

GMAT®

READING COMPREHENSION
GUIDE



SANDEEP GUPTA

800/800 GMAT,

The Foremost GMAT Trainer in Asia
Founder of Top-One-Percent
Harvard Admit

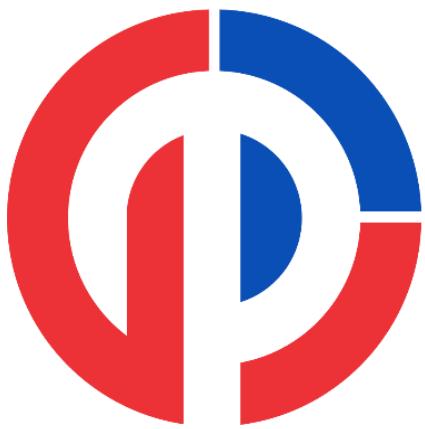
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**TOP ONE
PERCENT**
99th PERCENTILE CLUB

**READING
COMPREHENSION
GUIDE**

GMAT



TOP ONE PERCENT

99th PERCENTILE CLUB

By Sandeep Gupta | GMAT 800/800, Harvard Final Admit

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THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE EVER WRITTEN ON GMAT READING COMPREHENSION

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Reading
Comprehension



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Sandeep Gupta



By Sandeep Gupta | GMAT Perfect 800 (twice)

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Your GMAT® Enhanced Score Report

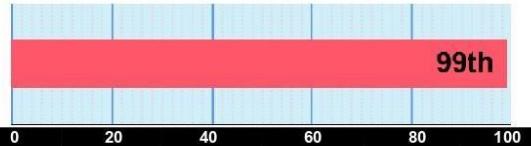
FOR: Sandeep Gupta | GMAT ID: 100000255203 | Bengaluru, India | July 25, 2019 | Appt ID: 364219221

Overall GMAT Exam Performance

YOUR GMAT TOTAL SCORE:

800

PERCENTILE RANKING



YOUR IR SCORE:

8

YOUR VERBAL SCORE:

51

YOUR QUANTITATIVE SCORE:

51

PERCENTILE RANKING



PERCENTILE RANKINGS COMPARE YOUR PERFORMANCE TO 3 YEARS OF GMAT EXAMS SAMPLE SIZE: 753297

MEAN SCORE

MEAN SCORE:

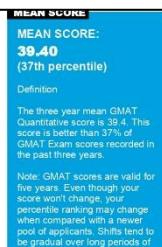
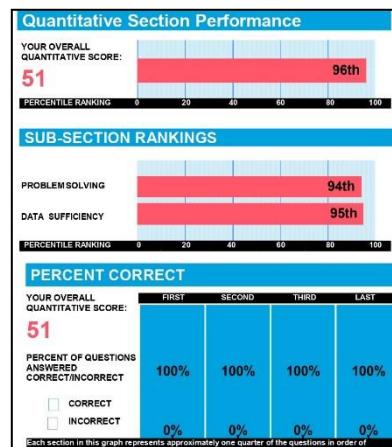
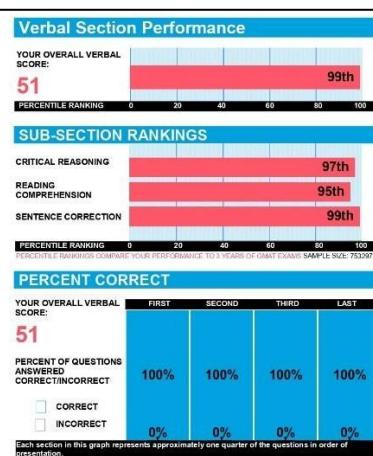
554.0

(41st percentile)

Definition

The three-year mean GMAT Total score is 554.0. This score is better than 41% of GMAT Exam scores recorded in the past three years.

Note: GMAT scores are valid for five years. Even though your score won't change, your percentile ranking may change when compared with a newer pool of applicants. Shifts tend to be gradual over long periods of time.



Dear Friend,

I thank you for choosing this book. Right at the outset, I have a really bold promise to make. If you are an extremely sincere and committed GMAT aspirant (someone who not only wants to get into top 10 global b-schools such as Harvard, Wharton, Stanford, Booth, MIT-Sloan, Kellogg, Columbia, LBS, INSEAD, ISB, or IIMs, but also wants a significant scholarship, wherever available), I assure you that you can't find a better resource for your GMAT preparation on the entire planet.



But I would also like to **warn** you at the very outset. If you are lazy, insincere, or unambitious, or if you are someone who is looking for a quick-fix ("I want to prepare in just one month" | "I want just a 680-700 kind of score" | "I just want to go to Canada or Germany, where schools are ready to take me at 600-650"), you will not find this book or my content, my philosophies, and my approaches helpful.

Imagine addressing a thousand serious GMAT aspirants (in an auditorium) and still being able to convince every single person, no matter which question / concept is being discussed from the entire GMAT universe! Such is the level of depth I envision for you.

My goal for you: I don't want you to somehow make it to ISB and be happy about the achievement; rather, I want the ad-com members at Harvard to fight for your selection, 8 to 1.

Here are a few facts about me:

1. Founder of Top-One-Percent GMAT (training for the GMAT / GRE) since July 1996.
2. The only GMAT Coach on the entire planet with an exclusive focus on ≥ 760 scores ("Nothing less will do.").
3. A Triple Whammy (Hattrick) of perfect 800 scores.
4. Dropped out of Harvard Business School and IIM Ahmedabad just to educate people and change lives.
5. Highest number of "99th percentile success stories" from across the globe
6. Creator of the Knowledge Series **Know The World in 77 Hours**, the program that has changed more than 3,07,000 lives across the globe at least by a factor of a 100 (X to 100X). In the words of our recent 780 scorer [Soham Sengupta](#), my impact on his life as a GMAT Coach was significantly dwarfed by my impact on him as the KTW Coach.

He assigns values: despite getting a 780 under my guidance, he said **GMAT:KTW** impact ratio would be **1:99**. If the impact of the GMAT Training was 1 (despite getting a 780), the impact of KTW was 99.

Candidate: Sengupta, Soham
Address: G-97, G-Block, Baghajatin
Kolkata, WES 700086
IND

Test Date: 16 January 2023
Appointment Number: 439883148
GMAT™ ID number: 100004199904

| UNOFFICIAL GMAT™ SCORE REPORT | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Scaled Score | Percentile** |
| Integrated Reasoning | 7 | 79 |
| Quantitative | 51 | 97 |
| Verbal | 45 | 99 |
| Total* | 780 | 99 |

*Your Total score is derived from your Verbal and Quantitative scores.
**The percentile ranking tables are updated every year, which means that your ranking may change as well. The latest version is available on [mba.com/percentileranking](#).

GMAT™ Official Score Report
Within 20 days of completing the exam you will receive an email describing how to access your Official Score Report, including your Analytical Writing Assessment score and percentile ranking. You will also receive an email with instructions on how to access your Official Score Report by visiting [mba.com/mygmatscore](#) 48 hours after receiving the email.



TOP ONE PERCENT GMAT
99th PERCENTILE CLUB



Soham Sengupta · 3rd
Business Operations Associate at ZS

ZS · Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIEST), Shibpur
Kolkata, West Bengal, India
494 connections

[Message](#) [+ Follow](#) [...](#)

Activity
492 followers
Soham hasn't posted lately
Soham's recent posts and comments will be displayed here.

[Show all activity →](#)

Experience

 **Business Operations Associate**
ZS · Full-time
Jun 2021 - Present · 1 yr 8 mos
Pune, Maharashtra, India



Soham's Interview: https://youtu.be/yMMoKcX_Ni8 (Must watch)

Another recent success story, [Jignesh Choudhary](#), who recently scored a 770, says the same thing about the program **KTW**.



Jignesh Choudhary · 2nd

3rd Engineer at Elegant Marine Services Pvt. Ltd.

Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India · [Contact info](#)

Elegant Marine Services Pvt. Ltd.

Indian Maritime University

14:43 ← Jignesh Choudhary 09:16 ✓✓
14:43 Yesterday 09:17 ✓✓
14:43 Hi Jignesh 19:35 ✓✓
14:43 Congrats for your 770 score 19:35 ✓✓
14:43 Thank you so much sir. 19:36
14:43 All thanks to you. 19:36
14:43 I will talk to you soon 19:41 ✓✓
14:43 Yess sir, anytime sir 19:41
14:43 Free for you anytime 19:42

09:34 ← Jignesh Choudhary 09:16 ✓✓
09:34 My Official GMAT Online Score - Test Taker Version 09:16 ✓✓
09:34 relieved 09:17
09:34 Thank you. 09:17
09:34 I am super happy for you, Jignesh 09:17 ✓✓
09:34 Thank you sir,
09:34 After getting rejected from
09:34 every single college in 2021-22
09:34 application cycle when I had a
09:34 lower score,
09:34 This is the much needed first win.
09:34 Had to combat a lot of anxiety,
09:34 depression, physical health
09:34 problems and such issues. Your
09:34 motivation was key in all that.
09:34 Thank you so much. I hope to
09:34 have you as a mentor for life. 09:22
09:34 Wow! This means so much 09:25 ✓✓
09:34 🙏 09:26
09:34 Message 09:26

THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE EVER WRITTEN ON GMAT READING COMPREHENSION

The screenshot shows a web browser window for mba.com. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'My Account', 'Log Out', and 'Login Information'. Below the navigation is a section titled 'My Official GMAT Online Score - Test Taker Version'. It displays a summary table with columns for 'APPOINTMENT ID', 'TEST LOCATION', 'TEST ADMINISTRATION DATE', 'SCORE PUBLISHED DATE', 'TOTAL SCORE', '# SENT', and 'SEND SCORE'. One row in the table is highlighted with a green background. A note below the table states: 'You have 5 free score reports remaining for this appointment until January 11, 2023 at 10:17:41 PM. You have sent this score to 0 programs.' On the left side of the main content area, there's a sidebar with a large circular placeholder for a profile picture labeled '91% Complete'. Below this, sections include 'Personal Information' (listing Jignesh Choudhary, India, India, Hindi), 'GMAT ID', 'mba.com Login Information', 'Change my password', 'Graduate School Plan', 'Expected Start Date', and 'Preferred Region of Study' (South-Eastern Asia (e.g.).)

The screenshot shows a social media post from Jignesh Choudhary. The post is titled 'Reactions' and includes a grid of profile pictures with blue thumbs-up icons. Below the reactions, there's a section for 'Comments' with a 'Most relevant' dropdown arrow. A comment from Jignesh Choudhary is highlighted in a grey box. The comment reads: 'Thank you so much, Sandeep Sir, could not have done so without you. I cannot stress enough how important the entire course including KTW was. This is all you and your team (thank you Aman, Richa, Natasha, Alind, Deep, everyone else on strategy calls especially and Bhuvnesh)'.

Jignesh's Interview: <https://youtu.be/ceob0-XDXdk> (Must watch)

I assure you: my goal for you is wayyyyyyyyyy bigger than your goal for your own self.

Content: After having scored a perfect 800 score thrice and after having taught students from 100+ nationalities for over 27 years, I once again took the plunge to “STUDY” the GMAT as a student. I subscribed to the most comprehensive contents from every major Global / Indian GMAT-Prep Company and devoured everything they had to offer, howsoever useful / useless. I designed my contents after having gone through the classes and contents of Manhattan, Kaplan, Princeton, E-GMAT, Magoosh, TTP, GMAT-Club, Jamboree, CrackVerbal, Economist, Veritas, ExpertsGlobal, GMATWhiz, EmpowerGMAT, Wizako, DominateTheGMAT, GMATCo, CJAnish, GMATwithCJ and 24 other companies. Every single useful bit from every single GMAT-Prep company has been customized and incorporated in the content (even if I found just ONE useful thing in a complete course, I have customized and incorporated that one thing in my books and my courses).

In short, **if YOU are an extremely sincere and ambitious student, I can get YOU a 99th percentile score. This is an absolute PROMISE!**



The Most Authoritative Guide Ever Written on

GMAT® Reading Comprehension



Reading Comprehension

**Welcome to the
most DREADED
section on the
GMAT!**



- ✓ **RC:** the single most important section on the GMAT that will decide *whether you will score above 700 or below 700. PERIOD!*
- ✓ Almost every GMAT aspirant finds RC to be the *make-or-break* for a 700+ score.
- ✓ This is the section that checks your nerves to the hilt: concentration, pacing, stamina, mental toughness, whether you go blank or can focus when nothing is registering in your mind (or when your brain refuses to understand anything, when the clock is ticking, when the stakes are as high as they are on the real GMAT).
- ✓ For whatever reason, if you can't understand a passage during the exam, you are likely to get 3 or 4 (consecutive) questions wrong. And, as you (most probably) already know, the GMAT penalizes consecutive errors way more severely than spread-far-apart mistakes. **If you have 3-4 consecutive mistakes, your 'current' score drops by 60-80 points.** Imagine losing 2 passages in this fashion! Your 'current' 750 may drop to 'actual' 610 just because of two RC passages.
- ✓ Even at the cost of sounding dramatic, I will say this: **one RC passage can mean the difference between you being an MBA and you not being an MBA.**
- ✓ I have personally interacted with more than **61,000** students who had to drop their MBA plans only because they couldn't crack JUST ONE RC PASSAGE!
- ✓ **The biggest tragedy:** no institute, trainer, or GMAT-Prep Company has any workable method for RC at all—the method that **actually WORKS** on the test day! So, they devote 75-80% of their time teaching SC, 15-20% teaching CR, and a mere 5% to teaching RC. RC is a formality that they think they have to cover, just for namesake.

- ✓ No one—absolutely no one—seems to have a workable strategy for RC. You are told all kinds of things that don't work on the test day. Here are some **pieces of junk** you may have already heard / read about RC:
 - o Read the questions first, then read the passage
 - o Take brief notes—**the worst advice of it all**
 - o Make a skeletal map of the passage
 - o (Mentally) pause and summarize, after each para
 - o Speed-read
 - o Scan
 - o Skip
 - o Skim
 - o Read, read, read ... newspapers, novels, books, magazines, articles, NY Times, Economist ...
 - o Think of Topic, Purpose, and Scope of the passage while reading
 - o Read the first and last lines of each para
 - o Mainly read the first line and the last line of the passage
 - o Rely on your notes for specific questions
 - o To manage time well, leave one passage altogether (just blind-guess and move on)



Trust me! None of the above so-called “techniques” will work on the test day. **NONE AT ALL!**

- ✓ Some trainers select a few passages on which their so-called ‘technique’ works; obviously the ‘gimmick’ doesn’t work on the rest of the official passages / in the actual exam. But by the time the student figures this out, the classes are over; these trainers cover just one or two RC passages (as a formality) for one-half of a session at the very end.
- ✓ **Truth be told!** As a student and as a GMAT aspirant, I never struggled with Grammar, Vocabulary, and Math. By the age of 14, I had developed enough Quant skills to be able to clear International Math Olympiad, had read more than 250 books on grammar, and had remembered the entire Oxford Advanced Learners’ Dictionary.

BUT I struggled a lot with RC and CR. A LOT!

- ✓ My painful journey with RC and CR started way back in time. It took me six years of superhuman effort (more than 10,000 hours, for sure) to improve my RC and CR. It will not be wrong to say that improving RC and CR became my life’s sole mission for six full years. And I can confidently say that eventually I fully mastered all the skills needed to crack RC and CR at the highest level (not a single mistake in any RC / CR questions on the GMAT, GRE, and LSAT).

- ✓ **But I wasn't satisfied.** For the teacher in me, the bigger question still remained unresolved: *How to teach RC?*
- ✓ Deeply frustrated by this inability, I went back to the drawing board, trying to analyze my own mind as to how I actually solved an RC passage. I wanted my unexplainable subconscious “intuition” that worked only for me to become a repeatable, conquerable “process” that worked for all of my students. I wanted to give my students a formula, a technique, a blueprint—something they could instantly learn and apply! It took me more than 2 years of relentless effort to crystallize my learnings in the form of a neat formula.
- ✓ And, I can proudly say that, eventually, I eventually did have a system in place: OCTAAVE—an approach that, if applied correctly over 250 (minimum number) real-GMAT passages (exactly as I ask you to apply), can, in less than a month, make you ace RC with absolutely 100 percent accuracy. Thousands of my 99th percentiler students have, untiringly, attested to the efficacy of OCTAAVE, raving about the result they got using the same approach. **The technique ACTUALLY WORKED for them on the test day.**

<https://youtu.be/3a5MQ8SCscM> Listen to [Smita Pathak](#), who recently got a 100% accuracy in the RC Section. This one interview will prepare you more for the GMAT than my own techniques / teaching.



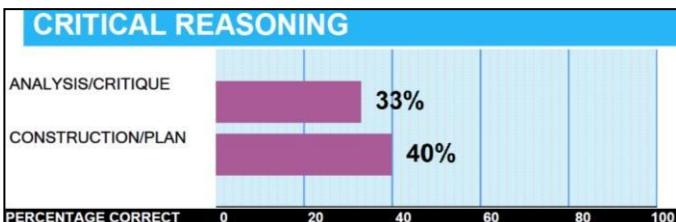
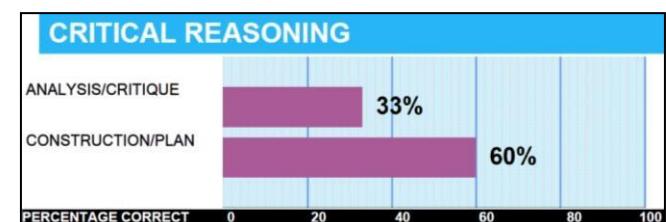
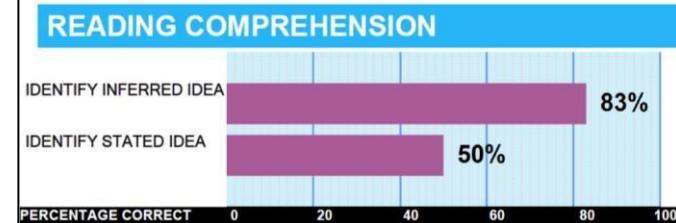
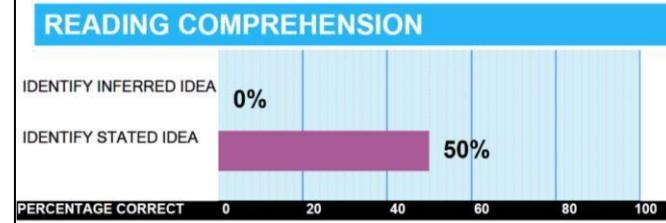
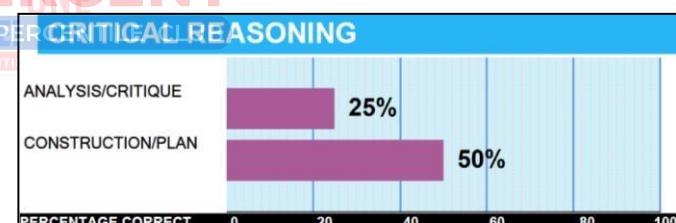
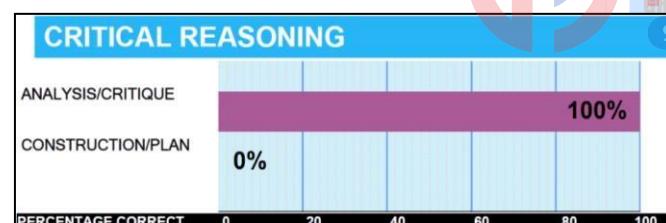
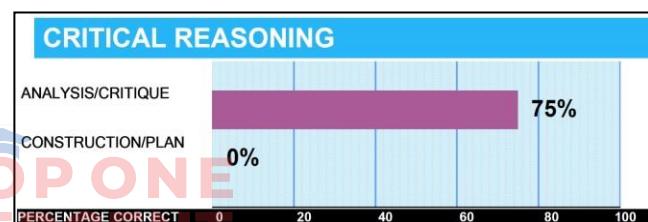
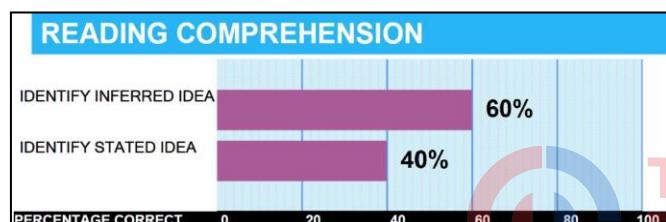
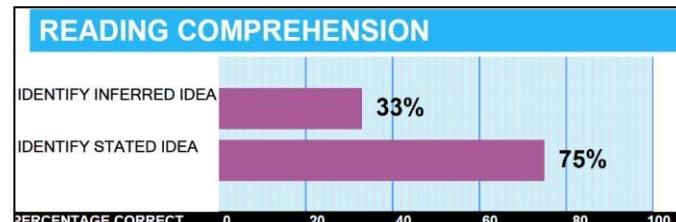
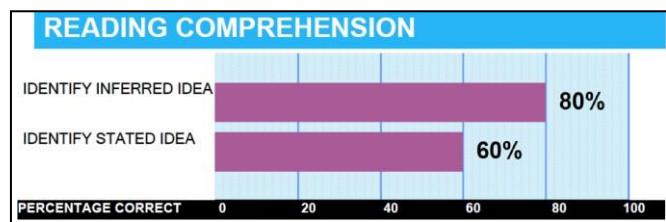
Smita Pathak · 1st
 Chief of Staff & Entrepreneur in Residence at Sirona Hygiene | Ex
 KPMG | SRCC
 Delhi, India · [Contact info](#)

 Sirona Hygiene
 Shri Ram College of Commerce

<https://youtu.be/l7X9989zg5g> – Smita on Awareness / KTW Videos – absolute must watch

- ✓ So, with the OCTAAVE tool in your hand, you will never have to go through the trauma, the agony, and the heartache that I had to go through for years; OCTAAVE can give you the same level of mastery (as I have) in less than a month. This is an absolute promise!
 - o How I came up with ACT (Assumption Centrality Technique) in CR is another story (for another time), but I want to assure you: once you nail ACT, you will never struggle with CR.

- ✓ **One important thing:** the two different types of questions asked in RC (*Stated* idea and *Inferred* idea) test totally different skills, and your being good at one skill doesn't guarantee your being good at the other.
 - o In the same way, the two different types of questions asked in CR (*Analyze / Critique* and *Construction / Plan*) test totally different skills, and your being good at one doesn't guarantee your being good at the other skill.
- ✓ Please refer to a few screenshots of the ESRs of a few students who contacted me after doing badly in their earlier attempt(s) to understand the point I just made above.



With all this information in your kitty, let's dive in!

O.C.T.A.A.V.E.

A guaranteed formula for 100% success in GMAT RC

Note: OCTAAVE is an application tool, not some concept that you can learn and hope to improve your RC skills (with just the theory). To this effect, just the written word can't do justice to the application of OCTAAVE. You must watch me in action in my live online classes or in pre-recorded videos to understand the application of the technique thoroughly.

For this precise reason, the contents of this book are to be used as accompaniments with my classes, not as standalone training materials.

The building blocks of RC:

An RC passage presents a formal piece of writing. Any formal piece of writing is very different from a normal conversation, general chit-chat, YouTube comments, WhatsApp shares, Facebook posts, Instagram updates, Twitter jargon and the like.



So, what distinguishes a formal piece of writing from all the other "junk"?

Simple! a formal piece of writing has a PURPOSE. No wonder almost every single RC passage has a question called *Primary Purpose* of the passage. Otherwise, how many times do you end up thinking what the primary purpose of a random WhatsApp group-message is?

So, what could be the purpose of a passage?

Well, an RC passage can have the following purposes (the list is indicative, not exhaustive):

1. To express an opinion, a point of view or a position
2. To argue for a conclusion by giving facts in support of the conclusion
3. To suggest something / to make a case for something / to recommend something
4. To prescribe something (the author wants the reader to accept a conclusion or accept his / her rejection of a conclusion)
5. To predict something
6. To express a sentiment (optimism, pessimism etc.)
7. To present a hypothesis and offer some support for the hypothesis
8. To support an idea (viewpoint / hypothesis / claim / position)

9. To challenge an idea (viewpoint / hypothesis / claim / position)
10. To evaluate something (good and bad points, desirable and undesirable qualities, pros and cons, pluses and minuses, advantages and shortcomings) without giving any suggestion / prescription
11. To present, or speculate on, the causes of something
12. To present a new / novel interpretation of something
13. To comment on someone else's interpretation of something
14. To inform the reader of some new development OR of any established scientific, historical, and / or other facts without any argument / conclusion / opinion
15. To report / narrate two sides of a debate ... OR to report research findings, artistic accomplishments, innovations, established facts, or a sequence of events
16. To comment on the work of another author, researcher, scholar, historian, scientist, theorist, critic etc.
17. To describe the appearance, nature, or characteristics of something: a place, a society, artistic work, device, or invention
18. To criticize something by listing its shortcomings
19. To praise something by listing its appreciable qualities
20. To express a puzzling phenomenon and offer possible attempts at its resolution



And so on ...

The *primary purpose* of a passage can be broadly of two types:

- When the author expresses no personal *opinion* (50% of the passages, roughly)
- When the author expresses some personal *opinion* (50% of the passages, roughly)

To this effect, your first task in RC is to find the personal opinion of the author or of those people whom the author supports. So, the first letter **O** in OCTAAVE stands for **opinion**. Let's understand Opinion in some detail:

Opinion:

- ✓ As the first step in RC, you must try to find the **opinion** (personal opinion) of the author or of the people whom the author supports.
 - o The opinions that are just mentioned in the passage but are not supported by the author don't count in this scenario.
- ✓ The author of a passage will have either no opinion or some tangible opinion.
- ✓ If the author has an opinion, s/he may have a strong opinion or a mild opinion.
- ✓ **BUT** the author can't have wavering | changing | uncertain | ambivalent opinions.
- ✓ Opinions can be challenged. Opinions can be supported, as well.
- ✓ On the contrary FACTS can't be challenged. Facts can't be supported, either.

What constitutes an opinion?

Ans. Future | Feeling | Uncertainty | Debatability | Challengeability

- Prediction ... (may | might | could | will | would | likely etc.) – FUTURE
- Suggestion ... (should | propose | recommend | make a case for | 'would need to do' | would be wise to follow etc. | must | ought to etc.) – FEELING / FUTURE
- Position | stand | stance | viewpoint | belief – FEELING / DEBATABILITY
- Criticism and praise | Agreement and disagreement – FEELING
- Conclusion drawn | Judgment reached | Hypothesis | Claim – DEBATABILITY / UNCERTAINTY

Please remember:

- The answer to the **primary purpose** and **main idea** of a passage is almost a restatement of the opinion of the passage.
- The first verb in a primary purpose question belongs to the author (explained in a subsequent video).
- If the author has a personal opinion, it is bound to the primary purpose of the passage. If not, the primary purpose is most likely going to be found at the Key Contradiction Location. I repeat: the most likely location for the Primary purpose of a passage is: **Contradiction** or the **KEY Contradiction Location**.

To this effect, the second letter (C) in the OCTAAVE formula stands for **Contradiction** (key contradiction location).

Contradiction Words: Watch out for contradiction words: these are important because the opinion might change or might be introduced at a contradiction location. Also, a lot of times, there is a general | inference question from these locations. The common contradiction words are:

Alternatively, although, apart from, but, by contrast, contrary to, conversely, despite, even though, however, in contrast, in spite of this, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, on the other hand, regardless, still, then again, yet

The VOICE of a passage

A formal piece of writing (such as an RC passage) has a distinctive *voice*, called the TONE of the passage. The tone is that intangible *sentiment* that cuts across the entire passage as one unified theme, as one unified mood. It is the glue that binds the passage as one unified whole.

Tone: Always try to predict the tone of the passage as positive | negative | neutral | balanced. This is a big help.

- ✓ **Positive:** Praise | Optimism
 - ✓ **Negative:** Criticism | Pessimism
- 
- o In a criticism passage, always ask: whether it is criticism only or also a suggestion. In many cases there is no suggestion in such passages. This can save a lot of time while marking the correct answers. In some cases, where there are both criticism and suggestion, the **suggestion** must be part of the correct answer choice in primary purpose / main idea type question. The criticism isn't the crux in such cases.
 - ✓ **Neutral:** The tone is neither positive (no praise) nor negative (no criticism). Think of neutral tone as **NEWS** (as news should ideally be)
 - ✓ **Balanced:** Both positives and negatives of a situation are discussed. It is essentially 'pros-and-cons' analysis. An implied opinion is always there in such a passage even if there is no explicit opinion.
 - o If the tone is balanced, one of the three words will surely be part of the correct answer choice: **Assess** or **Critique** or **Evaluate** (ACE)
 - ✓ Think of neutral tone as **NEWS** and balanced tone as **REVIEWS**.
 - ✓ If the tone is positive or negative or balanced, the author must have a personal opinion, howsoever subtle. **BUT, if the tone is neutral, the author may or may not have a personal opinion.**

- o Imagine this: if a passage has the opinion “The company should spend more on latest technology.” ... This suggestion is clearly an opinion, but the tone is still neutral.
- o So even if the passage has an opinion, the tone can be neutral.
- o **On the other hand, if the author has no opinion, the tone must be neutral.**
- o Imagine this: “Five of my friends like the US foreign policy, but five of my friends hate the US foreign policy.” The tone must be neutral here. In the same way, ‘Historians say *this*, but the scholars say *that* ...’ The tone is neutral here ... because the author doesn’t have a personal opinion in each of these cases.
- o On the other hand, imagine this: “These are things that are right about the US foreign policy, but these are things that are wrong about the US foreign policy.” The author clearly has an opinion here. And hence, the tone is balanced here: pros-and-cons analysis / pluses-and-minuses analysis ... always means a balanced tone. In the balanced tone scenario, the pluses and minuses will be about the same thing (the US foreign policy, in this case).
- o Even if there is one plus and ten minuses (or vice versa), the tone is still balanced. We don’t need equal number of pluses and minuses.
- o If the author doesn’t have a personal opinion, the tone is neutral (remember the opinion must be author’s personal opinion, not anyone else’s)
- o The tone of the author doesn’t change midway through the passage. For example, if the author is pessimistic about something, s/he will remain pessimistic throughout. Refer to the explanation of the **Javan Rhino** passage to understand this further.

Some **tricky words** that can completely change the **TONE** of a passage:

Little: It means hardly any, no, or none ... and hence it has a negative meaning. For example:

- ✓ There is **little** hope of our team's victory now. Means NO hope or hardly any hope.
- ✓ He showed **little** concern for his niece. Means NO concern or hardly any concern.
- ✓ He showed **little** interest in Chemistry. Means NO interest or hardly any interest.
- ✓ Obama's presidency had **little** impact in countering the economic crisis in the USA, which continued to worsen for a much longer duration. Means NO impact or hardly any impact.

A little: It means some or somewhat ... and hence it has positive meaning. For example:

- ✓ **A little** planning could have saved us from the disaster. Means some planning.
- ✓ There is **a little** hope of his recovery from the disease. Means some hope.

Few: It means hardly any or no one. Therefore, it has negative meaning. For example:

- ✓ **Few** people speak the truth today. Means NO ONE or hardly any
- ✓ **Few** people can keep a secret. Means NO ONE or hardly any
- ✓ **Few** people can doubt Dr. Sam's credibility. (Means NO ONE or hardly any)

A Few: It means 'some' as opposed to 'none', and hence it has positive meaning. For Example:

- ✓ **A few** words spoken politely will convince the boss. Means some words
- ✓ **A few** people have responded to the call for charity. Means some people

Critique: doesn't mean criticize. It simply means to weigh the pros and cons of something. A movie *critic* (n – the person) who *critiques* (v – the action) a movie can give a five-star or one-star reviews both. Whatever the critic presents [a text / a video etc.] is called the *critique* (n)

Some other words that can cause confusion are:

- ✓ **Dispassionate** means unbiased, objective, impartial, scientific, neutral
- ✓ **Disinterested** means unbiased, objective, impartial, scientific, neutral
- ✓ **Qualify** means to limit something, to express reservations (e.g., to qualify one's comments with some caution, to qualify one's support towards something)
- ✓ **Qualified** means limited, with some reservations, not entirely, not complete
- ✓ **Unqualified** means complete, total, full, without any conditions

A general challenge faced by almost everyone: unfamiliarity with the topics / contents of the passages.

Most of the GMAT RC passages deal with topics / contents that may be totally unknown to non-American GMAT-takers (watch Smita's videos above, in which she talks about how she constantly kept on failing on “**Earthquake**” passages). This proves to be an extraordinary hurdle to quick and easy understanding. For example, if you don't have any context about Feminism in 19th Century America, property rights before and after the US Civil War, the retentionist versus the abolitionist debate about Slavery in the US, prominent Supreme Court cases in the US, various ethnic groups in the US and the difficulties faced by them while assimilating with the American culture, Native Americans and the treatment meted out to them by the European Whites, **Capitalism – the most favorite topic** versus Socialism (as philosophies), challenges to religion in the US ... These topics are most likely to be unknown to non-Americans but fully known to Americans, so, as a nonnative GMAT taker, unless you shore up your knowledge base about these topics, you are bound to be at a disadvantage vis-à-vis your American counterparts (American GMAT-takers).

To this effect, the next really important element in the OCTAAVE formula is: **Awareness.**

As mentioned above, many times (especially if you are a non-native GMAT aspirant), understanding a passage can be extremely challenging as you may not be aware of the background story / information / topic presented in the passage. **Awareness** stands for background information. If you already know the background information related to a new passage, your task becomes really simple. In my signature program

Know The World In 77 Hours

(This program has been attended by more than 307,000 MBAs / MBA aspirants globally)

... this issue is taken care of in extreme detail. In the past, students from Harvard, Wharton, Stanford, Booth, Kellogg, Columbia, MIT, LBS, INSEAD, ISB, and IIMs have traveled other countries to attend this program. Check this link for what the past attendees say about this program (**MUST WATCH FULLY**):

Your Life's Biggest Gift ... EVER!

... can't buy it even with millions of dollars in your pocket.

Before reading any further, please watch these five short videos ...
these five videos can change your life ... completely!

Video 1: <https://youtu.be/h0VJHS4cTAU>

Video 2: <https://youtu.be/fMnrDgJ77BU>

Video 3: <https://youtu.be/7HXIW7i7hmg>

Video 4: <https://youtu.be/hbNceVnRMIQ>

Video 5: <https://youtu.be/LbHMOPjNE0I>



Don't skip even one second from the five videos above. NOT EVEN A
SECOND!

The videos of this **77-Hour Program** are shared with you (**20 videos** – 3 videos called RC Awareness Videos, 11 Videos called KTW videos Series 1, 4 Videos called KTW videos Series 2, and 2 videos called KTW Series 3) ... at no extra cost.

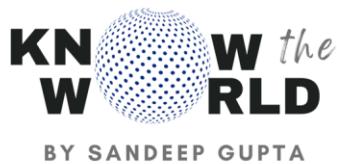
What is the “Know The World” Course?

