer to the question. (C) is similar in this regard, though the passage never explicitly mentions Keats perishing at a young age

Q2

Select the part of the passage that mentions the poems that were informed by Keats's illness.

Click on a sentence in the passage to make your selection

## Text Explanation

Be careful not to mix up the poems that were inspired by Keats’ dissecting experience with those that were inspired by his illness. The correct answer is the sentence beginning with “The rueful melancholy.”

Q3.

The author of the passage would agree with all of the following EXCEPT

Keat’s family background played no role in his familiarity with death.Keats encountered corpses in a working capacity.An artist’s experience can have an effect on his or her creations.Lord Byron was known for being contemptuous towards his peers.Hospitals during Keats’ time placed pragmatic concerns above ethical ones.

## Text Explanation

Answer: (A)

The passage states that Keats’ “knew the poor could serve as fodder”, which suggest at least some connection to death, or at least enough of connection to show that the “no connection” in (A) is incorrect. We are looking for an answer that is NOT supported by the test. Therefore, (A) is the answer.

(B) is backed up in the passage, "Keats’s professional exposure to dissecting-room corpses." Therefore, we know that Keats encountered corpses while working.

(C) is implied throughout the passage. Had Keats not worked with corpses he would not have written poems such as "Isabella"--at least the poem would not be the same poem we have today.

As for (D), we can see that Byron was known for his "customary disdain". That is, he typically looked down at others; he wasn't just looking down at Keats.

Finally, (E) is supported by the lines, "Hospitals were complicit in the body-snatching trade, as the science of anatomy was in its infancy and trainee surgeons were required to practice their skills". In other words, hospitals had to engage in the unethical practice of snatching bodies. Otherwise, doctors would not have had been able to practice dissection.

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Passage 3.

Freudianism sits alongside Marxism and Darwinism in the pantheon of modern theories held to be so revelatory that they not only gained the adherence of Western intelligentsia but shaped the broader culture. During the first half of the twentieth century, an air of intrigue and mystery hovered around Freud’s newly anointed practitioners: psychotherapists. They occupied a strange universe, speaking in a language so incomprehensible but seemingly authoritative that it alternately awed and scared the average man on the street. Psychotherapy is no longer an intellectual movement today as it once was. But in the form of modern professional “caring,” it has assumed a new role, which is to provide a peculiar sort of substitute friendship — what we might call “artificial friendship” — for lonely people in a lonely age.

To understand why this occurred and what it means for American culture, one must study the fractious history of the mental health field over the last six decades. It is a complicated story, with a staggering variety of terms, schools, leaders, and techniques, so any overview must necessarily leave out many important details. But from even just a synopsis of the conflicts that gave rise to today’s culture of psychotherapy — battles over who would hold the truest title to physician of the mind, tensions between scientists and clinicians, academics and professionals, elites and the public — we can see more clearly how psychotherapy has profoundly shaped the American conception of what happiness is and how we can achieve it.

Q1

According to the passage “the American conception of what happiness is” at least partially results from

opposing points of viewdisputes amongst academicianshistorical documentsonly one prominent school of thoughtpopular forms of entertainment

## Text Explanation

Answer: (A)

The passage says psychotherapy has influenced “the American conception…” How today’s psychotherapy came to be can be traced through “conflicts that gave rise…” This best supports (A).

(B) is misleading. While academicians are part of the conflict, the conflict did not happen amongst academicians but between academics and professionals.

(C) is out of scope - 'historical documents' are never mentioned.

(D) is tempting but we have to remember that while psychotherapy shaped the American conception of happiness, psychotherapy itself was shaped by a broad range of factors (clinicians, academics, elites, etc.). So the "one school of thought" mentioned in the answer choice is vague. Is it referring to psychotherapy or all the other schools of thought that influenced psychotherapy?

(E) The passage does not specifically mention the medical establishment. Saying that psychotherapy in some way relates to the medical establishment is a little tenuous.

Q2.

In the context in which it appears ‘fractious’ most nearly means

amicablebreaking apartsubmergedbased in facttumultuous

## Text Explanation

Answers: (E)

The passage says that the history of psychotherapy is full of conflict. Therefore the history has been a tumultuous one. Tumultuous means marked by disorder and discord.

Q3.

Select the sentence that describes a reason that psychotherapists were initially regarded as different by most.

## Text Explanation

The question asks for why most people thought psychotherapists were distinct from others. The sentence that contains "an air of intrigue and mystery" only tells us THAT psychotherapists were regarded as different not WHY they were regarded in such a manner. The following sentence provides this information: psychotherapists spoke in a "language so incomprehensible"

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One reason we are able to recognize speech, despite all the acoustic variation in the signal, and even in very difficult listening conditions, is that the speech situation contains a great deal of redundancy—more information than is strictly necessary to decode the message. There is, firstly, our general ability to make predictions about the nature of speech, based on our previous linguistic experience—our knowledge of the speakers, subject matter, language, and so on. But in addition, the wide range of frequencies found in every signal presents us with far more information than we need in order to recognize what is being said. As a result, we are able to focus our auditory attention on just the relevant distinguishing features of the signal—features that have come to be known as acoustic cues.

What are these cues, and how can we prove their role in the perception of speech? It is not possible to obtain this information simply by carrying out an acoustic analysis of natural speech: this would tell us what acoustic information is present but not what features of the signal are actually used by listeners in order to identify speech sounds. The best an acoustic description can do is give us a rough idea as to what a cue might be. But to learn about listener’s perception, we need a different approach.

Q1.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

recommend a particular means of learning about a complex phenomenonpoint out the shortcomings in a line of researchexplain a process and discuss why one approach will not yield desirable resultsprescribe an approach to understand with greater specificity a physiological processwarn researchers against relying on a specific methodology

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

(A) The passage only states that an acoustic description is not sufficient in understanding the perception of speech. The passage does not recommend a particular means of understanding the perception of speech.

(B) The passage does point out the shortcomings of a method: a purely acoustic description of speech perception. This is not the same thing as a line of research.

(C) The passages describes the complexity of human perception in order to show how an acoustic description of perception is not up to the task of explaining the former. (C) captures this nicely.

(D) The passage does not actually prescribe (recommend) a particular approach.

(E) The passage does a lot more than warn against using acoustic cues. It describes the complexity of our auditory perception

Q2

The first paragraph of the passage implies which of the following concerning sound and communication?

A lack of redundancy in certain signals does not preclude communication.The excess of sound encoded in speech serves as an encumbrance to the exchange of information.Many features of a sound can be lost without necessarily compromising communication between two speakers.The human processing of acoustic sound does not depend on contextual factors.Some languages depend on social cues in order for speakers to be mutually intelligible

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

The paragraph says "the speech situation...decode the message". Redundancy implies that some features of the sound without hurting communication.

(A) is incorrect because there is not enough information in the passage to support the contention that having no redundancy allows for communication.

(B) is incorrect because nowhere does the passage say that the redundancy negatively affects communication.

(D) is wrong because the passage mentions the importance of contextual factors.

(E) is incorrect because while the statement may be true in the real world, it is not supported by the passage.

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Passage

Jupiter has 2.5 times more mass than all the other planets of the solar system combined and is 11 times as large as Earth in diameter. Jupiter is so large that scientists believe it almost became a star: as the gases and dust contracted to form the planet, gravitational forces created tremendous pressure and temperature inside the core—as high as tens of thousands of degrees.

But there was not enough mass available to create the temperature needed to start a fusion reaction such as that of the Sun (above 27,000,000 Fahrenheit, or 15,000,000 Celsius, at the Sun’s core); thus Jupiter has been cooling down ever since. Even so, Jupiter radiates about as much heat as it receives from the Sun.

Q1.

The passage is mainly concerned with

the size of Jupiter relative to other planets in the solar systemdifferences between the sun and Jupiterhow Jupiter’s mass has affected its developmentthe temperature of a planet’s core during a fusion reactionamount of power radiated by Jupiter

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

The passage discusses how Jupiter’s mass affected its development. Therefore (A).

(B) is incorrect because the Sun is only briefly mentioned. (D) is incorrect because the passage is focused on its development not its core temperature.

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Pasage.

Writers are necessarily ambivalent about any kind of recognition—honors, prizes, simple praise—because they are ambivalent about their relationship to the present. The first audience that a writer wants to please is the past—the dead writers who led him to want to write in the first place. Forced to admit that this is impossible, he displaces his hope onto the future, the posterity whose judgment he will never know. That leaves the present as the only audible judge of his work; but the present is made up of precisely the people whom the writer cannot live among, which is why he subtracts himself from the actual world in order to deposit a version of himself in his writing. The approbation of the living is thus meaningful to a writer only insofar as he can convince himself that it is a proxy for the approbation of the past or the future—insofar as it becomes metaphorical.

Q1.

The author of the passage believes that writers are ambivalent to recognition because it is

rarely commensurate to the way in which posterity will regard a writer’s workonly of consequence in the future, yet an author will never know what the future thinks of his or her worktypically bestowed in the present, whereas a writer is more concerned with approbation from the past and the futureunfairly meted out to those who possess only a modicum of talentmostly unrelated to the quality of a writer’s prose

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

The lines reading, “The first audience…past” and “he displaces…future”, show that the writer looks to both the past (especially the past) and the future for recognition, though such recognition is impossible. Thus the writer must make do with the present.

(A) is not correct because the passage does not describe the connection between present recognition of a writer’s work and how posterity deems that work.

(B) is wrong because the passage stresses the importance of the past as well.

(D) is wrong because the passage does not talk about writers with little talent (that’s what 'modicum' means).

(E) is wrong because there is no discussion as to recognition and how good a writer’s work is

Q2.

Select a sentence in the passage whose function is to describe the manner in which a writer resigns him- or herself to writing for the present.

## Text Explanation

If we look at the very last part of the second to last question ("he subtracts himself from the actual world in order to deposit a version of himself in his writing"), we find support for the manner in which the author resigns himself to the present. The word "resign" means to accept, though somewhat reluctantly. Since the present is the only judge--though the writer doesn't much care for the present--the writer must resign him- or herself to judgment from the present.

Passage.

The problem with treating the five-paragraph essay form as a relatively benign aid to clarity is that like any habit it is very hard to break. Students who can not break the habit remain handicapped because five-paragraph form runs counter to virtually all of the values and attitudes that they need in order to grow as writers and thinkers—such as respect for complexity, tolerance of uncertainty, and the willingness to test and complicate rather than just assert ideas. The form actually discourages thinking by conditioning writers to be afraid of looking closely at evidence. If they look too closely, they might find something that does not fit, at which point the prefabricated organizational scheme falls apart. But it is precisely the something-that-doesn’t-seem-to-fit, the thing writers call a “complication” that triggers good ideas.

Q1.

In the context in which it appears “conditioning” most nearly means

preparingupdatingalertingtrustingtraining

## Text Explanation

Answer: (E)

(E) works best in context because training suggests that a habit is being formed. (A), on the other hand, means getting ready, which does not work in context.

Q2.

The author objects to the five-paragraph essay as a means of instilling certain positive writing habits on the grounds that it does which of the following?

It limits a student’s ability to engage in sustained inquiry.It enforces certain modes of writing that are not able to tolerate ambiguity.It fails to provide a coherent structure in which students can clearly state their ideas.

## Text Explanation

Answers: (A) and (B)

(A) is supported by "The form actually discourages thinking..."

(B) is supported by "...values they need to grow as writers...tolerance for uncertainty."

(C) is incorrect because the passage says the five-paragraph essay is based on a prefabricated form.

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Passage

Chopin the pianist has been greatly overshadowed by Chopin the composer. When Chopin the pianist is mentioned, it is his dreamy gaze and supple wrists (as well as countless female admirers gathered around the piano returning that same dreamy stare). But Chopin was a formidable pianist in his own right: after all, he was able to play, from start to finish, all twenty-four of his etudes, a set of pieces so demanding that even today’s great pianists feel taxed after performing them. Two things perhaps account for this oversight: for one, any pianist for whom no extant recordings exist is likely not to weather time well. Secondly, Chopin’s coeval and friend, Franz Liszt, was of such legendary prowess that Chopin himself wished he could play his own etudes the way Liszt did. Nevertheless, Chopin deserves to be remembered not just as a composer of challenging pieces but as a pianist capable of executing, with panache, these very pieces.

Q1.

Which of the following, if true, would cast the most doubt on the author’s contention regarding Chopin the pianist?

Chopin rarely, if ever, played the piano works of other composers.Apart from a cello concerto and a few other works, Chopin composed mainly for the piano.Chopin seldom performed his etudes in concerts, preferring to play in front of a small group.Not all of Chopin’s compositions are as difficult to execute as his etudes.Chopin, himself, acknowledged that he was primarily a composer, and would have composed even more difficult pieces had he the ability to play them.

## Text Explanation

Answer: (E)

Only (E) directly casts doubt on Chopin’s playing ability, “more difficult pieces…had he the ability to play them.”

Even if Chopin never played other composer’s works, it isn’t necessarily because those works were too difficult. We need something stronger than (A).

The issue is Chopin’s piano playing ability. So that he could or could not play other instruments is unimportant. (B) is out.

(C) does not relate to issue. Even if his etudes were Chopin’s most difficult pieces that doesn't diminish his piano playing prowess.

Q2.

