

Special Event: GMAT Terminator by Dustin

Reading Comprehension: Question Type & Prethink Skills

Main Idea

主旨題

Each passage is a unified whole—that is, the individual sentences and paragraphs support and develop **one central point and have a single unified purpose.**

完整句

「作者」

S+V....

Which of the following most accurately expresses the main idea of the passage?,

The primary purpose of the passage as a whole is to...^V, or

In the passage, the author seeks primarily to....

主旨題破題重點：

1. 作者有無出現
2. 作者表態？

V（作者態度）+O（主題）（modf.）

Main Idea

The right answer to a Main Idea question about an argumentative passage often restates or describes the **main conclusion of the main argument**. To find the main conclusion, you must find which statements in the passage are given as reasons to accept which other statements. The main conclusion is an idea that **the whole passage gives reasons to accept, but that isn't in turn given as a reason to accept some further conclusion**.

別句話可以推到這句，這句話不能進一步推到別句

When the passage isn't **argumentative**, the right answer to a Main Idea question usually says **the passage's overall theme or purpose**. **The overall theme is often an idea repeated in different paragraphs**. The overall purpose is usually a goal toward which all the paragraphs work. If the passage has no overall theme or purpose, the right answer may just summarize the passage. For example, the right answer to a Main Idea question about a narrative passage might summarize the events described or state their overall outcome.

Supporting Idea

細節題

Supporting Idea questions simply assess whether you understand the messages conveyed in the writing, **without asking you to do anything further with the information.**

破題重點：

1. 禁止腦補、禁止推論（有幾分證據說幾分話）

Supporting refers not only to ideas expressed as premises supporting a main conclusion, but also to other ideas other than the main idea.

2. 容易換字（同意、反義字區別）

Correct answers to Supporting Idea questions almost never consist of verbatim quotations from the passage, so you will need to be able to recognize paraphrases or more abstract expressions of the passage material.

Supporting Idea

According to the passage . . . ,

Which of the following does the author cite as . . . ,

Which of the following does the author offer as an objection to . . . ,

The passage compares . . . ,

時態：簡單式（現在簡單式）（過去簡單式）

The passage mentions . . . , or

Which of the following does the author propose . . .

Inference

推論題

Inference questions ask about ideas that are **not explicitly stated in a passage** but are **implied by the author** or otherwise follow logically from the information in the passage.

Unlike questions about supporting ideas, which ask about information directly expressed in a passage, **inference questions ask about ideas or meanings that must be inferred from the information directly stated.**

Wrong answer choices may be true, and related to the passage, but not supported by it. Conversely, the right answer choice may be false but follow logically from false statements in the passage. For example, even if **the passage rightly says a theory is mistaken**, a question might ask what would follow if the theory were true.

Inference

Which of the following statements about ... is most strongly supported by ...,

*It can be **inferred** from the passage that ..., would be / may / will*

*If the claims about ... are true, which of the following **is most likely also true**?*

*The passage **implies** that ..., or*

The information in the passage suggests that

Evaluation

Critique (加強、削弱、評估) / Analysis (Boldface)

Plan / Construction

Evaluation questions require you to analyze and evaluate a passage's organization and logic. They fall into two broad subcategories: analysis and critique.

作用題

Analysis-type evaluation questions require you to determine how parts of the passage work in relation to each other. These questions often ask about the author's purpose. Unlike Main Idea questions about authors' purposes, they do not ask you to identify the entire passage's overall purpose, but rather the purposes of specific elements within the passage, and the relationships among those purposes. However, some evaluation questions may ask you to identify the logical structure of the passage or of a portion of the passage.

破題重點：1. 作者的態度 2. 前後文的關係

Critique-type evaluation questions require you to judge the strengths, weaknesses, relevance, or effectiveness of parts of the passage, as well as the relationships of those parts to potential objections or justifications. These questions often involve some of the same types of reasoning encountered in Critical Reasoning questions.

破題重點：1. 抓命題 2. 拉邏輯鏈 3. 想CQ

Application

應用

Application questions measure your ability to discern relationships between situations or ideas presented in the passage and other situations or ideas beyond the direct scope of the passage.

破題重點：類比、舉一反三

The most crucial skill involved in answering application questions is that of abstracting key features or principles from one context and applying them effectively to other contexts. This skill is often needed when working with scholarly, legal, professional, or business writings.

Application

Some Application questions ask you to reason by **analogy**. They may ask which of several roles, methods, goals, or relationships is most like one the passage mentions. Other Application questions ask you to apply **general rules**. The third type of Application question asks you to **extend the discussion** in the passage. The fourth type of Application question asks about **“what-if” scenarios**.