1. It is the most sensational 77 Hours you will ever spend in your life
2. Your RC accuracy will become 100%
3. You will be able to clear any job interview (with or without MBA)
4. You will be able to write a winning application to Business Schools (résumé, essays, video essays, recommendations)
5. You will be able to clear any B-School interview with effortless ease
6. You will excel in any case study discussion / any presentation at B-School
7. You will land every single internship / placement at your B-School; you will also be able to negotiate salaries / scholarships in every single case.
8. Throughout your life, you will always – always – come across as the smartest person in the room (in any situation)
9. You will win every single deal / negotiation – throughout your life
10. You will gain an extraordinary amount of admiration / recognition because of your knowledge and your totally mind-boggling perspectives.



BY SANDEEP GUPTA

1. The absolute-best (and the most thrilling) 77 Hours you will ever spend in your entire life
2. Even if you attend all the MBA Programs at Harvard, Wharton, Stanford, Kellogg, Columbia, Booth, MIT, INSEAD, LBS, ISB and IIMs (total fee \$3 million ≈ Rs. 25 crore) – you will not get even one-hundredth as much value as you get in this program – absolutely free of cost
3. In the past, people have taken a week-long break from their respective B-Schools and traveled to India (on location) just to attend this program
4. In the past, I have conducted the program live-on-location at many B-Schools in India / abroad
5. The program's recordings are regularly shown at many B-Schools around the world
6. 3,29,000 lives transformed so far
7. This is my contribution to the world



1. RC (GMAT / GRE / CAT)
2. B-School Application Story
3. B-School selection interview
4. Case study discussions at B-schools
5. B-School job interview
6. Redefining your career path altogether
7. Any professional / job interview in your entire life (MBA or no MBA)
8. Professional Success leading to B-School Selection
9. Professional Success, in general
10. Fundraising (100s of millions of dollars)



Before you start watching the KTW videos, you must check the [PDF](#) (KTW Impact Stories) and the [Video](#).

Know Your Instructor:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Tv17aF58sCb9Lbh3g1NvibIY3nIVE-Sz?usp=share link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Tv17aF58sCb9Lbh3g1NvibIY3nIVE-Sz?usp=share_link)

Do check the files 0, 1, 2, and 3 fully (FULLY) before you start watching the KTW videos from file 4 here.

Predominant RC topics

- ✓ Biological Evolution | Human Behavior shaped by biological evolution
- ✓ Brain Science (evolution of the human brain and how it affects human behavior)
- ✓ Animal kingdom
- ✓ Biology – cell structure etc.
- ✓ American History, American Independence, US Civil War
- ✓ American Economy, Finance, Capital Markets
- ✓ Challenges to religion
- ✓ American domination – various aspects, major events
- ✓ Capitalism, Communism, Socialism, Democracy, the Cold War
- ✓ Various groups in America: minorities, women, feminism, Blacks, Native Americans, Asians, Hispanics
- ✓ Popular Supreme Court cases
- ✓ Science, especially biology and astronomy | Latest technology



So far, all the components of OCTAAVE have been related to the passage. Opinion / Contradiction / Tone / Awareness ... all relate to the passage.

There are three components, however, that are related to the question and the options.

The next component A in OCTAAVE (Avoid)

Avoid: in the answer choices, you must be extremely cautious of (largely avoid):

- ✓ **Superlatives** (the third degrees of adjectives): best, latest, most, worst etc. Unless given verbatim, these answers are almost always wrong.
- ✓ **Specific to general** (if the passage mentions something specific, the choices that generalize that information are almost always wrong).
 - o Let's say, the passage talks about lions, then it will be wrong to mark an answer that generalizes lions to mammals or animals etc.
 - o If the passage is about a recent immigrant's first experience of America, the exam will widen the scope of an answer choice to include all immigrants.
 - o If the passage is about the existence of heavy metals on some planets, an incorrect answer choice will talk about all planets.
- ✓ **Extreme words** (Always, Never, All, None, Only, Unique, Everyone, No one, Must, Impossible, The first, Each, Every, Totally). Unless given verbatim, these answers are almost always wrong.
- ✓ Answers that make an **unwarranted prediction**. Unless given verbatim, these answers are almost always wrong.
- ✓ **Very strong, emotional language** (dismiss, champion, radicalize, castigate, eulogize etc.). Unless given verbatim, these answers are almost always wrong.
- ✓ **Politically incorrect language** / something that can arouse a controversy (offensive to a group, region, religion, gender, race, nation etc.). Unless given verbatim, these answers are almost always wrong.

A special case of AVOID

- o in RC **assumption** questions (this is applicable only in RC assumption questions, not CR assumption questions): whatever is mentioned in the passage must not be part of the answer choices.
- o Imagine an argument that says: *Every male above 18 can vote. So, Jack can vote.*

In this argument, the first statement is the *Fact* and the second statement is the *Conclusion*. So, what is the assumption made in the argument above? The *assumption* made is: *Jack is a male above 18.*

So, we have: **Fact:** Every male above 18 can vote. **Conclusion:** So, Jack can vote. **Assumption:** Jack is a male above 18.

If you notice carefully, each of the words – Jack, male, 18, and vote – is part of two of the three sentences above, not all three. This is very helpful in solving assumption questions in RC.

Let's now focus on the heart and soul of RC. OCTAAVE – Verify

Verify each word: (90% of RC is about just one word – Verify)

This is the **heart and soul of RC**. You must make sure that each word written in the choices is verifiable / justifiable from the passage.



It means 'CAN YOU GO BACK AND VERIFY / JUSTIFY (as if *putting your finger on it*) why the wrong answers are wrong?'

If not, the option choice must be wrong.

Remember, we have to verify / justify for the wrong answers, not the correct ones.

And the last element in OCAATVE is **Eliminate**.

Eliminate: Don't be fixated on an answer choice if it seems attractive. Follow elimination of wrong ones rather than the selection of the "right" one.

The two most powerful tools in RC are **Verify** and **Eliminate**.

Why is politically incorrect language considered wrong?

REASON: The exam plays it safe. Correct answers are mostly mild (very difficult to prove false). It is too easy to find exceptions to extreme answer choices. For this reason, they are almost never correct. Remember, to the GMAC it doesn't matter what the passages says. They don't write the passages, but they do write the questions and the answers. They can choose to word correct or incorrect answers any way they like. They choose to do so in a way that won't put them on the phone with dozens of experts in various fields who beg to differ with them.

Can you spot why each of the choices given below will automatically be wrong, no matter what the content of the passage?

1. Women should not work in the public sphere because they are not as rational as men.
2. Prove that scientists are more intelligent than mathematicians.
3. Milton was the first English author to focus on society as a whole as well as on individual characters.
4. The public is not interested in increasing its awareness of the advantages / disadvantages of nuclear fusion.
5. The public has been deliberately misinformed about the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear power.
6. James, more than any other novelist, was aware of the difficulties of novelistic construction.
7. The author is primarily concerned with disputing evidence a scholar uses to substantiate a claim about a historical event
8. The emancipation of women would ultimately bring about the liberation of the entire Russian population from political oppression
9. The United States will import more oil in the next 10 years.
10. The author believes the purpose of children's literature should be to expose children to the cruelties of life.



Explanations

1. Women should not work in the public sphere because they are not as rational as men. **Politically incorrect / sexist / can stir up a controversy**
2. Prove that scientists are more intelligent than mathematicians. **Politically incorrect / unprovable / can stir up a controversy**
3. Milton was the **first** English author to focus on society as a whole as well as on individual characters. **FIRST – unprovable / can stir up a controversy**
4. The public is not interested in increasing its awareness of the advantages / disadvantages of nuclear fusion. **Generalized for all / can stir up a controversy**
5. The public has been deliberately misinformed about the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear power. **Politically incorrect / can stir up a controversy**

6. James, more than any other novelist, was aware of the difficulties of novelistic construction.
Unprovable / can stir up a controversy
7. The author is primarily concerned with **disputing evidence (means challenging a fact – not allowed in any question in all of RC and CR)** a scholar uses to substantiate a claim about a historical event.
8. The emancipation of women **would ultimately bring about (prediction – never choose prediction answers)** the liberation of the **entire (extreme) Russian population from political oppression**
9. The United States will import more oil in the next 10 years. **(Prediction – almost always wrong)**
10. The author believes the purpose of children's literature should be to expose children to the cruelties of life. **Politically incorrect / can stir up a controversy**

Can you spot why these tone answers are automatically wrong?

The author's attitude towards a particular artist's approach can best be described as:

1. strong indignation
2. marked indifference
3. sharp derision
4. Overwhelming support
5. Unabashed admiration
6. Unqualified appreciation
7. Profound ambivalence
8. Deep-rooted hostility
9. Vehement condemnation
10. Unwavering denunciation



Explanations

1. strong indignation (extreme emotion)
2. marked indifference (the author can't ever be indifferent about anything s/he writes)
3. sharp derision (extreme emotion)
4. Overwhelming support (extreme emotion)
5. Unabashed admiration (extreme emotion)
6. Unqualified appreciation (extreme emotion – “unqualified” means unlimited)
7. Profound ambivalence (extreme emotion plus the author is never ambivalent / uncertain / wavering)
8. Deep-rooted hostility (extreme emotion)
9. Vehement condemnation (extreme emotion)
10. Unwavering denunciation (extreme emotion)

CAUTION:

OCTAVE has to be part of your subconscious. If you are forced to apply it consciously, the results will not be spectacular. Imagine how you learn to drive a car and how it is in the beginning. To this effect, you must solve at least 250 official GMAT passages strictly using OCTAAVE.

SPECIAL SCENARIOS:

CR questions in RC:

If any question in RC is about weaken, strengthen, assumption, evaluate, paradox etc. and involves "IF TRUE", the rules of OCTAVE will not be applicable. "If true" means you can't refer to the passage.

Some people believe ...

A special cue: *Some people believe*: One of the most frequently used constructions is to raise a viewpoint and then **disagree** with it. This efficiently raises two opposing views in a passage. These constructs are recognizable because they often begin with the phrase, "Some people claim..." or one of the many variations on this theme, including but not limited to the following:

"Some people propose..." / "Many people believe..." / "Some people argue that..." / "Some critics claim..." / "Some critics maintain..." / "Some scientists believe..." / "It is widely believed" / "Most people believe" / "It was / has been widely believed" / "It has been assumed / claimed"

All these imply that the author is likely to challenge whatever is said by others (not compulsory, though).

Usually wrong answers / Red flags (wrong 90% of the times) – explained in subsequent videos

Resolve (rarely correct) / Reconcile (rarely correct) Resolve a debate (rarely correct) / Resolve a contradiction (rarely correct) / Resolve an inconsistency (rarely correct) / Resolve a paradox (rarely correct) / Reconcile opposing viewpoints (rarely correct) / Present evidence (rarely correct) / provide evidence (rarely correct) / Outline (rarely correct) / Chronology (rarely correct) / Bullet points (rarely correct) / Mathematical answers (rarely correct) / Define (rarely correct) / Explore (rarely correct)

Criticism + Suggestion

In all those passages that contain both criticism and suggestion, the suggestion must be captured in the primary purpose / main idea answer, even if the criticism isn't captured.

Some more facts about RC:

- ✓ **RC is the most crucial among all test areas:** You cannot cross the 700-mark if your RC is bad. My experience tells me that students really good at Quant, SC, and CR, but average at RC tend to stop short of 700. We have seen countless 670-690 scorers, who, only for want of a superlative performance on RC, could just not breast even the 700+ tape, forget 760+.
- ✓ **RC under normal concentration and relaxed pace can be very different from RC under trying exam conditions:** race against the clock, the mind refusing to understand any word at all, and the imperative to finish the test ensure that, more often than not, the biggest victim (and the biggest culprit) is RC.
- ✓ **When you don't do well on an RC passage, you lose 3-4 questions in a row:** Consecutive errors are penalized so severely on the test that, at any given point on the test, 3-4 consecutive errors may bring your 'current' score by almost 60-80 points. Bad RC ensures that you have at least 3-4 such chunks of score-drops. OUCH!!
- ✓ **Normal pace:** Every conceivable resource possible on GMAT RC will ask you to speed-read, skip, skim, etc. Nothing could be gimmickier. Don't speed-read GMAT RCs. It may be curtains! Your natural speed must improve after practicing 250-400 passages (minimum sweet number: 250 passages, strictly using OCTAAVE).
- ✓ **Read the full passage first:** Some books / test-prep companies ask you to read the questions first. Nothing could be a bigger disservice to yourself.
- ✓ **Don't skip:** You can't afford to skip information. Your understanding of the passage will be distorted otherwise.
- ✓ **Focus on understanding:** Every conceivable resource possible on GMAT RC will ask you to understand only the main idea and skip the details. I have even seen such advice: read only the first line of each para etc. BUT nothing like this works on the test day. There is no substitute for reasonable understanding. These resources / books / instructors / test-prep companies take only such passages that lend themselves to such gimmicks and show the application of the gimmicks that work on a 'particular' passage.
- ✓ **Don't skim:** Skimming is a self-contradictory term. Without reading everything, how can one decide the grain from the chaff? Again, understand that there is no substitute for understanding.
- ✓ **Don't reread:** Develop a habit of reading the passage only once and understanding it well. Most of us tend to reread at least the first few lines, if not the entire passage. The signal to our brain is: "let me not understand it fully. Anyway, I have to come back and reread." It may be tough to get rid of this habit but this is extremely crucial to train your brain not to reread.



- ✓ **Don't write anything at all:** The mother of all wrong pieces of advice on the GMAT is: write / make a skeletal / make a structure / annotate etc. UGH!! This is the WORST piece of advice one can give a student.

Why should you not write?

- You are going to be so pressed for time on the test day that you won't be able to make any notes.
Why learn and rely upon something that will not work on the test day?!
 - Even if you make notes, invariably my experience says that students never use what they write.
Why waste precious time?
 - Once your brain gets a subconscious signal that you can write, your understanding vanishes; you are reduced to just taking notes passively. RC is about active thinking and application, not passive note-taking.
- ✓ **Must go back while solving the questions:** A lot of times, students rely upon their memory and miss out on the intentional distortion used so effectively by the test-makers (psychometricians). These people are masters of making the wrong answers that seem wayyyy more attractive than the right answers. The best way to avoid this is to go back to the passage to verify each word in the wrong answer choices. PUT YOUR FINGER ON IT!
 - ✓ **Don't do more general reading; solve more RC exercises:** The ubiquitous advice that people get when they do badly on RC is: READ, READ, and READ. **WRONG!** Solve more and more RC passages. **RIGHT!** You can use all of official GMAT / GRE / LSAT content for this.
 - ✓ **Don't bother about vocabulary:** A lot of people bother about understanding each word in the passage to an obsessional level. Indeed, a good vocabulary can help you, but there is no point in developing a superior vocabulary NOW. The efforts can be completely disproportionate compared to the returns. So, the best bet is to guess the meaning of a new word by its context.
 - ✓ **Don't solve anything else** except what has officially appeared on Standardized American Tests such as the GMAT, the GRE, or the LSAT. There are at least 700 genuine such passages available for you to practice with.
 - ✓ Ideally for a passage with 3 questions, you must not take more than 5 minutes and for a passage with 4 questions, you must not take more than 6.5 minutes (including the reading of the passage and the solving of the questions).

- ✓ **Avoid this blunder** (not taking care of the SPEED aspect from the word go): this happens a lot in RC and CR. I hear this grouse all the time: "in RC and CR, my accuracy is quite good if I don't time myself. But if I time myself, the accuracy drops to less than 50%." It is equivalent to a marathoner saying: "I can run 42 kilometers, but I need 4 days, not 4 hours." Such people feel happy even if they manage to solve only one RC passage from the official guide in 27 minutes and get 5/7 correct. Remember: on the test day, you have less than 27 minutes to solve all the four RC passages. Invariably these students have 6-8 questions left in Quant and 8-10 questions left in Verbal to be done in the last 5-7 minutes (including the last RC passage, which, according to them, always happens to be the longest and the most difficult passage in the entire Verbal Section).

The result: their mind goes blank, refusing to understand anything, no matter how hard they try to focus. In addition, many students spend a disproportionately huge amount of time in the beginning, only to realize around Q. 10 that "this isn't my day".

The solution: always solve using a countdown timer, one that compulsorily stops at the end of minutes. Don't use a simple clock; using the simple clock is disastrous because most students keep on solving questions even when the time is up. For example, suppose you take four RC passages and set aside 25 minutes. Invariably, you will NOT stop at the end of 25 questions. Later you will go something like this: "I took 41 minutes; so, I need to pace up." This isn't a strong message. The message is felt deeply and strongly when, while solving the third passage, the alarm goes off and you are forced to stop. Cultivate the habit of STOPPING when the alarm goes off; doing so may be very painful in the beginning, but is the only effective strategy (keeping the exam in mind).

- ✓ A common grouse of many students: "I can't sit for 3 hours straight. I need a break every 15 min." Moreover, they have all the distractions going on: WhatsApp messages, Instagram feeds, random calls—as if the world can't continue to function for even 15 minutes without these people. Such students commit the cardinal GMAT sin: not building the most crucial aspect of the GMAT game: stamina and concentration.
- ✓ The most crucial: always practice on screen, **not on paper**. The biggest blunder people do while preparing for the GMAT is that they study on paper. ABSOLUTELY DISASTROUS for the GMAT! Make it a habit to never, ever study / practice anything on paper.
- ✓ Also, please don't rely on take any shortcuts / gimmicks for RC. Solve at least 400 passages (absolute minimum 250) using OCTAAVE to feel absolutely confident about this section.

The following pages contain **68** real-GMAT Official passages. Each of these questions will be discussed in the classes (Live Online or Pre-recorded Videos) using OCTAAVE.

Session 1: 12 passages | Session 2: 20 passages | Session 3: 28 passages | Session 4: 8 passages

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**1. How can a passage have a neutral tone if there's an opinion by the author?**

The tone is positive only when the author praises someone or expresses optimism, and negative only when there's a criticism/pessimism.

When there is no praise/criticism, the tone is neutral.

Here are some use cases to understand when the tone is neutral-

1. Author is speculating about a cause of a certain phenomenon and the remaining passage is factual
→ opinion is present, tone is neutral
2. Author is giving a suggestion to thoroughly analyse something and remaining passage is factual—
> opinion is present (suggestion), tone is neutral (no criticism or praise).

Please note, on the GMAT, a suggestion does not imply a criticism automatically.

2. Why is "disputing evidence" wrong and considered as "challenging a fact"?

Whenever you provide evidence for a claim or an opinion, that evidence is usually a fact and not an opinion itself. How do we back our claim? By some evidence and this evidence has to be factual in nature. Think of it as evidence in a criminal trial(say the murder weapon was found at the apartment of the accused). Now, the author can say maybe someone else put it there but he cannot dispute the evidence that it was found there. It has to be a fact. An author will not challenge a fact in any case. Therefore, disputing an evidence can never be the correct answer. The claim made by someone and the reasoning behind it can be challenged, but the evidence itself cannot be challenged.

3. How is conclusion identification in CR similar to opinion identification in RC?

Basically any conclusion drawn or reached is an opinion. This may occur in various forms in a passage.

1. By taking sides → agreement/support/praise
 2. Presenting one's own theory based on facts → hypothesis
 3. Presenting own beliefs/viewpoints, true only according to the author
 4. Making suggestions
 5. Predicting/speculating/guessing about a future occurrence
- Etc.

These are considered opinions because they are in accordance with what the author thinks/believes/feels.

This makes such statements challengeable or debatable.

Since identifying the premise (fact) and the conclusion will be the most crucial step to solve CR questions, this slide will help as a test that you must apply to identify the same.

OCTAAVE Illustration

(Using 12 most important GMAT passages discussed with the help of a video – Video 1)

Passage 1

It is a widespread belief in modern evolutionary biology that biological evolution has shaped not only the shapes of our bodies but also our “instinctive” behaviors that come to the fore when we experience different potentially constraining situations. The role of biological evolution in this process is not to dictate our behavior when we can think rationally, but rather to dictate our actions when we act under severe constraints and end up displaying these instinctive behaviors—ways of feeling, thinking, and acting that “come naturally” in archetypal situations in any culture. Our “frailties”—instincts such as rage, fear, greed, gluttony, joy, lust, and love—may be a very mixed assortment, but they share at least one immediate quality: we are, as is said, “in the grip” of them. And thus, they give us our sense of constraints.

One undeniable fact about these frailties is that some of these frailties are presently maladaptive. Ironically, one clear example of this maladaptiveness is our ever-increasing need for security. Yet beneath the overlay of cultural detail, even these maladaptive frailties, too, are said to be biological in direction, and are therefore as natural to us as are our appendixes. We would need to thoroughly comprehend the origin of these maladaptive frailties in order to understand how badly they guide us now. And we might then begin to resist the pressure of these maladaptive frailties in our distant future.

- 1. While discussing maladaptive frailties, the author assumes which one of the following?**

- I. Evolution does not favor the emergence of adaptive frailties over the emergence of maladaptive frailties
- II. A few maladaptive frailties, once acquired, make the emergence of other maladaptive frailties more likely
- III. Changes in the total human environment can outpace evolutionary change

Choose one answer from below:

- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. III only
- D. I and II only
- E. II and III only

- 2. The author is primarily concerned with:**

- A. presenting an overview of those human frailties that impose constraints on human behavior
- B. describing a position on human frailties and presenting his own stance
- C. outlining a new claim about foundations of human behavior with a special focus on maladaptive frailties and speculating on their origins
- D. pointing out those human frailties that give us a sense of our constraints and presenting the outcome of such constricting behaviors
- E. suggesting ways to deal with a problem and predicting the eventual consequences of not doing so

The complete discussion of this passage is done in **RC Awareness Video 2 – must watch** (1:41:18 onwards):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWuT9flFn8>

Passage 2

In 1965 a prestigious university in South Africa started the first-ever African women's studies curriculum that was modeled exclusively after Western feminist values. The ensuing furore was anything but pleasant. There was widespread denunciation for what the program propagated. Various groups and organizations protested tooth and nail, condemning the program from start to finish. As expected, in all the broadcast debates, critics dismissed the curriculum as a betrayal of national identity, an imitation of Western ideas, and a distraction from the real task of national unification and economic development. Even supporters of the curriculum underestimated its potential; they thought it would be merely another of the many Western ideas that had already proved useful in African culture, akin to airlines, electricity, and the assembly line. Whatever the stance of the critics or of supporters may have been, one fact stands undeniable: few academic programs had ever received such public attention in all of Africa.

In their analysis the founders of the program found that, like the Western feminist critique of the Freudian model of the human psyche, the African critique finds Freudian theory culture-bound, but in ways different from those cited by Western theorists. The African theorists claim that Freudian theory assumes the universality of the Western nuclear, male-headed family and focuses on the personality formation of the individual, independent of society. Such a concept projects the competitive model of Western society onto human personalities; in the African concept of personality there is no ideal attached to individualism or to the independent self.

The Western model of personality development does not explain major characteristics of the African personality, which is social and group-centered. The "self" is a social being defined by and acting in a group, and the well-being of both men and women is determined by the equilibrium of the group, not by individual self-assertion.

The founders also noted that, in such a context, what is recognized as "dependency" in Western psychiatric terms is not, in African terms, an admission of weakness or failure. In the kinship-based society of Africa, four generations may live in the same house; people can be sons and daughters all their lives, whereas in Western culture, the roles of husband and son, wife and daughter, are often incompatible.

- 3. It can be inferred from the passage that the broadcast media in South Africa considered the start of the women's studies curriculum**

- A. Praiseworthy
- B. Insignificant
- C. Newsworthy
- D. Imitative
- E. Incomprehensible

- 4. Which of the following best summarizes the content of the passage?**

- A. A critique of a particular women's studies program
- B. A report about a particular women's studies program
- C. An assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of a particular women's studies program
- D. An analysis of the philosophy underlying women's studies programs
- E. An abbreviated history of African studies programs

Passage 3

This passage was written in 2010:

Rarely does a technology have such far reaching impact across the globe as has LCD technology in the past decade. In recent times, video display technologies have undergone a sea change in their precision. This has been aided by the rapid rise in the demand for High Definition (HD) pictures and videos. As a result, the active-matrix liquid crystal diode (LCD) display is the dominant technology currently used in most consumer display products.

LCDs that are capable of producing color images, such as in televisions and computers, reproduce colors through a process of subtraction, blocking out particular color wavelengths from the spectrum of white light until only the desired color remains. It is the variation of the intensity of light permitted to pass through the matrix of liquid crystals that enables LCD displays to present images full of gradations of different colors.

The nature and functioning of LCD displays present many advantages relative to other display technologies. The amount of power required to untwist the crystals to display images, even dark ones, is much lower than that required for analogous processes using other technologies, such as plasma. The dense array of crystals displays images from computer or other video graphics sources extremely well, with full color detail, no flicker, and no screen burn-in. Moreover, the number of pixels per square inch on an LCD display is typically higher than that for other display technologies, so LCD monitors are particularly good at displaying large amounts of data with exceptional clarity and precision. As a result, LCD TVs are considered the best display platform for video games, high-definition television, movie special effects, and other graphics-intensive uses.

5. **The tone of the passage could best be described as**
 - A. disinterested explanation
 - B. supportive advocacy
 - C. cautious endorsement
 - D. intellectual exploration
 - E. qualified support

6. **According to the passage, which of the following may be considered advantages of LCD displays relative to other display technologies?**
 - I. they are able to display continuous video graphics images with no interruption
 - II. they reflect a widely adopted standard
 - III. they represent the latest, most advanced technology

Choose one answer from below:

- A. I and III Only
- B. II and III only
- C. I and II only
- D. I, II and III
- E. III only



Passage 4

Measuring more than five feet tall and ten feet long, the Javan rhinoceros is often called the rarest large mammal on earth. None exist in zoos. While the Javan rhino habitat once extended across southern Asia, now there are fewer than one hundred of the animals in Indonesia and under a dozen in Vietnam. Very little is known about Javan rhinos because they lead secretive and solitary lives in remote jungles. Till today, scientists debate whether females even have horns, and most scientific work has had to rely on DNA garnered from dung.

The near extinction of the Javan rhino is the direct result of human actions. For centuries, farmers, who favored the same habitat, viewed them as crop eating pests and shot them on sight. During the colonial period, hunters slaughtered them by thousands. Now, human efforts to save them may well prove futile. The rhinos are unprotected on the Ujung Kulon peninsula, which is unsettled by humans, and don't have sufficient genetic diversity to have a chance at survival.

But what would happen if humans were to completely stop interfering in the Javan rhino habitats? Will there be a ray of hope for the survival of the Javan rhino species? The lack of human disturbance will allow mature forests to replace the shrubby vegetation the animals prefer. Thus, human benevolence (good actions on part of humans) may prove little better for these rhinos than past human maltreatment.

7. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?

- I. In the last sentence of the passage, the author reiterates his pessimism about the survival of the Javan rhino species
- II. In the last sentence of the passage, the author expresses slight optimism about the fact that good actions on part of humans can probably increase the chances of survival of the Javan rhino species
- III. Genetic diversity is one of the most important factors for the survival of a species

Choose one answer from below:

- A. I only
- B. II and III only
- C. II only
- D. III only
- E. I and III only

8. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- I. More is known about the genetics of the Javan rhino than is known about its mating patterns
- II. Most animal extinctions are the result of human actions
 - III. Hunters killed more Javan rhinos in Vietnam than in Indonesia

Choose one answer from below:

- A. I only
- B. II and III only
- C. III only
- D. I, II, and III
- E. II only

Passage 5

The function of capital markets is to facilitate an exchange of funds among all participants, and yet in practice we find that certain participants are not on a par with others. Members of society have varying degrees of market strength in terms of information they bring to a transaction, as well as of purchasing power and creditworthiness, as defined by lenders.

For example, within minority communities, capital markets do not properly fulfill their functions; they do not provide access to the aggregate flow of funds in the United States. The financial system does not generate the credit or investment vehicles needed for underwriting economic development in minority areas. The problem underlying this dysfunction is found in a rationing mechanism affecting both the available alternatives for investment and the amount of financial resources. This creates a distributive mechanism penalizing members of minority groups because of their socioeconomic differences from others. The existing system expresses definite socially based investment preferences that result from the previous allocation of income and that influence the allocation of resources for the present and future. The system tends to increase the inequality of income distribution. And, in the United States economy, a greater inequality of income distribution leads to a greater concentration of capital in certain types of investment.

Most traditional financial-market analysis studies ignore financial markets' deficiencies in allocation because of analysts' inherent preferences for the simple model of perfect competition. Conventional financial analysis pays limited attention to issues of market structure and dynamics, relative costs of information, and problems of income distribution. Market participants are viewed as acting as entirely independent and homogeneous individuals with perfect foresight about capital-market behavior.

Also, it is assumed that each individual in the community at large has the same access to the market and the same opportunity to transact and to express the preference appropriate to his or her individual interest.

9. The main point made by the passage is that

- A. financial markets provide for an optimum allocation of resources among all competing participants by balancing supply and demand
- B. the allocation of financial resources takes place among separate individual participants, all of whom have access to the market
- C. the existence of certain factors adversely affecting members of minority groups shows that financial markets do not function as conventional theory says they function
- D. investments in minority communities can be made by the use of various alternative financial instruments, such as stocks and bonds

E. since transaction costs for stocks, bonds, and other financial instruments are not equally apportioned among all minority-group members, the financial market is subject to criticism

10. The author's main point is argued by

- A. giving examples that support a conventional generalization
- B. showing that the view opposite to the author's is self-contradictory
- C. criticizing the presuppositions of a proposed plan
- D. showing that omissions in a theoretical description make it inapplicable in certain cases
- E. demonstrating that an alternative hypothesis more closely fits the data

Passage 6

Woodrow Wilson was referring to the liberal idea of the economic market when he said that the free enterprise system is the most efficient economic system. Fascination with this ideal has made Americans defy the “Old World” categories of settled possessiveness versus unsettling deprivation, the cupidity of retention versus the cupidity of seizure, a “status quo” defended or attacked. The United States, it was believed, had no status quo ante. Our only “station” was the turning of a stationary wheel, spinning faster and faster. We did not base our system on property but opportunity—which meant we based it not on stability but on mobility. The more things changed, that is, the more rapidly the wheel turned, the steadier we would be. The conventional picture of class politics is composed of the Haves, who want a stability to keep what they have, and the Have-Nots, who want a touch of instability and change in which to scramble for the things they have not. But Americans imagined a condition in which speculators, self-makers, runners are always using the new opportunities given by our land. These economic leaders (front-runners) would thus be mainly agents of change. The nonstarters were considered the ones who wanted stability and a strong referee to give them some position in the race, a regulative hand to calm manic speculation; an authority that can call things to a halt, begin things again from compensatorily staggered “starting lines.”

“Reform” in America has been sterile because it can imagine no change except through the extension of this metaphor of a race, wider inclusion of competitors, “**a piece of the action,**” as it were, for the disenfranchised. There is no attempt to call off the race. Since our only stability is change, America seems not to honor the quiet work that achieves social interdependence and stability. The worst part is that, in our legends, there is no heroism of the office clerk or admiration for the stable industrial workforce of the people who actually make the system work.

There is no pride in being an employee (Wilson asked for a return to the time when everyone was an employer). There has been no boasting about our social workers—they are merely signs of the system’s failure, of opportunity denied or not taken, of things to be eliminated. We have no pride in our growing interdependence, in the fact that our system can serve others, that we are able to help those in need; empty boasts from the past make us ashamed of our present achievements, make us try to forget or deny them, move away from them. There is no honor but, in the Wonderland, race we are all expected to all run, all trying to win, none winning in the end (for there is no end).

11. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. criticize the inflexibility of Americans’ strong belief in the idea of the free enterprise economic system
- B. praise “New World” economic ideologies
- C. admire the integrity of a political leader
- D. support those Americans whom the author deems to be neglected and propose ways to improve their situation
- E. suggest a substitute for the traditional metaphor of a race

12. Which of the following best expresses the author’s main point?

- A. Americans’ pride in their jobs continues to give them stamina today.
- B. The absence of a status quo ante has undermined United States economic structure.
- C. The free enterprise system has been a very popular system in the United States.
- D. The popular belief of Americans in the effectiveness of the free enterprise system is flawed.
- E. Fascination with the ideal of “openness” has made Americans sympathetic to the people who are not part of the economic race.

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13. It can be inferred from the passage that Woodrow Wilson’s ideas about the economic market

- A. encouraged those who, according to the author, make the system work
- B. propagated and continued the traditional beliefs as to why Americans think they are so successful in the first place
- C. revealed the prejudices of a society that values socialism over capitalism
- D. foreshadowed the best possible economic system for America in times to come
- E. began a tradition of presidential proclamations about the most effective economic system in America

14. The author sets off the word “Reform” with quotation marks in order to

- A. emphasize its departure from the concept of settled possessiveness
- B. show his support for a legislative program directed at massive changes in the American society
- C. highlight the flexibility and even amorphousness of United States society
- D. indicate that the term was one of Wilson’s favorites
- E. assert that reform in the United States has not helped those who haven’t been able to exploit the full benefits of the economic race

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15. It can be inferred from the passage that the author most probably thinks that giving the disenfranchised “a piece of the action” is

- A. a compassionate legislative measure
- B. an example of Americans’ resistance to any major change
- C. an innovative program for genuine social reform
- D. a monument to the efforts of industrial reformers
- E. a surprisingly “Old World” remedy for social

99th PERCENT CLUB

The complete discussion of this passage is done in **RC Awareness Video 1 – must watch** (00:32:10: onwards):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ep5iSrkXks>

Passage 7

Seeking a competitive advantage, some professional service firms (for example, firms providing advertising, accounting, or health care services) have considered offering unconditional guarantees of satisfaction. Such guarantees specify what clients can expect and what the firm will do if it fails to fulfill these expectations. Particularly with first-time clients, an unconditional guarantee can be an effective marketing tool if the client is very cautious, the firm's fees are high, the negative consequences of bad service are grave, or business is difficult to obtain through referrals and word-of-mouth.

However, an unconditional guarantee can sometimes hinder marketing efforts. With its implication that failure is possible, the guarantee may, paradoxically, cause clients to doubt the service firm's ability to deliver the promised level of service. It may conflict with a firm's desire to appear sophisticated, or may even suggest that a firm is begging for business. In legal and health care services, it may mislead clients by suggesting that lawsuits or medical procedures will have guaranteed outcomes. Indeed, professional service firms with outstanding reputations and performance to match have little to gain from offering unconditional guarantees. And any firm that implements an unconditional guarantee without undertaking a commensurate commitment to quality of service is merely employing a potentially costly marketing gimmick.