In the context in which it appears, “weather” most nearly means

perishsubsistwithstandtransformsustain

Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

In context, we learn that players with extant recordings (work still in existence) seem to ‘weather’ time better than those who do not have extant recordings.

(C), which means to hold up/endure, works best.

(B) means to barely survive, a meaning that does not quite fit the context.

(E) has a few meanings. One meaning is something like "suffer through," which makes this tempting. We sustain blows, injuries, or other painful things. It doesn't mean we survive them, we just get them. In this sentence, we need something that means suffer through, but not be defeated by--and that's "withstand."

Besides that, we can get a sense that "sustain time" doesn't work just by ear; it's not a normal English collocation. "Withstand time" is much more natural.

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Passage

Dark matter and dark energy have little effect on conventional matter over familiar distances. Instead, they make their presence known through their prodigious gravitational effects. In tracking them down, therefore, astronomers have had to study gigantic assemblages of matter, extending across spans of millions and billions of light-years. Perhaps the first to take that sweeping viewpoint was the Swiss-American astronomer Fritz Zwicky. In the 1930’s, Zwicky traced the motions of individual galaxies within great clusters of galaxies and made a remarkable discovery: the individual galaxies are moving too fast to be held together in a cluster by the force of gravity exerted by the starry matter visible within them. From his measurements, Zwicky concluded that the great clusters of galaxies must be held together by the gravitational effect of some unseen mass, which he dubbed “dark matter.”

Q1.

It can be inferred from the passage that Zwicky hypothesized the existence of “dark matter” in order to account for

the speed in which galaxies are moving away from one anotherthe manner in which large galaxies tend to clump togetherthe great distance between certain galaxiesa phenomenon that visible matter alone is unable to explainthe behavior of galaxies outside of great clusters

## Text Explanation

Answer: (D)

The passage mentions that visible matter cannot account for the speed of galaxies. Therefore, ‘dark matter’ was hypothesized in order account for the speed of galaxies. (D) matches up best.

(A) is tempting but the passage only talks about galaxy speeds. The phrase says "the speed at which...other." Zwicky did not hypothesize dark matter based on the speed in which the galaxies are moving away from each other. He was more focused on the speed in which the galaxies were moving.

The wording of answer (B) creates a problem. Here is the issue: "large galaxies" do this "clumping," which isn't in the passage. We are trying to explain how galaxies stay together (not come together). So, being in a cluster together doesn't mean that they are actively coming together, nor that they're very large.

(C) is wrong because the distance between galaxies is not mentioned.

(E) is opposite of what we want.

**FAQ: I still think B is the correct answer?**

**A:**In this passage, Zwicky studied galaxies. He noticed that the individual galaxies were moving too fast to be held together in a cluster by the force of gravity exerted by the starry matter visible within them, and thus they were held together by "dark matter."

Now, the wording of the question is key. It states, "It can be inferred from the passage that Zwicky hypothesized the existence of “dark matter” **in order to account for**" So, we are asked to consider WHY Zwicky hypothesized the existence of dark matter--what would this hypothesis account for?

Because we are asked to consider what this hypothesis accounts for, (B) is incorrect (besides the reasons mentioned above). This is because (B) does not say why Zwicky came up with this hypothesis. When we look back to the passage, we see that he came up with this hypothesis because the current belief (visible matter holds together the galaxies) did not fully explain how galaxies were staying together, and thus a further explanation was needed, i.e., "dark matter." The existence of dark matter accounts for the fact that visible matter is unable to explain the galaxy clusters. :

Q2.

Scientists studied “gigantic assemblages of matter, extending across spans of millions and billions of light-years” in order to

support a theory regarding the structure of galaxiesdiscredit the view that effects of dark matter are only manifest over small distancesbolster a hypothesis first proposed by Zwickyexpand the scope of their findingsobserve a gravitational effect that is not apparent on a smaller scale

## Text Explanation

Answer: (E)

In order to identify dark matter and the gravitational force it exerts, scientists have had to observe “gigantic assemblages…” Hence (E).

(A) is wrong because in tracking galaxies scientists are not trying to identify the structure of galaxies.

There is no mention of this "view" in the passage. The passage does not "discredit theview that effects of dark matter" over small distances. This is not in the passage so this answer choice is off-topic. (B) is wrong.

(C) is tempting. But remember, scientists are trying to observe effects of dark matter not try to prove Zwicky’s theory that there is dark matter.

(D) is wrong. Remember, scientists are trying to observe dark matter. That may or may not expand the scope of their findings

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Passage

The digital revolution has given us, for the first time, the image in its pure form, an image without body. The image conveyed by a painting, on the other hand, is always a material entity, however unobtrusive, a particular thing made out of pigments, binders and a support. Sculpture, in turn, is often far more physically obtrusive than painting, and to the extent that it offers a multiplicity of possible viewpoints, it generates many images, but typically none of them are the image of the work. The physical impression a sculpture makes is more powerful than its imagistic content, which seems merely transitory by comparison. The digitization of culture has only made this more evident.

Q1.

Which of the following best accounts for why sculpture is not amenable to digitized form?

A multiplicity of viewpoints can be bewildering and lead to divergent interpretations.Paintings and sculptures undergo a similar diminished impact when seen as an image devoid of body.Sculpture primarily exerts its influence through its sheer physicality.The material world deals in fleeting images, whereas art can only be appreciated by recognizing the physical products that comprise any given work of art.Sculpture is even more poorly suited for a digital medium than is art that provides us with an ostensibly two-dimensional image.

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

The passage emphasizes that both painting and sculpture do not translate well to digital form, because digital form is two-dimensional. In this translation from the 3-D to the 2-D, the sculpture suffers even more than the painting, "the physical impression a sculpture makes...". Therefore (C).

(A) is one of those answers that is true in real life but doesn't answer the question.

(B) is wrong because sculpture is affected even more by being rendered in digital form.

(D) is an example of an answer that may be true in the real world, but doesn't relate to the passage.

(E) is also very tempting. It is true based on the passage, but it doesn't quite answer the question. The question is specifically why sculpture doesn't work in digital form. Saying that sculpture works even less well in a digital medium than painting doesn't answer the question

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Passage.

For anyone claiming to write a history of a science of which reasoning forms the very essence, the question of the logic is of paramount importance. For example, a modern western account of any historical period in mathematics would, as a matter of course, show a detailed proof justifying each and every mathematical result discussed. Despite this obvious fact, general histories of Chinese mathematics rarely show concern for this issue. They insist above all on presenting only the mathematical results, the logical underpinnings of which are unclear, and rarely do they provide the reader with any semblance of a proof. While this approach to the history of mathematics is naturally a result of various causes, one which probably plays an essential role is the fact that most Chinese mathematical works themselves contain no logical justifications: according to this worldview, apparently it was enough to state authoritatively that something was true --- it was completely superfluous to demonstrate why it was true.

There is one major exception to this general pattern, namely a set of Chinese argumentative discourses which has been handed down to us from the first millennium A.D. We are referring to the commentaries and sub-commentaries on the*Jiuzhang Suanshu* ["The Nine Chapters on the Mathematical Art"], the key work which inaugurated Chinese mathematics and served as a reference for it over a long period of its history. This fact, which was long unrecognized, means that we are now in a position to know a lot more about the logical construction of mathematics in China than, for example, in Egypt, Mesopotamia, or India.

Q1.

What distinguishes the commentaries on the *Jiuzhang Suanshu* from almost all other works of Chinese mathematical history is that the authors of the former

made clear exactly what theorems are truespent time justifying their qualifications as authoritiesdid not fully disclose all the results in the fields discussedprovided explicit proofs for the mathematical results presentedhad influence over a large portion of Chinese history

## Text Explanation

Most Chinese mathematical works stated results only, without the proofs justifying the results. The commentaries on the Jiuzhang Suanshu are different in that they contain both the results and the proofs. In other words, they provide "explicit proofs for the mathematical results presented", which is precisely what choice **(D)**, the credited answer, says.

The majority of Chinese mathematical works did not include proofs, but they all saidwhat was true. Both the commentaries on the Jiuzhang Suanshu and the other works "made clear exactly what theorems are true", so this does not distinguish them. Choice**(A)** is not correct.

The passage talks about "justification" in terms of the logical justification a mathematical proof implies. Nowhere does it discuss people justifying themselves. Choice **(B)** is not correct.

Choice **(C)** sounds awfully fancy, but it's not 100% clear what it even means. The authors of the commentaries on the Jiuzhang Suanshu "did not fully disclose all the results in the fields discussed"(??) Well, the only "field discussed" is mathematics. The verb "disclosed" is particularly odd, because it implies that someone was keeping secrets by withholding information, something not mentioned in the passage at all. As stated in answer choice **(A)**, all Chinese mathematical works stated "results", i.e. whatwas true; only the commentaries on the Jiuzhang Suanshu also showed the proofs, i.e.why things were true. In that sense, the commentaries on the Jiuzhang Suanshushowed (disclosed?) more than the other works. Insofar as this choice says anything meaningful, it contradicts the passage. Don't be fooled by fancy wording. Choice **(C)** is not correct.

We know the commentaries on the Jiuzhang Suanshu "had influence over a large portion of Chinese history" because they "served as a reference for it over a long period of [Chinese mathematical] history." Does this make the commentaries on the Jiuzhang Suanshu different from other works of Chinese mathematics? Do we have the grounds, based on the passage, to conclude that absolutely no other work of Chinese mathematics had any influence over the course of China's long history? Hmm. That seems like a stretch. The passage only talks about the influence of the commentaries on the Jiuzhang Suanshu, and says zilch about whether other works had a long influence. We just don't know. Choice **(E)** is not correct

Q2

The author implies all of the following except:

The ancient mathematical texts of Mesopotamia do not provide explicit proofs for all their results.The first Western scholars studying the history of Chinese mathematics were unaware of the proofs available in the commentaries and sub-commentaries on the *Jiuzhang Suanshu*Proofs are a method of demonstrating the logical arguments underlying a mathematical result.The majority of important Chinese mathematicians between 1000 and 1500 would have known of the*Jiuzhang Suanshu*The authors of the *Jiuzhang Suanshu* do not make any claim justifying their own authority.

Text Explanation

This is an "EXCEPT" question. We expect that the passage clearly implies four of the answers, and for the last, it either implies something else or simply is not clear on that point. This last one, the one not clearly implied, is the right answer.

In the last sentence, the passage clearly says we know more about the logical reasoning in Chinese math because of this one work that shows proofs. If we know less about the logical reasoning in ancient Mesopotamian math, it's because those works don't show proofs. Choice **(A)** is clearly implied, so it is not the answer to the EXCEPT question.

The passage clearly says "*This fact, which was long unrecognized*, …" --- in other word, the first folks studying this did not realize that the commentaries and sub-commentaries on the *Jiuzhang Suanshu* provided proofs. Choice **(B)** is clearly implied, so it is not the answer to the EXCEPT question.

The passage clearly says that proofs "*justify*" mathematical results, and explain *why* it is true. In other words, proofs "*demonstrate the logical argument underlying a mathematical result*". Choice **(C)** is clearly implied, so it is not the answer to the EXCEPT question.

The passage clearly says that the *Jiuzhang Suanshu* "*served as a reference for [Chinese mathematics] over a long period of its history*." Therefore, it is quite reasonable to infer that most Chinese mathematicians between 1000 and 1500 would have known about it. Choice **(D)** is clearly implied, so it is not the answer to the EXCEPT question.

The passage talks about "justification" in terms of the logical justification a mathematical proof implies. Nowhere does it discuss people justifying themselves. Choice **(E)** is not implied, so this is the correct answer to the EXCEPT question.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passage

There has always been controversy over the nature of poetic language. To some, poetic language should be special, removed from the language of everyday (thus, the dictum, ‘The language of the age is never the language of poetry’). To others, it should be closely in touch with everyday, or, perhaps, be ‘current language heightened.’

To Ralph Waldo Emerson, the whole language is in any case ‘fossil poetry.’ Statements of this kind to some extent miss the point, which is to stress the enormous range of linguistic expression that is found under the heading poetry. At one extreme, there are poems that are as far removed from everyday speech as it is possible to imagine; at the other, there are poems that, if it were not for the division into lines, would closely resemble prose.

Q1.

It can be inferred from Emerson’s quote that he implied which of the following?

Poetry has influenced colloquial speech.All language eventually becomes archaic.Language that is too far removed from everyday speech becomes meaningless.The range of linguistic expression is vast.In most societies exists a disconnection between poetry and everyday speech.

## Text Explanation

Answer: (A)

The context is a comparison between those who think poetry is different from everyday language and others who think that poetry reflects everyday language. Emerson is mentioned together with the latter group, and serves as an extreme example of their view, when he says “fossil poetry.” Therefore, (A) is a safe answer.

(B) is a good distractor, because of the word ‘fossil’, but Emerson was not saying that all language becomes old.

While Emerson might agree with this, (C) does not directly answer what is implied by the phrase “fossil poetry.”

(D) is a generic but attractive answer that does nothing to answer the question.

**FAQ: I'm having trouble seeing the relationship between Emerson's statement and the first paragraph.**

First, let's break down the context:

* Some people think poetic language should be separate form everyday language.
* Other people think it should be "current language heightened."
* Emerson says all language is "fossil poetry"
* Emerson and others miss the point that an enormous range of linguistic expression is called poetry.