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Rephrasing and Prethink

- Collect information until you can answer the question by yourself
- Treat it like an essay question without any choice provided

Review Process: Comparing Your Prethink to the Official Answer

- **Large Logical Gap:**
 - The issue lies in misinterpreting or rephrasing the passage or question stem.
- **No Logical Gap:**
 - The issue lies in misinterpreting or reasoning through the answer choices.

Pres. (介紹矛盾)

Arg. (矛盾->論點解釋矛盾)

Passage #1

繼續介紹矛盾

For most species of animals, the number of individuals in the species is inversely proportional to the average body size for members of the species: the smaller the body size, the larger the number of individual animals. The tamarin, a small South American monkey, breaks this rule. Of the ten primate species studied in Peru's Manu National Park, for example, the two species of tamarins, saddle-backed and emperor, are the eighth and ninth least abundant, respectively. Only the pygmy marmoset, which is even smaller, is less abundant. The tamarin's scarcity is not easily explained; it cannot be dismissed as a consequence of diet, because tamarins feed on the same mixture of fruit, nectar, and small prey as do several of their more numerous larger counterparts, including the two capuchins known as the squirrel monkey and the night monkey. Although the relative proportions of fruits consumed varies somewhat among species, it is hard to imagine that such subtle differences are crucial to understanding the relative rarity of tamarins.

To emphasize just how anomalously rare tamarins are, we can compare them to the other omnivorous primates in the community. In terms of numbers of individuals per square kilometer, they rank well below the

two capuchins, the squirrel monkey and the night monkey. And in terms of biomass, or the total weight of the individuals that occupy a unit area of habitat, each tamarin species is present at only one-twentieth the mass of brown capuchins or one-tenth that of squirrel monkeys. To gain another perspective, consider the spatial requirements of tamarins. Tamarins are rigidly territorial, vigorously expelling any intruders that may stray within the sharply defined boundaries of their domains. Groups invest an appreciable part of their time and energy in patrolling their territorial boundaries, announcing their presence to their neighbors with shrill, sweeping cries. Such concerted territoriality is rather exceptional among primates, though the gibbons and siamangs of Asia show it, as do a few other New World species such as the titi and night monkeys. What is most surprising about tamarin territories is their size. Titi monkeys routinely live within territories of 6 to 8 hectares, and night monkeys seldom defend more than 10 hectares, but tamarin groups routinely occupy areas of 30 to 120 hectares. Contrast this with the 1 to 2 hectares needed by the common North American gray squirrel, a non-territorial mammal of about the same size. A group of tamarins uses about as much space as a troop of brown capuchins, though the latter weighs 15 times as much. Thus, in addition to being rare, tamarins require an amount of space that seems completely out of proportion to their size.

Main Idea / Evaluation

V (態度：陳述/介紹) +O (主題：某種生物為何稀少)

The primary concern of the passage is to

~~A. recommend a policy~~

~~B. evaluate a theory~~

C. describe an unusual condition

~~D. explain the development of a hypothesis~~

~~E. support one of several competing hypotheses~~

The author mentions the spatial requirements of the gray squirrel in order to

~~A. explain why they are so common~~

~~B. demonstrate the consequences of their non-territoriality~~

C. emphasize the unusual territorial requirements of the tamarin

D. provide an example of a major difference between squirrels and monkeys

~~E. provide an example of an animal with requirements similar to those of the tamarin~~

Supporting Idea / Application

regard X as Y.. 把X視為Y

The author **regards** the differences between the **diets** of the tamarins and several larger species as

怎樣怎樣的 (adj)

spting idea

~~A. generally explicable~~ in terms of territory size

~~B. apparently too small to~~ explain the rarity of tamarins

~~C. wholly predictable on~~ the basis of differences in body size

~~D. a result of the rigid~~ territoriality of tamarins

~~E. a significant factor in~~ determining behavioral differences

介紹矛盾：數量與身體大小怎麼不成反比

Which of the following **would most probably** be regarded by the author as **anomalous**?

類比

A. A **large** primate species that ~~eats~~ mostly plants

B. A species of small mammals that is fiercely ~~territorial~~

C. Two species of small primates that share the same ~~territories~~

D. A species of **small** birds that is **more abundant** than many species of larger birds

常態

E. A species of **small** rodents that requires **more living space** per individual than most species of larger rodents

矛盾

Passage #2

代入法

According to many analysts, labor-management relations in the United States are undergoing a fundamental change: traditional **adversarialism** is giving way to a new cooperative relationship between the two sides and even to concessions from labor. These analysts say the twin shocks of nonunion competition in this country and low-cost, high-quality imports from abroad are forcing unions to look more favorably at a variety of management demands: the need for wage restraint and reduced benefits as well as the abolition of "rigid" work rules, seniority rights, and job classifications. **勞方讓步趨勢 (FACT)**

支持派的想法

Sophisticated proponents of these new developments cast their observations in a pro-labor light. In return for their concessions, they point out, some unions have bargained for profit sharing, retraining rights, and job-security guarantees. Unions can also trade concessions for more say on the shop floor, where techniques such as quality circles and quality-of-work life programs promise workers greater control over their own jobs. Unions may even win a voice in investment and pricing strategy, plant location, and other major corporate policy decisions previously reserved to management.