16. The primary function of the passage as a whole is to

- A. account for the popularity of a practice
- B. evaluate the utility of a practice
- C. demonstrate how to institute a practice
- D. denounce the utility of using a strategy
- E. explain the reasons for pursuing a strategy



Passage 8

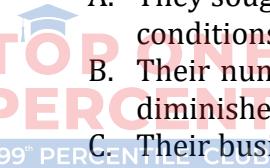
Planter-legislators of the post-Civil War southern United States enacted crop lien laws stipulating that those who advanced cash or supplies necessary to plant a crop would receive, as security, a claim, or lien, on the crop produced. In doing so, planters, most of whom were former slaveholders, sought access to credit from merchants and control over nominally free laborers—former slaves freed by the victory of the northern Union over the southern Confederacy in the United States Civil War. They hoped to reassure merchants that planters would produce crops and pay debts. Planters planned to use their supply credit to control their workers, former slaves who were without money to rent land or buy supplies. Planters imagined continuation of the pre-Civil War economic hierarchy: merchants supplying landlords, landlords supplying laborers, and laborers producing crops from which their scant wages and planters' profits would come, allowing planters to repay advances. Lien laws frequently had unintended consequences, however, thwarting the planter fantasy of mastery without slavery. The newly freed workers, seeking to become self-employed tenant farmers rather than wage laborers, made direct arrangements with merchants for supplies. Lien laws, the centerpiece of a system designed to create a dependent labor force, became the means for workers, with alternative means of supply advances, to escape that dependence.

17. Which of the following best expresses the central idea of the passage?

- A. Planters in the post-Civil War southern United States sought to reinstate the institution of slavery.
- B. Through their decisions regarding supply credit, merchants controlled post-Civil War agriculture.
- C. Lien laws helped to defeat the purpose for which they were originally created.
- D. Although slavery had ended, the economic hierarchy changed little in the post-Civil War southern United States.
- E. Newly freed workers enacted lien laws to hasten the downfall of the plantation economy.

18. The passage suggests which of the following about merchants in the post-Civil War southern United States?

- A. They sought to preserve pre-Civil War social conditions.
- B. Their numbers in the legislatures had been diminished.
- C. Their businesses had suffered from a loss of collateral.
- D. They were willing to make business arrangements with former slaves.
- E. Their profits had declined because planters defaulted on debts for supply advances.



Passage 9

Historians have identified two dominant currents in the Russian women's movement of the late czarist period. "Bourgeois" feminism, so called by its more radical opponents, emphasized "individualist" feminist goals such as access to education, career opportunities, and legal reform. "Socialist" feminists, by contrast, emphasized class, rather than gender, as the principal source of women's inequality and oppression, and socialist revolution, not legal reform, as the only road to emancipation and equality.

However, despite antagonism between bourgeois feminists and socialist feminists, the two movements shared certain underlying beliefs. Both regarded paid labor as the principal means by which women might attain emancipation: participation in the workplace and economic self-sufficiency, they believed, would make women socially useful and therefore deserving of equality with men. Both groups also recognized the enormous difficulties women faced when they combined paid labor with motherhood. In fact, at the First All-Russian Women's Congress in 1908, most participants advocated maternity insurance and paid maternity leave, although the intense hostility between some socialists and bourgeois feminists at the Congress made it difficult for them to recognize these areas of agreement. Finally, socialist feminists and most bourgeois feminists agreed in not giving priority to women's emancipation, but rather to what they considered the more important goal of liberating the Russian population from political oppression and other political evils.

19. The passage is primarily concerned with

- A. identifying points of agreement between two groups
- B. advocating one approach to social reform over another
- C. criticizing two approaches to solving a political problem
- D. arguing that the views espoused by one political group were more radical than those espoused by another group
- E. criticizing historians for overlooking similarities between the views espoused by two superficially dissimilar groups

20. The passage suggests that socialists within the Russian women's movement and most bourgeois feminists believed that in Russia

- A. women would not achieve economic equality until they had political representation within the government
- B. the achievement of larger political aims should take priority over the achievement of women's rights
- C. the emancipation of women would ultimately bring about the liberation of the entire Russian population from political oppression
- D. women's oppression was more rooted in economic inequality than was the case in other countries
- E. the women's movement was more ideologically divided than were women's movements in other countries

21. According to the passage, Russian socialists within the women's movement and most bourgeois feminists disagreed about which of the following?

- A. Whether legal reform was central to the achievement of feminist goals
- B. Whether paid employment was important for the achievement of equality
- C. Whether maternity insurance was desirable for working mothers
- D. Whether working mothers faced obstacles
- E. Whether women's emancipation should be subordinated to the goal of liberating the Russian population

Passage 10

Colonial historian David Allen's intensive study of five communities in seventeenth-century Massachusetts suggests that much more coherence and direct continuity existed between English and colonial agricultural practices and administrative organization than other historians have suggested. However, he overstates his case with the declaration that he has proved "the remarkable extent to which diversity in New England local institutions was directly imitative of regional differences in the mother country."

Such an assertion ignores critical differences between seventeenth-century England and New England. First, England was overcrowded and land-hungry; New England was sparsely populated and labor-hungry. Second, England suffered the normal European rate of mortality; New England, especially in the first generation of English colonists, was virtually free from infectious diseases. Third, England had an all-embracing state church; in New England membership in a church was restricted to the elect. Fourth, a high proportion of English villagers lived under paternalistic resident squires; no such class existed in New England. By narrowing his focus to village institutions and ignoring these critical differences, which studies by Greven, Demos, and Lockridge have shown to be so important, Allen has created a somewhat distorted picture of reality.

Allen's work is a rather extreme example of the "country community" school of seventeenth-century English history whose intemperate excesses in removing all national issues from the history of that period have been exposed by Professor Clive Holmes. What conclusion can be drawn, for example, from Allen's discovery that Puritan clergy who had come to the colonies from East Anglia were one-third to one-half as likely to return to England by 1660 as were Puritan ministers from western and northern England?

We are not told in what way, if at all, this **discovery** illuminates historical understanding. Studies of local history have enormously expanded our horizons, but it is a mistake for their authors to conclude that village institutions are all that mattered, simply because their functions are all that the records of village institutions reveal.

22. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with

- A. substantiating a claim about a historical event
- B. reconciling two opposing ideas about a historical era
- C. disputing evidence a scholar uses to substantiate a claim about a historical event
- D. analyzing two approaches to scholarly research and evaluating their methodologies
- E. criticizing a particular study and the approach to historical scholarship it represents

23. It can be inferred from the passage that the author of the passage considers Allen's "discovery" to be

- A. already known to earlier historians
- B. exclusive to Allen
- C. improbable but highly convincing
- D. an unexplained, isolated fact
- E. a new, insightful observation

24. The passage suggests that Professor Clive Holmes would most likely agree with which of the following statements?

- A. It is important to understand broad national issues in order to understand seventeenth-century English institutions thoroughly.
- B. The "country community" school of seventeenth-century English history distorts historical evidence in order to establish continuity between old and new institutions.
- C. Most historians distort reality by focusing on national concerns to the exclusion of local concerns.
- D. National issues are best understood from the perspective of those at the local level.
- E. Isolated local pieces of information about seventeenth-century English villages are the most crucial pieces of evidence to understand national life in that era.

Passage 11

For many years, **historians** thought that the development of capitalism had not faced serious challenges in the United States. Writing in the early twentieth century, progressive historians sympathized with the battles waged by farmers and small producers against large capitalists in the late nineteenth century, but they did not question the widespread acceptance of laissez-faire (unregulated) capitalism throughout American history. Similarly, Louis Hartz, who sometimes disagreed with the Progressives, argued that Americans accepted laissez-faire capitalism without challenge because they lacked a feudal, pre-capitalist past. Recently, however, some **scholars** have argued that even though laissez-faire became the prevailing ethos in nineteen-century America, it was not accepted without struggle. Laissez-faire capitalism, they suggest, clashed with existing religious and communitarian **norms** that imposed moral constraints on acquisitiveness to protect the weak from the predatory, the strong from corruption, and the entire culture from materialist excess. Buttressed by mercantilist notions that government should be both regulator and promoter of economic activity, these norms persisted long after the American Revolution helped unleash the economic forces that produced capitalism. These scholars argue that even in the late nineteenth century, with the government's role in the economy considerably diminished, laissez-faire had not triumphed completely. Hard times continued to revive popular demands for regulating business and softening the harsh edges of laissez-faire capitalism.

- 25. The primary purpose of the passage is to**
- reveal the underlying similarities of certain arguments regarding the development of capitalism in the United States
 - synthesize two competing arguments regarding the development of capitalism in the United States
 - defend an established argument regarding the development of capitalism in the United States
 - summarize a scholarly refutation of an argument regarding the development of capitalism in the United States
 - discuss a new methodology for the study of the development of capitalism in the United States
- 26. According to the passage, the Progressive historians and the scholars mentioned in the highlighted texts disagree with regard to which of the following?**
- Whether laissez-faire became the predominant ethos in the nineteenth-century United States
 - Whether moral restraints on acquisitiveness were necessary in the nineteenth century United States
 - The economic utility of mercantilist notions of government
 - The nature of the historical conditions necessary for the development of laissez-faire capitalism in the nineteen-century United States
 - The existence of significant opposition to the development of laissez-faire capitalism in the nineteen-century United States
- 27. The passage suggests that the scholars mentioned in the highlighted text would agree with which of the following statements regarding the "norms" mentioned in the subsequent highlighted text?**
- They provided a source of opposition to the development of laissez-faire capitalism in the United States in the nineteenth century.
 - Their appeal was undermined by difficult economic times in the United States at the end of the nineteenth century.
 - They disappeared in the United States in the late nineteenth century because of the triumph of laissez-faire capitalism.
 - They facilitated the successful implementation of mercantilist notions of government in the United States in the nineteenth-century.
 - They are now recognized by historians as having been an important part of the ideology of the American Revolution.

Passage 12

According to a theory advanced by researcher Paul Martin, the wave of species extinctions that occurred in North America about 11,000 years ago, at the end of the Pleistocene era, can be directly attributed to the arrival of humans, i.e., the Paleoindians, who were ancestors of modern Native Americans. However, anthropologist Shepard Krech points out that large animal species vanished even in areas where there is no evidence to demonstrate that Paleoindians hunted them. Nor were extinctions confined to large animals: small animals, plants, and insects disappeared, presumably not all through human consumption. Krech also contradicts Martin's exclusion of climatic change as an explanation by asserting that widespread climatic change did indeed occur at the end of the Pleistocene. Still, Krech attributes secondary if not primary responsibility for the extinctions to the Paleoindians, arguing that humans have produced local extinctions elsewhere. But, according to historian Richard White, even the attribution of secondary responsibility may not be supported by the evidence. White observes that Martin's thesis depends on coinciding dates for the arrival of humans and the decline of large animal species, and Krech, though aware that the dates are controversial, does not challenge them; yet **recent archaeological discoveries** are providing evidence that the date of human arrival was much earlier than 11,000 years ago. Thus, White's hypothesis stands vindicated.

28. Which of the following is true about Martin's theory, as that theory is described in the passage?

- A. It assumes that the Paleo-Indians were dependent only on hunting for survival.
- B. It denies that the Pleistocene species extinctions were caused by climate change.
- C. It uses as evidence the fact that humans have produced local extinctions in other situations.
- D. It attempts to address the controversy over the date of human arrival in North America.
- E. It admits the possibility that factors other than the arrival of humans played a role in the Pleistocene extinctions.

29. The author refers to "recent archaeological discoveries" most probably in order to

- A. refute White's suggestion that neither Martin nor Krech adequately account for Paleoindians' contributions to the Pleistocene extinctions
- B. challenge on the possibility that a more definitive theory regarding the causes of the Pleistocene extinctions may be forthcoming
- C. suggest that Martin's, Krech's, and White's theories regarding the Pleistocene extinctions are all open to question
- D. call attention to the most controversial aspect of all the current theories regarding the Pleistocene extinctions
- E. provide support for White's questioning of both Martin's and Krech's positions regarding the role of Paleoindians in the Pleistocene extinctions

Answer Key – RC Session: 1 OCTAAVE Illustration

Detailed OCTAAVE based video solutions (to each of these passages) in [RC Video 1](#), shared as part of Top-One-Percent GMAT courses (for registered courses only).

Passage 1

C B

Passage 2

C B

Passage 3

A C

Passage 4

A A

Passage 5

C D

Passage 6

A D B E B

Passage 7

B

Passage 8

C D

Passage 9

A B A

Passage 10

E D A

Passage 11

D E A

Passage 12

B E



THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE EVER WRITTEN ON GMAT READING COMPREHENSION

Expert solutions to selected queries asked by students



Passage 1**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

In para 1, the author talks about the "widespread belief" - this is a general opinion - a general position. The author doesn't elaborate anything about this position - it is just presented so that the author can put forth his / her argument in light of this general position. **So, this is "summarizing a general position" - this part of the answer comes from para 1**

In the second para, the author presents his / her opinion in two parts: part 1: "we would need to thoroughly comprehend" ... this is a **suggestion** (that we don't know but would need to know - there is absolutely NO SPECULATION (means guesswork), so choice C is absolutely wrong) - definitely the author's own opinion.

Part 2: "We might then begin to ..." - this is a prediction by the author.

So, para 1 has no personal opinion of the author - the word 'summarize' is for para 1

Para 2 has author's opinion - so 'presenting his own stance'

Had the option been only "summarizing a general position", the answer would have been wrong, as the passage clearly has author's personal opinion.

In short,



Please understand that there are two parts in choice B: summarize (para 1, no personal opinion of the author) and presenting his own stance (para 2)

The question stem "the author is primarily concerned with" asks of the author's opinion in this case. The author in the given passage has a personal opinion, and if you observe Option (B), it states - "summarizing a general position (para 1) on human frailties and presenting his own stance (para 2)." "presenting his own stance" means s/he is stating his/her own personal view. So this answer choice captures the opinion. Please note that the tone of the passage and hence of the correct answer choice can be neutral even if the author has an opinion. Since this passage does not have any criticism/praise, its tone is neutral.

Note – 1. In the lines "Our "frailties"—instincts such as rage, fear, greed, gluttony, joy, lust, and love—may be a very mixed assortment", "may be" is not opinion here. For example: He may be seemingly aggressive, but beneath his tough exterior, he is very sensitive.

There is no opinion here.

2. The author builds on the argument of the biologists in Para 2 without challenging the first Para at all. This is clear-cut support.

Q1.

In order to find the assumption made by the author, identify the conclusion the author is making, and the premise used to arrive at that conclusion. And then apply the method. In this question, the premise comes from this line - "some of these frailties are presently maladaptive". Conclusion derived by author from this is - "we might begin to resist the pressure of these maladaptive frailties in our distant future". So, statements 1 and 2 are ruled out.

Further, if you negate Statement (I) and say nature does favour adaptive frailties over non-adaptive ones, the author can still say what he is saying - that our frailties are presently maladaptive (no implications for this). The author does not say anything about Statement (II) at all - nothing about some such maladaptive frailties leading to others. Then Statement (II) cannot be an assumption the author is making. Ten by default Statement (III) is our answer.

Q2.

(A) – This doesn't capture the author's opinion but only the first para.

(B) – In the first paragraph, the author is discussing the opinion of the biologists. In the second paragraph the author gives a personal opinion. The author is doing both: describing the opinion of the biologists and presenting his own stance. Hence, Option (B) correctly aligns with the tone and opinion of the passage.

Note – A passage with a suggestion / prediction can still be a neutral tone passage. For example:
He should study more ... suggestion but neutral
He will pass the exam ... prediction but neutral

**Passage 3**

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – In the following lines from the passage,

"Rarely does a technology have such a far-reaching impact across the globe as has LCD technology in the past decade."

"The nature and functioning of LCD displays present many advantages relative to other display technologies."

You can apply the two tests to identify if any statement is a fact or author's personal opinion.

The above statements are not a praise/criticism/suggestion/prediction/belief of/by the author (test 1). Next, this cannot be challenged nor is it debatable (test 2). So, it's not a personal opinion. For example, if you say - "This course is considered the best" to your friend, you are obviously stating the public opinion of the course, correct? Same meaning here. It's a fact.

Say the author has written a sentence that says 'LCD is capable of processing coloured images'. This is completely verifiable. You can actually pull up data and verify this. So this is a fact. In the real world such a fact may be correct or incorrect, but on the GMAT, everything is fact-checked and you can take any fact to be completely correct. Now say the author said a sentence such as 'LCD is the best technology on earth'. Can you possibly verify this? Conversely, you can easily challenge this and say what?! No, I think XYZ technology is so much better than LCD is. These are opinions. Opinions cannot be right or wrong; they are just opinions and everybody is entitled to their own.

Q5.

(A) – The term 'Disinterested' means scientific, objective, i.e., the author is explaining objectively. It implies not having any personal agenda / bias / preference.

(B) – In RC, some facts may arouse emotions (positive or negative), in this case may be a desire to own an LCD TV, however that has nothing to do with the passage or the author's intent. The author is not himself/herself making a case for it / recommending to buy. For an argument facts are required to make a point (Conclusion derived from facts), however in this passage the facts are merely stated. They are not utilized further to make a point / try to convince people to buy. The suggestion must be present as part of the author's personal opinion for "supportive advocacy" to be the right choice. Clearly not the case here. So, it can't ever be correct.

Passage 4**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Additional context on the passage – In the passage, the author expresses pessimism about the fate of the Javan rhinos but does not blame human beings for the situation. Hence, there is no criticism towards humans. There are two reasons for this:

- He states as a fact that human malevolence has directly caused a decline in population of the Javan rhino.
- Observe the last paragraph in its entirety. The author says that even if humans completely stop meddling in the affairs / habitats of the Javan rhino, i.e., if humans become neutral or benevolent, even then the rhino species has little chance of survival because of other reason (little chance of survival means very low / next to none chance of survival) – if humans stop interfering, the food that the rhinos prefer will vanish. So, if humans interfere, the rhinos die. If humans don't interfere, the food of the rhinos disappears, and hence they die. This is a perfect irony.

Q8.

Statement 1 – If we know about the DNA, we have all genetic information (DNA contains all the genetic information needed) ... "And most scientific work has had to rely on DNA garnered from dung." If they (scientists) don't even surely know whether females have horns, they have certainly have not even seen a male and a female together. So, zero information about mating patterns. Therefore, this statement is 100 percent inferable.

Statement III - We cannot say with 100 percent certainty that hunters killed more. We cannot assign values. We don't know if there was one cause of death. Also, we cannot infer if the **hunters killed** more in Vietnam than in Indonesia. It's possible that Vietnam had fewer rhinos than Indonesia in the first place, and even if hunters killed less in Vietnam, they are fewer in number **today comparatively**. So, without knowing the actual numbers then, we cannot infer this. Maybe initially there were only 100 Javan rhinos in Indonesia and 13 Javan rhinos in Vietnam. So if hunters killed 50 rhinos in Indonesia and 2 in Vietnam, there are less than 100 rhinos in Indonesia and under a dozen in Vietnam. But hunters killed more rhinos in Indonesia than in Vietnam

Moreover, there could have been other reasons for the population disparity.

Passage 5

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Paragraph 1: Author talks about Capital Markets' function as (sort of) an ideal in theory but imperfect in practice.

Paragraph 2: Author continues his/her idea about the reason behind the shortcoming of function by giving an example. The example takes minority communities into consideration and enumerates what, how and why of the problem. He/she mentions that the financial system does not create enough ways so that investment can be generated and gives another reason behind that i.e., rationing system. Thus, the existing system which is flawed, is followed. This further increases the inequality gap, thus leading to non-uniform distribution of capital.

Paragraph 3: In this para, the author refers to analysis of markets. He/she mentions that studies in general **ignore (negative tone)** the shortcomings and **pay little attention (negative tone)** to actors actually affecting the capital market and makes the assumption **(the worst thing analysts can do – surely negative)** that every individual has perfect knowledge of the capital market and has the same access/opportunities. In making these assumptions, the conventional analysis ignores certain deficiencies in allocation. These deficiencies, as described in the second paragraph, are factors that adversely affect members of minority groups.

If the conventional analysis were accurate, the deficiencies described and the adverse effect on minority communities would not be present. However, the deficiencies DO exist, showing that financial markets do not function as conventional theory says they function, leading to non-uniformity in the market i.e., certain pockets are left out.

Q9.

(A) - Opposite of what author thinks. Financial markets are being criticized here for not treating the minorities fairly. Nowhere it is mentioned in the passage that allocation is optimum (means fair). Eliminate.

(B) - 180 degrees answer choice. Eliminate.

(C) - Conventional theory supports the perfect model where everyone has equal access. But in reality, the markets are not fair to the minorities, who do not have equal access. **Correct.**

(D) - Not the central idea. Eliminate.

(E) - Not the central idea. Eliminate.

Additional context on the passage - The first line and the first contradiction word gives away the primary purpose and hence the tone of the passage. Further throughout the passage the author talks about shortcomings of the capital markets. The first line says that the financial markets theory says one thing and does something else entirely; this easily is criticizing. Even if you take all the information to be factual, there is no other option choice you can choose. Analysts' inherent preferences is the criticism (opinion). Last part is general public opinion, which is a fact for author.

Q10.

- (A) – Author is not supporting anything conventional – rather the author is criticizing the conventional model. Eliminate.
- (B) – This is not a case of **self-contradiction**, which would require the opposition to contradict their own logic or their own statements. Eliminate.
- (C) – Irrelevant. There's no evidence of a "proposed plan" in this passage. The author describes how traditional financial analysis ignores important issues and deficiencies. But traditional analysis and conventional wisdom are not the same as a "proposed plan."
- (D) – The "theoretical description" is that capital markets facilitate an exchange of funds among all participants. This is a conventional view of market participation, and the author disagrees with this conventional view because it omits many cases (i.e., minority communities), in which capital markets fail to fulfill their functions. Thinking about this structurally, we see that in the first paragraph, the author declares that the conventional theory about capital markets is inaccurate. In the second paragraph, the author shows cases that are omitted by this conventional theory, and therefore can't be explained by that theory. In the third paragraph, the author explains the assumptions that lead to these cases being omitted during conventional analysis. This structure matches the language in Option (D).
- (E) – Alternative hypothesis is not mentioned anywhere in the passage. Eliminate.

Passage 6

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – (To understand the tone)

"Reform" in America has been **sterile**..." means completely ineffective. This is an extremely negative word.



"Because it can **imagine no change (criticism again)** except through the extension of this metaphor of a race, wider inclusion of competitors..."

"a piece of the action (means some small steps taken to make the less privileged part of the mainstream but no genuine reform or social change criticism again), as it were, for the disenfranchised."

"Since our only stability is change, America **seems not to honor (criticism again)**

"There is, in our legends..." (**this means, traditionally America has praised super successful economic leaders only criticism again**)

This passage contains a very strong opinion (criticism of the free-market enterprise system). So the tone is extremely negative (critical) of the beliefs of most Americans and of Woodrow Wilson. This passage is pure criticism.

Q13.

What the initial lines (and then the rest of the passage) say(s) is that Woodrow Wilson propagated the liberal idea of the most economic system. It never says this was indeed true. On the contrary, it says quite the opposite - the passage goes to great lengths to describe how said 'most efficient' economic system is actually a perilous one which has moved the goalposts for a vast number of Americans on what 'success' etc. should look like in an economic system. Kind of what Fox News would have to say on

the subject! So this definitely did *not* start a proclamation for the most efficient economic system in America. Also, what Option (E) means is that this started a tradition whereby people (presidents etc.) continued to proclaim that subsequently later on as well that the system was the most efficient - again something the passage doesn't say. It means whenever a new president came after Woodrow Wilson, every single one of them proclaimed which the most effective economic system was for America. We do not have information about all the future presidents of America and what they did.

Q14.

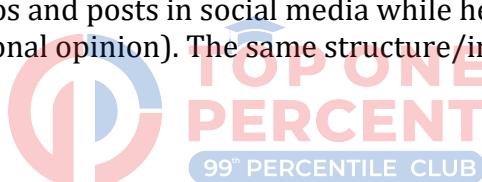
The "Reform" in America has been sterile..... - this means that there has been no reform; all that has happened in terms of change is that more people have gotten included in the proverbial race mentioned in the first paragraph. More people have joined the rat race does not mean that there has been a reform in the society. Option C says the author is saying that the american society is flexible and amorphous; This is totally opposite of what the author wants to convey by this statement.

Passage 7

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – “And any firm that implements an unconditional guarantee without undertaking a commensurate commitment to quality of service is merely employing a potentially costly marketing gimmick.” constitutes an opinion.

Analogy: Anyone who takes photos and posts in social media while helping others is merely doing so for publicity (It involves my personal opinion). The same structure/intent is followed in the passage as well.



Passage 8

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Summary of passage – Planters (former slave owners) wanted to continue a form of slavery without mastery (as slavery had been abolished through the Civil War). They set up an arrangement where merchants would lend them (planters) money and other required things (in return get a lien on the crops grown) and the planters would take that money and get former slaves to grow crops. From the proceeds of the crops, the slave's salary and planter's profits would come. But this did not quite always work out this way - the former slaves bypassed the planters and went to merchants to set up a similar arrangement - the merchants would give these former slaves the money on credit and get a lien on the crops grown (essentially the planters / former slave-owners were being cut out of the value chain).

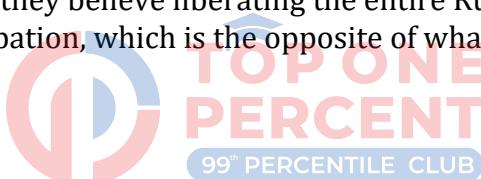
Passage 9**Q20.****Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

In the lines from the passage: "Finally, socialist feminists and most bourgeois feminists agreed in not giving priority to women's emancipation, but rather to what they considered the more important goal of liberating the Russian population from political oppression and other political evils." shows that both bourgeois feminists and socialist feminists believed in this, so this is the point of agreement between the two. Political representation is not what they wanted. Hence, (C) is incorrect and (B) is the correct answer choice.

The author does NOT say that the emancipation of women would LEAD TO the liberation of the entire Russian population from political oppression, so (C) should be eliminated.

This means that both groups agree that women's emancipation should be less important than liberating Russia from some big problems. So, The main goal should be liberating Russia, and indeed the efforts should be focussed on achieving this more important goal first. B is correct!

Answer choice C is incorrect because the passage never says that emancipation of women is a mean to achieve the big goal of Russia. So they believe liberating the entire Russian population is more important than women's emancipation, which is the opposite of what they believe.

**Passage 10****Q24.****Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

(B) – Option B is incorrect because it says "distorts historical evidence". Distorting historical evidence would mean that they somehow twisted the facts to fit into their narrative but actually what Clive Holmes says is that they straight up ignore/omitted any national concern whatsoever. That is why Option B is incorrect. It is in option choices with such subtle differences where Put You Finger On IT comes in handy.

Passage 11

Additional context on the passage – Think of the first part, where the author is introducing the premise that traditionally historians thought capitalism grew uncontested to be just that - a premise. The author is saying that to set up the second / main part of the passage - where they describe how this view has changed among scholars in recent times. Now scholars believe capitalism always had an underlying system of checks and balances to 'keep it in line' so to say. This second part is what the author is mainly trying to explain (the scholarly refutation of the traditional view of how capitalism grew). The first part (the explanation of the traditional view) is the 'springboard' to set the latter part up.

Q25.**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

We can reach the correct answer by POE using OCTAVE as follows:

- (A) - "reveal the underlying similarities" - 180 degree answer choice. Yes, although they both agreed that capitalism was accepted in the United States, they disagreed on whether the acceptance came about with or without struggle. It can be clearly inferred from the lines "Recently, however, ...scholars have argued that even though laissez-faire capitalism became the prevalent ethos...**it was not accepted without struggle**". This highlights the disagreement between the historians and the scholars which forms the CRUX of the passage as it is a key contradiction location. Eliminate.
- (B) - to "synthesize" means to make something by combining/merging two things. Here, the author is not offering a synthesis of the two stated arguments at all. Rather, the author only mentions the beliefs of historians and scholars. Eliminate.
- (C) - If the author is "defending an argument", it would imply that the author has an opinion in the passage. However, we know that the passage has no opinion given by the author and its tone is neutral. Eliminate.
- (E) - "discussing a new methodology" implies that the author is offering an alternative (not given in the passage) and implies an opinion. Moreover, "methodology" is a red flag". Eliminate.

So, Option (D) is the correct answer. Everything from 'Recently, however, some scholars have argued...' has been written to present an opposing scholarly view of how capitalism did not develop in America unopposed - how it clashed with existing checks and balances in place and it was never a triumphant, pure, unopposed win for laissez-faire capitalism in the US. This is the reason Option (D) is correct.

99th PERCENTILE CLUB**Q27.**

Additional context on the question – Laissez-faire capitalism, contrary to popular belief, did *not* grow unchecked and unopposed in the US.

One of the things the author says to support this is that capitalism **was at odds with some existing norms**. These are some other characteristics about the norms we understand from the passage:

- 1) They were essentially a system of checks and balances against capitalism - these norms established a moral compass to prevent materialist excess (and also things like oppression of the weak by the strong etc.)
- 2) These norms were supported through notions that government should both be regulator and promoter of economic activity (not the other way round - the norms did not *give rise to* such notions)
- 3) These norms were in place long after the seeds of laissez-faire capitalism had germinated (i.e. long after the genesis of laissez-faire capitalism)

Passage 12**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)****Q28.**

(B) – Exclusion of climate change means climate change was surely not the reason as per Martin. Correct.

THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE EVER WRITTEN ON GMAT READING COMPREHENSION

48 Practice Passages – Primary Purpose

Explained in videos (Video 2: passage 1 to 20 | Video 3: passage 21 to 48)



Passage 1

Roger Rosenblatt's book *Black Fiction*, in attempting to apply literary rather than sociopolitical criteria to its subject, successfully alters the approach taken by most previous studies. As Rosenblatt notes, criticism of Black writing has often served as a pretext for expounding on Black history. Addison Gayle's recent work, for example, judges the value of Black fiction by overtly political standards, rating each work according to the notions of Black identity which it propounds.

Fiction assuredly springs from political circumstances; its authors consequently react to those circumstances in ways other than ideological, and talking about novels and stories primarily as instruments of ideology circumvents much of the fictional enterprise. Rosenblatt's literary analysis discloses affinities and connections among works of Black fiction which solely political studies have overlooked or ignored.

Writing acceptable criticism of Black fiction presupposes giving satisfactory answers to a number of questions. First of all, is there a sufficient reason, other than the racial identity of the authors, to group together works by Black authors? Second, how does Black fiction make itself distinct from other modern fiction with which it is largely contemporaneous? Rosenblatt shows that Black fiction constitutes a distinct body of writing that has an identifiable, coherent literary tradition. Looking at novels written by Blacks over the last eighty years, he discovers recurring concerns and designs independent of chronology. These structures are thematic, and they spring, not surprisingly, from the central fact that the Black characters in these novels exist in a predominantly White culture, whether they try to conform to that culture or rebel against it.

Black Fiction does leave some aesthetic questions open, however. Rosenblatt's thematic analysis permits considerable objectivity; he even explicitly states that it is not his intention to judge the merit of the various works – yet his reluctance seems misplaced, especially since an attempt to appraise might have led to interesting results. For instance, some of the novels appear to be structurally diffuse. Is this a defect, or are the authors working out of, or trying to forge, a different kind of aesthetic?

In addition, the style of some Black novels, like Jean Toomer's *Cane*, verges on expressionism or surrealism; does this technique provide a counterpoint to the prevalent theme that portrays the fate against which Black heroes are pitted, a theme usually conveyed by more naturalistic modes of expression?

In spite of such omissions, what Rosenblatt does include in his discussion makes for an astute and worthwhile study. *Black Fiction* surveys a wide variety of novels, bringing to our attention in the process some fascinating and little-known works like James Weldon Johnson's *Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*. Its argument is tightly constructed, and its forthright, lucid style exemplifies levelheaded and penetrating criticism.

The author of the passage is primarily concerned with

- A. evaluating the soundness of a work of criticism
- B. comparing various critical approaches to work of criticism
- C. discussing the limitations of a particular work of criticism
- D. summarizing the major points made in a work of criticism
- E. explaining the theoretical background of a certain work of criticism

The author of the passage believes that *Black Fiction* would have been improved had Rosenblatt

- A. praised more carefully the ideological and historical aspects of Black fiction
- B. attempted to be more objective in his approach to novels and stories by Black authors
- C. explored in greater detail the recurrent thematic concerns of Black fiction throughout its history
- D. established a basis for placing Black fiction within its own unique literary tradition
- E. assessed the relative literary merit of the novels he analyzes thematically

Passage 2

This passage was written in 1980

Most economists in the United States seem captivated by the spell of the free market. Consequently, nothing seems good or normal that does not accord with the requirements of the free market. A price that is determined by the seller or, for that matter, established by anyone other than the aggregate of consumers seems pernicious. Accordingly, it requires a major act of will to think of price-fixing (the determination of prices by the seller) as both "normal" and having a valuable economic function. In fact, price-fixing is normal in all industrialized societies because the industrial system itself provides, as an effortless consequence of its own development, the price-fixing that it requires. Modern industrial planning requires and rewards great size. Hence, a comparatively small number of large firms will be competing for the same group of consumers. That each large firm will act with consideration of its own needs and thus avoid selling its products for more than its competitors charge is commonly recognized by advocates of free-market economic theories. But each large firm will also act with full consideration of the needs that it has in common with the other large firms competing for the same customers. Each large firm will thus avoid significant price-cutting, because price-cutting would be prejudicial to the common interest in a stable demand for products. Most economists do not see price-fixing when it occurs because they expect it to be brought about by a number of explicit agreements among large firms; however, this is not true.

Moreover, those economists who argue that allowing the free market to operate without interference is the most efficient method of establishing prices have not considered the economies of non-socialist countries other than the United States. These economies employ intentional price-fixing, usually in an overt fashion. Formal price-fixing by cartel and informal price-fixing by agreements covering the members of an industry are commonplace. Were there something peculiarly efficient about the free market and inefficient about price-fixing, the countries that have avoided the first and used the second would have suffered drastically in their economic development. There is no indication that they have.

Socialist industry also works within a framework of controlled prices. In the early 1970's, the Soviet Union began to give firms and industries some of the flexibility in adjusting prices that a more informal evolution has accorded the capitalist system. Economists in the United States have hailed the change as a return to the free market. But Soviet firms are no more subject to prices established by a free market over which they exercise little influence than are capitalist firms; rather, Soviet firms have been given the power to fix prices.

In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with

- A. predicting the consequences of a practice
- B. criticizing a point of view
- C. calling attention to recent discoveries
- D. proposing a topic for research
- E. summarizing conflicting opinions

The author's attitude toward "Most economists in the United States" in the first statement of the passage can best be described as

- A. neutral
- B. adulatory
- C. critical
- D. ambivalent
- E. deferential

Passage 3

In the two decades between 1910 and 1930, over ten percent of the Black population of the United States left the South, where the preponderance of the Black population had been located, and migrated to northern states, with the largest number moving, it is claimed, between 1916 and 1918. It has been frequently assumed, but not proved, that the majority of the migrants in what has come to be called the Great Migration came from rural areas and were motivated by two concurrent factors: the collapse of the cotton industry following the boll weevil infestation, which began in 1898, and increased demand in the North for labor following the cessation of European immigration caused by the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. This assumption has led to the conclusion that the migrants' subsequent lack of economic mobility in the North is tied to rural background, a background that implies unfamiliarity with urban living and a lack of industrial skills.