We can infer that Emerson's statement will either be related to (as an example, possibly) or equivalent to (as a third item in list) the first two opinions.

In other words, the first two statements give us two possible situations. Either A) poetry is separate from every day language or B) poetry is related to every day language. Emerson's statement ties together with option B, because he says alllanguage is some kind of poetry. That must mean that everyday language is related to poetry. We barely even need to know what "fossil poetry" is. We can cross off all of answer choices (B)-(E) in the question just from what we understand from the context.

**FAQ: What is "fossil poetry"?**

This may not be a very clear metaphor on the surface, but if you use word associations, this becomes a bit clearer. A fossil is a remnant of something from long ago. If all language is "fossil poetry," that means all language is a remnant of poetry from long ago. Emerson is saying that all language is born out of poetry (including everyday language). With that in mind, answer choice (A) looks very good.

Q2.

As far removed from daily speech as possible” most closely parallels which of the following?

“poems…would closely resemble prose”“Current language heightened”“fossil poetry”“the enormous range of linguistic expression”“The language of the age is never the language of poetry”

## Text Explanation

The quote matches up best with answer choice (E).

(A) and (C) convey the opposite of the quote.

(B) and (D) are not relevant to the quote.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passage

Montaigne’s pursuit of the character he called Myself—“bashful, insolent; chaste, lustful; [prating](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/prating.js), silent; [laborious](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/laborious.js), delicate; knowing, ignorant”—lasted for twenty years and produced more than a thousand pages of observation and revision. When he died, he was still revising and, apparently, not at all surprised, since Myself was a [protean](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/protean.js) creature, impossible to anticipate but also, being always at hand, impossible to ignore.

I like to think of the essays as a kind of thriller; with Myself, the elusive prey, and Montaigne, the sleuth, locked in a battle of equals who were too close for dissimulation and too smart for satisfaction. And it may be that Montaigne did, too, because he often warned his readers that nothing he wrote about Myself was likely to apply for much longer than it took the ink he used, writing it, to dry.

Q1.

Montaigne’s relationship to “Myself” is most similar to that of

a detective who is finally able to apprehend a criminala person who inspires a writer to create well-known worksan athlete plagued by a nemesis who can always anticipate the next movea serial killer who deliberately leaves clues so that the police will find himan artist attempting a self-portrait that ends up looking different from the artist

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

This parallel reasoning question first requires an understanding of Montaigne’s relationship to the ‘Myself.’ The latter is an elusive prey that Montaigne can never quite capture because the two are equals.

(A) is a classic distractor (test prep speak for wrong answer): it is a parallel reasoning question that uses a similar example to the one used in the passage.

(B) is also similar to the context but in no way parallels the relationship between Montaigne and ‘Myself.’

(C) the nemesis is always one step ahead, just as the ‘Myself.’ This is not a perfect answer. But it is the best answer.

(D) is wrong because of “deliberately leave clues”

(E) does not parallel the relationship between Montaigne and ‘Myself.’

**FAQ: How can it be (C) if the passage says that "Myself" was "impossible to anticipate"?**

**A:**Happy to help! The key here is to see that in answer (C) the "athlete" refers to Montaigne and the "nemesis" refers to "Myself". This makes sense because Montaigne is plagued by Myself ("the elusive prey"), just as the athlete is plagued by a nemesis who "can always anticipate the next move". The fact that the nemesis "can always anticipate the next move" reflects the fact that Myself is "elusive". This is because if someone can always anticipate your moves, then you can never beat them--they are "elusive".

Here's an example: Say you (Montaigne) are playing tennis. Your opponent (the "nemesis," Myself) always anticipates which side of the court you are going to hit the tennis ball. As such, you can never get a ball past this opponent. You (Montaigne) are "plagued" by this "elusive" opponent.

The fact that Myself can never be anticipated is definitely tricky. However, the answer is not suggesting that Myself can in fact be anticipated. In fact, it is saying the opposite--it is Montaigne that can be anticipated, not Myself.

**FAQ: I'm still confused by (E). Doesn't a self-portrait make sense, because he is trying to write about himself?**

This is a very tricky trap.  The issue is that a painter and his portrait don't move, adapt, and change the way Montaigne's relationship with "Myself" does. A painter makes a static object--the painting--based on a static picture--his face. If the picture doesn't look like the face, then that's not necessarily because his face changed or adapted.

On the other hand, if Montaigne writes something about Myself, then once he's finished (the ink has dried), Myself has already changed, so the writing is no longer true. This situation is true throughout the whole passage--"Myself" is an adapting, changing thing.

The painter, on the other hand, implies no change. Only (C) gives that type of adaptation and pursuit

Q2.

As used in the passage, the word “dissimulation” connotes a sense of

deliberate maliceoutright audacityhidden deceptionunfeigned delightimplied criticism

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

(A) captures the negative connotation of ‘dissimulation.’ ‘Deliberate malice’, however, is too strong. The passage does not talk about how ‘Myself’ was full of intentional hate.

‘Outright audacity’ connotes a sense of an outward action. The ‘Myself’ is very elusive and is always trying to outsmart Montaigne. So (B) is incorrect.

(C) works nicely because Montaigne and 'Myself' are 'too close' for deception, especially of the hidden kind.

(D) doesn't work because it is too positive to match the tone of the passage.

(E) 'criticism' is close, but ultimately, we do not have a clue in the passage pointing towards 'criticism.' It also does not make sense to criticize an 'elusive prey.' This might be tempting also because they use the adjective 'elusive' and this answer choice uses a similar adjective: 'implied.' But we need to focus also on the noun. So we should eliminate (E).

**FAQ: I can't understand the second paragraph and can't locate the clue?**

**A:** Happy to help! :) The second paragraph emphasizes the idea that Myself was a "protean" (i.e., changing) creature, and that Montaigne and Myself were closely tied. Montaigne is "the sleuth" and "Myself" is "the elusive prey." They were locked in a battle of equals (they're both of the same intelligence level), and they were too close to each other to see any kind of 'dissimulation' or 'deceit.' Montaigne also thinks of the essays as a thriller (like the author of the passage), because he too warned his readers that Myself was constantly changing and an 'elusive prey.' So, Montaigne is constantly trying to figure out Myself, but they are too close to each other, making it hard to really know the other.

**FAQ: I did not get why commas and semicolons are used in the first line of passage. Can you explain?**

**A:** This is definitely a tough one! First off, the semicolons are used to separate the pairings of words into a list. For example, the sentence groups "bashful and insolent," but because these are separated by a comma, to keep them as a pair in our larger list, we need to use semicolons. [This post](http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/semicolons.aspx) might help. Under the heading "When to use semicolons, when to use commas," it explains when you need to use semicolons in a list.

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Passage

Even today, the meaning of World War II remains elusive. Beevor, in his latest book, calls it “the greatest man-made disaster in history.” That description is very plausible; less so is his idea that it was part of an international civil war between left and right. In 1941 the veteran anti-­Communist Winston Churchill allied himself with Joseph Stalin, frustrating the efforts of the Nazis to turn the war into an anti-­Bolshevik crusade. Nor were the Japanese much concerned that President Roosevelt was (relatively speaking) a man of the left; they attacked Pearl Harbor because of American threats to their interests, not to their ideology. On the other hand, ideological slogans could be strong motivators. Men clung to the idea of fighting for the Führer, or for the emperor, to keep them going in the face of certain defeat. Russians, for their part, were encouraged to fight for the motherland, rather than for the ideals of international socialism, in what was labeled the Great Patriotic War.

Q1.

In the context in which it is used “frustrating” most nearly means

angeringbelaboringthwartinggroundinginciting

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

That Churchill and Stalin were allied suggests that they were against Hitler. Thus ‘frustrating’ most going against/holding back. (C), which means blocking, works best.

(A) is the trap answer, because it is the most common definition of frustrating. It does not make sense in context—how do you angry efforts?

(D) simply means to ground, a meaning that does not fit the context.

Q2.

The example of Winston Churchill siding with Joseph Stalin best serves to undermine which of the following views?

Soldiers involved in World War II were motivated to fight for their leaders.Beevor’s thesis was not entirely plausible.Any sweeping interpretation of World War II tends to elude historians.The war was mostly fought along ideological lines.The Japanese were less influenced by ideology than Beevor claims.

## Text Explanation

Answer: (D)

Beevor’s thesis is that the War can be understood along ideological lines. The example of Stalin and Roosevelt challenge this view. Therefore, it undermines (D).

(A) is mentioned in the passage but is not relevant to the question.

(B) is something the author would agree with. Therefore, his example of Churchill and Stalin would not undermine (B).

(C) is supported by the passage but does not answer the question

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passage

The DNA molecule is composed of subunits called base pairs, which are two smaller subunits bonded together, forming part of a genetic message. In our bodies every individual cell has one billion base pairs. It is unlikely that all of these base pairs, making up what scientists call an entire genome, could be extracted from fossil remains. Even if they could, they would still need to be assembled into an ordered, structured genome. At present, isolating and organizing the DNA into an entire genome for a fossil animal is impossible. We cannot create carbon copies of organisms that are alive today, even if we have the entire genome in its correct order. Before cloning becomes possible, much must be learned about translating the information in the genome into a living, breathing organism.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

discuss an ongoing difficultyhighlight a common misconceptiondisprove a common theoryrecommend a course of actionargue against a controversial practice

## Text Explanation

The passage is concerned with the difficulty of creating an actual clone with only the genome. Therefore (A).

The passage does not actually point out a misconception, in the sense that scientists have long thought that the genome alone will allow them to create a clone.

(D) is incorrect because the passage is not recommending a specific course of action. It is only alerting the reader of the impossibility of cloning on the genome alone. The final sentence by itself might make this tempting, but based on the tone of the rest of the passage, we can understand that the author is simply stating the current situation, rather than recommending a course of action.

(E) is wrong because there is no controversial practice.

Q2.

Based on information in the passage, if a scientist were able to derive a dinosaur’s entire genome from a fossil then that scientist would

not have sufficient information to create an actual dinosaurhave the essential information necessary to clone a dinosaurknow little regarding the dinosaur’s DNAnot have access to the dinosaur’s base pairsbe able to translate the information in the genome into an organism

## Text Explanation

Answer: (A)

The passage says that even if a scientist has the entire genome, he/she is unable to create an actual dinosaur. What is needed is the knowledge of "translating the information..."

(B) is the opposite of what the passage says.

(C) is wrong because possessing the genome will allow a scientist to know plenty about the corresponding DNA.

(D) is wrong because if the scientist has access to the genome, then he/she has access to the base pairs.

(E), like (B), is the exact opposite of what the passage says.

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Passage

Even though physiological and behavioral processes are maximized within relatively narrow ranges of temperatures in amphibians and reptiles, individuals may not maintain activity at the optimum temperatures for performance because of the costs associated with doing so. Alternatively, activity can occur at suboptimal temperatures even when the costs are great. Theoretically, costs of activity at suboptimal temperatures must be balanced by gains of being active. For instance, the leatherback sea turtle will hunt during the time of day in which krill are abundant, even though the water is cooler and thus the turtle’s body temperature requires greater metabolic activity. In general, however, the cost of keeping a suboptimal body temperature, for reptiles and amphibians, is varied and not well understood; they include risk of predation, reduced performance, and reduced foraging success.

One reptile that scientists understand better is the desert lizard, which is active during the morning at relatively low body temperatures (usually 33.0 C), inactive during midday when external temperatures are extreme, and active in the evening at body temperatures of 37.0 C. Although the lizards engage in similar behavior (e.g., in morning and afternoon, social displays, movements, and feeding), metabolic rates and water loss are great and sprint speed is lower in the evening when body temperatures are high. Thus, the highest metabolic and performance costs of activity occur in the evening when lizards have high body temperatures. However, males that are active late in the day apparently have a higher mating success resulting from their prolonged social encounters. The costs of activity at temperatures beyond those optimal for performance are offset by the advantages gained by maximizing social interactions that ultimately impact individual fitness.

Q1.

The passage suggests that reptiles and amphibians are able to

perform an activity at suboptimal temperaturesavoid excessive costs when performing an activitylimit the costs of an activity by resting frequentlymaintain a body temperature irrespective of the environmentavoid predation by resting during the night

## Text Explanation

The text supports answer (A): “activity can occur at suboptimal temperatures.” Many of the other answers sound plausible but remember that you have to support those answer with specific text.

(B) is wrong because it does not say that animals are able to avoid excessive costs.

(C) sounds very plausible but is not mentioned in the passage.

(D) is the opposite of the passage, which suggest that reptiles' body temperature is affected by their environment. The word "irrespective" means regardless. In other words, this answer choice is saying that reptiles maintain the same body temperature throughout the day regardless of what the temperature outside is.