反對派的想法

Opponents of these concessions from labor argue that such concessions do not save jobs, but either prolong the agony of dying plants or finance the plant relocations that employers had intended anyway. Companies make investment decisions to fit their strategic plans and their profit objectives, opponents point out, and labor costs are usually just a small factor in

the equation. Moreover, unrestrained by either loyalty to their work force or political or legislative constraints on their mobility, the companies eventually cut and run, concessions or no concessions. **是...的基礎 = 造就...**

Wage-related concessions have come under particular attack, since opponents believe that high union wages underlay much of the success of United States industry in this century. They point out that a long-standing principle, shared by both management and labor, has been that workers should earn wages that give them the income they need to buy what they make. Moreover, high wages have given workers the buying power to propel the economy forward. If proposals for pay cuts, two-tier wage systems, and subminimum wages for young workers continue to gain credence, opponents believe the U.S. social structure will move toward that of a less-developed nation: a small group of wealthy investors, a sizable but still minority bloc of elite professionals and highly skilled employees, and a huge mass of marginal workers and unskilled laborers. Further, they argue that if unions willingly engage in concession bargaining on the false grounds that labor costs are the source of a company's problems, unions will find themselves competing with Third World pay levels—a competition they cannot win.

反對派的想法

Main Idea / Evaluation

N

The passage is primarily concerned with the

A. ~~reasons~~ for adversarialism between labor and management

正

B. ~~importance of cooperative labor-management relations~~

C. consequences of labor concessions to management

D. ~~effects of foreign competition on the United States economy~~

E. effects of ~~nonunion competition~~ on union bargaining strategies

The sentence “If proposals for pay cuts ... unskilled laborers” serves primarily to

作用題

A. disprove a theory

B. ~~clarify an ambiguity~~

C. ~~reconcile opposing views~~

D. present a hypothesis

E. ~~contradict accepted data~~

Supporting Idea / Inference

spt idea

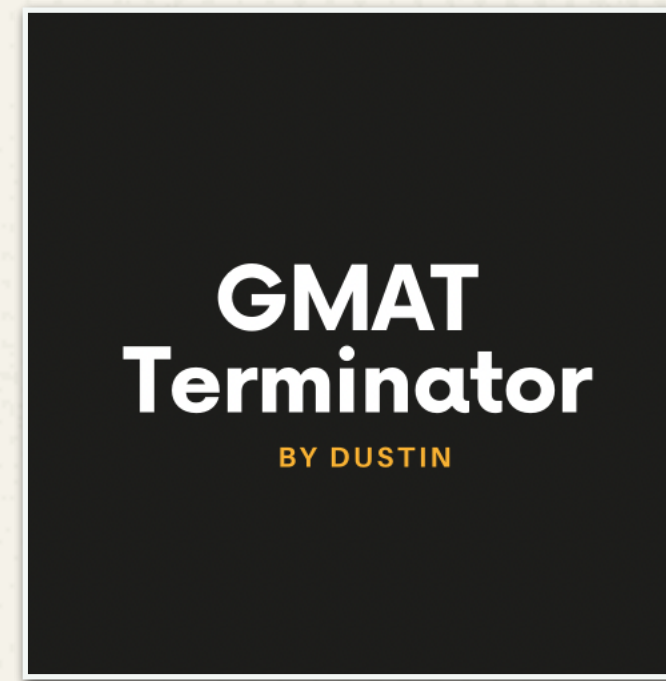
According to the author, “Sophisticated proponents” of concessions do which of the following?

- ~~A. Support the traditional adversarialism~~ characteristic of labor-management relations.
- B. Emphasize the benefits unions can gain by granting concessions.
- ~~C. Focus on thorough analyses of current economic conditions.~~
- D. Present management's reasons for demanding concessions.
- E. Explain domestic economic developments in terms of worldwide trends.

不是文章有出現的

It can be inferred from the passage that opponents of labor concessions believe that if concession bargaining continues, then

- ~~A. plants will close instead of relocating~~
- ~~B. young workers will need continued job retraining~~
- ~~C. professional workers will outnumber marginal workers~~
- ~~D. wealthy investors will invest in Third World countries instead of the United States~~
- E. the social structure of the United States will be negatively affected



Remember:

Role-Based Thinking, Careful Reading of Question

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