But the question of who actually left the South has never been rigorously investigated. Although numerous investigations document an exodus from rural southern areas to southern cities prior to the Great Migration, no one has considered whether the same migrants then moved on to northern cities. In 1910 over 600,000 Black workers, or ten percent of the Black work force, reported themselves to be engaged in "manufacturing and mechanical pursuits," the federal census category roughly encompassing the entire industrial sector. The Great Migration could easily have been made up entirely of this group and their families. It is perhaps surprising to argue that an employed population could be enticed to move, but an explanation lies in the labor conditions then prevalent in the South.

About thirty-five percent of the urban Black population in the South was engaged in skilled trades. Some were from the old artisan class of slavery—blacksmiths, masons, carpenters—which had had a monopoly of certain trades, but they were gradually being pushed out by competition, mechanization, and obsolescence. The remaining sixty-five percent, more recently urbanized, worked in newly developed industries—tobacco, lumber, coal and iron manufacture, and railroads. Wages in the South, however, were low, and Black workers were aware, through labor recruiters and the Black press, that they could earn more even as unskilled workers in the North than they could as artisans in the South.

After the boll weevil infestation, urban Black workers faced competition from the continuing influx of both Black and White rural workers, who were driven to undercut the wages formerly paid for industrial jobs. Thus, a move north would be seen as advantageous to a group that was already urbanized and steadily employed, and the easy conclusion tying their subsequent economic problems in the North to their rural background comes into question.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. support an alternative to an accepted methodology
- B. present evidence that resolves a contradiction
- C. introduce a recently discovered source of information
- D. challenge a widely accepted explanation
- E. argue that a discarded theory deserves new attention



Passage 4

At the end of the nineteenth century, a rising interest in Native American customs and an increasing desire to understand Native American culture prompted ethnologists to begin recording the life stories of Native American. Ethnologists had a distinct reason for wanting to hear the stories: they were after linguistic or anthropological data that would supplement their own field observations, and they believed that the personal stories, even of a single individual, could increase their understanding of the cultures that they had been observing from without. In addition, many ethnologists at the turn of the century believed that Native American manners and customs were rapidly disappearing, and that it was important to preserve for posterity as much information as could be adequately recorded before the cultures disappeared forever.

There were, however, arguments against this method as a way of acquiring accurate and complete information. Franz Boas, for example, described autobiographies as being “of limited value, and useful chiefly for the study of the perversion of truth by memory,” while Paul Radin contended that investigators rarely spent enough time with the tribes they were observing, and inevitably derived results too tinged by the investigator’s own emotional tone to be reliable.



Even more importantly, as these life stories moved from the traditional oral mode to recorded written form, much was inevitably lost. Editors often decided what elements were significant to the field research on a given tribe. Native Americans recognized that the essence of their lives could not be communicated in English and that events that they thought significant were often deemed unimportant by their interviewers. Indeed, the very act of telling their stories could force Native American narrators to distort their cultures, as taboos had to be broken to speak the names of dead relatives crucial to their family stories.

Despite all of this, autobiography remains a useful tool for ethnological research: such personal reminiscences and impressions, incomplete as they may be, are likely to throw more light on the working of the mind and emotions than any amount of speculation from an ethnologist or ethnological theorist from another culture.

The primary purpose of the passage as a whole is to

- A. question an explanation
- B. correct a misconception
- C. critique an approach
- D. discredit an idea
- E. clarify an ambiguity

Passage 5

This passage was written in 1988.

Since the late 1970's, in the face of a severe loss of market share in dozens of industries, manufacturers in the United States have been trying to improve productivity—and therefore enhance their international competitiveness—through cost-cutting programs. (Cost-cutting here is defined as raising labor output while holding the amount of labor constant.). From 1978 through 1982, productivity—the value of goods manufactured divided by the amount of labor input—did not improve; the results were better in the business upturn of the three years following, they ran 25 percent lower than productivity improvements during earlier, post-1945 upturns. At the same time, it became clear that the harder manufactures worked to implement cost-cutting, the more they lost their competitive edge.

With this paradox in mind, I recently visited 25 companies; it became clear to me that the cost-cutting approach to increasing productivity is fundamentally flawed. Manufacturing regularly observes a "40, 40, 20" rule. Roughly 40 percent of any manufacturing-based competitive advantage derives from long-term changes in manufacturing structure (decisions about the number, size, location, and capacity of facilities) and in approaches to materials. Another 40 percent comes from major changes in equipment and process technology. The final 20 percent rests on implementing conventional cost-cutting.

Another problem is that the cost-cutting approach hinders innovation and discourages creative people. As Abernathy's study of automobile manufacturers has shown, an industry can easily become prisoner of its own investments in cost-cutting techniques, reducing its ability to develop new products. And managers under pressure to maximize cost-cutting will resist innovation because they know that more fundamental changes in processes or systems will wreak havoc with the results on which they are measured. Production managers have always seen their job as one of minimizing costs and maximizing output.

Every company I know that has freed itself from the paradox has done so, in part, by developing and implementing a manufacturing strategy. Such a strategy focuses on the manufacturing structure and on equipment and process technology and must be implemented by all those companies that want to improve long-term productivity. In one company a manufacturing strategy that allowed different areas of the factory to specialize in different markets replaced the conventional cost-cutting approach; within three years the company regained its competitive advantage. Together with such strategies, successful companies are also encouraging managers to focus on a wider set of objectives besides cutting costs. This is an example worth emulating. If we are to have a hope for manufacturing, the companies must change to a different way of managing.

The author of the passage is primarily concerned with

- A. summarizing a thesis
- B. recommending a different approach
- C. comparing points of view
- D. making a series of predictions
- E. describing a number of paradoxes

The author's attitude toward the culture in most factories is best described as

- A. cautious
- B. critical
- C. disinterested
- D. respectful
- E. adulatory

Passage 6

This passage was written in 1980.

Since the early 1970's, historians have begun to devote serious attention to the working class in the United States. Yet while we now have studies of working-class communities and culture, we know remarkably little of worklessness. When historians have paid any attention at all to unemployment, they have focused on the Great Depression of the 1930's. By examining the period between 1870-1920, Alexander Keyssar, in his recent book, takes a different approach. Keyssar concentrates on Massachusetts, where the historical materials are particularly rich, and the findings applicable to other industrial areas.

The unemployment rates that Keyssar calculates appear to be relatively modest, at least by Great Depression standards: during the worst years, in the 1870's and 1890's, unemployment was around 15 percent. Yet Keyssar rightly understands that a better way to measure the impact of unemployment is to calculate unemployment frequencies—measuring the percentage of workers who experience any unemployment in the course of a year. Given this perspective, joblessness looms much larger.

Keyssar also scrutinizes unemployment patterns according to skill level, ethnicity, race, age, class, and gender. He finds that rates of joblessness differed primarily according to class: those in middle-class and white-collar occupations were far less likely to be unemployed. Yet the impact of unemployment on a specific class was not always the same. Even when dependent on the same trade, adjoining communities and places could have dramatically different unemployment rates. Keyssar uses these differential rates to help explain a phenomenon that has puzzled historians—the startlingly high rate of geographical mobility in the nineteenth-century United States. But mobility was not the dominant working-class strategy for coping with unemployment, nor was assistance from private charities or state agencies. Self-help and the help of kin got most workers through jobless spells.

While Keyssar should have spent more time developing the implications of his findings on joblessness for contemporary public policy, his study, in its thorough research and creative use of quantitative and qualitative evidence, is a model of historical analysis.

The passage is primarily concerned with

- A. recommending a new course of investigation
- B. assessing a study
- C. making distinctions among categories
- D. praising the current state of a field
- E. comparing and contrasting two methods for calculating data

The author views Keyssar's study with

- A. impatient disapproval
- B. wary concern
- C. polite skepticism
- D. scrupulous neutrality
- E. qualified admiration



Passage 7

Increasingly, historians are blaming diseases imported from the Old World for the staggering disparity between the indigenous population of America in 1492—new estimates of which soar as high as 100 million, or approximately one-sixth of the human race at that time—and the few million full-blooded Native Americans alive at the end of the nineteenth century. There is no doubt that chronic disease was an important factor in the precipitous decline, and it is highly probable that the greatest killer was epidemic disease, especially as manifested in virgin-soil epidemics.

Virgin-soil epidemics are those in which the populations at risk have had no previous contact with the diseases that strike them and are therefore immunologically almost defenseless. That virgin-soil epidemics were important in American history is strongly indicated by evidence that a number of dangerous maladies—smallpox, measles, malaria, yellow fever, and undoubtedly several more—were unknown in the pre-Columbian New World. The effects of their sudden introduction are demonstrated in the early chronicles of America, which contain reports of horrendous epidemics and steep population declines, confirmed in many cases by recent quantitative analyses of Spanish tribute records and other sources. The British tended to drive the native populations away, rather than enslaving them as the Spaniards did, so that the epidemics of British America occurred beyond the range of colonists' direct observation.

Surviving records of North America do contain references to deadly epidemics among the indigenous population. In 1616-1619 an epidemic, possibly of bubonic or pneumonic plague, swept coastal New England, killing as many as nine out of ten. During the 1630's smallpox, the disease most fatal to the Native American people, eliminated half the population of the Huron and Iroquois confederations. In the 1820's fever devastated the people of the Columbia River area, killing eight out of ten of them.

In 1952 an outbreak of measles among the Native American inhabitants of Ungava Bay, Quebec, affected 99 percent of the population and killed 7 percent, even though some had the benefit of modern medicine. Cases such as this demonstrate that even diseases that are not normally fatal can have devastating consequences when they strike an immunologically defenseless community.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. refute a common misconception
- B. provide support for a hypothesis
- C. analyze an argument
- D. suggest a solution to a dilemma
- E. reconcile opposing viewpoints



Passage 8

This passage was written in 1988.

Until recently most astronomers believed that the space between the galaxies in our universe was a near-perfect vacuum. This orthodox view of the universe is now being challenged by astronomers who believe that a heavy "rain" of gas is falling into many galaxies from the supposedly empty space around them. The gas apparently condenses into a collection of small stars, each a little larger than the planet Jupiter. These stars vastly outnumber the other stars in a given galaxy. The amount of "intergalactic rainfall" into some of these galaxies has been enough to double their mass in the time since they formed. Scientists have begun to suspect that this intergalactic gas is probably a mixture of gases left over from the "big bang" when the galaxies were formed and gas was forced out of galaxies by supernova explosions.

It is well known that when gas is cooled at a constant pressure its volume decreases. Thus, the physicist Fabian correctly reasoned that as intergalactic gas cools, the cooler gas shrinks inward toward the center of the galaxy. Meanwhile its place is taken by hotter intergalactic gas from farther out on the edge of the galaxy, which cools as it is compressed and flows into the galaxy. The net result is a continuous flow of gas, starting as hot gases in intergalactic space and ending as a drizzle of cool gas called a "cooling flow," falling into the central galaxy.

A fairly heretical idea in the 1970's, the cooling-flow theory rightly gained support when Fabian observed a cluster of galaxies in the constellation Perseus and found the central galaxy, NGC 1275, to be a strange-looking object with irregular, thin strands of gas radiating from it. According to previous speculation, these strands were gases that had been blown out by an explosion in the galaxy. Fabian, however, disagreed, and rightly so. Because the strands of gas radiating from NGC 1275 are visible in optical photographs, Fabian suggested that such strands consisted not of gas blown out of the galaxy but of cooling flows of gas streaming inward. He noted that the wavelengths of the radiation emitted by a gas would change as the gas cooled, so that as the gas flowed into the galaxy and became cooler, it would emit not x-rays, but visible light, like that which was captured in the photographs.

Fabian's convincing hypothesis was also supported by Canizares' determination in 1982 that most of the gas in the Perseus cluster was at a temperature of 80 million degrees Kelvin, whereas the gas immediately surrounding NGC 1275 (the subject of the photographs) was at one-tenth this temperature.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. illustrate a hypothesis
- B. introduce a hypothesis that challenges an accepted theory and present some evidence to support that hypothesis
- C. summarize the state of and prospects for research in intergalactic astronomy
- D. report new data on the origins of intergalactic gas
- E. reconcile opposing views on the formation of intergalactic gas



Passage 9

This passage was written in 1982.

Japanese firms have achieved the highest levels of manufacturing efficiency in the world automobile industry. Some observers of Japan have assumed that Japanese firms use the same manufacturing equipment and techniques as United States firms but have benefited from the unique characteristics of Japanese employees and the Japanese culture. However, if this were true, then one would expect Japanese auto plants in the United States to perform no better than factories run by United States companies. This is not the case; Japanese-run automobile plants located in the United States and staffed by local workers have demonstrated higher levels of productivity when compared with factories owned by United States companies.

Other observers link high Japanese productivity to higher levels of capital investment per worker. But a historical perspective leads to a different conclusion. When the two top Japanese automobile makers matched and then doubled United States productivity levels in the mid-sixties, capital investment per employee was comparable to that of United States firms. Furthermore, by the late seventies, the amount of fixed assets required to produce one vehicle was roughly equivalent in Japan and in the United States.



The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. present the major steps of a process
- B. clarify an ambiguity
- C. chronicle a dispute
- D. correct misconceptions
- E. defend an accepted approach

Since capital investment was not higher in Japan, it had to be other factors that led to higher productivity. A more fruitful explanation may lie with Japanese production techniques. Japanese automobile producers did not simply implement conventional processes more effectively: they made critical changes in United States procedures. For instance, the mass-production philosophy of United States automakers encouraged the production of huge lots of cars in order to utilize fully expensive, component-specific equipment and to occupy fully workers who have been trained to execute one operation efficiently. Japanese automakers chose to make small-lot production feasible by introducing several departures from United States practices, including the use of flexible equipment that could be altered easily to do several different production tasks and the training of workers in multiple jobs. Automakers could schedule the production of different components or models on single machines, thereby eliminating the need to store the buffer stocks of extra components that result when specialized equipment and workers are kept constantly active.

Passage 10

Historians sometimes forget that history is continually being made and experienced before it is studied, interpreted, and read. These latter activities have their own history, of course, which may impinge in unexpected ways on public events. It is difficult to predict when “new pasts” will overturn established historical interpretations and change the course of history.

In the fall of 1954, for example, C. Vann Woodward delivered a lecture series at the University of Virginia which challenged the prevailing dogma concerning the history, continuity, and uniformity of racial segregation in the South. He argued that the Jim Crow laws of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries not only codified traditional practice but also were a determined effort to erase the considerable progress made by Black people during and after Reconstruction in the 1870’s. This revisionist view of Jim Crow legislation grew in part from the research that Woodward had done for the NAACP legal campaign during its preparation for *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Supreme Court had issued its ruling in this epochal desegregation case a few months before Woodward’s lectures.

The lectures were soon published as a book, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*. Ten years later, in a preface to the second revised edition, Woodward confessed with ironic modesty that the first edition “had begun to suffer under some of the handicaps that might be expected in a history of the American Revolution published in 1776.” That was a bit like hearing Thomas Paine apologize for the timing of his pamphlet *Common Sense*, which had a comparable impact. Although *Common Sense* also had a mass readership, Paine had intended to reach and inspire: he was not a historian, and thus not concerned with accuracy or the dangers of historical anachronism. Yet, like Paine, Woodward had an unerring sense of the revolutionary moment, and of how historical evidence could undermine the mythological tradition that was crushing the dreams of new social possibilities. Martin Luther King, Jr., testified to the profound effect of *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* on the civil rights movement by praising the book and quoting it frequently.

The attitude of the author of the passage toward the work of C. Vann Woodward is best described as one of

- A. respectful regard
- B. qualified approbation
- C. implied skepticism
- D. pointed criticism
- E. fervent advocacy



Passage 11

Joseph Glatthaar's *Forged in Battle* is not the first excellent study of Black soldiers and their White officers in the Civil War, but it uses more soldiers' letters and diaries—including rare material from Black soldiers—and concentrates more intensely on Black-White relations in Black regiments than do any of its predecessors. Glatthaar's title expresses his thesis: loyalty, friendship, and respect among White officers and Black soldiers were fostered by the mutual dangers they faced in combat.

Glatthaar accurately describes the government's discriminatory treatment of Black soldiers in pay, promotion, medical care, and job assignments, appropriately emphasizing the campaign by Black soldiers and their officers to get the opportunity to fight. That chance remained limited throughout the war by army policies that kept most Black units serving in rear-echelon assignments and working in labor battalions. Thus, while their combat death rate was only one-third that of White units, their mortality rate from disease, a major killer in his war, was twice as great. Despite these obstacles, the courage and effectiveness of several Black units in combat won increasing respect from initially skeptical or hostile White soldiers. As one White officer put it, "they have fought their way into the respect of all the army."

In trying to demonstrate the magnitude of this attitudinal change, however, Glatthaar seems to exaggerate the prewar racism of the White men who became officers in Black regiments. "Prior to the war," he writes of these men, "virtually all of them held powerful racial prejudices." While perhaps true of those officers who joined Black units for promotion or other self-serving motives, this statement misrepresents the attitudes of the many abolitionists who became officers in Black regiments. Having spent years fighting against the race prejudice endemic in American society, they participated eagerly in this military experiment, which they hoped would help African Americans achieve freedom and postwar civil equality. By current standards of racial egalitarianism, these men's paternalism toward African Americans was racist. But to call their feelings "powerful racial prejudices" is to indulge in generational chauvinism—to judge past eras by present standards.

The passage as a whole can best be characterized as which of the following?

- A. An evaluation of a scholarly study
- B. A description of an attitudinal change
- C. A discussion of an analytical defect
- D. An analysis of the causes of a phenomenon
- E. An argument in favor of revising a view



Passage 12

In most earthquakes the Earth's crust cracks like porcelain. Stress builds up until a fracture forms at a depth of a few kilometers and the crust slips to relieve the stress. Some earthquakes, however, take place hundreds of kilometers down in the Earth's mantle, where high pressure makes rock so ductile that it flows instead of cracking, even under stress severe enough to deform it like putty. How can there be earthquakes at such depths?

That such deep earthquakes do occur has been accepted only since 1927, when the seismologist Kiyoo Wadati convincingly demonstrated their existence. Instead of comparing the arrival times of seismic waves at different locations, as earlier researchers had done. Wadati relied on a time difference between the arrival of primary (P) waves and the slower secondary (S) waves. Because P and S waves travel at different but fairly constant speeds, the interval between their arrivals increases in proportion to the distance from the earthquake focus, or rupture point.

For most earthquakes, Wadati discovered, the interval was quite short near the epicenter, the point on the surface where shaking is strongest. For a few earthquakes, however, the delay was long even at the epicenter. Wadati saw a similar pattern when he analyzed data on the intensity of shaking. Most earthquakes had a small area of intense shaking, which weakened rapidly with increasing distance from the epicenter, but others were characterized by a lower peak intensity, felt over a broader area. Both the P-S intervals and the intensity patterns suggested two kinds of earthquakes: the more common shallow earthquakes, in which the focus lay just under the epicenter, and deep earthquakes, with a focus several hundred kilometers down.

The question remained: how can such quakes occur, given that mantle rock at a depth of more than 50 kilometers is too ductile to store enough stress to fracture? Wadati's work suggested that deep earthquakes occur in areas (now called Wadati-Benioff zones) where one crustal plate is forced under another and descends into the mantle. The descending rock is substantially cooler than the surrounding mantle and hence is less ductile and much more liable to fracture.

The passage is primarily concerned with

- A. demonstrating why the methods of early seismologists were flawed
- B. arguing that deep events are poorly understood and deserve further study
- C. defending a revolutionary theory about the causes of earthquakes and methods of predicting them
- D. discussing evidence for the existence of deep earthquakes and the conditions that allow them to occur
- E. comparing the effects of shallow events with those of deep events



Passage 13

Most large corporations in the United States were once run by individual capitalists who owned enough stock to dominate the board of directors and dictate company policy. Because putting such large amounts of stock on the market would only depress its value, they could not sell out for a quick profit and instead had to concentrate on improving the long-term productivity of their companies. Today, with few exceptions, the stock of large United States corporations is held by large institutions—pension funds, for example—and because these institutions are prohibited by antitrust laws from owning a majority of a company's stock and from actively influencing a company's decision-making, they can enhance their wealth only by buying and selling stock in anticipation of fluctuations in its value. A minority shareholder is necessarily a short-term trader. As a result, United States productivity is unlikely to improve unless shareholders and the managers of the companies in which they invest are encouraged to enhance long-term productivity (and hence long-term profitability), rather than simply to maximize short-term profits.

Since the return of the old-style capitalist is unlikely, today's short-term traders must be remade into tomorrow's long-term capitalistic investors. The legal limits that now prevent financial institutions from acquiring a dominant shareholding position in a corporation should be removed, and such institutions should be encouraged to take a more active role in the operations of the companies in which they invest. In addition, any institution that holds twenty percent or more of a company's stock should be forced to give the public one day's notice of the intent to sell those shares. Unless the announced sale could be explained to the public on grounds other than anticipated future losses, the value of the stock would plummet and, like the old-time capitalists, major investors could cut their losses only by helping to restore their companies' productivity. Such measures would force financial institutions to become capitalists whose success depends not on trading shares at the propitious moment, but on increasing the productivity of the companies in which they invest.

In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with doing which of the following?

- A. Comparing two different approaches to a problem
- B. Describing a problem and proposing a solution
- C. Defending an established method
- D. Presenting data and drawing conclusions from the data
- E. Comparing two different analyses of a current situation



Passage 14

For over 300 years, one of the most enduring beliefs among historians of England has been that the character of English society has been shaped by the unique openness of its ruling elite to entry by self-made entrepreneurs (especially newly wealthy merchants) able to buy their way into the ranks of elite society. This upward mobility, historians have argued, allowed England to escape the clash between those with social / political power and those with economic power, a conflict that beset the rest of Europe during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Upward mobility was also used to explain England's exceptional stability since the late seventeenth century (no revolutions, for example), as well as such major events as the development of the most efficient agricultural system in Europe and the making of the first industrial revolution.

But is the thesis true? Recent work on the supposed consequences of an open elite has already produced some doubts. Little credence, for example, is now accorded the idea that England's late nineteenth-century economic decline resulted from absentee business owners too distracted by the demands of elite life to manage their firms properly. But, although the importance of an open elite to other major events has been severely questioned, it is only with a new work by Lawrence and Jeanne Stone that the openness itself has been confronted. Eschewing the tack of tracing the careers of successful entrepreneurs to gauge the openness of the elite, the Stones chose the alternative approach of analyzing the elite itself, and proceeded via the ingenious route of investigating country-house ownership.

Arguing that ownership of a country house was seen as essential for membership in the ruling elite, the Stones analyze the nature of country-house ownership in three counties for the period 1540-1880. Their critical findings are extremely insightful: there was strikingly little change in the ownership of such houses throughout the period. Instead, even in the face of a demographic crisis (fewer marriages, declining fertility, rising infant mortality), the old elite was able to maintain itself, and its estates, intact for centuries through recourse to various marriage and inheritance strategies. The popular picture of venerable elite families overcome by debt and selling out to merchants is simply not borne out by the Stones' findings.

The tone of the passage suggests that the author regards the Stones' methodological approach as

- A. problematic
- B. difficult
- C. controversial
- D. rigorous
- E. clever

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. resolve a debate between two schools of thought.
- B. Present research that questions an established view.
- C. Describe and criticize a new approach.
- D. Defend a traditional interpretation against recent criticisms.
- E. Analyze possible approaches to resolving a long-standing controversy.

Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?

- A. Assumptions about the nature of England's ruling elite can no longer be used with certitude to explain many major economic developments.
- B. The concept of the open elite is of paramount importance in explaining major English political, social, and economic events.
- C. The long-standing belief that England possessed a remarkably open ruling elite has recently been subject of recent studies.
- D. Although many possibilities are available, the most reliable means of testing the truth of the open elite hypothesis is to analyze changes in the composition of the elite.
- E. An analysis of English country-house ownership in England indicates that there were far too many opportunities for merchants to buy the estates of old members of the landed elite.

Passage 15

A majority taken collectively may be regarded as a being whose opinions and, most frequently, whose interests are opposed to those of another being, which is styled a minority. If it is admitted that a man possessing absolute power may misuse that power by wronging his adversaries, why should a majority not be liable to the same reproach? Men are not apt to change their characters by agglomeration; nor does their patience in the presence of obstacles increase with the consciousness of their strength. For these reasons we should not willingly invest any group of our fellows with that unlimited authority which we should refuse to any individual.

One social power must always predominate over others, but liberty is endangered when this power is checked by no obstacles which may retard its course and force it to moderate its own vehemence. Unlimited power is in itself a bad and dangerous thing, and no power on earth is so worthy of honor for itself or of reverential obedience to the rights which it represents that we should admit its uncontrolled and all-predominant authority. When the right and means of absolute command are conferred on a people or a king, on an aristocracy or a democracy, a monarchy or a republic, there has been implanted the germ of tyranny.

The main evil of the present democratic institutions of the United States does not arise, as is often asserted in Europe, from their weakness, but from their overpowering strength; the excessive liberty which reigns in that country is not so alarming as is the very inadequate security which exists against tyranny.

When an individual or a party is wronged in the United States, to whom can he apply for redress? If to the public opinion, public opinion constitutes the majority; if to the legislature, it represents the majority and implicitly obeys its injunctions; if to the executive power, it is appointed by the majority and remains a passive tool in its hands; the public troops consist of the majority under arms; the jury is the majority invested with the right of hearing judicial cases, and in certain states even the judges are elected by the majority. However iniquitous or absurd the evil complained about, no sure barrier is established to defend against it.

In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with

- A. presenting the dangers inherent in a popular idea
- B. contrasting two opposing views
- C. advocating a specific course of action to solve a problem
- D. reconciling an apparent conflict
- E. proposing a solution to an unrecognized problem



Passage 16

Many readers assume that, as a neoclassical literary critic, Samuel Johnson would normally prefer the abstract, the formal, and the regulated to the concrete, the natural, and the spontaneous in a work of literature. Yet any close reading of Johnson's criticism shows that Johnson is not blind to the importance of the immediate, vivid, specific detail in literature; rather, he would emphasize the need for the *telling* rather than the merely *accidental* detail.

In other ways, too, Johnson's critical method had much in common with that of the Romantics, with whom Johnson and, indeed, the entire neoclassical tradition, are generally supposed to be in conflict. Johnson was well aware, for example, of the sterility of literary criticism that is legalistic or pedantic, as was the case with the worst products of the neoclassical school. His famous argument against the slavish following of the "three unities" of classical drama is a good example, as is his defense of the supposedly illegitimate "tragicomic" mode of Shakespeare's latest plays. Note, in particular, the basis of that defense: "That this is a practice contrary to the rules of criticism," Johnson wrote, "will be readily allowed; but there is always an appeal from criticism to nature."

The sentiment thus expressed could easily be endorsed by any of the Romantics; the empiricism it exemplifies is vital quality of Johnson's criticism, as is the willingness to jettison "laws" of criticism when to do so makes possible a more direct appeal to the emotions of the reader. Addison's *Cato* is damned by Johnson; its hopes and fears communicate no vibration to the heart."

Even on the question of poetic diction, which, according to the usual interpretation of Wordsworth's 1800 preface to the *Lyrical Ballads*, was the central area of conflict between Romantic and Augustan, Johnson's views are surprisingly "modern." In his *Life of Dryden*, it is true that he defends the use of a special diction in poetry; but his reasons are all-important. For Johnson, poetic diction should serve the ends of direct emotional impact and ease of comprehension, not those of false profundity or grandiosity. "Words too familiar," he wrote, "or too remote, defeat the purpose of a poet."

From those sounds which we hear on small or on coarse occasions, we do not easily receive strong impressions, or delightful images; and words to which we are nearly strangers, whenever they occur, draw that attention on themselves which they should transmit to things." If the poetic diction of the neoclassical poets, at its worst, erects needless barriers between reader and meaning, that envisioned by Johnson would do just the opposite: it would put the reader in closer contact with the "things" that are the poem's subject.

The author of the passage is primarily concerned with

- A. defending a reputation
- B. reconciling conflicting views
- C. comparing two schools of thought
- D. challenging an assumption
- E. presenting new evidence in support of an established theory

According to the passage, Johnson's opinion of Addison's *Cato* was

- A. Inflammatory
- B. Self-contradictory
- C. Negative
- D. Adulatory
- E. Bold

Which one of the following statements best summarizes the main point of the passage?

- A. Although some readers feel that Johnson's critical opinions at times resemble those of the neoclassical critics, his basic concerns are closer to those of the Romantics.
- B. The usual classification of Johnson as a member of the Romantic school of criticism is based on an inaccurate evaluation of his critical theories and ideals.
- C. The Romantic critics were mistaken in their belief that the critical ideas they formulated represented a departure from those propounded by Johnson.
- D. Although many of Johnson's critical opinions resemble those of the Romantic critics, his basic concerns are closer to those of the neoclassical critics.
- E. Johnson's literary criticism represents an attempt to unify the best elements of the neoclassical and the Romantic schools of criticism.

Passage 17

The new school of political history that emerged in the 1960's and 1970's sought to go beyond the traditional focus of political historians on leaders and government institutions by examining directly the political practices of ordinary citizens. Like the old approach, however, this new approach excluded women. The very techniques these historians used to uncover mass political behavior in the nineteenth-century United States—quantitative analyses of election returns, for example—didn't contribute towards analyzing the political activities of women, who were denied the vote until 1920.

By redefining “political activity,” historian Paula Baker has developed a political history that includes women. She concludes that among ordinary citizens, political activism by women in the nineteenth century prefigured trends in twentieth-century politics. Defining “politics” as “any action taken to affect the course of behavior of government or of the community,” Baker concludes that, while voting and holding office were restricted to men, women in the nineteenth century organized themselves into societies committed to social issues such as temperance and poverty. In other words, Baker contends, women activists were early practitioners of nonpartisan, issue-oriented politics and thus were more interested in enlisting lawmakers, regardless of their party affiliation, on behalf of certain issues than in ensuring that one party or another won an election. In the twentieth century, more men drew closer to women’s ideas about politics and took up modes of issue-oriented politics that Baker sees women as having pioneered.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. enumerate reasons why both traditional scholarly methods and newer scholarly methods have limitations
- B. identify a shortcoming in a scholarly approach and describe an alternative approach
- C. provide empirical data to support a long-held scholarly assumption
- D. compare two scholarly publications on the basis of their authors' backgrounds
- E. attempt to provide a partial answer to a long-standing scholarly dilemma



Passage 18

In an unfinished but highly thought-provoking series of essays, the late Sarah Eisenstein has focused attention on the evolution of working women's values from the turn of the century to the First World War. Eisenstein argues that turn-of-the-century women neither wholly accepted nor rejected what she calls the dominant "ideology of domesticity"; they took this and other available ideologies—feminism, socialism, trade unionism—and modified or adapted them in light of their own experiences and needs. In thus maintaining that wage-work helped to produce a new "consciousness" among women, Eisenstein to some extent challenges the recent, controversial proposal by Leslie Tentler that for women the work experience only served to reinforce the attractiveness of the dominant ideology. According to Tentler, the degrading conditions under which many female wage earners worked made them view the family as a source of power and esteem available nowhere else in their social world. Eisenstein's study, differently, insists that wage-work had other implications for women's identities and consciousness. Most importantly, her work aims to demonstrate that wage-work enabled women to become aware of themselves as a distinct social group capable of defining their collective circumstance. Eisenstein insists that as a group, working-class women were not able to come to collective consciousness of their situation until they began entering the labor force, because domestic work tended to isolate them from one another.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. criticize a scholar's assumptions and methodology
- B. evaluate an approach to women's study
- C. compare two sociological theories
- D. correct a misconception about feminist theory
- E. defend an unpopular ideology



Unfortunately, Eisenstein's unfinished study does not develop these ideas in sufficient depth or detail. Whatever Eisenstein's overall plan may have been, in its current form her study suffers from the limited nature of the sources she depended on. She uses the speeches and writings of reformers and labor organizers, who she acknowledges were far from representative, as the voice of the typical woman worker. And there is less than adequate attention given to the differing values of immigrant groups that made up a significant proportion of the population under investigation. While they do raise some really important questions, Eisenstein's essays do not provide definitive answer, and it remains for others to take up the challenges they offer.

Passage 19

Arboria is floundering in the global marketplace, incurring devastating losses in market position and profits. The problem is not Arboria's products, but Arboria's trade policy, which must change. Arboria faces the prospect of continuing economic loss until Arborian business and political leaders recognize the fundamental differences between Arborian and foreign economic systems. There is still chance to salvage the situation and the leaders must come forward to actively resolve every single issue that plagues the economy.

Arboria is operating with an obsolete trade policy, an artifact of the mid-1940s when Arboria and Whorfland dominated the global economy, tariffs were the principal obstacle to trade, and Arborian supremacy was uncontested in virtually all industries. In the intervening decades, economic circumstances have shifted radically, but sadly, Arborian trade policy has not.

Today, Arboria's trade policy seems paralyzed by the relentless conflict between proponents of "free" and "fair" trade. The free traders argue that Arborian markets should be open, and the movement of goods and services across national borders unrestrained. The fair traders assert that access to Arborian markets should be restricted until Arborian businesses are granted equal access to foreign markets. They contend that free trade is impossible while other nations erect barriers to Arborian exports.

Both are correct: fair trade requires equal access and equal access leads to free trade. But both sides base their positions on the same two outdated premises:

1. Global commerce is conducted under the terms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and dominated by Arboria and similar economic systems abroad.
2. Multilateral negotiations are the most effective way to resolve pressing trade issues.

Both assumptions are wrong. The 40-year-old GATT now covers less than 7 percent of global commerce. World trade is no longer dominated by the free-trade economies; nearly 75 percent is conducted by economic systems operating with principles at odds with those of Arboria. Forging a multilateral trade policy consensus among so many diverse economic systems has become virtually impossible. And while multilateral talks drag on, Arboria misses opportunities for trade expansion.

The passage is primarily concerned with

- A. illustrating the erosion of Arboria's position in the world marketplace
- B. examining the differences between "free" and "fair" traders
- C. suggesting a reassessment of Arboria's trade policy
- D. criticizing the terms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
- E. comparing the different economic circumstances of Arboria's trade partners



Passage 20

In the Sonoran Desert of northwestern Mexico and southern Arizona, the flowers of several species of columnar cacti—cardon, saguaro, and organ pipe—were once exclusively pollinated at night by nectar-feeding bats, as their close relatives in arid tropical regions of southern Mexico still are. In these tropical regions, diurnal (daytime) visitors to columnar cactus flowers are ineffective pollinators because, by sunrise, the flowers' stigmas become unreceptive or the flowers close. Yet the flowers of the Sonoran Desert cacti have evolved to remain open after sunrise, allowing pollination by such diurnal visitors as bees and birds. Why have these cacti expanded their range of pollinators by remaining open and receptive in daylight?