(E) is wrong because the passage never mentions reptiles avoiding predators at night. This answer may make sense, but if it is not mentioned in the passage, it can't be the right answer

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Passage

eople associate global warming with temperature, but the phrase is misleading—it fails to mention the relevance of water. Nearly every significant indicator of hydrological activity—rainfall, snowmelt, glacial melt—is changing at an accelerating pace (one can arbitrarily pick any point of the hydrological cycle and notice a disruption). One analysis pegged the increase in precipitation at 2 percent over the century. In water terms this sounds auspicious, promising increased supply, but the changing timing and composition of the precipitation more than neutralizes the advantage. For one thing, it is likely that more of the precipitation will fall in intense episodes, with flooding a reasonable prospect. In addition, while rainfall will increase, snowfall will decrease. Such an outcome means that in watersheds that depend on snowmelt, like the Indus, Ganges, Colorado river basins, less water will be stored as snow, and more of it will flow in the winter, when it plays no agricultural role; conversely, less of it will flow in the summer, when it is most needed. One computer model showed that on the Animas River an increase in temperature of 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit would cause runoff to rise by 85 percent from January to March, but drop by 40 percent from July to September. The rise in temperature increases the probability and intensity of spring floods and threatens dam safety, which is predicated on lower runoff projections. Dams in arid areas also may face increased sedimentation, since a 10 percent annual increase in precipitation can double the volume of sediment washed into rivers.  
  
The consequences multiply. Soil moisture will intensify at the highest northern latitudes, where precipitation will grow far more than evaporation and plant transpiration but where agriculture is nonexistent. At the same time, precipitation will drop over northern mid-latitude continents in summer months, when ample soil moisture is an agricultural necessity. Meanwhile the sea level will continue to rise as temperatures warm, accelerating saline contamination of freshwater aquifers and river deltas. The temperature will cause increased evaporation, which in turn will lead to a greater incidence of drought.   
  
Perhaps most disturbing of all, the hydrologic cycle is becoming increasingly unpredictable. This means that the last century’s hydrological cycle—the set of assumptions about water on which modern irrigation is based—has become unreliable. Build a dam too large, and it may not generate its designed power; build it too small, and it may collapse or flood. Release too little dam runoff in the spring and risk flood, as the snowmelt cascades downstream with unexpected volume; release too much and the water will not be available for farmers when they need it. At a time when water scarcity calls out for intensified planning, planning itself may be stymied.

Q1.

The passage is primarily concerned with

arguing how the world’s hydrological cycle is irrevocably changinghighlighting the inadequacy of relying on last century’s hydrological cyclediscussing the consequences of decreased water supply in damswarning against the unrestrained exploitation of natural resourcesdescribing how the Earth’s water will be affected by global warming

## Text Explanation

Answer: (E)

(E) succinctly expresses the main idea of the passage, which can be found at the very beginning, “People associate global warming with temperature, but the phrase is misleading—it fails to mention the relevance of water.”

(A) is very tempting, but note that the passage does not say ‘irrevocably.’ Sure, we may be guided by our own thoughts on global warming, but there is nothing in the passage to say that the change is irrevocable.

(B) and (C) are too specific. (D) is too general and does not match with the tone of the passage.

Q2.

According to the passage, the likelihood that “dams in arid areas also may face increased sedimentation” will most likely result from

an increase in precipitationa decrease in the annual snowmeltthe rise in the average annual temperature of major riversa shift in the seasonality of precipitationa rise in sea level

## Text Explanation

Answer: (A)

While a rise in global temperatures is responsible for much of what the passage talks about, the questions asks for which factor “most directly” accounts for the part in quotation marks. The answer - “since a 10 percent annual increase in precipitation can double the volume of sediment washed into rivers” - is found in the same sentence that is quoted in the question itself.

Q3.

The second paragraph supports which of the following?

Saline contamination will have a uniform effect on all freshwater regions.Rising temperatures at high altitudes will threaten the purity of freshwater areas.The effects of precipitation will differ depending on latitude.

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

There is nowhere in the passage that mentions that saline contamination in freshwater regions will have a uniform effect. (A) is out.

The passage never mentions ‘altitudes.’ (It mentions ‘latitudes’, which is different). Out with (B).

(C) is correct because the passage says, “at the highest northern latitudes, where precipitation will grow” and “precipitation will drop over northern mid-latitudes.

Q4.

Based on information in the second paragraph, which of the following can best be supported?

Precipitation across different latitudes can differ significantly.An increase in soil moisture can have devastating effects on agriculture.Increased temperatures at sea level can affect the highest altitudes.Saline contamination mostly results from an increase in sea levels.Hydrological activity at one elevation has little to no effect on hydrological activity at another elevation

## Text Explanation

Answer: (A)

(A) is supported by, "Soil moisture will intensify...latitudes", and "precipitation will drop...mid-latitude continents.

(B) is wrong because the question is focused on the second paragraph.

(C) and (E) both refer to altitude; the passage is referring to latitude.

**FAQ: Isn't (D) supported by the passage?**

The key here is to recognize that the question is asking which of the following can BEST be supported by the second paragraph. The second paragraph DOES mention rising sea levels, but it does NOT say this is what "mostly" causes saline contamination. Therefore, the second paragraph BEST supports the idea that precipitation differs across different latitudes, since it clearly mentions that at the "highest northern latitudes...precipitation will grow", but "precipitation will drop over northern mid-latitude continents".

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Passage

The US Constitution established both gold and silver as the basis of US currency: that is to say, it established a bimetallic standard for currency. This remained in place for about a century, until the Coinage Act of 1873, which embraced a "gold only" standard, a monometallic standard, effectively dropping silver as the basis of currency. Over the next several decades, advocates of bimetallism and advocates of the "gold only" standard fiercely debated.

The "gold only" advocates, such as William McKinley, argued that shifts in the relative value of the two precious metals could lead to wild fluctuations in the values of currency in a bimetallic system. Early in the United States history, Alexander Hamilton had tried to fix the gold-silver exchange rate by fiat, but of course, such restraints only inhibit the natural development of a free market.

Unemployment was high in the depression caused by the Panic of 1893, and many argued that these economic challenges had been triggered by abandoning bimetallism. One of the more prominent advocates of bimetallism was William Jennings Bryant: indeed, bimetallism was the very center of his presidential campaigns in 1896 and 1900, both of which he lost to McKinley. Bryant articulated the popular view that a "gold only" standard limited the money supply, and thus favored those who were already quite wealthy, against the interests of working people of all professions. He famously expressed this argument in his "Cross of Gold" speech at the 1896 Democratic National Convention, in which he argued that continuing the "gold only" standard would "crucify" the honest laboring classes on a "cross of gold."

Despite the eloquence of Bryant's arguments, history strongly favored the "gold-only" standard. The argument that increasing the money supply would lead to greater prosperity strikes us now as naïve: of course, we now understand that increasing the monetary supply can lead to runaway inflation, which hurts everyone. Furthermore, gold did not remain as limited as the advocates of bimetallism imagined. In the 1890s, scientists discovered a cyanide process that allowed workers to extract pure gold from much lower grade ore, thus significantly increasing domestic gold production. Additionally, the discovery of two immense gold deposits in South Africa substantially increased world gold supply. Thus, the "gold only" standard allowed for ample currency, and even robust prosperity in the 1920s, so bimetallism died a quiet death.

Q1.

It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes that government attempts to control exchange rates

compromise the workings of a free economywill inevitably lead to fiscal collapseare usually favorable in the short-termrun counter to the tenets of the United Stateslead to a greater chance for inflation

## Text Explanation

The line, “such restraints only inhibit the natural development of a free market”, allows us to infer that the author of the passage believes that government intervention (“Hamilton…fiat”) holds back the free market. This matches up best with (A).

(B) is too strong.

(C) sounds plausible but is not supported by text on exchange rates.

(D) is not supported by the text.

(E) is tempting because the passage talks about a greater chance of inflation but that is in regards to increasing the money supply, not to exchange rates.

Q2.

The author of the passage believes that William Jennings Bryant’s argument that a gold standard favors the rich to be

somewhat relevant, because it accounts for a common trend seen throughout the history of bimetallismlacking validity, because it believes increasing the money supply will benefit a segment of the populationwithout merit, because it is not based on actual historical accountsnot entirely accurate, because it overemphasizes the role of silver in regulating the money supplypartially correct, because it described some of the class differences between the rich and the poor

## Text Explanation

According to the passage, Bryan believes that a gold standard would hurt the poor because it would cut them off from the money supply. Increasing the money supply on the other hand, he argued, would allowed the poor access to wealth (“…limited the money supply…against the interests of working people…”). Bryan, however, overlooked inflation, and thus his argument was not valid: more money would not help the poor. This leads us to answer (B).

(A) is wrong because the argument is not relevant.

(C) is wrong. While the passage agrees that Bryan’s argument is without merit, it does not mention inaccurate historical accounts.

(D) ignore Bryan’s overlooking of inflation and adds information not supported by the passage (Bryan never overemphasizes the role of silver).

(E) is wrong because it says partially correct

Q2.

The “cyanide process” mentioned in the last paragraph does which of the following?

Serves as a countermeasure to actions taken by advocates of the “gold only” standardProvides evidence against an argument of those opposed to a “gold only” standardIllustrates one way in which controlling the money supply can lead to inflationArgues against the position adopted by William Jennings Bryant.Offers up a compelling reason governments should be favor of bimetallism.

## Text Explanation

The cyanide process increased the gold supply. Advocates of bimetallism believed that the gold supply was limited, and thus a “gold standard” was a bad idea. So, this is an argument of those who opposed the “gold standard”, and the cyanide process is evidence against this position. Hence (B).

(A) is wrong because the passage doesn’t talk about actions taken by “gold only” advocates.

(C) is wrong because the cyanide process does not relate to controlling the money supply.

(D) is tempting, but remember Bryan never mentioned the lack of gold, he was focused on social inequality.

(E) is wrong because the cyanide process argues against bimetallism, insofar as the case for bimetallism is based on the purported lack of gold

Q3.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

provide a brief account of a common economic trenddiscuss the development of and reactions to an economic policychronicle the ascendancy of an idea in economicsillustrate the shortcomings in multiple theoriesargue for greater governmental control of the economy

## Text Explanation

(B) best summarizes the purpose of the passage: to chronicle the introduction of monometallism (gold-only) and discuss the debate that surrounded it.

(A) is wrong because the passage implies that the days of bimetallism are long over. Thus, it is not a common economic trend.

(C) is tempting, since the gold-only standard did win in the end, but it's too specific in its focus. The author is discussing **both** systems and how they were regarded, not just how monometallism won. The main idea is bigger than this--be careful of narrow, strongly worded answer choices like this one.

(D) is wrong. Though shortcomings in regards to multiple theories were mentioned that is too specific in scope. The purpose of the passage is bimetallism—its place in history.

(E) is off topic.

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Passage

At the peak of tulip mania in Holland, in March 1637, some single tulip bulbs sold for more than 10 times the annual income of a skilled craftsman. It is generally considered the first recorded speculative bubble. The term "tulip mania" is now often used metaphorically to refer to any large economic bubble (when asset prices deviate from intrinsic values).

The event was popularized in 1841 by British journalist Charles Mackay. According to Mackay, at one point 12 acres of land were offered for a *Semper Augustus* bulb. Mackay claims that many such investors were ruined by the fall in prices, and Dutch commerce suffered a severe shock. Some modern scholars, however, feel that the mania was not quite as extraordinary as Mackay described. Some even argue that not enough price data remain, historically, to represent an all out tulip bulb bubble.

In her 2007 scholarly analysis *Tulipmania*, Anne Goldgar states that the phenomenon was limited to "a fairly small group", and that most accounts from the period are based on a few contemporary pieces of propaganda. While Mackay's account held that a wide array of society was involved in the tulip trade, Goldgar's study of archived contracts found that even at its peak the trade in tulips was conducted almost exclusively by merchants and skilled craftsmen who were wealthy, but not members of the nobility. Thus, any economic fallout from the bubble was very limited. Goldgar, who identified many prominent buyers and sellers in the market, found fewer than half a dozen who experienced financial troubles in the time period, and even of these cases it is not clear that tulips were to blame. This is not altogether surprising. Although prices had risen, money had not exchanged hands between buyers and sellers. Thus profits were never realized for sellers; unless sellers had made other purchases on credit in expectation of the profits, the collapse in prices did not cause anyone to lose money.

There is no dispute that prices for tulip bulb contracts rose and then fell in 1636–37, but even a dramatic rise and fall in prices does not necessarily mean that an economic or speculative bubble developed and then burst. For tulip mania to have qualified as an economic bubble, the price of tulip bulbs would need to have become unhinged from the intrinsic value of the bulbs. Modern economists have advanced several possible reasons for why the rise and fall in prices may not have constituted a bubble. For one, the increases of the 1630s corresponded with a lull in the Thirty Years' War, which occurred between 1618 and 1648. Hence market prices were responding rationally to a rise in demand. However, the fall in prices was faster and more dramatic than the rise, and did not result from a sudden resurgence in the war.

Q1.

It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following applies to the merchant and skilled craftsmen in 17th century Holland who traded in tulips?

They comprised a smaller total percentage of the economy than did the nobility.They were likely to experience financial difficulties during the tulip mania.They used the term “tulip mania” to refer to the high prices of tulips in the 17th century.They caused an economic crisis through their speculative trading of tulips.They commonly sold highly priced tulips to members of the nobility.

## Text Explanation

According to Goldgar only merchants and skilled craftsmen were involved in the tulip trade, not nobles. Her conclusion? That the economic impact was limited. Therefore, the merchants and skilled craftsmen who were involved in tulip trade did not have that much of an effect on the economy as did the nobility. This leads us to answer choice (A).

(B) sounds tempting. But the paragraph goes onto say that Goldgar “found fewer than half a dozen who experienced financial troubles.”

(C) is wrong because nowhere does the passage say that the merchants coined the term “tulip mania.”

(D) goes against the entire Goldgar paragraph, which says the economic fallout was limited to the merchants. Thus, there was no broader economic crisis.

(E) is in no way supported by the passage

Q2.

The author of the passage believes that an economic bubble occurs when

the demand for a luxury good becomes far greater than the supply of that goodthe price of a good far exceeds the inherent worth of that goodtoo many buyers pay a price that the sellers know is inflatedthere is a sudden absence of any buyers for a productthere a dramatic rise in prices followed by a sudden drop

## Text Explanation

(B) is directly supported by the lines, "the price of tulip bulbs would need to have become unhinged from the intrinsic value of the bulbs."

(A) is not mentioned.

(C) sounds plausible but does not match up with the author's definition.

(D) is wrong because the passage does not talk about a "sudden absence of buyers" in regards to an economic bubble.

(E) is very tempting, and it may match up with the reader's sense of what an economic bubble is. But remember to base your answer on the passage and not what you think

Q3.

The author of the passage implies that had the lull in Thirty Year’s War ceased more abruptly then

the tulip mania would have likely spread throughout other parts of Europethe price of tulips would not have become separated from the intrinsic worth of the flowerthe price of the tulips would have fallen at a similar rate, if not even more steeplythe drop in the number of tulips traded would not have been as significantthe aristocracy would have likely suffered significant losses as a result of the tulip trade

## Text Explanation

According to the passage, the lull in the Thirty Years War led to an increase in demand. So the rise in the demand for tulips was expected. The passage says that tulips suddenly fell, though there was still a lull in the war. Thus, we can infer that the lull did not cause the drop in prices. Had the lull suddenly stopped—as the question asks—then the prices most likely would have still fallen. And since the start of war would have brought about a general drop in demand, the demand for tulips may have fallen even more quickly. This matches up best with (C).

(A) is not supported by the passage. If anything, the passage suggests the opposite: tulip mania would have spread throughout Europe.

(B) is wrong. The war starting up again would not affect the rise in prices of tulips since the price was already falling, regardless of the status of the war.

(D) is not supported by the passage that explicitly states that the aristocracy was not involved.

(E) is worded unpleasantly and refers to the aristocracy again. We have no support in the passage with regards to the aristocracy and there hold on the tulip industry, so we can eliminate (E).

Q4

Based on the passage, all of the following are mentioned as casting doubt on Mackay’s thesis EXCEPT

Accounts of tulip mania came from limited and not totally credible sourcesTrade of tulips was limited to a certain group of peopleThere was a dearth of information relating to the price of tulips throughout the maniaThe nobility ceased to trade in tulips once prices began to increase sharplyThe rise in the price of tulips corresponded with the changes in the Thirty Years War

## Text Explanation

(A) is supported by “contemporary pieces of propaganda.”

(B) is supported by mention of merchants and craftsmen.

(C) is supported by “some argue that not enough price data remain.”

(D) is not supported and IS therefore our answer. Remember, it says the nobility were not involved at all, not that they suddenly stopped trading tulips.

(E) is supported by the last paragraph

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passage

Sleep-learning experiments are notoriously difficult to conduct. For one thing, one must be sure that the subjects are actually asleep and stay that way during the "lessons." The most rigorous trials of verbal sleep learning have failed to show any new knowledge taking root. While more and more research has demonstrated the importance of sleep for learning and memory consolidation, none had managed to show actual learning of new information taking place in an adult brain during sleep.

Recently, however, researchers chose to experiment with a type of conditioning that involves exposing subjects to a tone followed by an odor, so that they soon exhibit a similar response to the tone as they would to the odor. The pairing of tones and odors presented several advantages. Neither wakes the sleeper (in fact, certain odors can promote sound sleep), yet the brain processes them and even reacts during slumber. Moreover, the sense of smell holds a unique non-verbal measure that can be observed -- namely sniffing. The researchers found that, in the case of smelling, the sleeping brain acts much as it does when awake: We inhale deeply when we smell a pleasant aroma but stop our inhalation short when assaulted by a bad smell. This variation in sniffing could be recorded whether the subjects were asleep or awake. Finally, this type of conditioning, while it may appear to be quite simple, is associated with some higher brain areas -- including the hippocampus, which is involved in memory formation.

In the experiments, the subjects slept in a special lab while their sleep state was continuously monitored. As they slept, a tone was played, followed by an odor -- either pleasant or unpleasant. Then another tone was played, followed by an odor at the opposite end of the pleasantness scale. Over the course of the night, the associations were partially reinforced, so that the subject was exposed to just the tones as well. The sleeping volunteers reacted to the tones alone as if the associated odor were still present -- by either sniffing deeply or taking shallow breaths. The next day, the now awake subjects again heard the tones alone -- with no accompanying odor. Although they had no conscious recollection of listening to them during the night, their breathing patterns told a different story. When exposed to tones that had been paired with pleasant odors, they sniffed deeply, while the second tones -- those associated with bad smells -- provoked short, shallow sniffs.

The team then asked whether this type of learning is tied to a particular phase of sleep. In a second experiment, they divided the sleep cycles into rapid eye movement (REM) and non-REM sleep, and then induced the conditioning during only one phase or the other. Surprisingly, they found that the learned response was more pronounced during the REM phase, but the transfer of the association from sleep to waking was evident only when learning took place during the non-REM phase. The researchers suggest that during REM sleep we may be more open to influence from the stimuli in our surroundings, but so-called "dream amnesia" -- which makes us forget most of our dreams -- may operate on any conditioning occurring in that stage of sleep. In contrast, non-REM sleep is the phase that is important for memory consolidation, so it might also play a role in this form of sleep-learning.

The first paragraph serves primarily to

capture the complexity of an ongoing controversydescribe the current state in a particular field of studyanticipate difficulties related to certain forms of researchelaborate on a novel approach to a lingering questionintroduce a particular methodology

## Text Explanation

Answer: (B)

The first paragraph notes, “…experiments…notoriously difficult…”, “the most rigorous trials…failed to show…”, “none had managed…” Taken together these quotes describe the difficulty sleep researchers are currently having. This matches up best with (B).

(C) is a close answer, and a tempting one. The word ‘difficulties’ stands out. However, is the function of the first paragraph to anticipate difficulties? The rest of the passage is focused on an experiment that has overcome some of these difficulties. Had (C) been the answer, the passage would have focused more on the difficulties researchers have had trying to measure the amount of learning that takes place during sleep

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passage

What little scholarship has existed on Ernest Hemingway--considering his stature--has focused on trying to unmask the man behind the bravura. Ultimately, most of these works have done little more than to show that Hemingway the myth and Hemingway the man were not too dissimilar (Hemingway lived to hunt big game so should we be surprised at his virility, not to mention that of many of the author’s--chiefly male--protagonists?). In the last few years, several biographies have reversed this trend, focusing on Hemingway near the end of his life: isolated and paranoid, the author imagined the government was chasing him (he was not completely wrong on this account). Ironically, the hunter had become the hunted, and in that sense, these latest biographers have provided--perhaps unwittingly--the most human portrait of the writer yet.

Q1 (45)

It can be inferred from the passage that the author considers the latest Hemingway biographies a departure from traditional biographies in that these latest biographies

focus on a much overlooked aspect of the writer’s body of workdepict Hemingway in a manner that is at odds with the myth of Hemingwayclaim that Hemingway was similar to several of his chief protagonists in his bookssuggest that Hemingway lacked the virility many associated with himdo not attempt to explore the link between Hemingway the man and Hemingway the myth

## Text Explanation

Answer: (B)

The myth of Hemingway relates to how earlier biographies tried to “unmask the man…” The new biographies show Hemingway as “the hunter…the hunted.” Therefore (B).

(A) is incorrect because while they explore a different side of Hemingway, they do not explore a different side of his work.

(C) is the opposite of what the passage implies about the latest biographies.

(D) is going a little too far in saying that Hemingway lacked the virility, or manliness.

(E) is an alluring answer choice. (E) can be generally inferred from the passage. But the question pertains to why the author thinks the latest biographies are different

Q2.

With which of the following would the author of the passage agree?

The prevalence of scholarship on Hemingway is commensurate with his renown as a writer.The latest Hemingway biographies consciously intended to show Hemingway’s vulnerabilities.Until recently, Hemingway biographies had shown a similar trend

## Text Explanation

Answers: (C) only

(A) is wrong because the first sentence clearly states the opposite: for someone of Hemingway’s stature, few biographies have resulted.

(B) is wrong because the passage says, “perhaps unwittingly”, meaning the biographies did not consciously set out to depict Hemingway’s vulnerabilities.

(C) is clearly supported in the passage: “What little scholarship…bravura.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passage

Both darkly comic and deeply tragic, Guy’s biography of the 12th archbishop of Canterbury Sir Thomas Becket, is a portrait of a saint with plenty of shadows. Does it diminish Becket for us to know that this future martyr in a hair shirt (clothing worn by ascetics) also made sure to keep a fine silk robe handy for his return to Canterbury, a stately progress one chronicler compared to Christ’s entry into Jerusalem? That his abstemious diet was partly the result of a lifelong susceptibility to chronic, and debilitating, indigestion? That one of his oldest and closest friends would have found his canonization “utterly absurd”? Only if we prefer the black-and-white certainties of hagiography to the convincingly human portrayal of a charismatic, contradictory individual who was, as Guy puts it, “as prickly as he was smooth . . . a man with the habits of a hedgehog.”

Q1.

The primary purpose of this passage is to

provide insight into the contradictions of a historical figureenumerate the shortcomings of a piece of literaturepraise a work for favoring a complex portrayal over a simple onecriticize practices particular to a certain timepresent a balanced depiction of a well-known historical person

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

The purpose of the passage is to extol Guy’s depiction of Becket, while noting that those who like idealized biographies will not appreciate the work. The answer that matches up best is (C).

(A) sounds tempting because of the word ‘contradiction’. The aim of the passage, however, is not to just focus on the contradictions but the way in which they make Guy's work interesting (at least for those who do not prefer simple, idealized treatments of historical figures).

(B) is not the answer because the passage is in favor of the biography.

(D) is off the mark, because the passage only mentions practices as they pertain to Becket.

(E) is wrong because the goal is not to provide a balanced depiction but to assess a work that does so

Q2.

The author’s tone towards Guy’s biography of Becket can best be described as

apologeticneutralambivalentsardonicappreciative

## Text Explanation

Answer: (E)

The author describes Guy’s work as “darkly comic and deeply tragic.” “Convincing human portrayal” also suggests that the author is appreciative of Guy’s biography. Answer (E).

He is not apologizing for the work, so (A) is out. (C) suggests that the author has negative emotions of Guy’s biography

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passage

ladimir Nabokov, the scientist and the author have been treated as discrete manifestations of a prodigious and probing mind, until now. In her recent biography on Nabokov, Temoshotka makes the bold assertion that these two apparently disparate realms of Nabokov’s polymorphous genius were not so unrelated after all. While Temoshotka cannot be faulted for the boldness of her thesis—Nabokov’s hobby as a lepidopterist (a butterfly collector) and his experience as a novelist informed each other—she fails to make a convincing case. Surely, with enough ingenuity, one can find parallels, as Temoshotka does, between the creative products of Nabokov the naturalist and Nabokov the writer: the intricate butterfly wings that he pored over in his laboratory and the intricate prose that he crafted with sedulous care. But to say the prose of *Lolita*and *Speak Memory* would not have coalesced into their current incarnations had Nabokov’s hobby been, say, lawn tennis is simply reaching too far.

Q1

The primary purpose of the passage is to

analyze several conflicting interpretations of an author’s workchampion a specific interpretation of a writer’s workschallenge a common understanding of a well-known writerapplaud an undertaking but question the validity of its claimssupport a claim regarding an author’s creative process, but doubt the extent of that claim

## Text Explanation

Answer: (D)

(D) is the best answer because the passage does commend Temoshotka on the boldness of her thesis but ultimately he questions the validity of the claim.

(A) is wrong. There are no ‘conflicting interpretations’ involved.

(B) is wrong because the author calls attention to the dubious nature of Temoshotka’s claims.

The passage challenges a specific interpretation of an author’s work. That is not the same as (C).

(E) is wrong because the text applauds/supports the cleverness and the boldness of the claim but not the claim itself.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passage

One reason we are able to recognize speech, despite all the acoustic variation in the signal, and even in very difficult listening conditions, is that the speech situation contains a great deal of redundancy—more information than is strictly necessary to decode the message. There is, firstly, our general ability to make predictions about the nature of speech, based on our previous linguistic experience—our knowledge of the speakers, subject matter, language, and so on. But in addition, the wide range of frequencies found in every signal presents us with far more information than we need in order to recognize what is being said. As a result, we are able to focus our auditory attention on just the relevant distinguishing features of the signal—features that have come to be known as acoustic cues.

What are these cues, and how can we prove their role in the perception of speech? It is not possible to obtain this information simply by carrying out an acoustic analysis of natural speech: this would tell us what acoustic information is present but not what features of the signal are actually used by listeners in order to identify speech sounds. The best an acoustic description can do is give us a rough idea as to what a cue might be. But to learn about listener’s perception, we need a different approach.