This strange evolution at the northernmost range of columnar cacti may be due to a yearly variation in the abundance—and hence the reliability—of migratory nectar-feeding bats. Pollinators can be unreliable for several reasons. They can be dietary generalists whose fidelity to a particular species depends on the availability of alternative food sources. Or, they can be dietary specialists, but their abundance may vary widely from year to year, resulting in variable pollination of their preferred food species. Finally, they may be dietary specialists; their abundance may be chronically low relative to the availability of flowers.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. compare the adaptive responses of several species of columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert with those in the arid tropical regions of southern Mexico
- B. discuss some of the possible consequences of the relatively low abundance of migratory nectar-feeding bats in the Sonoran Desert
- C. provide a possible explanation for a particular evolutionary change in certain species of columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert
- D. present recent findings that challenge a particular theory as to why several species of columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert have expanded their range of pollinators
- E. compare the effectiveness of nocturnal and diurnal pollination for several different species of columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert



Recent data reveals that during spring in the Sonoran Desert, the nectar-feeding bats are specialists feeding on cardon, saguaro, and organ-pipe flowers. Cactus-flower abundance tends to be high during spring; bat population densities, on the other hand, tend to be low except near maternity roosts. Moreover, in spring, diurnal cactus-pollinating birds are significantly more abundant in this region than are the nocturnal bats. With bats being unreliable cactus-flower pollinators, and daytime pollinators more abundant and therefore more reliable, selection favors the cactus flowers with traits that increase their range of pollinators. While data suggest that population densities of nectar-feeding bats are also low in tropical areas of southern Mexico, where bats are the exclusive pollinators of many species of columnar cacti, cactus-flower density and bat population density appear to be much more evenly balanced there: compared with the Sonoran Desert's cardon and saguaro, columnar cacti in southern Mexico produce far fewer flowers per night. Accordingly, despite their low population density, bats are able to pollinate nearly 100 percent of the available flowers.

Answer Key – RC Session 2: Primary Purpose

Detailed OCTAAVE based video solutions (to each of these passages) in RC Video 2, shared as part of Top-One-Percent GMAT courses (for registered courses only).

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| Passage 1 | Passage 17 |
| A E | B |
| Passage 2 | Passage 18 |
| B C | B |
| Passage 3 | Passage 19 |
| D | C |
| Passage 4 | Passage 20 |
| C | C |
| Passage 5 | |
| B B | |
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| B E | |
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| B | |
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| B | |
| Passage 9 | |
| D | |
| Passage 10 | |
| A | |
| Passage 11 | |
| A | |
| Passage 12 | |
| D | |
| Passage 13 | |
| B | |
| Passage 14 | |
| E B A | |
| Passage 15 | |
| A | |
| Passage 16 | |
| D C A | |



Expert solutions to selected queries asked by students



Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**Passage 1**

Additional context on the passage – Overall the first paragraph says this - Rosenblatt's work Black Fiction has treated its subject matter from a literary perspective versus a political one. This is quite the departure from other studies of the subject matter in the past. Then the passage gives an example. This is just an overall understanding but should suffice.

The second paragraph says - fiction (the subject matter of the book) has political backdrops, but a critique of fiction (that is what the passage means by 'criticism') should come from not just political or ideological points of view. That defeats what fiction stands for and why it's written. Essentially a literary lens should also be applied to it (connecting to the first paragraph). Then the author gives the example of the work at hand and says this work, because it applies a literary lens versus a political one, has put forth connections and patterns that other such analyses in the past haven't.

Then the passage goes on.

Note – "However" in paragraph 3 is not a key contradiction word. It means regardless of how. It wants to say to write a criticism one has to give satisfactory answers (to whatever extent it may be). It is not giving contrast between two facts.

Q2.

(E) – Since his book is a critique of other authors' works. So, if he had been more thorough with his assessment, his work would have been even better. Appraise means assess.

Passage 2**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)****Additional context on the passage –**

- First, the author introduces the view of "most economists," who think that "nothing seems good or normal that does not accord with the requirements of the free market." Also, the first line implies criticism because the author thinks these aren't good habits. For example: He seems captivated by Social Media, gambling, and pornography.
- These economists think that any form of price-fixing is "pernicious" (in other words, it has a negative effect).
- Then, the author argues against this view, stating that "in fact, price-fixing is normal."

In these first sentences, the author accomplishes a couple of things: first, he/she sets up a contrast: on one hand, there are the requirements of the free market. On the other hand, there is price-fixing.

Then, he/she makes the argument that "price-fixing is normal." This argument goes *against* the view of most economists.

Continuing on through the passage:

- The author explains how price-fixing occurs in modern industrial economies
- In the next paragraph, the author argues that the free market is not the most efficient system, stating that in industrialized countries outside of the US, price-fixing is an overt practice that has not hindered economic development, i.e. the experience of nonsocialist countries other than the United States provides no support for the point of view of these economists.
- Finally, the author discusses socialist industrial economies: he/she thinks that the easing of regulations was NOT a "return to the free market." Instead, it just allowed Soviet firms to fix prices and argues that these economists are wrong in thinking that the Soviet Union has moved toward a free market.

In all, this information serves to **support** the author's argument **against** the view of most economists.

Note – “Captivated” par se doesn't have a tone. However, consider these: “He is captivated by drinking, gambling, smoking, and late night partying, each leading to health deterioration.” / “I am captivated by Social Media and gaming, and, as a result, I end up wasting 12 hours each day.” → imply a negative tone.

Q2.

Note – ‘spiteful’ and ‘scornful’ are very strong emotions. Usually, passages in the business world will not have drastically strong emotions displayed. The author is not a fan of these economists for sure when it comes to this line of thinking, but the expression of that is not through ‘spite’ or ‘scorn’, but through ‘criticism’. Option (C) is the answer.

Passage 3

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

To understand the tone of the passage – In the last line: Thus, a move north would be seen as advantageous to a group that was already urbanized and steadily employed, and the **easy conclusion** (negative tone – means a conclusion drawn without paying attention to all facts) tying their subsequent economic problems in the North to their rural background '**comes into question**'. This (**calls/comes into question**) strongly implies **negative tone**. '**Easy conclusion**' implies all the facts **are not being considered-implies negative tone**.

Passage 4

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – The author mentions secondary sources and says these people believed some reasons as to why recording Native American life stories was suboptimal.

To understand the tone of the passage – focus on the last line: “Despite all of this, autobiography remains a **useful tool (+ve tone)** for ethnological research: such personal reminiscences and impressions, **incomplete (-ve tone)** as they may be, are likely to throw more light on the working of the mind and emotions than any amount of speculation from an ethnologist or ethnological theorist from another culture.” This implies a **BALANCED TONE**.

Further, “There were, however, arguments against this **method (approach)** as a way of acquiring accurate and complete information...” is a fact.

Primary Purpose – The purpose of the passage is to review why the autobiographies are useful vs. why they are not. The author is just giving his views from outside the ring as one more participant.

Franz Boas's view & Paul Radin's views are used by the author to prove his point (that this method is inaccurate and provides incomplete information):

“Franz Boas, for example, described autobiographies as being “of limited value, and useful chiefly for the study of the perversion of truth by memory,” while Paul Radin contended that investigators rarely spent enough time with the tribes they were observing, and inevitably derived results too tinged by the investigator's own emotional tone to be reliable”

“Despite all of this, autobiography **remains a useful tool (positive tone)** for ethnological research” - Author's opinion/point again.

Hence, Assess / Critique / Evaluate is appropriate. **Option (C) is the best.**

(B) – There is no misconception that is corrected in the passage. The passage says ethnologists began using method A to understand Native American culture. There are arguments against the use of method A ... (gives arguments). Still method A is useful because ...

So, the main point is to "evaluate method A".

Passage 5**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Additional context on the passage – If there are criticisms and suggestion/s in the passage, the suggestion becomes the crux.

"With this paradox in mind, I recently visited 25 companies; it became clear to me that the cost-cutting approach to increasing productivity is **fundamentally flawed**." This is a criticism (negative tone).

Further, "This is an example worth emulating. If we are to have a hope for manufacturing, the companies **must change** to a different way of managing." This is the **Suggestion**, which is the crux of the passage here.

Note – "...do produce results.": The purpose of the author for writing this line is to showcase that these tools have limitations. For a balanced tone you need to have separate positives and negatives aspects of something but here all the author is doing is showing that these methods have limitations. Hence critical. Further, the author has clearly mentioned that the approach is "fundamentally flawed". And the statement "...do produce results but they quickly reach the limits of what they can contribute." simply reinforces that **flaw**. That's why the first part of the previous statement is not a praise/support and only has a negative connotation pointing back to the flaw.

Q1.

The author overall is saying conventional cost-cutting does not seem to work. Even where it does work (in the 20% of marketing competitive advantage that is derived from conventional cost-cutting, it does tend to help, but reaches the limits of its capacity to help fairly quickly). Then the author suggests a new way in which competitive advantage in the manufacturing industry can actually be derived. So overall, what is the author concerned with? Are they trying to summarize a thesis? No; what thesis? Are they comparing points of view? No; all the points of view are the author's own etc. The point is, the author is trying to suggest a new approach through this passage - the rest of it (where they criticize traditional cost-cutting) is essentially the pretext to this.

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Q2.

Similarly, the author has very few niceties to attribute to cost-cutting. So the author is definitely not cautious, disinterested, respectful, or adulatory towards conventional cost-cutting. The author is critical towards it. Note here that 'uninterested' and 'disinterested' are two completely different words. The former means exactly what you know it to mean; someone is not interested in something. The latter means someone is neutral / uninfluenced about something. Adulatory is a very positive word, meaning the attitude is one of high praise and adulation.'

To understand the author's attitude towards culture in most factories, have a look at the following sentence :

"This dimension of performance has until recently sufficed as a basis of evaluation, **but it has created a penny-pinching, mechanistic culture in most factories that has kept away creative managers.**"

The author is quite outspoken about his displeasure towards the culture, so option B is correct.

Passage 6**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Additional context on the passage – Although the author praises Keyssar's study, he/she does not support anyone. The author is both positive and slightly negative about Keyssar's study. To understand the tone of the passage:

His study, in its **thorough research** and **creative use** of quantitative and qualitative evidence, is a **model** of historical analysis. (Positive tone)

Yet Keyssar **rightly understands** that a better way to measure the impact of unemployment... (positive tone)

While Keyssar **might have spent more time** developing the implications of his findings on joblessness for contemporary public policy... (negative tone)

Thus, the tone is **Balanced**.

Note – 1. In the lines: "Since the early 1970s, historians have begun to devote...we know remarkably little of worklessness." - the tone is neutral and not negative. The highlighted portion is providing facts and not the author's opinion. It is true/It is a fact that there have been very few studies about "worklessness". This is not the author's opinion. The author has simply presented an alternate view. When opinion is there, opinion is the crux.

2. The lines: "When historians have paid any attention at all... The narrowness of this perspective..." are being said factually. For example: The earlier governments did very little for the cleaning of rivers → **NOT NEGATIVE at all**. The passage is only and only about Keyssar's study. The historians are given as useless filler pieces of information. The passage is an evaluation about Keyssar's work.

Q1.

Primary Purpose – the author just starts off by saying that studies / research on the working class in the US has tended to miss out on studying unemployment / joblessness. Even when this was done, the studies were very narrow. Then immediately after that the author introduces this book by Keyssar, and says this book shows us a lot of things about the pervasive unemployment / joblessness that the other studies don't show us. Then for the full extent of the remaining passage, the author goes into explaining what the book is, its research content and so on. Not just the geographic real estate that has been allocated for this, but even functionally, you tell me is it anything other than summarizing this study that the passage was written for? The author may be critical of the other research, may be praising Keyssar and his book, but overall, these changes in tone notwithstanding what was the *main reason* (primary purpose) the passage was written for? To talk about Keyssar's book and its contents.

From the understanding of the passage that we have developed, we have seen the author say multiple times that Keyssar's book was a really good one. the author says this when they say Keyssar's book tells us thing about joblessness and unemployment that other studies don't. Then look at the last lines of the passage - the author explicitly says it's a model in historical analysis (it is that good in the author's viewpoint). Then among the given answer choices, what fits other than admiration (Option (E))?

Q2.

Lines from the passage: "While Keyssar might have spent more time developing the implications of his findings on joblessness for contemporary public policy, his study, in its **thorough research and creative use** of quantitative and qualitative evidence, **is a model of historical analysis**." Note the use of "thorough research," "creative use," "model of historical analysis".

He certainly doesn't disapprove, doesn't show concern, is not skeptical and is not neutral. Also, in Option (D) scrupulous neutrality - doesn't mean balanced. 'Neutrality' means no opinion at all. This means being so cautious that you don't say anything positive or negative.

He admires it, so **Option (E) is correct** - Qualified admiration (means not full ...)

Passage 7**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Additional context on the passage – Hypothesis of the historians: The hypothesis of the historians is that the vast difference in numbers of Native Americans from 1492 to the turn of the nineteenth century was caused in large part due to diseases imported from the Old World. In general, the Old World, before Christopher Columbus set out to discover more spice routes (Silk Road already existed), East Indies and so on found North America and called it the New World. These parts of the world were known already. The passage makes no distinction of where specifically the diseases came from. However, it goes on to provide a lot of support to this hypothesis, with examples of why the hypothesis may indeed be true.

To understand author's opinion – There is no doubt that chronic disease was an important factor in the precipitous decline, and it is highly probable that the greatest killer was epidemic disease, especially as manifested in virgin-soil epidemics.

Cases such as this demonstrate that even diseases that are not normally fatal can have devastating consequences when they strike an immunologically defenseless community.

The above lines highlight the **crux of the passage**. The author is **supporting** the historians. The cue words are → “There is no doubt”, “it is highly probable”, “cases such as this demonstrate”.

If we look at the contradiction part - 'Unfortunately, the documentation of these...', the part after that *does* provide an opinion of the author. The author says that we need to supplement the evidence we have with what we can find, *and then we will arrive at a conclusion* - that virgin soil epidemics can be tremendously problematic (even if the diseases themselves are not so problematic independently). This is the exact hypothesis that many historians are propounding now (the passage tells us this right at the start), and so it becomes evident that the author is indeed supporting that hypothesis.

P1 is saying virgin-soil epidemics (previously unknown diseases from any source whatsoever) were definitely responsible for population declines. P2 says the exact same thing, with even more certainty because it gives a concrete example before that. P2 again says when a community does not know / has not been exposed to a disease before, and that disease strikes them (virgin-soil epidemics basically), it can have strong and devastating consequences. Exactly what P1 also said.

Primary Purpose – The author is offering a supposition about a theory and then proposing explanations to support it. He states that a primary reason for the decline of population in the 15th century North America may be due to virgin-soil epidemics and then proceeds to elaborate this theory by providing evidence.

(A) – The author is simply elaborating on the historians' idea that previously-unknown or otherwise, but epidemics may indeed have caused precipitous declines in populations among Native Americans. Eliminate.

(B) – This is precisely what this answer choice states. Hence, it is the correct answer.

(C) – There is no argument to be analyzed here - historians have said a possible cause / hypothesized about a probable cause for population declines, and the author has simply gone on to give examples and elaborate on how that hypothesis may indeed be true (we have already reached Option (B) but will still eliminate the others). No argument to analyze - Option (C) is eliminated.

(D) – It is incorrect because **no solution** is offered to the decline in the Native American population (**dilemma**), and also this is not the crux of the passage.

(E) – There are literally no opposing viewpoints mentioned - Option (E) is eliminated.

Passage 8**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Additional context on the passage – The tone of the passage is positive towards Fabian with an implicit support.

The author supports **Fabian's challenge** to the astronomers - The lines, "Until recently most astronomers believed that..." shows it is bound to be challenged. The author then introduces a hypothesis that challenges this. This is the implicit support. And further, an example is also given that supports Fabian. Therefore, this indicates the implicit support of the author towards Fabian.

Please note that the author's tone is negative **towards** Earlier Astronomers and is positive **towards** Fabian's hypothesis. Note that the **tone is considered balanced** when both positive and negative is said **about the same entity**. When positives of one thing and negatives of some other thing are discussed, the tone is "Split".

Primary Purpose – We can reach Option (B) by POE:

- (A) – The passage is definitely not talking about the origin of galaxies. Also, "illustrate/exemplifying" is not at all the point. So, Option (A) is eliminated.
- (C) – There are no prospects of research in intergalactic astronomy that is being talked of. The present state is also not being summarized. Option (C) is eliminated.
- (D) – If we read the passage and think carefully, there is no new data being presented. There is literally one data point in the whole passage. Rather, a prevailing theory is being countered using some research as evidence. Further, is the passage talking at all about the ORIGINS of the intergalactic gas? No. It is talking about the presence of the gas and how the gas is falling into galaxies around them. Nowhere is the passage talking about the ORIGINS of the gas. So D is out.
- (E) – We are certain that one view is challenged, so reconciliation is not at all possible here. Option (E) is eliminated, leaving **Option (B)** as the correct answer.

In this passage, the first line gives us a clear indication that something is going to be challenged. The 2nd line tells us that this orthodox view is challenged. Everything after this is presented as evidence against the orthodox view and in support of the hypothesis thus given by Fabian. Although the author does not explicitly mention a support, the author clearly presents a number of pieces of evidence to substantiate Fabian's hypothesis. So long as the author doesn't challenge the one who is challenging, the author is providing implicit support to the challenger(s).

To understand why Option (B) is correct: There is an accepted theory of the evolution of galaxies, how the space between them behaves, is formed and so on. This prevailing theory is that the space between galaxies is a near-perfect vacuum. The passage then mentions that that may not actually be the case. Here is some research that challenges this hypothesis - then goes on to provide details of that research and what hypotheses the research sets up. This clearly tell us **Option (B)** is the definitive answer.

From the first paragraph, we learn that the passage will be talking about a hypothesis that counteracts a traditional belief. This traditional belief being that there is no matter between galaxies. There are some helpful parts in the first paragraph that talk about evolution: "heavy "rain" of gas is falling into many galaxies... gas condenses into a collection of small stars, each a little larger than the planet Jupiter" - From this section we see that this "rain" is creating stars which are creating galaxies. The present tense also helps show that this is something that is currently occurring.

"The amount of "intergalactic rainfall" into some of these galaxies has been enough to double their mass in the time since they formed... mixture of gases left over from the "big bang" when the galaxies were formed." - **From reading this section, it can be seen that the author is talking about the continual creation of these galaxies ("since they formed").** The passage talks about what is filled between the galaxies, but the passage also does refer to the continual creation of stars/galaxies. Also, the most important statement from option B) is the "provide evidence to dispute an accepted theory" part. The first paragraph states that a theory already existed, but Fabian challenged the old theory by suggesting a new theory. The second and third paragraphs support this new theory. Hence, overall, the passage provides evidence to dispute an accepted theory.

Passage 9

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q1.

Look at the contradiction word in the first paragraph - 'However, if this were true...'. What this means is

that the author does not agree with what other observers think to be true (and this is the misconception that the author is trying to clear up) - that Japanese firms use the same manufacturing techniques as US firms, but have benefited from the unique characteristics and culture of Japan and Japanese people.

The contradiction word in the second paragraph ('But a historical perspective...') is a similar countering of another misconception - that Japanese productivity is higher because of higher per capita capital investment.

Then in the third paragraph, the author explains what they think is / are the reason(s) for higher Japanese productivity.

So overall, they are trying to correct misconception(s).

(B) - If we refer to "...Japanese observers assumed that Japanese firm use the....", it was a misconceptions that Japanese car makers were better due to cultural advantages. So first a misconception is presented and then corrected. "Clarify" is wrong here.

Passage 10

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Note – The lines: “Although *Common Sense* also had a mass readership, Paine had intended to reach and inspire: he was not a historian, and thus not concerned with accuracy or the dangers of historical anachronism.” shows no criticism of Paine at all. For example: X isn't a sportsman, so he doesn't have to be as fit as Virat Kohli. → No criticism of X.

Q1.

The author talks about Woodward's example not as a historian who has forgotten that history is continually being made and experienced... Using Woodward's work and its interpretation, the author is trying to exemplify how historical interpretations may change with new pasts. In fact in the last paragraph, the author mentions that in the revised edition Woodward acknowledges this with IRONIC modesty that the first edition has come to suffer... Throughout the passage, the author has praised Woodward for his work. So, there are no negatives being talked about him.

(B) – *Approbation* is another way of saying "praise." *Qualified* has multiple meanings. When used to describe a statement that someone is making, it means "limited" — **not** "meeting the necessary qualifications." For instance:

- "Bob qualified his praise of the film with a critique of a major plot hole."
- "Maria wasn't happy with the candidate's debate performance, so she offered a qualified endorsement that didn't attract any new voters. On the other hand, Reema's unqualified praise for the candidate motivated her entire neighbourhood to show up and vote."

The author is praising Vann Woodward's work, but this praise doesn't come with significant limitations or doubts. It's consistently positive, as Vann Woodward's lectures provide a great example for the author's point, and the author clearly has a high opinion of the impact these lectures made on the events of their time. Therefore, Option (B) is incorrect.

Now, if we check on **Option (A)** – "Regard" is another way of saying "attention" or "consideration," and the regard that this author pays to Vann Woodward is surely respectful. This is more in line with the author's attitude than "qualified approbation." Hence, we choose Option (A).

Additionally, for the point about the unerring sense of revolutionary moment, the author says that Woodwards was right about what he did but still going beyond to say author was an extreme supporter of Woodward will be extreme.

Note - "ironic modesty" means that it is unusual that one confesses about their own work's shortcomings, yet, Woodward did so. This is a positive praise.

(C) - 'Skepticism' means unsure or uncertain. The author is not unsure about the work of C. Vann Woodward.

(E) - Fervent advocacy is an extreme emotion. While the attitude of the author is positive towards Woodward, Fervent advocacy would mean intense support which is always an extreme option.

Passage 11

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Summary of the passage – This study ('Forged in Battle') does a great job of showing black-white relationships in the army during the Civil War. The work does a good job of showing that army people from both races were united in the face of common adversity and danger. It is true that blacks in the army faced discrimination in pay and opportunities, but it is also true that they earned the respect of the white officers and compatriots by fighting strongly in battle. The study does a good job of accurately depicting this. However, the study falters in that it paints white officers in black regiments in the war as having been a lot more racist than they were. By today's standards there was prejudice for sure, but to call them as racist as the study has is inaccurate.

So overall the above is an evaluation of a study.

Please note evaluation is different from change of opinion/ self-contradiction.

For example:

Jack is sincere

Change will be Jack is insincere

But,

Jack is sincere (+), but

He has limited knowledge (-)



There is no contradiction. This is balanced tone towards Jack.

Primary Purpose –

(B) - (a) Neutral tone. (b) The "attitudinal change" in passage is about the White soldiers. Whereas the author is clearly giving an opinion on Joseph Glatthaar's study. Eliminate

Note – According to the passage, "In trying to demonstrate the magnitude of this attitudinal change, **Glatthaar seems to exaggerate...**"

This means that Glatthaar was trying to demonstrate the magnitude of attitudinal change, **not** the author. Author says, when Glatthaar was trying to demonstrate, he exaggerated the prewar racism. The author's opinion comes only from the italicised part, which is a criticism **towards Glatthaar's study**.

(C) - (a) Neutral tone. (b) Although the study does have a shortcoming, this option fails to capture the positives of his study. Eliminate.

(D) - (a) Neutral tone. (b) There's no phenomenon being discussed in the passage. And no causes of the same exist too. Eliminate.

(E) - Argument in favor of revising a view - This implies a very strong opinion by the author advocating to revise a certain view. The author does criticize a certain aspect of his study, but there's no emphasis being made on revising Glatthaar's view. Moreover, the positives are not being captured through this. Eliminate.

So **(A)** is the answer by elimination - An evaluation of a scholarly study. The author is both praising and criticising a scholar's study 'Forged in Battle'. Correct.

Note – "a scholarly study" is not generalised. It is quite evident that we're talking about Glatthaar's "Forged in Battle". Scholarly study refers to the study of a subject. In this passage, this study is Glatthaar's "Forged in Battle"

Passage 12**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)****Primary Purpose -**

(A) – Their methods weren't flawed. None of the older methods are mentioned . Also, 'methods' is plural, which is not verifiable.

Passage 13**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Primary Purpose – The crux is fairly straightforward - the author is actively advocating a move towards large shareholding (vs. the present limit on shareholding percentage that an individual retail or institutional investor in a company is subject to). The author says entities should be allowed to own majority shares in corporations. If that is the case and then these entities dump their shares for reasons of projected future losses, they cannot 'exit' their positions profitably and quickly because the share price will fall precipitously on the back of such bad news. So there will remain only one option for such entities if they want to build wealth through their shareholdings - make and run the company as a profitable entity long term. This is the solution Option (B) is referring to. There is indeed a 'problem' to which this solution is being provided. Look at this line 'As a result United States productivity is unlikely to improve...'. So essentially the problem the author is mentioning and providing a solution for (going back to large scale shareholding) is that US productivity has diminished. So Option (B) is the clear answer here.

**Passage 14****Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Additional context on the passage – Let's look at the two sentences from the passage below:

"But a historical perspective leads to a different conclusion."

"A more fruitful explanation may lie with Japanese production techniques. Japanese automobile producers did not simply implement conventional processes more effectively: they made critical changes in United States procedures."

Para 3 talks about the study that is questioning the openness and how if it proves to be true, the open elite thesis cannot be maintained.

So overall the passage questions the validity of open elite thesis (the thesis being that open elite were responsible for some major events and developments).

The author's tone / opinion is not towards the Stones per se, it is towards the entire idea that English elite ranks were open to entrepreneurs to buy into and what impact this supposed openness had on England's economic situation. Also note 'ingenious' is a positive word for the approach they took. But we can't say that the author has a positive tone towards the two or their actual work / report. This is praise for something very specific - the approach. Not an implicit / explicit support for anyone.

To that end, the author seems to side personally with the fact that the supposed openness may not have had as much of an impact as thought, and also seems to side with the idea that the elite was not open to begin with, in a balanced way. The author gives an example of a study done by the Stones to show how the elite may actually not have been open, and then rather than outright saying so, says if more studies back this one up, we may indeed reach the conclusion that the elite was not as open to be bought into as thought previously.

Q1.

The lines from the passage... "the Stones analyze the nature of country-house ownership in three counties for the period 1540-1880" does not necessarily mean that Stones' approach is rigorous.

He analysed a work of the period 1540-1880. Maybe his analysis took only a week. There is no rigorous approach then.

Refer to this statement "If further studies of country-house ownership attest to the representativeness and accuracy of their data, then the Stones' conclusion that the open elite thesis cannot be maintained may, indeed, prove true." and it gives an idea that stone's findings are ingenious (means *clever*). Hence, Option (E) is the answer.

Q3.

Summary of passage – It has long been believed that (self-made) entrepreneurs / merchants could buy into the ruling elite and hence there has been no conflict between those with social power (the ruling elite) and economic power (the entrepreneurs). This has traditionally helped explain many things like the lack of turmoil in England (vs. in the rest of Europe) and also agricultural and economic progress in England. But based on recent studies, such explanations have been cast in doubt. But even more importantly, whether the elite class itself was open or not has come into question based on new scholarship. The studies (based on country-house ownership) have shown that the merchants may not have been able to buy into the elite as previously thought. So was the elite actually open? Further studies, if they support the existing ones, will prove that it was not so.

So then what is the main message? That what was thought about the ruling elite may not even be applicable any more / may not even have been the truth.

(A) – The author does focus on how we may not be able to use assumption about elite to explain major developments. Correct.

(C) – This is not the main idea of the passage. It is one of the ideas presented to present the main idea which is that open elite thesis may not be valid.



Passage 15

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip) + sol from gmatclub

Additional context on the passage - The entire passage is a criticism of the idea of a group being a majority that can overpower the order and possess the threat of having the potential of becoming a tyranny. The tone is not just negative but VERY negative in this particular case.

In the entire passage, the author is giving points in relation to how horrid the idea really is.

"Why should a **majority** not be liable to the same reproach?"

"**Unlimited** power in and itself is a **bad** thing."

"When the right and means implanted the germ of **tyranny**."

"... very **inadequate** security which exists against tyranny."

Then the author talks about the legislature and even the troops being under the influence of the majority.

And ends with "however **iniquitous** or **absurd** the **evil** complained about, no **sure barrier** is established to **defend against it**."

The end line is extremely, **extremely** negative against the idea of the said majority in this case.

Note – First Para last line is still explanation of author's concept, she did not yet talk about democracy but only explains his hypothesis. Here, she talks only of what should not be done in explaining the hypothesis. She does not give a necessary suggestion on how fix the evil talked about in the Passage. For example, "there should be no wars" is not a suggestion. "How to stop wars" will be one which is not given here.

The author is saying absolute power in the hands of any person, or any majority is very problematic and is unacceptable as it breeds tyranny. In the US, the public institutions (be it the judiciary, the army, the legislature, the executive seat) are all controlled by the majority and have unchecked power; hence an individual or entity has no potential recourse in case of being seemingly wronged. That's it. Now - are there any two contrasting views? Are there any solutions to anything provided? Answer to both is no. So Option (B), Option (C), and Option (E) are eliminated within a few seconds. That leaves us with Option (A) and Option (D). Again, is there a conflict between anything mentioned in the passage? What conflict are we talking about? None. Option (D) is eliminated. Option (A) is the answer, purely based on a rock-solid understanding of the passage and nothing else.

(C) – The passage does not really 'advocate a course of action'. It says we should *not* do something: "For these reasons we should not willingly invest any group of our fellows..." (whether the thing we shouldn't do could be called a 'course of action' is incorrect to imply). "For these reasons we should not willingly invest....." is criticism. For example: Company X is performing in a very unsuccessful way, so we should not buy their stocks. This is criticism towards company X. There is no recommendation towards this company. It doesn't say anywhere what we *should* do, so it's not advocating a particular course of action. There is no suggestion as to what should be done.

(E) – There is a potential solution but whether the problem is unrecognized is not mentioned. The author says that however iniquitous the problem is, there is no barrier against it. The author nowhere says that we should put a barrier here. Author's opinion is that this is a problem but he has nowhere suggested a solution. Also proposing an action is not the main concern since the author is trying to list how badly the majority tyranny is and why.

Passage 16

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – Many readers assume something, *but* (first contradiction word) Johnson doesn't seem to show those tendencies. Then the author goes on to show through examples that many of the thoughts held by the public / readers en masse about Johnson are not actually true.

To understand why the tone towards Johnson is neutral, consider the following examples:

"Jack is well aware of the traffic laws." → This is not praise. This is a fact.
 "Simplification is a vital step in Data sufficiency" → Vital means important. Again, this is a fact.
 "Surprisingly modern" → "He found a surprisingly modern copy of an old book" → Nothing positive

Q2.

Additional context on the question – Observe these lines from the passage: "Addison's Cato is damned by Johnson: **its hopes and fears communicate no vibration to the heart.**" This implies a grossly negative tone of the author towards Cato. The passage tells us what to think of his opinion; it is negative.

Note - Cato was highly praised, not by Johnson. It's the general public opinion of Cato. Johnson, in particular, damned Cato. The context here is to show that Johnson's thinking was very much in line with that of the romantics. The way he thinks about Cato is similar to how other Romantics would likely also have thought of it. Overall, Johnson's opinion of Cato is negative. The part of the passage simply exists to show us an example of how Johnson was more 'Romantic' than many readers think / thought of him.

Q3.

(D) – Look at the contradiction established in the first paragraph itself. The passage says he was from the neoclassical school of thought, but his style of critique had much in common with the Romantics.

The passage gives several examples to establish why that is in fact the case (that he was closer to being a Romantic). Essentially the passage is establishing exactly opposite to what Option (D) is saying. Therefore, Option (D) is incorrect.

According to (B) - "The **usual** classification of Johnson as a member of the **Romantic school...**"

However, the very first line of the passage states - "**Many readers assume that as a neoclassical literary critic, Johnson...**"

This clearly implies Johnson was usually considered (assumed) as a neoclassical literary critic. So, B is a 180 degree answer choice.

Option (C) - We can again easily eliminate this because the author is not indulging in criticising/pointing out the mistakes made **by the Romantics** anywhere in the passage. The passage is centred around Johnson and no independent beliefs of the Romantics hold any significance in the passage by the author. Since this is a 'main point' question, the author's opinion is primary and we can eliminate options that indicate otherwise.

Passage 17

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

"By redefining "political activity," historian Paula Baker has developed a political history that includes women. **Paula Baker corrected them.**"

Structure: A made mistakes, and B corrected them. The author does not have an opinion here. He just mentions facts. Therefore, the tone of the passage is neutral.

Primary Purpose - The author is not explicitly or implicitly 'supporting' anyone (including Baker). The author is simply pointing out facts of where previous studies fell short, and where her methodology overcame those shortcomings. That is what the answer here (Option (B)) says as well. The author is not implying either way that something was monotonically 'better' than something else. Yes the previous studies had shortcomings, and Baker's work overcame this, but the author is presenting these as facts without an opinion pf what is good and what is bad.

Also note that the lines: "the very techniques...were useless in analysing..." is factual.

Suppose there is a technique to solve a DS question. And I say: "This technique is useful for integers but it is useless for fractions."

If I say this, I am not attacking the technique

I am stating a fact.

Passage 18

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Primary Purpose -

(A) - Unfortunately, Eisenstein's unfinished study does not develop these ideas in sufficient depth or detail, offering tantalizing hints rather than an exhaustive analysis. Whatever Eisenstein's overall plan may have been, in its current form her study suffers from the limited nature of the sources she depended on. The second paragraph does state a few cons of Eisenstein's study but that is not the purpose.

(B) - The passage clearly has a balanced tone. Besides the negatives stated in the passage, the author also thinks positively about Eisenstein's work: "In an unfinished but highly thought-provoking series of essays, the late Sarah Eisenstein has focused attention on the evolution of working women's values from the turn of the century to the First World War". Hence, Option (B) is a straightforward pick.

(C) - While the passage does talk briefly about the 2 theories and compares to a certain extent, it is only a small part of the first paragraph. If you take the passage as a whole, that is not the primary purpose.

Passage 19**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)****Additional context on the passage - (To understand the tone)**

"Both are correct... **But (contrast)** both sides base their positions on the same two **outdated premises** (mildly negative)." Hence, this is not positive.

"The problem is not Arboria's products, but Arboria's trade policy (negative tone), **which must change.**" This is a suggestion.

"Both assumptions are wrong." This is a negative tone.

Whenever there is both a negative tone and a suggestion in the passage, the suggestion becomes the crux of the passage.

Primary Purpose – Before we look at (A) and (C), let's eliminate the others:

(B) – The author does examine the differences between free and fair-trade proponents, but he/she concludes that BOTH are operating under false assumptions. Examining the *differences* between the two groups is not the primary purpose of the discussion.

Instead, the author argues that both groups are operating under false assumptions, and that the conflict between them is paralyzing Arboria's trade policy and preventing Arboria from expanding its trade. Because the discussion of free vs. fair trade is included to SUPPORT this broader point, the differences between the two groups is not the primary purpose of the passage.

(D) – The author doesn't criticize the terms of the GATT. He/she just argues that the GATT covers a smaller portion of the world economy, and therefore Arboria should not assume that global commerce is conducted under the conditions of the GATT. **(D)** is out.

(E) – The author discusses Arboria's trade partners ONLY to examine Arboria's trade policies. His/her purpose is not to set up a comparison between the countries, but to look more closely at Arboria's trade policies. **(E)** is out.