Q1. (50)

The main reason that the author of the passage discounts using a purely acoustic analysis to understand the way in which humans are able to recognize sounds is that

the physical properties of speech and the perception of those physical properties are qualitatively differentredundancy, or the excess of information, typically ensures that a signal is faithfully transmitted between two speakersno two people process the same cue in exactly the same waythe relevant distinguishing features of a sound tend to merge different cues into a generalized sound so as to render any analysis ineffectualhumans ignore certain features of the acoustic sound that may figure prominently into the perception of sound

## Text Explanation

Answer: (A)

The passage, towards the end, mentions "this would tell us...order to identify to speech sounds." Therefore the acoustic cue and the perception of that acoustic cue are fundamentally different. (A) supports this.

(B) is incorrect because it does not relate to the question. It is a tempting answer because it is supported by the passage.

(C) a tempting, but wrong, answer because it may apply to real the world. It does not, however, answer the question, since it is not mentioned in the passage.

(D) this answer is not supported by the passage.

(E) the key to this question is understanding that the acoustic cue and the perception of that cue are different. The passage does not say humans ignore sound that is important to the perception of that sound

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passage

Linguist: Each language has a word that captures a concept or emotional state in a way that no other language does. To capture such a breadth of expression, an artificial language should be created that contains words corresponding to all the different concepts and emotional states captured by the world’s languages. That is not to say that such a language would contain as many words as there are in all the world’s languages. Rather, only for those words that have no corresponding word in another language. While such a plan is hugely ambitious, the resulting language would be more thorough than any existing language.

Q1.

The conclusion drawn above depends on which of the following assumptions?

Extinct languages do not offer up words that capture concepts and emotional states in ways that fundamentally differ from those of existing languages.Many languages have words that virtually overlap in the meaning they convey.Each year hundreds of the world’s languages go extinct, once there are no longer any native speakers remaining.It is possible for one person to learn all of the world’s existing languages.The range of concepts and emotional states is the only indication of a language’s thoroughness.

## Text Explanation

Answer: (E)

The conclusion assumes that thoroughness, as it relates towards a language, can be defined as encompassing “the range of concepts and emotional states...”  That is, there is nothing else that accounts for a language’s thoroughness. This leads us to (E).

(A) contrasts existing and extinct languages. Not relevant.

(B) does not relate to the discussion. On the surface, it looks like it may weaken the point but it does not do so. Even if it did, we are dealing with an assumption.

(C) is a general fact that is irrelevant.

(D) sounds like it weakens the argument, if anything

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passage

The Green Peas Grocery Store in the remote wealthy enclave of Luxville charges more than the Green Peas Grocery Store in Oak City charges for the same items. Clearly, on any given item, the Green Peas grocery franchise is taking advantage of its location in Luxville to reap higher profits on that item.

Q1.

In evaluating the argument, it would be most useful to compare

the selection of specialty items in the Oak City location with the selection of specialty items in the Luxville locationthe cost of transporting merchandise to the Oak City location with the comparable cost to the Luxville locationthe average cost of the same or comparable items at other grocery stores in Oak City with the average cost at other stores in LuxvilleThe percent of average household income spent on groceries in Oak City with the comparable percentage in LuxvilleThe cost of these items in Oak City and in Luxville with the cost at other Green Peas stores throughout the state.

## Text Explanation

Answer: (B)

The argument contends that Green Peas is taking advantage of its location in a rich neighborhood. Notice the word 'remote' though. One important consideration is transporting costs. If it costs a lot of money to ship to Luxville, then the Green Peas store is justified in charging more there. (B) effectively takes care of that objection. Unless (B) is known, the argument is open to this objection.

(A) is incorrect because the argument relates to all items, not just specialty ones.

(C) The focus of the argument is Green Peas, not other stores. Yet a possible line of reasoning is that if we compare the prices of similar goods at stores in Luxville to the prices of those in Oak City, we can see if Green Peas in Luxville is overcharging. But imagine the stores in Luxville all charge more for the same goods than stores in Oak Town. Does that directly address the conclusion that Green Peas is taking advantage of its location? All stores in Luxville may simply have to pay more for shipping (see (B)); they are not trying to overcharge the wealthy.

(D) is wrong since household income does not relate to the argument.

(E), like (D) and (C), is out of scope

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passage

The citizens’ movement had, to no avail, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the government to concede to its demands – eventually their earnest entreaties became nothing more than a silent protest.

[cited](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/cited.js)[notified](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/notified.js)[importuned](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/importuned.js)[finagled](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/finagled.js)[alerted](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/alerted.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

’to no avail…concede’ shows that the movement was unsuccessful in its demands. These demands were ‘earnest entreaties.’ We need a word that matches ‘entreaties,’ is to ask for something humbly

(A)to cite has a few meanings, none of which are at all relevant, including to quote andto summon to court(as when you receive a traffic ticket from a police officer).   
(B)notified is too soft a word  
(C)importuned means to ask for pressingly  
(D)finagled is to coax  
(E)alerted does not match up with entreaties

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q1.

Inspiration rarely leads to great writing unless coupled with a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ regimen, one which affords writers ample opportunities to experience a flash of insight.

[tedious](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/tedious.js)[exacting](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/exacting.js)[unexpected](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/unexpected.js)[inconsistent](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/inconsistent.js)[widespread](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/widespread.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (B)

A writer needs to follow a regimen in which he/she has "ample opportunities" to be inspired, or, as the second part of the sentence says, "experience a flash of insight". "Ample" means plentiful. So essentially the sentence is saying that unless a writer gets plenty of opportunities (meaning, writes a lot), he /she is not going to get many flashes of insight or inspiration

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

hile caffeine is well-known as a stimulant, few are aware that an excess of caffeine can actually have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ effect.

[restorative](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/restorative.js)[paradoxical](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/paradoxical.js)[soporific](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/soporific.js)[revitalizing](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/revitalizing.js)[detrimental](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/detrimental.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

'While' indicates a shift from 'stimulant' to its opposite. (C) means inducing sleepiness.

(A) is the opposite of the blank.

(B) is tricky. That coffee ("a well-known stimulant") can actually have a soporific effect is paradoxical. But 'paradoxical' isn't the word that actually fits in the blank.

(D) is the opposite.

(E) is not the opposite of 'stimulant.'

**FAQ: Why doesn't *detrimental* work?**

This question is a classic example of a shift sentence. The first part of the sentence talks about caffeine as a stimulant, so we're looking for answer that best opposesstimulant. While detrimentalis an okay answer, it's not the best contrast with stimulant. Soporific which means "sleep inducing" better contrasts stimulant and is therefore a better answer

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Despite the formality of the occasion, he danced with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, flailing his arms in the air uninhibitedly.

[decorum](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/decorum.js)[piquancy](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/piquancy.js)[vitriol](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/vitriol.js)[unease](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/unease.js)[abandon](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/abandon.js)

Text Explanation

Answer: (E)

’Despite the formality’ signals that the blank is the opposite of formal. ‘…uninhibitedly’ further describes the word that fits in the blank

(A) decorum means behaving with formality and etiquette making it the opposite of ‘uninhibitedly’  
(B) piquancy means spiciness   
(C) vitriol is harshness of manner  
(D) unease does not fit context  
(E) a second definition of abandon is doing something without restraint/uninhibitedly

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q57

The columnist was so vehement in his opposition to the divisive issue of fracking that even when he moderated his comments his piece was too \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for publication.

[astute](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/astute.js)[volatile](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/volatile.js)[incendiary](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/incendiary.js)[censored](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/censored.js)[inscrutable](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/inscrutable.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

According to the sentence, “fracking” is a divisive issue—people are likely to take one side or the other. The columnist feels so strongly about this issue (“so vehement”) that, even after he “toned down” his comments his piece was still too likely to cause controversy. (C) means causing likely to make people upset and create conflict.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q58

The incumbent was so roundly trounced in the latest polls that any notion he had at winning the election was illusory, nothing more than a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

[folly](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/folly.js)[intrigue](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/intrigue.js)[chimera](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/chimera.js)[convenience](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/convenience.js)[presumption](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/presumption.js)

Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

’…so roundly trounced…illusory’ shows that the candidate had no chance of winning. The word in the blank must be similar to illusory

(A) folly is a mistake. While it may be a mistake for the candidate to think this way, the word folly does not match the word illusory  
(B) intrigue does not fit context  
(C) chimera is a fanciful notion, something that only exists in the mind  
(D) convenience does not fit context  
(E) presumption means the assuming of something. Does not match illusory

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Meticulous to a fault, Sarah is often considered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; unless, of course, her consummate eye for detail works in one’s favor.

[obstinate](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/obstinate.js)[precocious](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/precocious.js)[wayward](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/wayward.js)[perfunctory](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/perfunctory.js)[persnickety](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/persnickety.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (E)

We want an extreme version of meticulous. Only (E), which means fussy and fastidious, works. Don't be confused by the second part of the sentence. It is actually not a shift. It simply elaborates on the idea of 'persnickety.'

(A) means stubborn.

(B) means developing early in terms of maturity/growth.

(C) means willful, difficult to control.

(D) means done in a cursory and uninspired fashion

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The days of the consummate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are over: there are simply too many fields of knowledge for one person to master completely.

[surveyor](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/surveyor.js)[dilettante](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/dilettante.js)[polymath](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/polymath.js)[rationalist](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/rationalist.js)[fabulist](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/fabulist.js)

Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

The keywords occur in the latter half of the sentence, ‘too many fields of…one person master…’

(A) a surveyor assesses the value of something  
(B) a dilettante is one with a superficial knowledge of the arts  
(C) a polymath is a person who is learned in many fields  
(D) a rationalist is a person who follows reason. Does not entail mastery of many fields  
(E) a fabulist is one who makes up stories

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rubens, for all his high-flown rhetoric, churns out book reviews that have come to seem \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: from decades of critiquing other’s prose, he now relies on a familiar and tired formula.

[scathing](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/scathing.js)[perfunctory](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/perfunctory.js)[erudite](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/erudite.js)[mawkish](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/mawkish.js)[draconian](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/draconian.js)

## Text Explanation

Not much context here—just a straightforward clue to match with tough vocabulary. “Familiar and tired” matches up best with (B)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Though the accounting firm was exonerated of any corporate malfeasance, the perception that it is not completely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has persisted.

[unscrupulous](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/unscrupulous.js)[aboveboard](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/aboveboard.js)[competent](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/competent.js)[tarnished](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/tarnished.js)[unforthcoming](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/unforthcoming.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (B)

'Though' signals a shift from 'exonerated', or freed from guilt, to the idea that people still perceive the corporation as guilty. The 'not' before completely, however, shows that there is a reverse shift. The blank must therefore must mean a word that is the opposite of malfeasance. (B) works well.

(A) is the opposite of the blank.

(C) is too neutral of a word.

(D) is negative.

(E) implies that the company is not honest, the opposite of the blank.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-

The politician spoke in a tedious, pompous manner, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the entire duration of his speech.

[ranting](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/ranting.js)[anointing](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/anointing.js)[bloviating](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/bloviating.js)[misconstruing](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/misconstruing.js)[augmenting](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/augmenting.js)

Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

‘tedious, pompous…’ matches the blank

(A) ranting means speaking angrily and at length  
(B) anointing means to make something holy  
(C) bloviating means speaking in a pompous manner  
(D) misconstruing means misinterpreting  
(E) augmenting means increasing in size

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

With the critics waiting in the flanks, their pens flourished like rapiers, Henderson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what would inevitably be a media circus regarding the release of yet another of his popular—though always pilloried in the press—series of books featuring a dashing heroine capable of unlimited physical prowess and endless derring-do.

[lampooned](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/lampooned.js)[balked at](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/balked.js)[steeled himself for](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/steeled.js)[invited](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/invited.js)[contemplated](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/contemplated.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

Henderson's works are always harshly treated by critics ("pilloried by the press"). The critics are just about to tear into his latest work ("waiting in the...", "...like rapiers"). Therefore, Henderson is bracing himself, or (C), which means to prepare oneself from something trying and unpleasant.

(A) is wrong because if anything it is the critics who are doing the lampooning, not Henderson.

(B) means to refuse to do something. Henderson, however, isn't doing anything. It is the critics who are about to do what Henderson knows they've done so many times before ("...inevitably be a...").

(D) is wrong, because, if anything, Henderson invited the response by writing the work. Now the critics are about to skewer the work, and he is not inviting this response. Rather he is bracing himself.

(E) is too neutral for the context.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

That the psychopharmacological journal had already published the findings of the clinician’s experiment rendered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ any prior misgivings she had regarding the validity of her control group.

[extant](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/extant.js)[moot](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/moot.js)[fallacious](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/fallacious.js)[topical](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/topical.js)[retroactive](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/retroactive.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (B)

The journal had already published her work, so any fears that she had over the article not getting published due to questionable validity are no longer relevant. When something is moot, it is no longer an issue

(A) extant means still in existence  
(B) moot fits the context  
(C) fallacious means erroneous. A misgiving is a feeling, and feelings can't be incorrect. Information can be incorrect, as can ideas, but feelings can't. So "fallacious" doesn't quite fit in that sense. Beyond that, "fallacious" is too strong in its meaning. Since the study was already published, we know that her concerns about the validity don't matter any more. We don't know, though, that they're based on incorrect information."