Now let's take a look at the two remaining options, **(A) and (C)**. Let's start with the first couple sentences of the passage:

"Arboria is floundering in the global marketplace, incurring devastating losses in market position and profits. The problem is not Arboria's products, but Arboria's trade policy. Arboria faces the prospect of

continuing economic loss until Arborian business and political leaders recognize the fundamental differences between Arborian and foreign economic systems."

The author clearly views Arboria's current trade policy as a "problem" that is hurting Arboria (causing Arboria to flounder and incur devastating economic losses). And unless something changes (i.e. "unless Arborian business and political leaders recognize..."), Arboria will face the prospect of "continuing economic loss."

How did Arboria get into this mess?

"Arboria is operating with an obsolete trade policy"--a trade policy that has NOT shifted even though economic circumstances HAVE shifted radically.

In other words, Arboria's trade policy might have been fine in the mid-1940s, but the policy hasn't adapted as economic circumstances have changed radically. And why hasn't the policy adapted?

"Arboria's trade policy seems paralyzed by the relentless conflict between proponents of "free" and "fair" trade." - If the two sides are completely at odds, it will be really hard for them to agree on potential changes to the trade policy.

To recap, Arboria has an "obsolete" trade policy, one that has left Arboria floundering and incurring devastating losses. The economic loss will continue and Arboria will miss "opportunities for trade expansion" unless something changes. It is clear that the author views the current trade policy as a problem that 1) has and will continue to hurt Arboria economically and 2) is causing Arboria to miss opportunities for trade expansion. The author does not *explicitly* call for a reassessment of the trade policy, but he/she certainly explains the consequences of NOT reassessing the trade policy (i.e., continued economic loss and missed trade opportunities). In explaining the dire consequences of NOT reassessing the trade policy, the author communicates an argument FOR reassessing the trade policy (just as I can make the case FOR brushing your teeth by describing all of the negative consequences of NOT brushing your teeth)

The passage mentions in fair detail that Arboria's trade has become hugely non-competitive etc., but the primary focus of the article is not that. The author is savagely criticizing the trade policies, and hence implicitly advocating for a better set of such policies to be devised and implemented through their writing of the passage. This advocacy for new trade policies is supported by the background that Arboria's trade has gone to the gutters. So, **Option (C)** is our best option.

Passage 20

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – In the first paragraph (P1), the author **asks a question**: Why have cacti in the Sonoran desert evolved to open their flowers during the day? In the second paragraph (P2), the author **provides one potential explanation for the question raised in P1**:

The cacti may have evolved because of annual variations in the reliability of pollinators. The author then lists three reasons why a pollinator may be unreliable. In the third paragraph, the author **provides data that supports the explanation given in P2** ... Bats are unreliable, so the cacti have evolved to allow birds to pollinate them during the day ...

Primary Purpose – Options C is neutral. Neutral does not necessarily mean that we will always say that we are presenting some finding or something like that. Option D says that the primary purpose of the passage is to challenge a particular theory. Now ask yourself, after reading the whole passage, do you really think this was the reason why author wrote this piece. Author only challenges some theory in para. 2 and even there he has repeatedly used the word "may" to indicate that all this is just possible explanations.

Now lets look at option C from point of view of the passage.

Para 1 - problem is defined.

Para 2 - possible explanations explored

Para 3 - possible explanations elaborated.

Option C is so easily verified from here.

Passage 21

A small number of the forest species of lepidoptera (moths and butterflies, which exist as caterpillars during most of their life cycle) exhibit regularly recurring patterns of population growth and decline—such fluctuations in population are known as population cycles. Although many different variables influence population levels, a regular pattern such as a population cycle seems to imply a dominant, driving force. Identification of that driving force, however, has proved surprisingly elusive despite considerable research. The common approach of studying causes of population cycles by measuring the mortality caused by different agents, such as predatory birds or parasites, has been unproductive in the case of lepidoptera. Moreover, population ecologists' attempts to alter cycles by changing the caterpillars' habitat and by reducing caterpillar populations have not succeeded. In short, the evidence implies that these insect populations, if not self-regulating, may at least be regulated by an agent more intimately connected with the insect than are predatory birds or parasites.

Recent work suggests that this agent may be a virus. For many years, viral disease had been reported in declining populations of caterpillars, but population ecologists had usually considered viral disease to have contributed to the decline once it was underway rather than to have initiated it. The recent work has been made possible by new techniques of molecular biology that allow viral DNA to be detected at low concentrations in the environment. Nuclear polyhedrosis viruses are hypothesized to be the driving force behind population cycles in lepidoptera in part because the viruses themselves follow an infectious cycle in which, if protected from direct sunlight, they may remain virulent for many years in the environment, embedded in durable crystals of polyhedrin protein. Once ingested by a caterpillar, the crystals dissolve, releasing the virus to infect the insect's cells. Late in the course of the infection, millions of new virus particles are formed and enclosed in polyhedrin crystals. These crystals reenter the environment after the insect dies and decomposes, thus becoming available to infect other caterpillars.

One of the attractions of this hypothesis is its broad applicability. Remarkably, despite significant differences in habitat and behavior, many species of lepidoptera have population cycles of similar length, between eight and eleven years. Nuclear polyhedrosis viral infection is one factor these disparate species share.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. describe the development of new techniques that may help to determine the driving force behind population cycles in lepidoptera
- B. present evidence that refutes a particular theory about the driving force behind population cycles in lepidoptera
- C. present a hypothesis about the driving force behind population cycles in lepidoptera
- D. describe the fluctuating patterns of population cycles in lepidoptera
- E. question the idea that a single driving force is behind population cycles in lepidoptera



Passage 22

During the 1980s, many economic historians studying Latin America focused on the impact of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Most of these historians argued that although the Depression began earlier in Latin America than in the United States, it was less severe in Latin America and did not significantly impede industrial growth there. The historians' argument was grounded in national government records concerning tax revenues and exports and in government-sponsored industrial censuses, from which historians have drawn conclusions about total manufacturing output and profit levels across Latin America. However, economic statistics published by Latin American governments in the early twentieth century are neither reliable nor consistent; this is especially true of manufacturing data, which were gathered from factory owners for taxation purposes and which therefore may well be distorted. Moreover, national and regional economies are composed of individual firms and industries, and relying on general, sweeping economic indicators may mask substantial variations among these different enterprises. For example, recent analyses of previously unexamined data on textile manufacturing in Brazil and Mexico suggest that the Great Depression had a more severe impact on this Latin American industry than scholars had recognized.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. compare the impact of the Great Depression on Latin America with its impact on the United States
- B. criticize a school of economic historians for failing to analyze the Great Depression in Latin America within a global context
- C. illustrate the risks inherent in comparing different types of economic enterprises to explain economic phenomena
- D. call into question certain scholars' views concerning the severity of the Great Depression in Latin America
- E. demonstrate that the Great Depression had a more severe impact on industry in Latin America than in certain other regions



Passage 23

Among the myths taken as fact by the environmental managers of most corporations is the belief that environmental regulations affect all competitors in a given industry uniformly. In reality, regulatory costs—and therefore compliance—fall unevenly, economically disadvantaging some companies and benefiting others. For example, a plant situated near a number of larger noncompliant competitors is less likely to attract the attention of local regulators than is an isolated plant, and less attention means lower costs.

Additionally, large plants can spread compliance costs such as waste treatment across a larger revenue base; on the other hand, some smaller plants may not even be subject to certain provisions such as permit or reporting requirements by virtue of their size. Finally, older production technologies often continue to generate toxic wastes that were not regulated when the technology was first adopted. New regulations have imposed extensive compliance costs on companies still using older industrial coal-fired burners that generate high sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide outputs, for example, whereas new facilities generally avoid processes that would create such waste products.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. address a widespread environmental management problem and suggest possible solutions
- B. illustrate varying levels of compliance with environmental regulation among different corporations
- C. describe the various alternatives to traditional methods of environmental management
- D. advocate increased corporate compliance with environmental regulation
- E. correct a common misconception about the impact of environmental regulations



Passage 24

It is an odd but indisputable fact that the seventeenth-century English women who are generally regarded as among the forerunners of modern feminism are almost all identified with the Royalist side in the conflict between Royalists and Parliamentarians known as the English Civil Wars. Since Royalist ideology is often associated with the radical patriarchalism of seventeenth-century political theorist Robert Filmer—a patriarchalism that equates family and kingdom and asserts the divinely ordained absolute power of the king and, by analogy, of the male head of the household—historians have been understandably puzzled by the fact that Royalist women wrote the earliest extended criticisms of the absolute subordination of women in marriage and the earliest systematic assertions of women's rational and moral equality with men. Some historians have questioned the facile equation of Royalist ideology with Filmerian patriarchalism; and indeed, there may have been no consistent differences between Royalists and Parliamentarians on issues of family organization and women's political rights, but in that case one would expect early feminists to be equally divided between the two sides.

Catherine Gallagher argues that Royalism engendered feminism because the ideology of absolute monarchy provided a transition to an ideology of the absolute self. She cites the example of the notoriously eccentric author Margaret Cavendish (1626–1673), duchess of Newcastle. Cavendish claimed to be as ambitious as any woman could be, but knowing that as a woman she was excluded from the pursuit of power in the real world, she resolved to be mistress of her own world, the “immaterial world” that any person can create within her own mind—and, as a writer, on paper. In proclaiming what she called her “singularity,” Cavendish insisted that she was a self-sufficient being within her mental empire, the center of her own subjective universe rather than a **satellite orbiting a dominant male planet**. In justifying this absolute singularity, Cavendish repeatedly invoked the model of the absolute monarch, a figure that became a metaphor for the self-enclosed, autonomous nature of the individual person. Cavendish's successors among early feminists retained her notion of woman's sovereign self, but they also sought to break free from the complete political and social isolation that her absolute singularity entailed.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. trace the historical roots of a modern sociopolitical movement
- B. present one scholar's explanation for a puzzling historical phenomenon
- C. contrast two interpretations of the ideological origins of a political conflict
- D. establish a link between the ideology of an influential political theorist and that of a notoriously eccentric writer
- E. call attention to some points of agreement between opposing sides in an ideological debate



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Passage 25

There are recent reports of apparently drastic declines in amphibian populations and of extinctions of a number of the world's endangered amphibian species. These declines, if real, may be signs of a general trend toward extinction, and many environmentalists have claimed that immediate environmental action is necessary to remedy this "amphibian crisis," which, in their view, is an indicator of general and catastrophic environmental degradation due to human activity.

To evaluate these claims, it is useful to make a preliminary distinction that is far too often ignored. A declining population cannot be confused with an endangered one. An endangered population is always rare, almost always small, and, by definition, under constant threat of extinction even without a proximate cause in human activities. Its disappearance, however unfortunate, should come as no great surprise. Moreover, chance events—which may indicate nothing about the direction of trends in population size—may lead to its extinction. The probability of extinction due to such random factors depends on the population size and is independent of the prevailing direction of change in that size.

For biologists, population declines are potentially more worrisome than extinctions. Persistent declines, especially in large populations, indicate a changed ecological context. Even here, distinctions must again be made among declines that are only apparent (in the sense that they are part of habitual cycles or of normal fluctuations), declines that take a population to some lower but still acceptable level, and those that threaten extinction (e.g., by taking the number of individuals below the minimum viable population). Anecdotal reports of population decreases cannot distinguish among these possibilities, and some amphibian populations have shown strong fluctuations in the past.

It is indisputably true that there is simply not enough long-term scientific data on amphibian populations to enable researchers to identify real declines in amphibian populations. Many fairly common amphibian species declared all but extinct after severe declines in the 1950s and 1960s have subsequently recovered, and so might the apparently declining populations that have generated the current appearance of an amphibian crisis.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. assess the validity of a certain view
- B. distinguish between two phenomena
- C. identify the sureshot solutions to a problem
- D. describe an optimistic trend
- E. pacify concern about a particular phenomenon



Passage 26

Human beings, born with a drive to explore and experiment, thrive on learning. Unfortunately, corporations are oriented predominantly toward controlling employees, not fostering their learning. Ironically, this orientation creates the very conditions that predestine employees to mediocre performances. Over time, superior performance requires superior learning, because long-term corporate survival depends on continually exploring new business and organizational opportunities that can create new sources of growth.

To survive in the future, corporations must become “learning organizations,” enterprises that are constantly able to adapt and expand their capabilities. To accomplish this, corporations must change how they view employees. The traditional view that a single charismatic leader should set the corporation’s direction and make key decisions is rooted in an individualistic worldview. In an increasingly interdependent world, such a view is no longer viable. In learning organizations, thinking and acting are integrated at all job levels. Corporate leadership is shared, and leaders become designers, teachers, and stewards, roles requiring new skills: the ability to build shared vision, to reveal and challenge prevailing mental models, and to foster broader, more integrated patterns of thinking. In short, leaders in learning organizations are responsible for building organizations in which employees are continually learning new skills and expanding their capabilities to shape their future.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. endorse a traditional corporate structure
- B. introduce a new approach to corporate leadership and evaluate criticisms of it
- C. explain competing theories about management practices and reconcile them
- D. contrast two typical corporate organizational structures
- E. propose an alternative to a common corporate approach



Passage 27

In 1971 researchers hoping to predict earthquakes in the short term by identifying precursory phenomena (those that occur a few days before large quakes but not otherwise) turned their attention to changes in seismic waves that had been detected prior to earthquakes. An explanation for such changes was offered by “dilatancy theory,” based on a well-known phenomenon observed in rocks in the laboratory: as stress builds, microfractures in rock close, decreasing the rock’s volume. But as stress continues to increase, the rock begins to crack and expand in volume, allowing groundwater to seep in, weakening the rock. According to this theory, such effects could lead to several precursory phenomena in the field, including a change in the velocity of seismic waves, and an increase in small, nearby tremors.

Researchers initially reported success in identifying these possible precursors, but subsequent analyses of their data proved disheartening. Seismic waves with unusual velocities were recorded before some earthquakes, but while the historical record confirms that most large earthquakes are preceded by minor tremors, these foreshocks indicate nothing about the magnitude of an impending quake and are indistinguishable from other minor tremors that occur without large earthquakes.

Evidence against the kind of regular earthquake cycles that Lindh and Baker tried to establish has come from a relatively new field, paleoseismology. Paleoseismologists have unearthed and dated geological features such as fault scarps that were caused by earthquakes thousands of years ago. They have determined that the average interval between ten earthquakes that took place at one site along the San Andreas Fault in the past two millennia was 132 years, but individual intervals ranged greatly, from 44 to 332 years.

The passage is primarily concerned with

- A. explaining why one method of earthquake prediction has proven more practicable than an alternative method
- B. suggesting that accurate earthquake forecasting must combine elements of long-term and short-term prediction
- C. challenging the usefulness of dilatancy theory for explaining the occurrence of precursory phenomena
- D. discussing the deficiency of two methods by which researchers have attempted to predict the occurrence of earthquakes
- E. describing the development of methods for establishing patterns in the occurrence of past earthquakes



In the 1980s, some researchers turned their efforts from short-term to long-term prediction. Noting that earthquakes tend to occur repeatedly in certain regions, Lindh and Baker attempted to identify patterns of recurrence, or earthquake cycles, on which to base predictions. In a study of earthquake-prone sites along the San Andreas Fault, they determined that quakes occurred at intervals of approximately 22 years near one site and concluded that there was a 95 percent probability of an earthquake in that area by 1992. The earthquake did not occur within the time frame predicted, however.

Passage 28

A key decision required of advertising managers is whether a “hard-sell” or “soft-sell” strategy is appropriate for a specific target market. The hard-sell approach involves the use of direct, forceful claims regarding the benefits of the advertised brand over competitors’ offerings. In contrast, the soft-sell approach involves the use of advertising claims that imply superiority more subtly.

One positive aspect of the hard-sell approach is its use of very simple and straightforward product claims presented as explicit conclusions, with little room for confusion regarding the advertiser’s message. Some consumers don’t like being told what to believe and some distrust the message. Resentment and distrust often lead to counter-argumentation and to boomerang effects where consumers come to believe conclusions diametrically opposed to conclusions endorsed in advertising claims. By contrast, the risk of boomerang effects is greatly reduced with soft-sell approaches. The soft-sell approach provides information that implies the main conclusions the advertiser wants the consumer to draw, but leaves the conclusions themselves unstated. Because consumers are invited to make up their own minds, implicit conclusions reduce the risk of resentment, distrust, and counter-argumentation. Recent research on consumer memory and judgment suggests another advantage of implicit conclusions. Beliefs or conclusions that are self-generated are more accessible from memory than beliefs from conclusions provided explicitly by other individuals, and thus have a greater impact on judgment and decision making. Moreover, self-generated beliefs are often perceived as more accurate and valid than the beliefs of others, because other individuals may be perceived as less knowledgeable, or may be perceived as manipulative or deliberately misleading.

Despite these advantages, implicit conclusions may not always be more effective than explicit conclusions. One risk is that some consumers may fail to draw their own conclusions and thus miss the point of the message. Inferential activity is likely only when consumers are motivated and able to engage in effortful cognitive processes. Another risk is that some consumers may draw conclusions other than the one intended. Even if inferential activity is likely there is no guarantee that consumers will follow the path provided by the advertiser. Finally, a third risk is that consumers may infer the intended conclusion but question the validity of their inference.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. point out the risks involved in the use of a particular advertising strategy
- B. make a case for the superiority of one advertising strategy over another
- C. illustrate the ways in which two advertising strategies may be implemented
- D. present the advantages and disadvantages of two advertising strategies
- E. contrast the types of target markets for which two advertising strategies are appropriate



Passage 29

Most pre-1990 literature on businesses' use of information technology (IT)—defined as any form of computer-based information system—focused on spectacular IT successes and reflected a general optimism concerning IT's potential as a resource for creating competitive advantage. But toward the end of the 1980s, some economists spoke of a “productivity paradox”: despite huge IT investments, most notably in the service sectors, productivity stagnated. In the retail industry, for example, in which IT had been widely adopted during the 1980s, productivity (average output per hour) rose at an average annual rate of 1.1 percent between 1973 and 1989, compared with 2.4 percent in the preceding 25-year period. Proponents of IT argued that it takes both time and a critical mass of investment for IT to yield benefits, and some suggested that growth figures for the 1990s proved these benefits were finally being realized. They also argued that measures of productivity ignore what would have happened without investments in IT—productivity gains might have been even lower. There were even claims that IT had improved the performance of the service sector significantly, although macroeconomic measures of productivity did not reflect the improvement.

The passage is primarily concerned with

- A. describing a resource and indicating various methods used to study it
- B. presenting a theory and offering an opposing point of view
- C. providing an explanation for unexpected findings
- D. demonstrating why a particular theory is unfounded
- E. resolving a disagreement regarding the uses of a technology



But some observers questioned why, if IT had conferred economic value, it did not produce direct competitive advantages for individual firms. Resource-based theory offers an answer, asserting that, in general, firms gain competitive advantages by accumulating resources that are economically valuable, relatively scarce, and not easily replicated. According to a recent study of retail firms, which confirmed that IT has become pervasive and relatively easy to acquire, IT by itself appeared to have conferred little advantage. In fact, though little evidence of any direct effect was found, the frequent negative correlations between IT and performance suggested that IT had probably weakened some firms' competitive positions. However, firms' human resources, in and of themselves, did explain improved performance, and some firms gained IT-related advantages by merging IT with complementary resources, particularly human resources. The findings support the notion, founded in resource-based theory, that competitive advantages do not arise from easily replicated resources, no matter how impressive or economically valuable they may be, but from complex, intangible resources.

Passage 30

The dry mountain ranges of the western United States contain rocks dating back 440 to 510 million years, to the Ordovician period, and teeming with evidence of tropical marine life. This rock record provides vital clues about one of the most significant radiations (periods when existing life-forms gave rise to variations that would eventually evolve into entirely new species) in the history of marine invertebrates. During this radiation the number of marine biological families increased greatly, and these families included species that would dominate the marine ecosystems of the area for the next 215 million years. Although the radiation spanned tens of millions of years, major changes in many species occurred during a geologically short time span within the radiation and, furthermore, appear to have occurred worldwide, suggesting that external events were major factors in the radiation. In fact, there is evidence of major ecological and geological changes during this period: the sea level dropped drastically and mountain ranges were formed. In this instance, rather than leading to large-scale extinctions, these kinds of environmental changes may have resulted in an enriched pattern of habitats and nutrients, which in turn gave rise to the Ordovician radiation. However, the actual relationship between these environmental factors and the diversification of life-forms is not yet fully understood.

The passage is primarily concerned with

- A. evaluating the evidence of a major geologic period and determining its duration
- B. describing an evolutionary phenomenon and speculating about its cause
- C. explaining the mechanisms through which marine life-forms evolved during a particular period
- D. analyzing the impact on later life-forms of an important evolutionary development
- E. contrasting a period of evolutionary change with other such periods



Passage 31

Seventeenth-century philosopher John Locke stated that as much as 99 percent of the value of any useful product can be attributed to “the effects of labor.” For Locke’s intellectual heirs it was only a short step to the “labor theory of value,” whose formulators held that 100 percent of the value of any product is generated by labor (the human work needed to produce goods) and that therefore the employer who appropriates any part of the product’s value as profit is practicing theft.

Although human effort is required to produce goods for the consumer market, effort is also invested in making capital goods (tools, machines, etc.), which are used to facilitate the production of consumer goods. In modern economies about one-third of the total output of consumer goods is attributable to the use of capital goods. Approximately two-thirds of the income derived from this total output is paid out to workers as wages and salaries, the remaining third serving as compensation to the owners of the capital goods. Moreover, part of this remaining third is received by workers who are shareholders, pension beneficiaries, and the like. The labor theory of value systematically disregards the productive contribution of capital goods—a failing for which Locke must bear the blame.

The author of the passage is primarily concerned with

- A. criticizing Locke’s economic theories
- B. discounting the contribution of labor in a modern economy
- C. questioning the validity of the labor theory of value
- D. arguing for a more equitable distribution of business profits
- E. contending that employers are overcompensated for capital goods



Passage 32

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 nonterritorial 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.

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



Passage 33

In addition to conventional galaxies, the universe contains very dim galaxies that until recently went unnoticed by astronomers. Possibly as numerous as conventional galaxies, these galaxies have the same general shape and even the same approximate number of stars as a common type of conventional galaxy, the spiral, but tend to be much larger. Because these galaxies' mass is spread out over larger areas, they have far fewer stars per unit volume than do conventional galaxies. Apparently these low-surface-brightness galaxies, as they are called, take much longer than conventional galaxies to condense their primordial gas and convert it to stars—that is, they evolve much more slowly.

These galaxies may constitute an answer to the long-standing puzzle of the missing baryonic mass in the universe. Baryons—subatomic particles that are generally protons or neutrons—are the source of stellar, and therefore galactic, luminosity, and so their numbers can be estimated based on how luminous galaxies are. However, the amount of helium in the universe, as measured by spectroscopy, suggests that there are far more baryons in the universe than estimates based on galactic luminosity indicate. Astronomers have long speculated that the missing baryonic mass might eventually be discovered in intergalactic space or as some large population of galaxies that are difficult to detect.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. describe a phenomenon and consider its scientific significance
- B. contrast two phenomena and discuss a puzzling difference between them
- C. identify a newly discovered phenomenon and explain its origins
- D. compare two classes of objects and discuss the physical properties of each
- E. discuss a discovery and point out its inconsistency with existing theory



Passage 34

The fact that superior service can generate a competitive advantage for a company does not mean that every attempt at improving service will create such an advantage. Investments in service, like those in production and distribution, must be balanced against other types of investments on the basis of direct, tangible benefits such as cost reduction and increased revenues. If a company is already effectively on a par with its competitors because it provides service that avoids a damaging reputation and keeps customers from leaving at an unacceptable rate, then investment in higher service levels may be wasted, since service is a deciding factor for customers only in extreme situations.

This truth was not apparent to managers of one regional bank, which failed to improve its competitive position despite its investment in reducing the time a customer had to wait for a teller. The bank managers did not recognize the level of customer inertia in the consumer banking industry that arises from the inconvenience of switching banks. Nor did they analyze their service improvement to determine whether it would attract new customers by producing a new standard of service that would excite customers or by proving difficult for competitors to copy. The only merit of the improvement was that it could easily be described to customers.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. contrast possible outcomes of a type of business investment
- B. suggest more careful analysis of a type of business investment
- C. illustrate various ways in which a type of business investment could fail to enhance revenues
- D. trace the general problems of a company to a certain type of business investment
- E. criticize the way in which managers tend to analyze the costs and benefits of business investments



Passage 35

Antonia Castañeda has utilized scholarship from women's studies and Mexican-American history to examine nineteenth-century literary portrayals of Mexican women. As Castañeda notes, scholars of women's history observe that in the United States, male novelists of the period—during which, according to these scholars, women's traditional economic role in home-based agriculture was threatened by the transition to a factory-based industrial economy—define women solely in their domestic roles of wife and mother. Castañeda finds that during the same period that saw non-Hispanic women being economically displaced by industrialization, Hispanic law in territorial California protected the economic position of "Californianas" (the Mexican women of the territory) by ensuring them property rights and inheritance rights equal to those of males.

For Castañeda, the laws explain a stereotypical plot created primarily by male, non-Hispanic novelists: the story of an ambitious non-Hispanic merchant or trader desirous of marrying an elite Californiana. These novels' favorable portrayal of such women is noteworthy, since Mexican-American historians have concluded that unflattering literary depictions of Mexicans were vital in rallying the United States public's support for the Mexican-American War (1846–1848). The importance of economic alliances forged through marriages with Californianas explains this apparent contradiction. Because of their real-life economic significance, the Californianas were portrayed more favorably than were others of the same nationality.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. trace historical influences on the depiction of Mexican Americans in the nineteenth century
- B. explain how research in history has been affected by scholarship in women's studies
- C. describe how a literary stereotype came to be a type of character in a type of work of fiction
- D. discuss ways in which minority writers have sought to critique a dominant culture through their writing
- E. evaluate both sides in a scholarly debate about a prominent literary stereotype



Passage 36

Micro-wear patterns found on the teeth of long-extinct specimens of the primate species australopithecine may provide evidence about their diets. For example, on the basis of tooth micro-wear patterns, Walker dismisses Jolly's hypothesis that australopithecines ate hard seeds. He also disputes Szalay's suggestion that the heavy enamel of australopithecine teeth is an adaptation to bone crunching, since both seed cracking and bone crunching produce distinctive micro-wear characteristics on teeth. His conclusion that australopithecines were frugivores (fruit eaters) is based upon his observation that the tooth micro-wear characteristics of east African australopithecine specimens are indistinguishable from those of chimpanzees and orangutans, which are commonly assumed to be frugivorous primates.

However, research on the diets of contemporary primates suggests that micro-wear studies may have limited utility in determining the foods that are actually eaten. For example, insect eating, which can cause distinct micro-wear patterns, would not cause much tooth abrasion in modern baboons, who eat only soft-bodied insects rather than hard-bodied insects. In addition, the diets of current omnivorous primates vary considerably depending on the environments that different groups within a primate species inhabit; if australopithecines were omnivores too, we might expect to find considerable population variation in their tooth micro-wear patterns. Thus, Walker's description of possible australopithecine diets may need to be expanded to include a much more diverse diet.

The passage is primarily concerned with

- A. comparing two research methods for determining a species' dietary habits
- B. describing and evaluating conjectures about a species' diet
- C. contrasting several explanations for a species' dietary habits
- D. discussing a new approach and advocating its use in particular situations
- E. arguing that a particular research methodology does not contribute useful data



Passage 37

This passage is excerpted from material published in 1997.

Is there a massive black hole at the center of our galaxy, the Milky Way? The evidence is inconclusive. Just as the Sun's mass can be determined, given knowledge of other variables, by the velocity at which its planets orbit, the mass at the center of the Milky Way can be revealed by the velocities of stars and gas orbiting the galactic center. This dynamical evidence, based on recently confirmed assumptions about the stars' velocities, argues for an extremely compact object with a mass two to three million times the mass of our Sun. Although according to current theory this makes the mass at the center of the galaxy too dense to be anything but a black hole, the relative lack of energy radiating from the galactic center presents a serious problem. A black hole's gravity attracts surrounding matter, which swirls around the black hole, emitting some energy as it is engulfed. Scientists believe that the amount of energy that escapes the black hole should be about 10 percent of the matter's rest energy (the energy equivalent of its mass according to the equation $E=mc^2$). But when the energy coming from the galactic center is compared to widely held predictions based on how much matter should be falling into a theoretical central black hole, there is a discrepancy by a factor of a few thousand.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. present several theories that could account for a particular phenomenon
- B. argue that a certain question needs to be reframed in light of new evidence
- C. resolve an apparent inconsistency between two lines of evidence
- D. explain why a certain issue remains unresolved
- E. present evidence that calls into question certain assumptions of a current theory



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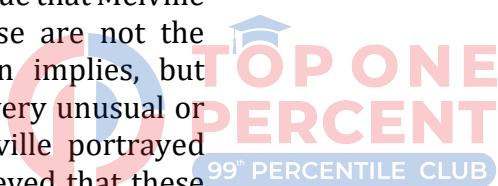
Passage 38

Critics maintain that the fiction of Herman Melville (1819–1891) has limitations, such as its lack of inventive plots after *Moby-Dick* (1851) and its occasionally inscrutable style. A more serious, yet problematic, charge is that Melville is a deficient writer because he is not a practitioner of the “art of fiction,” as critics have conceived of this art since the late nineteenth-century essays and novels of Henry James. Indeed, most twentieth-century commentators regard Melville not as a novelist but as a writer of romance, since they believe that Melville's fiction lacks the continuity that James viewed as essential to a novel: the continuity between what characters feel or think and what they do, and the continuity between characters' fates and their pasts or original social classes. Critics argue that only *Pierre* (1852), because of its subject and its characters, is close to being a novel in the Jamesian sense.

However, although Melville is not a Jamesian novelist, he is not therefore a deficient writer. A more reasonable position is that Melville is a different kind of writer, who held, and should be judged by, presuppositions about fiction that are quite different from James's. It is true that Melville wrote “romances”; however, these are not the escapist fictions this word often implies, but fictions that range freely among very unusual or intense human experiences. Melville portrayed such experiences because he believed that these experiences best enabled him to explore moral questions, an exploration he assumed was the ultimate purpose of fiction. He was content to sacrifice continuity or even credibility as long as he could establish a significant moral situation. Thus, Melville's romances do not give the reader a full understanding of the complete feelings and thoughts that motivate actions and events that shape fate. Rather, the romances leave unexplained the sequence of events and either simplify or obscure motives. Again, such simplifications and obscurities exist in order to give prominence to the depiction of sharply delineated moral values, values derived from a character's purely personal sense of honor, rather than, as in a Jamesian novel, from the conventions of society.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. make a case for the importance of skillful psychological motivation in well-written novels and romances
- B. contrast the romantic and novelistic traditions and assert the aesthetic superiority of the romantic tradition
- C. survey some of the responses to Melville's fiction put forward by James and twentieth-century literary critics
- D. argue that the charges made against Melville's fiction by literary critics are conclusive
- E. note accusations made against Melville's fiction by literary critics and refute one of these accusations



Passage 39

There are two theories that have been used to explain ancient and modern tragedy. Neither quite explains the complexity of the tragic process or the tragic hero, but each explains important elements of tragedy, and, because their conclusions are contradictory, they represent extreme views. The first theory states that all tragedy exhibits the workings of external fate. Of course, the overwhelming majority of tragedies do leave us with a sense of the supremacy of impersonal power and of the limitation of human effort. But this theory of tragedy is an oversimplification, primarily because it confuses the tragic condition with the tragic process: the theory does not acknowledge that fate, in a tragedy, normally becomes external to the hero only after the tragic process has been set in motion. Fate, as conceived in ancient Greek tragedy, is the internal balancing condition of life. It appears as external only after it has been violated, just as justice is an internal quality of an honest person, but the external antagonist of the criminal. Secondarily, this theory of tragedy does not distinguish tragedy from irony. Irony does not need an exceptional central figure: as a rule, the more ignoble the hero the sharper the irony, when irony alone is the objective. It is heroism that creates the splendor and exhilaration that is unique to tragedy. The tragic hero normally has an extraordinary, often a nearly divine, destiny almost within grasp, and the glory of that original destiny never quite fades out of the tragedy.

The second theory of tragedy states that the act that sets the tragic process in motion must be primarily a violation of moral law, whether human or divine; in short, that the tragic hero must have a flaw that has an essential connection with sin. Again, it is true that the great majority of tragic heroes do possess hubris, or a proud and passionate mind that seems to make the hero's downfall morally explicable. But such hubris is only the precipitating agent of catastrophe, just as in comedy the cause of the happy ending is usually some act of humility, often performed by a noble character who is meanly disguised.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. compare and criticize two theories of tragedy
- B. develop a new theory of tragedy
- C. summarize the thematic content of tragedy
- D. reject one theory of tragedy and suggest another theory in its place
- E. distinguish between tragedy and irony



Passage 40

Conventional wisdom has it that large deficits in the United States budget cause interest rates to rise. Two main arguments are given for this claim. According to the first, as the deficit increases, the government will borrow more to make up for the ensuing shortage of funds. Consequently, it is argued, if both the total supply of credit (money available for borrowing) and the amount of credit sought by nongovernment borrowers remain relatively stable, as is often supposed, then the price of credit (the interest rate) will increase. That this is so is suggested by the basic economic principle that if supplies of a commodity (here, credit) remain fixed and demand for that commodity increases, its price will also increase. The second argument supposes that the government will tend to finance its deficits by increasing the money supply with insufficient regard for whether there is enough room for economic growth to enable such an increase to occur without causing inflation. It is then argued that financiers will expect the deficit to cause inflation and will raise interest rates, anticipating that because of inflation the money they lend will be worth less when paid back.

Unfortunately for the first argument, it is unreasonable to assume that nongovernment borrowing and the supply of credit will remain relatively stable. Nongovernment borrowing sometimes decreases. When it does, increased government borrowing will not necessarily push up the total demand for credit. Alternatively, when credit availability increases, for example through greater foreign lending to the United States, then interest rates need not rise, even if both private and government borrowing increase.

The second argument is also problematic. Financing the deficit by increasing the money supply should cause inflation only when there is not enough room for economic growth. Currently, there is no reason to expect deficits to cause inflation. However, since many financiers believe that deficits ordinarily create inflation, then admittedly they will be inclined to raise interest rates to offset mistakenly anticipated inflation. This effect, however, is due to ignorance, not to the deficit itself, and could be lessened by educating financiers on this issue.

Which of the following best summarizes the central idea of the passage?

- A. A decrease in nongovernment borrowing or an increase in the availability of credit can eliminate or lessen the ill effects of increased borrowing by the government.
- B. Educating financiers about the true relationship between large federal deficits and high interest rates will make financiers less prone to raise interest rates in response to deficits.
- C. There is little support for the widely held belief that large federal deficits will create higher interest rates, as the main arguments given to defend this claim are flawed.
- D. When the government borrows money, demand for credit increases, typically creating higher interest rates unless special conditions such as decreased consumer spending arise.
- E. Given that most financiers believe in a cause-and-effect relationship between large deficits and high interest rates, it should be expected that financiers will raise interest rates.