(D) topical means relevant to current events

(E) retroactive means in effect starting from a point in the past

### FAQ: Doesn't "moot" just mean arguable or debatable? It doesn't seem to fit in context, here.

There is another, related definition of moot that's a little less common. But that's what they like to test on the GRE—the secondary definitions.

moot: "having no practical significance"

In this case, we could paraphrase the sentence to say that her concerns are not important anymore since the journal already published the work—even if there was a problem with the control group, it's too late to change it

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Olympic Cycling Team took their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the base of the mountain, hoping that the extra calories would sustain them during the tortuous ascent.

[vows](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/vows.js)[repast](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/repast.js)[umbrage](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/umbrage.js)[dander](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/dander.js)[leave](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/leave.js)

Text Explanation

Answer: (B)

’hoping…extra calories’ shows that the team just had their meal. We need a word similar to meal

(A) vows does not fit context  
(B) a repast is a meal  
(C) umbrage is annoyance  
(D) dander is one’s temper  
(E) leave does not mean meal

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The travelogue is a thorny genre, even for seasoned writers, for one must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a curious balance between inspired navel-gazing and reportage with a cosmopolitan slant.

[boast](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/boast.js)[deconstruct](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/deconstruct.js)[effect](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/effect.js)[inhibit](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/inhibit.js)[forsake](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/forsake.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

This is a tough question because it tests the second definition of the word “effect”, which, when used as a verb, means to bring about. For instance, Martin Luther King effected many monumental changes for African-Americans. Therefore, a travel writer must bring about/make happen this curious balance between being inwardly focused and outwardly focused.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Revolutions do little to cure a nation’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – the very agitation that allowed for a change in previous rule often precludes the formation of a viable government.

[jingoism](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/jingoism.js)[paranoia](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/paranoia.js)[restiveness](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/restiveness.js)[euphoria](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/euphoria.js)[cupidity](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/cupidity.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

The keyword is ‘agitation.’ The idea the sentence is conveying is that revolutions do not cure agitation, because the agitation that gave rise to revolution often prevents a functioning government. The word in the blank should be similar to agitation.

(A) jingoism means excessive patriotism. There are no keywords to support the idea of excessive patriotism.  
(B) paranoia, which means irrational fear, does not match up with agitation  
(C) restiveness connotes a sense of restlessness/difficulty to control. A restive population is one likely to rebel and have a revolution  
(D) euphoria means extreme happiness. Does not match context  
(E) cupidity means greed

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

It was not out of mere \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that Mozart, by then well established, sought out a young Beethoven—in the latter’s early work Mozart divined a genius that he hoped to, in some way, cultivate.

[contrariness](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/contrariness.js)[solicitude](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/solicitude.js)[surliness](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/surliness.js)[prejudice](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/prejudice.js)[enlightenment](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/enlightenment.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (B)

Mozart was not just curious about Beethoven. He wanted to help cultivate the latter's genius. While, there is no word meaning 'curious', 'solicitude' implies a concern for someone. That is you want to see how a person is getting along to make sure everything is going well with them. In this sentence, Mozart had a deeper motive

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Critics who charged that the technology start-up had blatantly appropriated the laptop design of the leading manufacturer failed to take into account a recent report citing that the start-up had been anything but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, as not only was it the first to market, but pictures of its original design had initially surfaced publicly.

[hesitant](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/hesitant.js)[dominant](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/dominant.js)[innovative](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/innovative.js)[unscrupulous](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/unscrupulous.js)[posthumous](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/posthumous.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (D)

The key to this sentence is to notice 'blatantly appropriated', which, in common parlance, means to rip off. The latter part of the sentence 'not only was...', and 'initially surfaced...'. Therefore, the company did not steal the design. They were anything but thieves or unscrupulous people.

(A) is a great trap. But the focus of the sentence is not whether the start-up was hesitant, but whether it stole the design.

The sentence suggest that the start-up had been innovative. 'Anything but' means 'not.' Therefore (C) is out.

(D), which means unethical, best creates a meaning that is consistent with the information in the passage: the startup did not steal the design because they were the first ones to come up with it. Therefore, the startup was anything but unethical

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q71.

It ill behooves the president elect to forthwith \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the policies that kept his predecessor in good standing on both sides of the political divide.

[enact](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/enact.js)[abrogate](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/abrogate.js)[promulgate](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/promulgate.js)[require](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/require.js)[embrace](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/embrace.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (B)

'Ill behooves' means not suitable or fitting. In this case, it is not apt for the president to overturn or repeal the very policies that helped his/her predecessor.

(A) is the opposite of the blank.

(B) means to repeal, overturn. Thus it is the answer.

(C) means to publicly declare.

(D) does not match the context.

(E) is the opposite of the blank.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For all her brilliance, Ada was undone by a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that led her to disparage those who took any speculation too seriously, averring that the philosophical mind worked best when it did not attach itself too strongly to any one line of thought.

[cleverness](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/cleverness.js)[insouciance](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/insouciance.js)[hostility](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/hostility.js)[sedulity](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/sedulity.js)[earnestness](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/earnestness.js)

## Text Explanation

“For all her brilliance” can be translated to “despite her brilliance”. Therefore, we know the blank has to a negative word. There is one clearly negative word, and two very difficult vocab words (both of which are negative). The key is not to become lured in by(C) hostility. Even though the sentence says that Ada disparages others that is not the same thing as hostility. The sentence is actually saying a lot more: Ada doesn’t like to become too serious about any one thing, thinking the mind works best this way. Remember, the first part of the sentence, she is brilliant but something is her downfall ("undone by"): she has a tendency not to take any one line of thought seriously. Hence, (B) insouciance works best.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The stage of daytime talk shows has become our Roman coliseum – the audience, hissing and booing, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the “culprit,” who is forced to justify some unseemly behavior.

[conciliates](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/conciliates.js)[remediates](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/remediates.js)[lauds](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/lauds.js)[execrates](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/execrates.js)[stymies](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/stymies.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (D)

The blank needs to match the words ‘hissing and booing.’

(A)conciliates means to placate, make peace with  
(B)remediates means to improve  
(C)lauds means to praise  
(D)execrates means to express great loathing for  
(E)stymies means to prevent

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The effects of radiation are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: only after many years, once a chronic disease surfaces, do people realize they had, at some point in their lives, been exposed.

[debatable](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/debatable.js)[insidious](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/insidious.js)[obvious](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/obvious.js)[indiscernible](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/indiscernible.js)[benign](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/benign.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (B)

The keywords are "only after many years...", "chronic disease surfaces." People are unaware that they were harmed in the first place. (B) means having harmful, but subtle effect, which matches the context well.

(A) is wrong because there is nothing debatable. According to the sentence, radiation has harmful effects.

(C) is the opposite of the blank.

(D) is tricky. But remember, the effects, after many years, are discernible.

(E), which means not harmful, is the opposite of the blank

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hoping for a fresh \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of cash, the nascent public works program had to shut down when funds were not forthcoming.

[reprisal](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/reprisal.js)[dispersal](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/dispersal.js)[liquidity](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/liquidity.js)[infusion](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/infusion.js)[instantiation](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/instantiation.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (D)

’Hoping for…had to shut down…funds not forthcoming…’ shows that the program was hoping for more cash but did not receive it

(A) a reprisal is act carried out in revenge  
(B) a dispersal is a scattering of something  
(C) liquidity describes the process of turning goods into cash. This process is not supported by the context  
(D) an infusion is a certain amount or quality of something, in this case cash  
(E) instantiation is an instance of something

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For the time being, at least, the director’s intent is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: he has remained reticent during interviews, and even viewers have had wildly divergent interpretations over the film.

[suspect](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/suspect.js)[unambiguous](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/unambiguous.js)[equivocal](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/equivocal.js)[hostile](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/hostile.js)[diffident](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/diffident.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

The director isn't saying much about the film ("remained reticent"), and viewers can't seem to agree ("wildly divergent..."). Therefore, the director's intent is unknown, open to interpretation. (C) works best.

(A) is wrong because there is nothing in the sentence to suggest that the intent was dubious.

(B) is the opposite of the blank.

(D) is not supported by the context.

(E) means lacking confidence. It is not supported by the context.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q77

Parson Weems, George Washington’s preeminent biographer during the president’s life, is responsible for spreading many of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we today accept as the unvarnished truth.

[canards](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/canards.js)[assurances](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/assurances.js)[disenchantments](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/disenchantment.js)[enmities](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/enmities.js)[certainties](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/certainties.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (A)

There is a subtle shift in time—today we accept something as truth that, at the time, was the opposite of truth.

(A) a ‘canard’ is a rumor or false report. This word contrasts nicely with ‘unvarnished truth’  
(B) ‘assurances’ is not the opposite of truth  
(C) ‘disenchantments’ are disappointments. There is no context to support that   
(D) ‘enmities’ are hatreds and hostilities  
(E) ‘certainties’ does not fit the context

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In August 27th, 1883, the Indonesian island of Krakatoa, home to a highly volatile volcano, disappeared overnight in a display of stunning geological prowess that continued \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ even after the island had vanished, as a series of massive seismic shocks created a tsunami with waves of 150-feet high that traveled nearly a thousand miles.

[furtively](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/furtively.js)[haphazardly](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/haphazardly.js)[undiminished](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/undiminished.js)[hypothetically](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/hypothetically.js)[retroactively](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/retroactively.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

In the form of a tsunami, the geological prowess is still on display even after the island has disappeared. Therefore, the prowess has not lessened, or remains undiminished.

(A) is out, because there is nothing secretive about a massive tsunami.

(B) means lacking a purpose, random.

(D) is wrong, because the event actually happened.

(E) doesn't work because the effects of the tsunami can't go back in time

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

With characteristic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, H.L. Mencken skewered the sacred cows of his time, criticizing social trends and government institutions with equal asperity.

[hauteur](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/hauteur.js)[playfulness](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/playfulness.js)[vitriol](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/vitriol.js)[civility](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/civility.js)[dash](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/dash.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

’criticizing…asperity’ indicates the blank is a synonym for harshness

(A) hauteur means to be arrogant. The word does not match the keywords  
(B) playfulness is not supported by the context  
(C) vitriol means harsh and bitter criticism  
(D) civility is the opposite of the blank  
(E) dash means flair

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

That, through no fault of his own, George Cuvier, the father of extinction theory, has mostly slipped into obscurity, his name typically surfacing only in paleontology journals, is an outcome that—given his field and his claim that his work would endure—smacks of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

[unexpectedness](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/unexpectedness.js)[arrogance](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/arrogance.js)[magnanimity](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/magnanimity.js)[irony](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/irony.js)[insignificance](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/insignificance.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (D)

From the sentence we learn that Cuvier was once very important (father of a theory) and that he thought he would continue being important after he died (he claims his work would endure). But he has actually slipped into obscurity. Add to this that his field happened to be extinction theory and we have an example of (D) irony.

(A) is wrong since it isn’t necessarily unexpected, at least according to the sentence, what happened to Cuvier. Again, focus on the clue “his field and his claim”.

(B) is tempting, but there just isn’t enough context to suggest that Cuvier was arrogant. He didn’t boast about how great he was. He just believed people would read his work in the future.

(C) Just means kindness/generosity. Doesn’t fit.

(D) The answer.

(E) is tempting. Sure, Cuvier may now seem insignificant because he has been largely forgotten. But though this word captures other parts of the sentence it doesn’t fit in the blank. Why would the “outcome smack of insignificance”? We have to make sure the blank matches up with the clue “his field and his claim.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

History has recast the 15th century Florentine monk Girolamo Savonarola as a rabble-rousing zealot lording over the "bonfire of the vanities”; yet this so-called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ --mainly because he directed his censure at the church--was a crusader for austerity and thus a check on a papacy that had run a course of profligacy.

[ascetic](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/ascetic.js)[nonpartisan](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/nonpartisan.js)[heretic](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/heretic.js)[martyr](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/martyr.js)[libertine](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/libertine.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (C)

There is a lot going on in this sentence. We have a clear contrast between the rabble-rousing zealot and the fact that he is a crusader for austerity. The real crux of the question, though, is the part about how he was considered something negative because he stood up against the church. The word that means somebody who opposes the church—even if they do so for moral purposes—is (C) heretic. Watch out for (A), which means somebody who leads a life of austerity. Sure that describes Savonarola, but not the part around the blank.

(D) just means dying for a cause—something not backed up by the sentence. (E) is somebody who leads an immoral life, or a person who was the opposite of the austere Savonarola

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q.

While she was unfailingly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to her superiors, such slavish obedience and unquestioning sycophancy never helped her ascend beyond the role of a lackey.

[glib](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/glib.js)[impertinent](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/impertinent.js)[obliging](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/obliging.js)[obsequious](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/obsequious.js)[deferential](http://gre.magoosh.com/definitions/deferential.js)

## Text Explanation

Answer: (D)

’…slavish obedience…unquestioning sycophancy…’ describe the blank.