Passage 41

Archaeology as a profession faces two major problems. First, it is the poorest of the poor. Only paltry sums are available for excavating and even less is available for publishing the results and preserving the sites once excavated. Yet archaeologists deal with priceless objects every day. Second, there is the problem of illegal excavation, resulting in museum-quality pieces being sold to the highest bidder.

I would like to make an outrageous suggestion that would at one stroke provide funds for archaeology and reduce the amount of illegal digging. I would propose that scientific archaeological expeditions and governmental authorities sell excavated artifacts on the open market. Such sales would provide substantial funds for the excavation and preservation of archaeological sites and the publication of results. At the same time, they would break the illegal excavator's grip on the market, thereby decreasing the inducement to engage in illegal activities.

You might object that professionals excavate to acquire knowledge, not money. Moreover, ancient artifacts are part of our global cultural heritage, which should be available for all to appreciate, not sold to the highest bidder. I agree. Sell nothing that has unique artistic merit or scientific value. But, you might reply, everything that comes out of the ground has scientific value. Here we part company. Theoretically, you may be correct in claiming that every artifact has potential scientific value. Practically, you are wrong.

I refer to the thousands of pottery vessels and ancient lamps that are essentially duplicates of one another. In one small excavation in Cyprus, archaeologists recently uncovered 2,000 virtually indistinguishable small jugs in a single courtyard. Even precious royal seal impressions known as l'melekh handles have been found in abundance—more than 4,000 examples so far.

The basements of museums are simply not large enough to store the artifacts that are likely to be discovered in the future. There is not enough money even to catalog the finds; as a result, they cannot be found again and become as inaccessible as if they had never been discovered. Indeed, with the help of a computer, sold artifacts could be more accessible than are the pieces stored in bulging museum basements. Prior to sale, each could be photographed and the list of the purchasers could be maintained on the computer. A purchaser could even be required to agree to return the piece if it should become needed for scientific purposes.

It would be unrealistic to suggest that illegal digging would stop if artifacts were sold on the open market. But the demand for the clandestine product would be substantially reduced. Who would want an unmarked pot when another was available whose provenance was known, and that was dated stratigraphically by the professional archaeologist who excavated it?

The primary purpose of the passage is to propose

- A. an alternative to museum display of artifacts
- B. a way to curb illegal digging while benefiting the archaeological profession
- C. a way to distinguish artifacts with scientific value from those that have no such value
- D. the governmental regulation of archaeological sites
- E. a new system for cataloging duplicate artifacts

Passage 42

Women's grassroots activism and their vision of a new civic consciousness lay at the heart of social reform in the United States throughout the Progressive Era, the period between the depression of 1893 and America's entry into the Second World War. Though largely disenfranchised except for school elections, white middle-class women reformers won a variety of victories, notably in the improvement of working conditions, especially for women and children. Ironically, though, child labor legislation pitted women of different classes against one another. To the reformers, child labor and industrial home work were equally inhumane practices that should be outlawed, but, as a number of women historians have recently observed, working-class mothers did not always share this view. Given the precarious finances of working-class families and the necessity of pooling the wages of as many family members as possible, working-class families viewed the passage and enforcement of stringent child labor statutes as a personal economic disaster and made strenuous efforts to circumvent child labor laws. Yet reformers rarely understood this resistance in terms of the desperate economic situation of working-class families, interpreting it instead as evidence of poor parenting. This is not to dispute women reformers' perception of child labor as a terribly exploitative practice, but their understanding of child labor and their legislative solutions for ending it failed to take account of the economic needs of working-class families.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. explain why women reformers of the Progressive Era failed to achieve their goals
- B. discuss the origins of child labor laws in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries
- C. compare the living conditions of working-class and middle-class women in the Progressive Era
- D. discuss an oversight on the part of women reformers of the Progressive Era
- E. revise a traditional view of the role played by women reformers in enacting Progressive Era reforms



Passage 43

Ecoefficiency (measures to minimize environmental impact through the reduction or elimination of waste from production processes) has become a goal for companies worldwide, with many realizing significant cost savings from such innovations. Peter Senge and Goran Carstedt see this development as laudable but suggest that simply adopting ecoefficiency innovations could actually worsen environmental stresses in the future. Such innovations reduce production waste but do not alter the number of products manufactured nor the waste generated from their use and discard; indeed, most companies invest in ecoefficiency improvements in order to increase profits and growth. Moreover, there is no guarantee that increased economic growth from ecoefficiency will come in similarly ecoefficient ways, since in today's global markets, greater profits may be turned into investment capital that could easily be reinvested in old-style eco-inefficient industries. Even a vastly more ecoefficient industrial system could, were it to grow much larger, generate more total waste and destroy more habitat and species than would a smaller, less ecoefficient economy. Senge and Carstedt argue that to preserve the global environment and sustain economic growth, businesses must develop a new systemic approach that reduces total material use and total accumulated waste. Focusing exclusively on ecoefficiency, which offers a compelling business case according to established thinking, may distract companies from pursuing radically different products and business models.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. explain why a particular business strategy has been less successful than was once anticipated
- B. propose an alternative to a particular business strategy that has inadvertently caused ecological damage
- C. present a concern about the possible consequences of pursuing a particular business strategy
- D. make a case for applying a particular business strategy on a larger scale than is currently practiced
- E. suggest several possible outcomes of companies' failure to understand the economic impact of a particular business strategy



Passage 44

In 1955 Maurice Duverger published *The Political Role of Women*, the first behavioralist, multinational comparison of women's electoral participation ever to use election data and survey data together. His study analyzed women's patterns of voting, political candidacy, and political activism in four European countries during the first half of the twentieth century. Duverger's research findings were that women voted somewhat less frequently than men (the difference narrowing the longer women had the vote) and were slightly more conservative.

Duverger's work set an early standard for the sensitive analysis of women's electoral activities. Moreover, to Duverger's credit, he placed his findings in the context of many of the historical processes that had shaped these activities. However, since these contexts have changed over time, Duverger's approach has proved more durable than his actual findings. In addition, Duverger's discussion of his findings was hampered by his failure to consider certain specific factors important to women's electoral participation at the time he collected his data: the influence of political regimes, the effects of economic factors, and the ramifications of political and social relations between women and men. Given this failure, Duverger's study foreshadowed the enduring limitations of the behavioralist approach to the multinational study of women's political participation.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. evaluate a research study
- B. summarize the history of a research area
- C. report new research findings
- D. reinterpret old research findings
- E. reconcile conflicting research findings



Passage 45

Frazier and Mosteller assert that medical research could be improved by a move toward larger, simpler clinical trials of medical treatments. Currently, researchers collect far more background information on patients than is strictly required for their trials—substantially more than hospitals collect—thereby escalating costs of data collection, storage, and analysis. Although limiting information collection could increase the risk that researchers will overlook facts relevant to a study, Frazier and Mosteller contend that such risk, never entirely eliminable from research, would still be small in most studies. Only in research on entirely new treatments are new and unexpected variables likely to arise.

Frazier and Mosteller propose not only that researchers limit data collection on individual patients but also that researchers enroll more patients in clinical trials, thereby obtaining a more representative sample of the total population with the disease under study. Often researchers restrict study participation to patients who have no ailments besides those being studied. A treatment judged successful under these ideal conditions can then be evaluated under normal conditions. Broadening the range of trial participants, Frazier and Mosteller suggest, would enable researchers to evaluate a treatment's efficacy for diverse patients under various conditions and to evaluate its effectiveness for different patient subgroups. For example, the value of a treatment for a progressive disease may vary according to a patient's stage of disease. Patients' ages may also affect a treatment's efficacy.

The passage is primarily concerned with

- A. identifying two practices in medical research that may affect the accuracy of clinical trials
- B. describing aspects of medical research that tend to drive up costs
- C. evaluating an analysis of certain shortcomings of current medical research practices
- D. describing proposed changes to the ways in which clinical trials are conducted
- E. explaining how medical researchers have traditionally conducted clinical trials and how such trials are likely to change



Passage 46

Current feminist theory, in validating women's own stories of their experience, has encouraged scholars of women's history to view the use of women's oral narratives as the methodology, next to the use of women's written autobiography, that brings historians closest to the "reality" of women's lives. Such narratives, unlike most standard histories, represent experience from the perspective of women, affirm the importance of women's contributions, and furnish present-day women with historical continuity that is essential to their identity, individually and collectively.

Scholars of women's history should, however, be as cautious about accepting oral narratives at face value as they already are about written memories. Oral narratives are no more likely than are written narratives to provide a disinterested commentary on events or people. Moreover, the stories people tell to explain themselves are shaped by narrative devices and storytelling conventions, as well as by other cultural and historical factors, in ways that the storytellers may be unaware of. The political rhetoric of a particular era, for example, may influence women's interpretations of the significance of their experience. Thus, a woman who views the Second World War as pivotal in increasing the social acceptance of women's paid work outside the home may reach that conclusion partly and unwittingly because of wartime rhetoric encouraging a positive view of women's participation in such work.

The passage is primarily concerned with

- A. contrasting the benefits of one methodology with the benefits of another
- B. describing the historical origins and inherent drawbacks of a particular methodology
- C. discussing the appeal of a particular methodology and some concerns about its use
- D. showing that some historians' adoption of a particular methodology has led to criticism of recent historical scholarship
- E. analyzing the influence of current feminist views on women's interpretations of their experience



Passage 47

During the 1960s and 1970s, the primary economic development strategy of local governments in the United States was to attract manufacturing industries. Unfortunately, this strategy was usually implemented at another community's expense: many manufacturing facilities were lured away from their moorings elsewhere through tax incentives and slick promotional efforts. Through the transfer of jobs and related revenues that resulted from this practice, one town's triumph could become another town's tragedy.

In the 1980s the strategy shifted from this zero-sum game to one called "high-technology development," in which local governments competed to attract newly formed high-technology manufacturing firms. Although this approach was preferable to victimizing other geographical areas by taking their jobs, it also had its shortcomings: high-tech manufacturing firms employ only a specially trained fraction of the manufacturing workforce, and there simply are not enough high-tech firms to satisfy all geographic areas.



Recently, local governments have increasingly come to recognize the advantages of yet a third strategy: the promotion of homegrown small businesses. Small indigenous businesses are created by a nearly ubiquitous resource, local entrepreneurs. With roots in their communities, these individuals are less likely to be enticed away by incentives offered by another community. Indigenous industry and talent are kept at home, creating an environment that both provides jobs and fosters further entrepreneurship.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. advocate more effective strategies for encouraging the development of high technology enterprises in the United States
- B. contrast the incentives for economic development offered by local governments with those offered by the private sector
- C. acknowledge and counter adverse criticism of programs being used to stimulate local economic development
- D. define and explore promotional efforts used by local governments to attract new industry
- E. review and evaluate strategies and programs that have been used to stimulate economic development

Passage 48

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which measures the dollar value of finished goods and services produced by an economy during a given period, serves as the chief indicator of the economic well-being of the United States. The GDP assumes that the economic significance of goods and services lies solely in their price, and that these goods and services add to the national well-being, not because of any intrinsic value they may possess, but simply because they were produced and bought. Additionally, only those goods and services involved in monetary transactions are included in the GDP. Thus, the GDP ignores the economic utility of such things as a clean environment and cohesive families and communities. It is therefore not merely coincidental, since national policies in capitalist and non-capitalist countries alike are dependent on indicators such as the GDP, that both the environment and the social structure have been eroded in recent decades. Not only does the GDP mask this erosion, it can actually portray it as an economic gain: an oil spill off a coastal region “adds” to the GDP because it generates commercial activity. In short, the nation’s central measure of economic well-being works like a calculating machine that adds but cannot subtract.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. identify ways in which the GDP could be modified so that it would serve as a more accurate indicator of the economic well-being of the United States
- B. suggest that the GDP, in spite of certain shortcomings, is still the most reliable indicator of the economic wellbeing of the United States
- C. examine crucial shortcomings of the GDP as an indicator of the economic well-being of the United States
- D. argue that the growth of the United States economy in recent decades has diminished the effectiveness of the GDP as an indicator of the nation’s economic well-being
- E. discuss how the GDP came to be used as the primary indicator of the economic well-being of the United States



RC Session 3 – Primary Purpose

Detailed OCTAAVE based video solutions (to each of these passages) in [RC Video 3](#), shared as part of Top-One-Percent GMAT courses (for registered courses only).

| | | | |
|------------|--|------------|--|
| Passage 21 | | Passage 36 | |
| C | | B | |
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| Passage 28 | | Passage 43 | |
| D | | C | |
| Passage 29 | | Passage 44 | |
| C | | A | |
| Passage 30 | | Passage 45 | |
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| Passage 31 | | Passage 46 | |
| C | | C | |
| Passage 32 | | Passage 47 | |
| C | | E | |
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| B | | | |
| Passage 35 | | | |
| C | | | |



THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE EVER WRITTEN ON GMAT READING COMPREHENSION

Expert solutions to selected queries asked by students



Passage 21**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Additional context on the passage – Hypothesis means a supposition or proposed explanation made on the basis of limited evidence. These may involve opinions. But not all the opinions involve positive or negative tone.

Consider this: The harsh weather may have caused cracks on the building. This involves opinion, but the tone is neither positive nor negative; the tone here is neutral. So, anything that is neutral need not always be fact; they can also be neutral opinion.

'The theory is broadly applicable': is similar to 'there are some applications of the internet'. This is neutral in tone as there is no criticism/praise.

"Identification of that driving force, however, has proved surprisingly elusive despite considerable research": gives an implied opinion. For example: Every time X happens for three days in a row, Y happens on the day after that. X has happened for the last three days, **so I think there may at least be a very good chance that Y will happen today.**

The bolded part is based on past evidence, but is still my opinion.

But everything except that does not constitute any explicit opinion of the author instead all these parts together give you the primary purpose of the passage. The passage is neutral and only gives facts. This passage is a great example of one of those strictly factual scientific passages.

"Recent work suggests that this agent may be a virus.": Here, think of it as the author giving this opinion, *but based on secondary sources* (the studies mentioned). So, it's not part of the author's personal opinion.

(A) – This is wrong because the passage is concerned with answering the question of *what* drives lepidoptera population cycles, not with answering a question of *how* the method to determine this agent was developed. It goes into an explanation of why this virus may be the agent responsible for the population cycles, but again, does not go into any tangible depth of how the method to arrive at such a conclusion was developed.

(D) – This is wrong because as described above, it misses the primary point of the passage. To reiterate - the primary point of the passage is *not* to describe how, or for how long lepidoptera population cycles materialize; the primary point is to answer *what* drives such population cycles.

Passage 22**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Additional context on the passage - Look at the contradictory word - 'However, economic statistics published...'. What the author is clearly doing is stating things that show how the work done by these economic historians was deficient in various respects. The data (especially the data they collected and analyzed to reach their conclusions) was neither reliable nor consistent.

Note – The statement is a fact used by the author to challenge the historians' argument about the effect of Great Depression. It starts with a contradiction word that is said by the author in order to challenge the evidence thus provided by the historians in the previous line. The statement in itself is a fact but the author uses this to challenge most historians' argument. A negative statement is not a fact/opinion that is just negative or positive in general terms, but the statement has to be seen in context of the passage and from the viewpoint of the author.

The author also clearly tells us other ways how the work was problematic - they economic historians only relied on broad generalizations etc. The author explicitly ends by giving an example, saying the authors misjudged the extent to which the Great Depression had an impact on this particular industry in Latin America.

The tone here is challenging.

The author challenges the most historians' opinion that the impact of Great depression was less severe in Latin American countries.

(B) – Although the author is indeed criticizing a certain school of economic historians - the ones that took haphazard data and records from government censuses from Latin America and ran with it to create a skewed sense of the effect of the Great Depression in Latin America, this option is incorrect because this criticism is not because ~~these economists~~ failed to analyze the effect on Latin America in a larger international context. If we look at the reasons the author gives as to why the analyses performed by this school of economists was skewed and did not give a correct picture, nowhere do they mention that the economists failed to analyze in a global context. In fact, the only other country even talked about is the US. Mexico and Brazil (again, both parts of Latin America - Spanish, Portuguese etc speaking countries) are mentioned to re-emphasize the fact that the effect of the Great Depression on Latin America was more severe than expressed in the analyses done by these scholars.

Hence **Option (D)** is correct.

Note - "Historians" are considered "scholars", and "scholars" in the passage refers to "historians".

In D, "certain scholars" refers to the "historians" mentioned in the passage.

Passage 23**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

(A) The author does not *suggest possible solutions*. 'Solutions' means at least 2 very specific things suggested by the author. Moreover, the passage is not about the management of any environmental problem, which would be a problem about how to prevent or undo damage to the environment. The passage primarily aims to dispel a belief that the passage says is widely held by environmental managers.

(D) – The passage takes no position (hence no advocacy) on whether companies should increase their compliance with environmental regulation. Hence Option (D) is wrong.

(E) – In other words, the author is not presenting possible solutions for *correcting* the misconception. Instead, the author simply describes the misconception and attempts to correct that misconception, and then explains why environmental managers should adopt this corrected view to help their companies. The passage primarily aims to dispel the belief that environmental regulations affect all companies in an industry uniformly. This is captured perfectly by Option (E).

Passage 24**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Additional context on the passage – There were two sides to what is called the 'English Civil War'. These sides were Royalists and Parliamentarians. The Royalists belonged to the ideology of Robert Filmer - an extremely patriarchal outlook, one of absolute monarchy, where the man of the house was the king in a way, and women in marriages were completely subdued and subordinated to the men. The passage says it is a strange *fact* that the earliest feminists were actually Royalists - the two ideologists don't seem to gel in any way whatsoever.

In the second paragraph, the passage gives a possible reconciliation of this seeming dichotomy with a specific example - Royalist women came from a mindset of absolute monarchy of men, and one possible explanation of earliest feminists being from this school of thought is that they possibly created a monarchy of immaterial self, wherein they themselves were the centers of their own universes in a way (immaterial here doesn't mean inconsequential, it means not a material / tangible self). Gallagher has given the example of Cavendish to establish this explanation, and the passage tells us about this in the second paragraph.

In other words, Cavendish could model her own autonomy (governing her own mental world) after an absolute monarch. So, Royalism planted a seed of self-sufficiency and autonomy that would grow into feminism. Thus, according to Gallagher, feminist ideas would have been more readily developed among Royalist women.

The author does not take any sides whatsoever, nor gives any positives / negatives / anything at all about any of these schools of thoughts or these developments. The author is simply putting facts on the table in front of us. Hence the tone of the passage is neutral.

The main purpose of the passage is to present Gallagher's explanation for the puzzling phenomenon.

Note – In this context, "facile" means something that doesn't fully tell the complete story/ignores the true complexities of an issue.

(A) – This is incorrect as it does not capture the primary purpose of the passage - the puzzle of a certain historical phenomenon. Yes, the first line has a contradiction word, but it is important to note what it signifies as well. Here, the passage is not trying to find out how modern feminism came into being per se, rather it revolves around an odd instance observed in history, for which a scholar's explanation is provided.

Passage 25**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

"To evaluate..." → To + verb shows purpose → Means that the purpose of the passage is "to evaluate", which is the same as to assess.

(B) – Is the author distinguishing between two phenomena? What two phenomena? Population decline and extinction? Even if so, that is not the primary reason the author wrote this passage. There are other important things they are saying. Eliminate.

(C) – The author is certainly not trying to identify the causes of a problem (possible extinction, reducing populations, etc.). Eliminate.

(D) – Is the author describing a disturbing trend? Is the author saying the trend is that species populations are decreasing, species are nearing possible extinction and so on? Absolutely not. Eliminate.

(E) – We can even more strongly say that the author is not allaying fears. Eliminate.

In fact, the author is very undecided whether there is actual truth in the 'amphibian crisis' and if so, they say unless we do something, we may actually face doom of species and ecosystems - so he is doing the opposite of allaying fears. So, the answer is **Option (A)**. The view the author is assessing is whether there is an actual 'amphibian crisis'. The passage here gives a lot of information, and we have to assimilate it.

Passage 26

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – In the passage, it may seem that the author is criticising about the current working of the corporations:

"Corporations are oriented predominantly toward controlling employees, not fostering their learning."

"Traditional view being followed by these corporations is rooted in an individualistic view & such a view is no longer viable."

But note that the author is lamenting here, not criticizing. Nonetheless, the suggestion remains the crux of the passage.



Let's take an example to understand this:

1. Mr. X's theory is incorrect because his evidence is circumstantial. - criticizing.
2. Organizations in country y are unfortunately only concerned about money. - factual statement

The subtle difference in meaning separates the two. Please do look at it from the vantage point of the author and try to identify author's intentions.

Passage 27

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

(E) – The passage does not describe the development of any method (short-term or long-term prediction). Also, patterns of past earthquakes are only applicable for the long-term prediction work, not the short term one. The latter is simply concerned with identifying precursory phenomena that precede earthquakes.

However, if you read the passage, you will realize that pretty much everybody failed in their endeavours - those trying to identify precursor phenomena for earthquakes (by tracing seismic waves) could not find anything concrete (especially when trying to correlate the seismic activity with the magnitude of an earthquake); those trying to predict long-term patterns among

past earthquakes failed, because other people later show that such patterns don't really exist (at least in the geographic region that the research was done in). So basically both the methods (one for short-term prediction and the other for long-term one) failed. That is what the passage describes.

Passage 28

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – Here, the tone of the passage is neutral.

Consider: “One positive aspect of product X is that it is selling quickly.”

There is no opinion here. It is just a positive fact about product X.

Similarly, the passage just talks about **positive and negative facts** (advantages and disadvantages) of two advertising strategies. Hence, the tone is neutral and not balanced.

The lines: “However, some consumers may resent being told what to believe...” and “Despite these advantages, implicit conclusions may not always be more effective...” are facts, not opinions.

For example: “He may be late for his interview.” This isn't an opinion because no one will disagree with it.

Same meaning here.



Primary Purpose –

(A) – The passage does list the risks associated with the 2 strategies. But that is not all the passage is doing. If you look at the first sentence of the second paragraph, it is talking about the advantages of the hard-sell approach. The same paragraph then talks about the risks/disadvantages of the strategy. Similarly, the later stages of the second paragraph and the third paragraph talk about the advantages of the soft-sell approach, while the fourth paragraph hints at its disadvantages. Based on this information, the passage is not focusing on just the risks associated with the 2 approaches, but gives us a wide view of the pros and cons of the 2 approaches in question. Therefore, according to the passage, both approaches have positive and negative aspects.

Another reason why A is incorrect is because the passage is not focused on the risks of A PARTICULAR STRATEGY. That is incorrect. It is focused on 2 strategies.

Passage 30

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – The passage first talks about the evidence that was found indicating/ providing clues to the significant radiations during Ordovician period. (Next author might elaborate the evidence or describe further what role did the radiations play). Then, the author tells us what happens during the radiations: The Marine family expanded. Radiations lasted a long while but the changes in species lasted a short while. Next, the passage is Predicting the cause of the Ordovician radiation through ecological evidence and then concluding that the evidence is not enough to make concrete statements on the actual relationship.

Note –

1.
(1) However, the actual relationship between these environmental factors and the diversification of life-forms is not yet fully understood.

(2) In this instance, rather than leading to large-scale extinctions, these kinds of environmental changes **may have resulted in an enriched pattern of habitats and nutrients**, which in turn gave rise to the Ordovician radiation.

Now, if, for a second, we consider (2) to be the author's personal opinion, then, immediately after stating his/her own hypothesis, the author is challenging this statement, in a way - "the actual relationship is not fully understood" --> the author's speculation made above is being proved wrong by the author in the next line. This cannot happen in an RC passage since we know the author cannot have a wavering opinion. So, these statements are not the author's **personal opinions**. The imperfect conclusion derived in line (2) is not by the author, and it is also not challengeable. Therefore, the passage is a neutral tone passage with no opinion.

2. "These families included species that would dominate...) is not a prediction of the future is because as it is used here, "would dominate" talks about the future with respect to the past. The radiations took place 440 - 510 million years ago, that gave rise to the species that would dominate in the next 215 million years (from the radiations in the ordovician period), and not the next 215 million years from *today*. So, this statement is not a prediction and therefore not the author's personal opinion. It's purely factual.

Primary Purpose –

(B) – The main idea of the passage is: The passage talks about a phenomenon, explains its cause, and then says that the cause may not be true. Thus, the passage explains a phenomenon (effect of radiation) and then speculates about the cause (relationship b/w env factors and life forms is not fully understood). Hence, Option (B) is correct.

Passage 31

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

To understand the tone – Look at the last line in the passage - 'The labour theory of value must take blame.' This is a strong opinion about how Locke and his theory are wrong. Even the part ('Although...') clearly tells us the author does not agree with this theory, Then the author spends ink explaining why the theory is inadequate, and finally spells that out to be so.

Passage 32

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – The author does not have an opinion here - positive or negative. They are just stating facts, and there is no scope of taking any sides. So, the tone is neutral.

Primary Purpose – The situation the author describes is anomalous. Tamarin monkeys are an exception to the general rule in nature that if body size is smaller, the number of members in the species is larger and vice versa. That being said, here it is crucial to digress slightly and bring to your attention the line the author mentions to denote scarcity of the Tamarin monkeys is absolutely wrong. This line - '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' means that the two Tamarin monkey species are 2nd and 3rd *most abundant*, which is diametrically opposite to what the author is trying to say, but we have to understand it and live with it. The Pygmy Marmoset is even smaller than the Tamarin Monkey, and is the least abundant species in that ecosystem - so they are an exception to the general rule stated above too.

Coming back to our passage, this incredible error in writing notwithstanding, the author means to say these monkeys are small individually, but their numbers are not voluminous as expected. They also mention the body weight per unit area of habitat to drive home the point that Tamarin Monkeys are very small individually when compared to the area they occupy (further bolstered by the facts about the sizes of their habitats later on in the passage). So overall, the author is simply stating facts to describe an anomalous situation, and not doing anything else. It should take you about 10 seconds total, after reading the passage, to eliminate all other answer choices but Option (C).

(C) – From the passage... "To emphasize just how anomalously rare tamarins are" implies the passage is just about analysis of tamarins and comparing them to other primate species and understanding how rare the tamarins are. This is more or less "describing an unusual condition". Also, tones of both "emphasis" and "describe" are neutral, so there is no discrepancy in terms of tones. Hence, Option (C) is correct for these additional reasons.

Passage 33

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – “These galaxies may well constitute an answer to the long-standing puzzle...”: This may well be a statement from the author but it does not encapsulate the entire passage. The passage is not concerned with the missing baryonic mass. The passage is about very dim galaxies. The whole discussion around baryonic mass is to point out the significance of very dim galaxies.

Primary Purpose – We can arrive at Option (A) using POE:

(B) – The author is not contrasting between any two phenomena here. And discusses nothing about a puzzling difference therein. Eliminate.

(C) - The galaxies are newly discovered true, but the author does not go into details of their origins at all. Eliminate.

(D) - The author does compare the physical properties of two classes of objects (the brighter, conventional galaxies and the low surface luminosity ones), but very briefly right at the start. The primary purpose is most definitely not this. The passage goes on to say a lot more about a lot of other things. Eliminate.

(E) - There is no inconsistency with existing theory that is being pointed out (just that up till now researchers and astronomers didn't know where the balance of the Baryons was, and the discovery of these new dim galaxies provides a possible source where the extra Baryons may be). Eliminate.

Coming to Option (A), the scientific phenomenon is the presence of low-surface-brightness galaxies in the universe. The scientific significance is that these galaxies may help to explain where all the 'missing' Baryonic mass in the universe is (or at least a portion of it).

Note – In Option (A), 'phenomenon' fits the bill here.

For example: volcanoes are interesting phenomena. This sentence is correct. 'Phenomena' here refers to something that is seen or observed in nature.

Similarly, the use of 'phenomenon' here makes sense and therefore A is correct.

Passage 34

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – In the first paragraph (P1), the author argues that a certain business practice isn't always beneficial:

- He/she states that improving service doesn't always create a competitive advantage
- Improving service must be weighed against other potential investments, and it isn't worth the money if a company is already "on par" with competitors.

In the second paragraph, the author provides an example to support his/her argument in P1

- A local bank improved service but did not improve its competitive position.
- The author provides two reasons why this initiative failed and one small "merit" of the initiative.

The tone of the passage is neutral since it is completely factual. Take this sentence for example:

"This truth was not apparent to managers of one regional bank, which failed to improve its competitive position despite its investment in reducing the time a customer had to wait for a teller."

This is completely factual without the author giving an opinion that is either positive or negative (and this is pervasive throughout the passage). Even if we consider an implied criticism, the author offers a suggestion, which thus becomes the crux.

"Investments in service, like those in production and distribution, **must be balanced(suggestion)** against other types of investments on the basis of direct, tangible benefits such as cost reduction and increased revenues."

The passage clearly talks about aspects to evaluate when investing in service. This is clearly brought out in **Option (B)**.

(Thus, an investment in service must be carefully analyzed to determine if it will reduce costs or increase revenues). Basically, the author thinks that companies should carefully evaluate service investments before making them, just as they would carefully evaluate production and distribution investments.

Passage 34



Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – In the lines from the first para: "If a company is already effectively on par...investment in higher service levels may be wasted", the author is not criticising against investing in superior service. The author is providing an instance of what s/he suggests above - that if a decision to invest is not carefully evaluated, your money might be wasted.

For example, if I say, "If you already have good skin then you may be wasting your money if you take this cosmetic treatment." This does not mean that I'm criticising the cosmetic treatment, just that it may not help you.

Passage 35

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – There are a few characters / groups here, and the passage simply lays out the situation / point of view of each.

Castañeda - She is a scholar / researcher who is doing research on the situation of (primarily) Mexican (who are also Hispanics) women in the nineteenth century, as portrayed through literature. She has found a few things, which the passage is going into the details of.

- The author introduces the subject studied by Castañeda: "nineteenth-century literary portrayals of Mexican women"

Women in general and non-Hispanic women - Castaneda has found that, primarily through literary renditions created by male novelists of the era, nineteenth century women in general (including non-Hispanic women) suffered from a threat to their traditional economic roles due to industrialization. Also, the literary renditions of these women were mostly limited to that of being in the roles of wives and mothers.

- Some scholars make an observation about male novelists in the US as a whole: they "define women solely in their domestic roles of wife and mother."
- These scholars provide a reason for the observation above: "women's traditional economic role in home-based agriculture was threatened by the transition to a factory-based industrial economy"

Hispanic / Mexican women - Note firstly that Hispanic is a broader term that includes other origins than Mexican, but Mexican is included among Hispanics. Coming to the passage, the point about the other women in general notwithstanding, Castaneda has found something strange about the way Mexican women of California (Californianas) were treated. The economic positions of these women were protected by laws that ensured property and inheritance rights.

- Castaneda notes a difference between Californianas and non-hispanic women: "California protected the economic position of "Californianas" by ensuring them property rights and inheritance rights equal to those of males."

Castaneda thinks that the reasons for such preferential treatment of Californianas are a few - the idea of ambitious merchants marrying elite Californianas was glamourized by primarily male, non-Hispanic authors of the time, and truly, economic benefits and alliances were forged through such marriages during the era.

Overall, the purpose of this paragraph is to introduce Castaneda's area of research (literary portrayals of Mexican women), and explain one of Castaneda's findings (the difference in economic status between Californianas and other American women). The author talks about economic status in order to explain how women are portrayed in literature - male novelists only wrote about women in a wife or mother role because their economic role was threatened by the transition to industrialization. BUT, the economic role of Californianas was more protected than the economic role of other women.

Moreover, in the societal context within which these novels existed, it was the exception rather than the norm for Californianas to be portrayed favourably in literature. So, the author says this is something to be noted and recognized: "These novels' favorable portrayal of such women is noteworthy...". The author does not necessarily gives an opinion here as to whether the favourable depiction was a good or a bad thing.

Note – "Noteworthy" does not imply a positive tone whatsoever. We can say Hitler was a noteworthy figure in history. This cannot be denied. Does that mean I am being positive about Hitler? It's a fact about Hitler.

Passage 36

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – This passage has a balanced tone. Balanced is not just about positives and negatives in their truest forms. Think of when in the real world someone's tone / behaviour is balanced.

It's not like they don't see / mention positives and negatives in things, they just see both. If someone doesn't mention any positives / negatives about anything, then they are neutral about it.

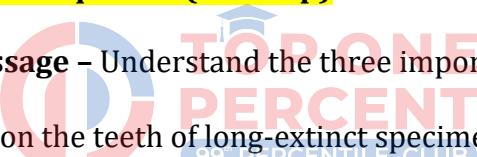
In this passage, in the first paragraph, the author says (his own opinion) that micro-wear patterns on teeth may provide evidence about diets. Then he gives examples of secondary sources as to why this may be true.

In the second paragraph he expands on the possibility that such patterns may not actually provide evidence of diets.

As he hasn't blatantly said only side - that he belies only side of the possibility to be true, he is being balanced here.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – Understand the three important locations here -

- 
- (1) Micro-wear patterns found on the teeth of long-extinct specimens of the primate species australopithecine may provide evidence about their diets.
 - (2) However, research on the diets of contemporary primates suggests that micro-wear studies may have limited utility in determining the foods that are actually eaten.
 - (3) Thus, Walker's description of possible australopithecine diets may need to be expanded to include a much more diverse diet.

The first is the author's personal opinion - a guess/conjecture that this method might work --> positive

The second is an imperfect conclusion derived from a particular research, which is again a guess/conjecture, stating that this method has **limited (negative) utility (positive)**.

The third line is also the author's personal opinion that this method 'may need to be expanded' in a way, suggesting that right now it has certain limitations.

So, the tone of the passage is clearly balanced.

Q1.

(B) – “a species’ diet” is not a generalization here - the passage is about the dietary habits of only one species (australopithecine). So there is no generalization when the correct answer talks about a species.

Passage 37

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Primary Purpose – The passage begins with a question: "Is there a black hole...?" It then says that the evidence remains inconclusive and goes on to explain why that is the case. Some evidence suggests that a black hole must exist, and certain other evidence indicates otherwise (this is the content of the passage). Then the passage, without doubt, is explaining why a certain issue remains unresolved (the issue being the question of whether a black hole exists at the centre of our galaxy, and the reason why the question / issue is unresolved being all these conflicting pieces of evidence).

Also, "Explain" basically signifies a neutral tone: irrespective of whether the author has an opinion (neutral tone) or whether the author has no opinion (he just states facts- neutral tone).

Hence, **(D)** is the correct answer here.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

What is this entire discussion centred around? It is centred around the question "Is there a massive black hole at the center of our galaxy?" and the answer "the evidence is conclusive".

Understand how the passage has been constructed from this point onwards. The passage talks about "dynamical evidence" that can be used to calculate the mass at the centre of our galaxy. The passage then talks about a "serious problem". What is this serious problem? The energy coming from the galactic centre, when measured against the theoretical value using prevalent theories, was off by a factor of 1000. So what does this mean? Is there a black hole at the centre of the galaxy or not? The answer is we don't know. So our entire discussion, the theories presented and the evidence put forth was to answer the question "Is there a massive black hole at the centre of the galaxy or not?"