(A) to be glib is to speak in smooth manner, one which suggests insincerity on the speaker’s part  
(B) impertinent means rude  
(C) obliging means helpful. This word does not carry the negative connotation of the word in the blank  
(D) an obsequious person is one who acts as a slave would, figuratively licking the boots of those above him or her  
(E) deferential carries with a positive connotation and simply means to be respectful towards

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passage

Originally, scientists predicted small asteroids to be hard and rocky, as any loose surface material (called regolith) generated by impacts was expected to escape their weak gravity. Aggregate small bodies were not thought to exist, because the slightest sustained relative motion would cause them to separate. But observations and computer modeling are proving otherwise. Most asteroids larger than a kilometer are now believed to be composites of smaller pieces. Those imaged at high-resolution show evidence for copious regolith despite the weak gravity. Most of them have one or more extraordinarily large craters, some of which are wider than the mean radius of the whole body. Such colossal impacts would not just gouge out a crater—they would break any monolithic body into pieces. In short, asteroids larger than a kilometer across may look like nuggets of hard rock but are more likely to be aggregate assemblages—or even piles of loose rubble so pervasively fragmented that no solid bedrock is left.

The rubble hypothesis, proposed decades ago by scientists, lacked evidence, until the planetologist Shoemaker realized that the huge craters on the asteroid Mathilde and its very low density could only make sense together: a porous body such as a rubble pile can withstand a battering much better than an integral object. It will absorb and dissipate a large fraction of the energy of an impact; the far side might hardly feel a thing. At first, the rubble hypothesis may appear conceptually troublesome. The material strength of an asteroid is nearly zero, and the gravity is so low one is tempted to neglect that too. The truth is neither strength nor gravity can be ignored. Paltry though it may be, gravity binds a rubble pile together. And anybody who builds sandcastles knows that even loose debris can cohere. Oft-ignored details of motion begin to matter: sliding friction, chemical bonding, damping of kinetic energy, etc. We are just beginning to fathom the subtle interplay of these minuscule forces.

The size of an asteroid should determine which force dominates. One indication is the observed pattern of asteroidal rotation rates. Some collisions cause an asteroid to spin faster; others slow it down. If asteroids are monolithic rocks undergoing random collisions, a graph of their rotation rates should show a bell-shaped distribution with a statistical “tail” of very fast rotators. If nearly all asteroids are rubble piles, however, this tail would be missing, because any rubble pile spinning faster than once every two or three hours would fly apart. Recently, several astronomers discovered that all but five observed asteroids obey a strict rotation limit. The exceptions are all smaller than about 150 meters in diameter, with an abrupt cutoff for asteroids larger than 200 meters. The evident conclusion—that asteroids larger than 200 meters across are rubble piles—agrees with recent computer modeling of collisions. A collision can blast a large asteroid to bits, but those bits will usually be moving slower than their mutual escape velocity (the lowest velocity that a body must have in order to escape the orbit of a planet). Over several hours, gravity will reassemble all but the fastest pieces into a rubble pile.

Q1.

The example of the sandcastle (in the second paragraph) serves to

invalidate Shoemaker’s initial observationoffer an alternative hypothesis for an observed phenomenondescribe a condition in which the typical laws of the universe do not obtainprovide support for the rubble-pile hypothesispresent as instance in which gravity has little effect

## Text Explanation

Answer: (D)

The author is explaining how a rubble pile is able to stick together, despite using only weak forces. A sandcastle is then used as an analogy. Therefore (D) is the answer.

(A) is wrong because the sandcastle analogy is backing up Shoemaker’s initial observation.

(C) is not the answer because the passage does not say that there is anything atypical about the physics behind a sandcastle.

Though the passage mentions that the effect of gravity is small, the analogy of the sandcastle is not used as an example in which the effect of gravity is weak.

Q2.

According to the rubble-pile hypothesis, an advantage conferred on an asteroid held together by weak forces is that it is

unlikely to fall apart over a long period of timemore amenable to computer modelingless susceptible to powerful impactsnot likely to collide with another objectmore readily observed by astronomers

## Text Explanation

According to the passage, “a porous body…It will absorb and dissipate…” . In other words, though a rubble pile is held together by weak forces it can still withstand a battering--even more so than a monolithic body. Therefore Answer (C).

(A) is wrong. Duration, in regards to an asteroid holding together, is not mentioned.

(B) is wrong because the passage does not talk about "computer modeling".

(D) is wrong since the passage says that rubble-piles DO collide with other object--just that they are better able to withstand the impact.

(E) is wrong because how observable a rubble pile is by astronomers is not mentioned.

Q3.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

refute an unconventional theory regarding asteroid collisionsexpress doubt regarding the validity of evidence offered up by several notable astronomersexplain how earlier evidence used to describe an aspect of asteroids was misleadingexplore common features of an asteroid in order to provide support for a theorydiscuss how one explanation of an astronomical phenomenon is most likely correct

## Text Explanation

While (E) does not jump out, it is the strongest answer. The purpose is to discuss how the rubble-pile hypothesis is most likely the correct way to describe the structure of asteroids.

(A) is incorrect because what scientists originally thought about asteroid impacts is not unconventional.

(B) is wrong since because, besides Shoemaker (with whom the passage agrees), there are no notable astronomers mentioned.

The point of passage is lend credence towards the rubble-pile hypothesis. The main passage is not to focus on early evidence (which is nothing more than scientists’ preconceptions). Therefore (C) is wrong.

(D) is off, because of the word “common features.” What are these common features? Don’t be trapped by the last part of the answer choice. The entire answer choice has to be correct

Q4

The reason that graphs of asteroid rotation rates lack the expected statistical tail associated with high rotational rates is that

the greater the speed in which an asteroid spins the more likely it is to coherethe weak forces in asteroids displaying such a high rotational rate would not be able to prevent the asteroid from falling apartasteroids are not being subjected to a uniform distribution of random collisionsmost monolithic asteroids, upon colliding with other asteroids, are able to sustain such a high rate of rotationfor the most part, the asteroids surveyed were less than 150 meters in diameter and thus far less likely to be rubble-piles, which are better able to sustain the impact from collisions

## Text Explanation

Answer: (B)

According to the passage, “…any rubble spinning faster…fly apart.” Therefore (B).

(A) is wrong because the passage says that rubble-piles will fall apart after spinning faster than a certain rate.

(C) is not supported by the passage.

(D) can be inferred from information in the passage, but it does not answer the question.

(E) is incorrect because the passage mentions that most of the asteroids were rubble piles

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Passage

In the mid-1970’s, Walter Alvarez, a geologist, was studying Earth’s polarity. It had recently been learned that the orientation of the planet’s magnetic field reverses, so that every so often, in effect, south becomes north and vice versa. Alvarez and some colleagues had found that a certain formation of pinkish limestone in Italy, known as the scaglia rossa, recorded these occasional reversals. The limestone also contained the fossilized remains of millions of tiny sea creatures called foraminifera. Alvarez became interested in a thin layer of clay in the limestone that seemed to have been laid down around the end of the Cretaceous Period. Below the layer, certain species of foraminifera—or forams, for short—were preserved. In the clay layer, there were no forams. Above the layer, the earlier species disappeared and new forams appeared. Having been taught the uniformitarian view, which held that any apparent extinctions throughout geological time resulted from ‘the incompleteness of the fossil record’ rather than an actual extinction, Alvarez was not sure what to make of the lacuna in geological time corresponding to the missing foraminifera, because the change looked very abrupt.

Had Walter Alvarez not asked his father, the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Luis Alvarez, how long the clay had taken to deposit, the younger Alvarez may not have thought to use iridium, an element rarely found on earth but more plentiful in meteorites, to answer this question. Iridium, in the form of microscopic grains of cosmic dust, is constantly raining down on the planet. The Alvarezes reasoned that if the clay layer had taken a significant amount of time to deposit, it would contain detectable levels of iridium. The results were startling: far too much iridium had shown up. The Alvarez hypothesis, as it became known, was that everything—not just the clay layer—could be explained by a single event: a six-mile-wide asteroid had slammed into Earth, killing off not only the forams but also the dinosaurs and all the other organisms that went extinct at the end of the Cretaceous period.

Q1.

It can be inferred from the passage that had the scaglia rossa not exhibited a certain geological property then which of the following would most likely have been true?

Walter Alvarez would not have used the distribution of foraminifera in limestone as the basis for a conjecture.Scientists would have been unable to determine a shift in the Earth’s magnetic fields.The rocks would not have been of any immediate utility to scientists.Iridium still would have been used to substantiate a hypothesis regarding the extinction of dinosaurs.The gap in foraminifera fossil record would have served an immediate purpose.

## Text Explanation

Answer: (A)

We learn from the passage that Alvarez had been using scaglia rossa as part of his studies on Earth’s polarity. Had he not have been, he would not have encountered the foraminifera, which led to his theory on dinosaur extinction. This supports answer (A).

(B) is tempting, but nowhere in the passage does it mention that the only way to learn about shifts in Earth’s magnetic fields is through the use of scaglia rossa.

(C) is similar to (B) in that we do not have enough information. That is nowhere in the passage does it say scientists have no other uses for scaglia rossa.

(D) Had Alvarez not noted the gap in the foraminifera, he would not have arrived at a theory on dinosaur extinction. Thus he would not have had any use for iridium.

(E) Had Alvarez not been studying Earth’s polarity, he would not have studied scaglia rossa and thus not noticed the gap in foraminifera

Q2.

Proponents of the uniformitarian view would most likely argue that

the clay layer actually contained foram too small for Alvarez to detectthe absence of foram suggested a mass extinctioniridium could likely be found in the clay layerthat the lack of forams in the clay reflected a gap in the fossil recordthe orientation of the earth’s magnetic field is capable of reversing

## Text Explanation

Answer: (D)

The uniformitarian view is “any apparent extinctions” were a gap in the fossil record. This matches up best with (D).

(A) is wrong because a gap is not the same thing as tiny forams.

(B) is the opposite of what they would think

(C) is incorrect since uniformitarian view does not relate to iridium

(E) is incorrect because the uniformitarian view relates to fossil record

Q3.

According to the passage, it can most likely be inferred that iridium

can be used by scientists to determine the duration of an eventcauses mass extinctions in a short periodgathers excessively in clay depositshelps scientists determine the orientation of the magnetic fieldleads to inaccurate conclusions regarding the chronology of an event

## Text Explanation

Answer: (A)

The passage says, “how long…iridium…answer this question.” This best supports (A).

(B) is wrong because iridium does not cause extinctions.

(C) is tempting because the iridium did gather in a specific clay deposit once, but we can't extrapolate a general trend from that. The passage does not say it normally does so, as in the present tense "gathers" implies, nor that it gathers excessively—that is, more than in other places or more than is appropriate.

(D) is wrong because iridium does not relate to magnetic fields.

(E) is incorrect because the passage suggests that iridium provides accurate, not inaccurate, conclusions about chronology.

Q4.

The Alvarezes concluded that a meteorite was responsible for a mass extinction because

dinosaurs were prone to the effects of iridiumit could account for the heightened presence of an elementcosmic dust in the form of iridium constantly makes its way to the Earth’s surfacethe scaglia rossa had a sudden gap in traceable iridiumthe scientific community was unable to provide a more valid hypothesis

## Text Explanation

Answer: (B)

Based on the startling amount of iridium that the Alvarezes found they concluded that only a meteorite could have caused the extinction of the dinosaurs. This matches up best with (B).

(A) is wrong because dinosaurs were not effected by the iridium itself but by the meteorite.

(C), while mentioned in the passage, does not answer the question.

(D) is wrong because the scaglia rossa showed a gap in foraminifera, not iridium.

(E) is incorrect because the passage does not mention the scientific community, nor does it imply that the Alvarez’s explanation was a default one

Passage.

The ‘trophic contamination hypothesis’ posits that shorebirds accumulate industrial and urban pollution at stopover sites, toxins that are subsequently released in sudden high doses as fat is burned during migratory flights, disrupting the bird’s ability to make migratory decisions. For example, large contaminant doses might hamper refueling by reducing the satiation signal in shorebirds so that they do not accumulate sufficient fat for migration. A recent study found that, out of those shorebirds that were unable to migrate, some weighed as much as 20% less than the average migrating bird of their species. Whether such findings are a result of shorebirds suffering from trophic contamination, or whether such birds simply cut their migrations short by landing in a foreign ecosystem is unlikely to be resolved until further studies are conducted.   
   
One promising line of research involves organochlorines, toxins deposited on mudflats in the 1970s and 1980s, now buried by sediments but finally close enough to the surface to be of issue to foraging shorebirds. Organochlorines should be more accessible to long-billed shorebirds that probe deeply for prey than to short-billed species that forage at or near the surface. We predict that an increased number of long-billed shorebirds will either be unable to migrate or will be found along an aberrant flight path.

Q1. (91)

According to the passage, the long-billed shorebird is expected to be more likely than the short-billed shorebird to have trouble migrating because

it is more vulnerable to the effects of organochlorinesit typically is unable to differentiate between a foreign ecosystem and a familiar oneit stops feeding before it is fully satiatedit grazes in parts of the mudflat in which the surface is known to have a higher concentration of organochlorinesit digs deeper into the earth and is therefore more likely to encounter toxins

## Text Explanation

Answer: (E)

(E) is supported by, “Organochlorines should be more accessible to long-billed shorebirds…near the surface.” That is the long-billed shorebird has a longer beak so it naturally reaches a deeper part of the ground. The problem, at least for the long-billed bird, is that organochlorines are present deeper in the soil.

(A) is not supported by the passage.

(B) and (C) relate to different parts of the passage, but do not answer the question.

(D) is tempting, but remember that it is not the part of the mudflat with more toxins at the surface that lead to the long-billed shorebird’s exposure to toxins. What accounts for the long-billed shorebird's exposure to toxins is that it digs deeper than the short-billed shorebird