Sure, the passage presents evidence that calls into question certain assumptions of a current theory, but that is not what the passage is centred around. The entire time, the passage is trying to assess the possibility of a massive black hole at the center of our galaxy. So **E** is incorrect.

Passage 38

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – If you look at the first paragraph, the opinion that Melville is a deficient writer is that of critics. The author mentions multiple shortcomings that critics point out. However, at the first contradictory word ('However', start of second paragraph), the author makes it clear that they themselves don't agree with at least one of these accusations of shortcoming (that Melville is a deficient writer because he is not a practitioner of the 'art of fiction' as defined by these artists). Then the author goes on to explain why they think so - that is, why they think Melville is not deficient, but is 'different', and should be judged differently.

This is the reason Option **(E)** is the correct answer as well.

Here, the author of the passage actually criticizes the criticism given by other critics towards Herman Melville. The main purpose of the author as shown in the entire passage is to counter the criticism of Herman Melville. That is why this is a negative tone.

Passage 39

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – The tone of the passage is negative. As the author criticizes the two theories. Look at the following key words and phrases:

“Neither **quite** explains... **extreme** views...”

--this theory of tragedy is an **oversimplification (implied opinion)**

--**confuses...does not acknowledge** etc.

Note – None of the options has ACE. This should be enough to tell you that the tone isn't balanced. The entire passage is about limitations of the two approaches.

Essentially what the author starts by saying is that these two theories have been used to explain tragedy. But then she says that the first theory is an oversimplification. The author then explains his point and gives an explanation as to why she believes that the theory is an oversimplification. This is definitely negative towards the theory.

For the second theory, the author says that the second theory states that hubris is the reason for all tragedy but the author counters that by saying that hubris is just a precipitating agent. Both these contradiction location give us author's opinion in this case.

Even when you see the passage as a whole, the author is not concerned with giving facts about these theories but she is in a way evaluating these theories and in that criticizing these theories explicitly.

Passage 40

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Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q1.

The criticism in the passage is not towards the financiers per se but towards the reasons/arguments advanced by conventional wisdom about a certain economic phenomenon. Option B can be eliminated because -

1. It's a 'prediction' answer choice and can be eliminated as per OCTAVE.
2. It cannot be verified from the passage that educating financiers 'will' certainly make them less prone to raise interest rates in response to deficits.
3. This is not the CRUX of the passage.

Passage 42

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

To understand the author's opinion – In the lines: “but their understanding of child labor and their legislative solutions for ending it **failed to take account (negative tone...this is an oversight)** of the economic needs of working-class families. The author is talking about how reformers missed some key aspects (OVERSIGHT). So, the negative tone is towards/signifying the apparent OVERSIGHT OF REFORMERS. The author himself has NO OPINION on this subject ... he does not lay out any of his opinion on the subject (only says how REFORMERS missed something ... How the author personally feels about this subject is not laid out at all).

Passage 43**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip) + alternate sol****Q1.****Additional context on the passage –**

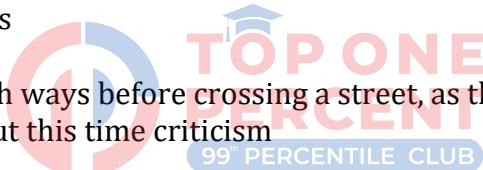
- Initially, the author introduces ecoefficiency and the view of two individuals that it could actually harm the environment.
- Then, the author explains how ecoefficiency could harm the environment.
- Finally, the author recommends an alternative approach that, while including ecoefficiency, would preserve the environment.

Note – The author is not making any suggestion even if it seems that the author is supporting Senge and Carstedt. For example: My best friend, whom i admire a lot, suggested that India should invest in modern technology. The author is still not suggesting.

The tone of the passage is neutral.

The last line: "Focusing exclusively...may distract companies..." is not criticism; it is a mere statement (sure is an opinion, but not positive or negative).

If you don't look both ways before crossing a street, you may expose yourself to the risk of being hit by a car - my opinion, expressed as is



You are a fool for not looking both ways before crossing a street, as this exposes you to the risk of being hit by a car - again my opinion, but this time criticism

(B) – It says that the business strategy discussed in the passage "**has inadvertently caused ecological damage.**" For this to be accurate, we need some evidence from the passage that ecoefficiency has **already** caused ecological damage. That's not quite right. Senge and Carstedt actually argue that "simply adopting ecoefficiency innovations could actually worsen environmental stresses **in the future.**" In addition, this option states that the primary purpose of the passage is to "propose an alternative" to ecoefficiency. It's true that Senge/Carstedt believe that "businesses must develop a new systemic approach that reduces total material use and total accumulated waste." But that does not imply a proposal of an alternative. They are just saying that businesses must somehow come up with a new approach that fixes the issues of ecoefficiency. They haven't actually proposed a way to accomplish that goal. **Therefore, Option (B) is incorrect.**

(C) – The particular business strategy discussed is ecoefficiency. The author begins by introducing the strategy and goes on to discuss the possible harmful effects of that strategy. This is precisely what (C) describes, so it is the best answer choice.

(D) – The problem with this is that the author does not contend that *ecoefficiency* should be practiced on a larger scale. Rather, the author points out the potential harmful effects of ecoefficiency, and then he/she recommends **additional** factors that must be taken into account (total material use and accumulated waster). But these two factors are not addressed by ecoefficiency, and the author does not argue that ecoefficiency should be applied on a larger scale. Therefore, Option (D) is incorrect.

Passage 45**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

This passage describes a **proposed** new way to approach clinical trials that appears to simplify and streamline the process and that allows for a much larger sample that could include a more diverse pool of patients. The passage also contrasts the proposal with the current way clinical trials are conducted. Although the passage appears to present the more favorable aspects of the proposal, the passage is still descriptive in nature. The author has no opinion whatsoever. He/she only presents the suggestions made by Frazer and Mosteller.

Primary Purpose – As we have noted earlier, the purpose of this passage is to discuss the Frazier and Mosteller's proposal.

(A) – The proposal has two aspects, but that doesn't necessarily equate to two different practices, so there's our first problem with A. The other issue is that we're not given any indication as to which of the two clinical trial methods (current or the F&M proposal) is any more accurate. In other words, accuracy is not necessarily a factor here at all. The F&M proposal centers on efficiency and simplification.

(B) – The passage discusses how current practices tend to drive up costs, but can that be described as the primary purpose of the passage? No way. This is a classic case of something that happened but that's way too narrow in focus.

(C) – This option has two problems: 1, it literally says evaluating and analysis. Is this passage evaluating analysis? No, it's discussing the how the proposed F&M method could help improve efficiency of clinical trials. Two, the discussion on the shortcomings of current research practices is only a portion of the focus of this passage. The passage also discusses some of the benefits that might accompany the F&M approach.

(D) – Point of this passage is to discuss the changes called for in the F&M proposal. **Correct.**

(E) – The passage does explain how medical researchers have traditionally conducted clinical trials. The first half of this option is correct in that regard, but do we know that the F&M proposal is likely to be implemented? So how do we know how such trials are likely to change? We don't, and that's why this option is wrong. This is a classic half right/half wrong option.

Note – The lines “Patients’ ages may also affect a treatment’s efficacy.” may well be construed as a fact from the author but this is restricted to his words about a particular example. The fact itself has no bearing on the argument as a whole. Therefore, this is not author's purpose.

Additional context on the passage –

Paragraph 1: (Discussion) Current (more background) vs Frazier and Mosteller (large & simple)

Paragraph 2: (Discussion) Benefits of Frazier and Mosteller

Passage 46**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

(C) – The passage starts off by saying oral discourse on women's experiences is, along with and next to written histories, the best 'methodology' (uses the exact word) to bring historians close to what has been the reality of women's lives. In simple, non-circuitous words - oral narratives, along with written histories, are the best methodologies to bring out how women's lives and realities have been shaped. So the passage 10000% talks about two methodologies. Then it goes on to explain briefly why oral narratives are so good. Then it goes on to caution against accepting oral narratives simply as is - they are not without their fair share of problems. The passage describes what some of those problems may be.

Passage 47**Top 1% expert replies to student queries**

Additional context on the passage – In the first paragraph, the author describes the shortcomings of the strategy used in the 60s and 70s (attracting manufacturing industries).

In the second paragraph, the author describes the shortcomings of the strategy used in the 80s ("high-technology development"). Much of this paragraph is devoted to a discussion of the shortcomings of HTD, but the author briefly mentions what appears to be a potential advantage of HTD in the second sentence of the paragraph. He/she says "this approach was preferable to victimizing other geographical areas by taking their jobs....". In other words, unlike the strategy discussed in the first paragraph, HTD did not aim to lure **existing** manufacturing facilities from one geography to another. Instead, by attempting to attract **newly** formed high-technology firms, HTD provided jobs to one area without stealing jobs from another area.

Then in the third paragraph, the author discusses the *advantages* of a third strategy (the promotion of homegrown small businesses, which are created by local entrepreneurs). This is a debatable stance: "The advantage of this strategy was that local businesses...".

Therefore, the tone of the passage is **balanced** and not neutral. Also note that in a social context, advantages / shortcomings are personal opinions.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Primary Purpose – This is what the passage is saying - Earlier, manufacturing firms were attracted by local governments to develop their (the governments') economies, but at the cost of the communities from which such firms were attracted. Then governments moved to a second strategy - attract high technology, newly-formed manufacturing companies to the governments' areas. But this strategy had its own share of problems - most notably that these firms only employed a small slice of the local workforces, and that the number of such firms was also low. Then came a third strategy - promotion of small, indigenous (here 'indigenous' does not denote the first nation communities of the US / Canada, but the local communities of a particular place) businesses by local entrepreneurs. No major shortcoming of this strategy has been mentioned; based on the passage, it seems like this is a strong and good strategy to build local economies.

Now let's look at the primary purpose question *only* on this basis:

(A) - Does the author only talk about high tech manufacturers? They are but a small part of the passage, certainly not the main idea. This option is eliminated

(B) - Private sector is not even talked about. This option is eliminated.

(C) - Not really countering any adverse criticisms of such programs. Not even mentioning any explicit criticism from another source. The author himself / herself has mentioned shortcomings where applicable. This option is eliminated.

(D) - Define and explore. What does this even mean? Have any of the strategies been named / defined per se? A strategy cannot be 'defined' anyway. Definition is for terms / concepts that have an ubiquitous meaning to begin with. Exploration may have happened, but I already see Option (E) fits the bill absolutely perfectly as to what the author has been doing in this passage. I eliminate this option and move on.

(E) - The author has reviewed the various strategies used to stimulate economic development in local communities. The author has also evaluated those strategies - the pros and cons. The author does not really have anything bad to say about the last strategy and this is again a reminder to you that *meaning* will trump memorization (you may not think 'evaluate' is applicable if it's all positive or whatever). So yes, the author has reviewed these strategies and evaluated them. We will select this option.

Passage 48

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – The fact that the GDP can mask this erosion and portray it as positive erroneously is not a positive fact by any means. the passage is negative in tone and critical of GDP as a factor that indicates financial well-being of an economy. The passage essentially says, at its heart, that the GDP, while a universal measure, is inadequate. That is what the passage is about. It says GDP measures the value of goods and services produced, but fails to take into account erosion of the environment and other such factors. *Not only that* (that is to say, as if this much inadequacy / having this much of a shortcoming was not enough), the GDP is even worse (even more negative tone). Forget taking into account the ill-effects of environmental erosion, the way GDP is calculated, if economic gains are obtained at the cost of environmental erosion, that is actually considered good. So overall, the GDP is a very inadequate measure. That is what the passage says.



RC Inference Questions

Note: Of the 36 questions in the Verbal Section, about 12 questions (both RC and CR combined) are based on Inference – about one-third of the Verbal Section. Inference questions are always challenging for most students because of extremely close option choices.

Approach:

1. Inferences are absolutely (100%) correct and can be safely and logically deduced / derived from the passage without any ambiguity.
2. Inference questions play out like “**treasure hunt**”; the answer lies right within the passage but is masked / hidden / difficult to spot. You have to uncover inferences with some effort.
3. There is a difference between “inference” and “assumption”. Either inferences are given in the passage (indirectly) or they are deducible / derivable from the information given. Essentially, any inference is a logical conclusion that can be derived from the information presented in the passage. So, inferences are definitely present in the passage but may be difficult to find. Assumptions, on the other hand, aren’t present in the passage. They are unstated. They are required by the argument for the conclusion of the argument to be valid.
4. The best approach to solve any inference question is OCTAAVE, especially the **AAVE** part of OCTAAVE.
5. Eliminate wrong answers. NEVER, EVER, try to justify why the right answer is right. OCTAAVE will help you identify all the wrong answers using Awareness, Avoid, Verify, and Eliminate, BUT please don’t be fixated on understanding WHY the right answer is right. Your entire focus should be on why the wrong answers are wrong.
6. No matter what happens, don’t mark the answer without verifying. **PUT YOUR FINGER ON IT.**
7. Use the Avoid part of OCTAVE extensively. You can easily eliminate many wrong answers.

Inference questions in RC – Illustration Exercise (Use OCT-AAVE)

(Detailed solutions explained in Video 4: passages 1 to 8)

Passage 1

This passage was written in 1980.

Since the early 1970's, historians have begun to devote serious attention to the working class in the United States. Yet while we now have studies of working-class communities and culture, we know remarkably little of worklessness. When historians have paid any attention at all to unemployment, they have focused on the Great Depression of the 1930's. By examining the period between 1870-1920, Alexander Keyssar, in his recent book, takes a different approach. Keyssar concentrates on Massachusetts, where the historical materials are particularly rich, and the findings applicable to other industrial areas.

The unemployment rates that Keyssar calculates appear to be relatively modest, at least by Great Depression standards: during the worst years, in the 1870's and 1890's, unemployment was around 15 percent. Yet Keyssar rightly understands that a better way to measure the impact of unemployment is to calculate unemployment frequencies—measuring the percentage of workers who experience any unemployment in the course of a year. Given this perspective, joblessness looms much larger.

Keyssar also scrutinizes unemployment patterns according to skill level, ethnicity, race, age, class, and gender. He finds that rates of joblessness differed primarily according to class: those in middle-class and white-collar occupations were far less likely to be unemployed. Yet the impact of unemployment on a specific class was not always the same. Even when dependent on the same trade, adjoining communities and places could have dramatically different unemployment rates. Keyssar uses these differential rates to help explain a phenomenon that has puzzled historians—the startlingly high rate of geographical mobility in the nineteenth-century United States. But mobility was not the dominant working-class strategy for coping with unemployment, nor was assistance from private charities or state agencies. Self-help

and the help of kin got most workers through jobless spells.

While Keyssar should have spent more time developing the implications of his findings on joblessness for contemporary public policy, his study, in its thorough research and creative use of quantitative and qualitative evidence, is a model of historical analysis.

1. **The passage suggests that before the early 1970's, which of the following was true of the study by historians of unemployment in the United States?**
 - A. The study was infrequent or superficial, or both.
 - B. The study was repeatedly criticized by many people for its allegedly narrow focus.
 - C. The study relied more on qualitative than quantitative evidence.
 - D. The study focused more on the working-class community than on working-class culture.
 - E. The study ignored working-class joblessness during the Great Depression.

2. **Which of the following statements about the unemployment rate during the Great Depression can be inferred from the passage?**
 - A. It was sometimes higher than 15 percent.
 - B. It has been analyzed seriously only since the early 1970's.
 - C. It can be calculated more easily than can unemployment frequency.
 - D. It was never as high as the rate during the 1870's.
 - E. It has been shown by Keyssar to be lower than previously thought.

This passage was written in 1980.

Since the early 1970's, historians have begun to devote serious attention to the working class in the United States. Yet while we now have studies of working-class communities and culture, we know remarkably little of worklessness. When historians have paid any attention at all to unemployment, they have focused on the Great Depression of the 1930's. By examining the period between 1870-1920, Alexander Keyssar, in his recent book, takes a different approach. Keyssar concentrates on Massachusetts, where the historical materials are particularly rich, and the findings applicable to other industrial areas.

The unemployment rates that Keyssar calculates appear to be relatively modest, at least by Great Depression standards: during the worst years, in the 1870's and 1890's, unemployment was around 15 percent. Yet Keyssar rightly understands that a better way to measure the impact of unemployment is to calculate unemployment frequencies—measuring the percentage of workers who experience any unemployment in the course of a year. Given this perspective, joblessness looms much larger.

Keyssar also scrutinizes unemployment patterns according to skill level, ethnicity, race, age, class, and gender. He finds that rates of joblessness differed primarily according to class: those in middle-class and white-collar occupations were far less likely to be unemployed. Yet the impact of unemployment on a specific class was not always the same. Even when dependent on the same trade, adjoining communities and places could have dramatically different unemployment rates. Keyssar uses these differential rates to help explain a phenomenon that has puzzled historians—the startlingly high rate of geographical mobility in the nineteenth-century United States. But mobility was not the dominant working-class strategy for coping with unemployment, nor was assistance from private charities or state agencies. Self-help and the help of kin got most workers through jobless spells.

While Keyssar should have spent more time developing the implications of his findings on joblessness for contemporary public policy, his study, in its thorough research and creative use of quantitative and qualitative evidence, is a model of historical analysis.

3. According to the passage, which of the following is true of Keyssar's findings concerning unemployment in Massachusetts?
 - A. They tend to contradict earlier findings about such unemployment.
 - B. They are possible because Massachusetts has the most easily accessible historical records.
 - C. They are the first to mention the existence of high rates of geographical mobility in the nineteenth century.
 - D. They are relevant to a historical understanding of the nature of unemployment in other states.
 - E. They have caused historians to reconsider the role of the working class during the Great Depression.

4. According to the passage, which of the following is true of the unemployment rates mentioned in the passage?
 - A. They hovered, on average, around 15 percent during the period 1870-1920.
 - B. They give less than a full sense of the impact of unemployment on working-class people.
 - C. They overestimate the importance of middle class and white-collar unemployment.
 - D. They have been considered by many historians to underestimate the extent of working-class unemployment.
 - E. They are more open to question when calculated for years other than those of peak recession.

This passage was written in 1980.

Since the early 1970's, historians have begun to devote serious attention to the working class in the United States. Yet while we now have extensive studies of working-class communities and culture, we know remarkably little of worklessness. When historians have paid any attention at all to unemployment, they have focused on the Great Depression of the 1930's. The narrowness of this perspective ignores the pervasive recessions and joblessness of the previous decades, as Alexander Keyssar shows in his recent book. Examining the period 1870-1920, Keyssar concentrates on Massachusetts, where the historical materials are particularly rich, and the findings applicable to other industrial areas.

The unemployment rates that Keyssar calculates appear to be relatively modest, at least by Great Depression standards: during the worst years, in the 1870's and 1890's, unemployment was around 15 percent. Yet Keyssar rightly understands that a better way to measure the impact of unemployment is to calculate unemployment frequencies—measuring the percentage of workers who experience any unemployment in the course of a year. Given this perspective, joblessness looms much larger.

Keyssar also finds that rates of joblessness differed according to class: those in middle-class and white-collar occupations were far less likely to be unemployed. The impact of unemployment on a specific class was not always the same. Even when dependent on the same trade, adjoining communities and places could have dramatically different unemployment rates. Keyssar uses these differential rates to help explain a phenomenon that has puzzled historians—the startlingly high rate of geographical mobility in the nineteenth-century United States.

While Keyssar could have spent more time developing the implications of his findings on joblessness for contemporary public policy, his study, in its thorough research and creative use of quantitative and qualitative evidence, is a model of historical analysis.

5. According to the passage, Keyssar considers which of the following to be among the important predictors of the likelihood that a particular person would be unemployed in late nineteenth-century Massachusetts?
 - I. The person's class
 - II. Where the person lived or worked
 - III. The person's age
 - A. I only
 - B. II only
 - C. I and II only
 - D. I and III only
 - E. I, II, and III
6. Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support Keyssar's findings as they are described by the author?
 - A. Boston, Massachusetts, and Quincy, Massachusetts, adjoining communities, had a higher rate of unemployment for working-class people in 1870 than in 1890.
 - B. White-collar professionals such as attorneys had as much trouble as day laborers in maintaining a steady level of employment throughout the period 1870-1920.
 - C. Working-class women living in Cambridge, Massachusetts, were more likely than working-class men living in Cambridge to be unemployed for some period of time during the year 1873.
 - D. In the 1890's, shoe-factory workers moved away in large numbers from Chelmsford, Massachusetts, where shoe factories were being replaced by other industries, to adjoining West Chelmsford, where the shoe industry flourished.
 - E. In the late nineteenth century, workers of all classes in Massachusetts were more likely than workers of all classes in other states to move their place of residence from one location to another within the state.

Passage 2

Kazuko Nakane's history of the early Japanese immigrants to central California's Pajaro Valley focuses on the development of farming communities there from 1890 to 1940. The Issei (first-generation immigrants) were brought into the Pajaro Valley to raise sugar beets. Like Issei laborers in American cities, Japanese men in rural areas sought employment via the "boss" system. The system comprised three elements: immigrant wage laborers; Issei boardinghouses where laborers stayed; and labor contractors, who gathered workers for a particular job and then negotiated a contract between workers and employer. This same system was originally utilized by the Chinese laborers who had preceded the Japanese. A related institution was the "labor club," which provided job information and negotiated employment contracts and other legal matters, such as the rental of land, for Issei who chose to belong and paid an annual fee to the cooperative for membership.

When the local sugar beet industry collapsed in 1902, the Issei began to lease land from the valley's strawberry farmers. The Japanese provided the labor and the crop was divided between laborers and landowners. The Issei thus moved quickly from wage-labor employment to sharecropping agreements. A limited amount of economic progress was made as some Issei were able to rent or buy farmland directly, while others joined together to form farming corporations. As the Issei began to operate farms, they began to marry and start families, forming an established Japanese American community. Unfortunately, the Issei's efforts to attain agricultural independence were hampered by government restrictions, such as the Alien Land Law of 1913. But immigrants could circumvent such exclusionary laws by leasing or purchasing land in their American-born children's names.

Nakane's case study of one rural Japanese American community provides valuable information about the lives and experiences of the Issei. It is, however, too particularistic. Nakane's methodology cannot substitute for a broader theoretical or comparative perspective. Future research should consider two issues raised by her study: were the Issei of the Pajaro Valley similar to or different from Issei in urban settings, and what variations existed between rural Japanese American communities?

7. **It can be inferred that the passage is trying to:**
 - A. defend a controversial hypothesis presented in a history of early Japanese immigrants to California
 - B. dismiss a history of an early Japanese settlement in California as narrow and ill constructed
 - C. critique a history of an early Japanese settlement in California
 - D. compare a history of one Japanese American community with studies of Japanese settlements throughout California
 - E. examine the differences between Japanese and Chinese immigrants to central California in the 1890's

8. **The author of the passage would most likely agree that which of the following, if it had been included in Nakane's study, would best remedy the particularistic nature of that study?**
 - A. A statistical table comparing per capita income of Issei wage laborers and sharecroppers in the Pajaro Valley
 - B. A statistical table showing per capita income of Issei in the Pajaro Valley from 1890 to 1940
 - C. A statistical table showing rates of farm ownership by Japanese Americans in four central California counties from 1890 to 1940
 - D. A discussion of original company documents dealing with the Pajaro Valley sugar beet industry at the turn of the century
 - E. Transcripts of interviews conducted with members of the Pajaro Valley Japanese American community who were born in the 1920's and 1930's.

9. **It can be inferred from the passage that, when the Issei began to lease land from the Valley's strawberry farmers, the Issei most probably did which of the following?**
 - A. They used profits made from selling the strawberry crop to hire other Issei.
 - B. They negotiated such agricultural contracts using the "boss" system.
 - C. They paid for the use of the land with a share of the strawberry crop.
 - D. They earned higher wages than when they raised sugar beets.
 - E. They violated the Alien Land Law.

Kazuko Nakane's history of the early Japanese immigrants to central California's Pajaro Valley focuses on the development of farming communities there from 1890 to 1940. The Issei (first-generation immigrants) were brought into the Pajaro Valley to raise sugar beets. Like Issei laborers in American cities, Japanese men in rural areas sought employment via the "boss" system. The system comprised three elements: immigrant wage laborers; Issei boardinghouses where laborers stayed; and labor contractors, who gathered workers for a particular job and then negotiated a contract between workers and employer. This same system was originally utilized by the Chinese laborers who had preceded the Japanese. A related institution was the "labor club," which provided job information and negotiated employment contracts and other legal matters, such as the rental of land, for Issei who chose to belong and paid an annual fee to the cooperative for membership.

When the local sugar beet industry collapsed in 1902, the Issei began to lease land from the valley's strawberry farmers. The Japanese provided the labor and the crop was divided between laborers and landowners. The Issei thus moved quickly from wage-labor employment to sharecropping agreements. A limited amount of economic progress was made as some Issei were able to rent or buy farmland directly, while others joined together to form farming corporations. As the Issei began to operate farms, they began to marry and start families, forming an established Japanese American community. Unfortunately, the Issei's efforts to attain agricultural independence were hampered by government restrictions, such as the Alien Land Law of 1913. But immigrants could circumvent such exclusionary laws by leasing or purchasing land in their American-born children's names.

Nakane's case study of one rural Japanese American community provides valuable information about the lives and experiences of the Issei. It is, however, too particularistic. Nakane's methodology cannot substitute for a broader theoretical or comparative perspective. Future research should consider two issues raised by her study: were the Issei of the Pajaro Valley similar to or different from Issei in urban settings, and what variations existed between rural Japanese American communities?

10. Which of the following best describes a "Labor Club," as defined in the passage?

- A. An organization to which Issei were compelled to belong if they sought employment in the Pajaro Valley
- B. An association whose members included labor contractors and landowning "bosses"
- C. A type of farming corporation set up by Issei who had resided in the Pajaro Valley for some time
- D. A cooperative association whose members were dues-paying Japanese laborers
- E. A social organization to which Japanese laborers and their families belonged

11. Based on information in the passage, which of the following statements concerning the Alien Land Law of 1913 is most accurate?

- A. It excluded American-born citizens of Japanese ancestry from landownership.
- B. It sought to restrict the number of foreign immigrants to California.
- C. It successfully prevented Issei from ever purchasing farmland.
- D. It was applicable to first-generation immigrants but not to their American-born children.
- E. It was passed under pressure from the Pajaro Valley's strawberry farmers.



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Kazuko Nakane's history of the early Japanese immigrants to central California's Pajaro Valley focuses on the development of farming communities there from 1890 to 1940. The Issei (first-generation immigrants) were brought into the Pajaro Valley to raise sugar beets. Like Issei laborers in American cities, Japanese men in rural areas sought employment via the "boss" system. The system comprised three elements: immigrant wage laborers; Issei boardinghouses where laborers stayed; and labor contractors, who gathered workers for a particular job and then negotiated a contract between workers and employer. This same system was originally utilized by the Chinese laborers who had preceded the Japanese. A related institution was the "labor club," which provided job information and negotiated employment contracts and other legal matters, such as the rental of land, for Issei who chose to belong and paid an annual fee to the cooperative for membership.

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Nakane's case study of one rural Japanese American community provides valuable information about the lives and experiences of the Issei. It is, however, too particularistic. Nakane's methodology cannot substitute for a broader theoretical or comparative perspective. Future research might well consider two issues raised by her study: were the Issei of the Pajaro Valley similar to or different from Issei in urban settings, and what variations existed between rural Japanese American communities?

12. Several Issei families join together to purchase a strawberry field and the necessary farming equipment. Such a situation best exemplifies which of the following, as it is described in the passage?

- A. A typical sharecropping agreement
- B. A farming corporation
- C. A "labor club"
- D. The "boss" system
- E. Circumvention of the Alien Land Law

13. The passage suggests that which of the following was an indirect consequence of the collapse of the sugar beet industry in the Pajaro Valley?

- A. The Issei formed a permanent, family-based community.
- B. Boardinghouses were built to accommodate the Issei.
- C. The Issei couldn't lease land in their children's names.
- D. The Issei adopted a labor contract system similar to that used by Chinese immigrants.
- E. The Issei suffered a massive dislocation caused by unemployment.



Passage 3

The single-celled parasite known as *Toxoplasma gondii* infects more than half of the world's human population without creating any noticeable symptoms. Once inside the human body, *Toxoplasma* rapidly spreads to the heart and other organs. It can even penetrate the tight barrier that normally protects the brain from most pathogens. Yet, the blood of infected persons carries very few free-floating *Toxoplasma* cells. Scientists have long been puzzled by this ability of *Toxoplasma* to parasitize the human body without triggering an immune response and without an appreciable presence in the bloodstream. Recent research, however, has shed light on the ways in which *Toxoplasma* achieves its remarkable infiltration of the human body.

Though there are few individual *Toxoplasma* cells coursing freely in the blood of an infected person, scientists have discovered that the parasite is quite common in certain cells, known as dendritic cells, involved in the human immune system. Dendritic cells are found in the digestive tract and frequently come into contact with the various pathogens that enter the human body through food and water. When the dendritic cells encounter pathogens, they travel to lymph nodes and relay this information to other immune cells that then take action against the reported pathogen. Scientists have found, however, that *Toxoplasma* is capable of hijacking dendritic cells, forcing them from their usual activity and using them as a form of transportation to infect the human body quickly. Without this transport mechanism, *Toxoplasma* could not reach the better-protected areas of the body.

Toxoplasma invades the human body through consumption of the undercooked meat of infected animals, primarily pigs and chickens. Other animals, such as cats, can become infected as well. In fact, cats are a necessary component in the reproductive cycle of *Toxoplasma*, since the animal's intestines are the parasite's sole breeding ground. *Toxoplasma* creates egg-like cysts, known as oocysts, in the cats' intestines.

These oocysts are shed in the cats' droppings and contaminate ground water and soil, eventually finding their way into the food chain. Because *Toxoplasma* must somehow find its way into a new host cat in order to reproduce, it cannot kill its current host. Instead, it waits for the host, usually a small rodent, to be eaten by a cat, thus providing *Toxoplasma* the opportunity to reproduce.

14. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following statements is true of dendritic cells in the human body?

- A. They are produced by the lymph nodes.
- B. They are more numerous in the digestive tract than in any other part of the human body.
- C. Most dendritic cells of persons infected with *Toxoplasma* carry the parasite.
- D. They are the only cells capable of being infected by *Toxoplasma*.
- E. They are able to penetrate the tight barrier that normally protects the brain from most pathogens.

15. According to the passage, all of the following are true of *Toxoplasma gondii* EXCEPT

- A. it can contaminate ground water
- B. it enters the human body through the food chain
- C. it can alter the usual behavior of dendritic cells
- D. the human body is capable of detecting, fighting, and eliminating it completely without any devastating consequence
- E. it must find a host cat in order to reproduce

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16. The second paragraph performs which of the following functions in the passage?

- A. It summarizes the research that remains to be done regarding *Toxoplasma*.
- B. It presents a recommendation based on the new understanding of *Toxoplasma*.
- C. It describes the mechanism by which *Toxoplasma* is able to parasitize the human body.
- D. It introduces information that is essential to understanding the role of *Toxoplasma* in human development.
- E. It discusses an outdated scientific model that has been discredited and offers a new model in its place.

17. Which of the following is the incontrovertible outcome for *Toxoplasma* cells that invade the human body?

- A. They will be destroyed by the immune system.
- B. They will collect in the lymphatic system.
- C. They will not reproduce.
- D. They will be detected after several weeks.
- E. They will be destroyed by other pathogens in the bloodstream.

18. The author mentions "pigs and chickens" in the final paragraph in order to

- A. provide specific examples of animals that can carry *Toxoplasma*
- B. provide specific examples of animals that are often eaten by cats
- C. provide specific examples of other animals whose dendritic cells are exploited by *Toxoplasma*
- D. provide specific examples of animals in which *Toxoplasma* can breed
- E. provide specific examples of animals that are immune to *Toxoplasma*

Passage 4

The Pan-American land bridge, or isthmus, connecting North and South America was formed volcanically long after dinosaurs became extinct, resulting in a rise of the seabed. The isthmus cleaved populations of marine organisms, creating sister species. These twin species, called “geminates,” then evolved independently, leading to the creation of separate species. Scientists observe, for example, that Pacific pistol shrimp no longer mate with those from the Atlantic Ocean. As the seabed rose, Pacific waters grew cooler, their up-swelling currents carrying rich nutrients, while the Atlantic side grew shallower, warmer, and nutrient poor. These new conditions spawned changes in the shrimp population.

For terrestrial life, the impact of the isthmus was more immediate. Animals traversed the newly formed bridge in both directions, although North American creatures proved better colonizers—more than half of South America’s mammals trace direct lineage to this so-called Great American Biotic Exchange. Only three animals—the armadillo, opossum, and hedgehog—survive as transplants in the North today.

19. Which of the following statements is most readily inferable from the information in the passage?

- A. Species of marine organisms in the Atlantic Ocean number fewer today than before the formation of the Pan-American isthmus.
- B. The number of terrestrial animal species in South America today exceeds the number prior to the formation of the Pan-American isthmus.
- C. Of the indigenous North American species that migrated south across the Pan-American isthmus, more than three survive to this day.
- D. Since the formation of the Pan-American isthmus, fewer terrestrial animals have traveled north across the isthmus than south.
- E. As the Pan-American isthmus began to form, all pistol shrimp migrated west to what is now the Pacific Ocean.

20. Which of the following statements finds the LEAST support in the passage?

- A. Population divergences resulting from the formation of the Pan-American isthmus were more a process than an event.
- B. The divergence in ocean temperature during the formation of the Pan-American isthmus may have resulted in a divergence in the ocean’s nutrient value.
- C. Genetic differences among pistol shrimp have grown to the point that there are now at least two distinct species of these shrimp.
- D. The part of ocean which is now the Pacific experienced no change due to the geologic forces that created the Pan-American isthmus.
- E. After the formation of the Pan-American isthmus, geminate marine organisms began to develop in that area of the ocean.

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- 21. The author mentions the mating habits of pistol shrimp in order to show that**
- Some species of marine organism inhabiting the Pacific Ocean are now entirely distinct from those in the Atlantic Ocean.
 - Twin species of marine organisms can't survive if one species can no longer mate with the other.
 - Since the formation of the Pan-American isthmus, marine geminates in general no longer mate with their sister species.
 - Geminate species that mate with one another can also be considered separate species.
 - The evolutionary impact of the Pan-American isthmus was greater for land animals than for marine organisms.



Passage 5

For years, many U.S. employers have employed a steady flow of laborers from Mexico who readily accept low-skilled, low paying jobs. These workers, many of whom leave economically depressed villages in the Mexican interior, are often more than willing to work for wages well below both the "U.S. Minimum Wage" and the poverty line, a reality duly exploited by many U.S. employers. However, thanks to a dramatic demographic shift currently taking place in Mexico, the seemingly inexhaustible supply of workers migrating from Mexico to the United States might one day greatly diminish if not cease.

Predictions of such a drastic decrease in the number of Mexican immigrants are driven by Mexico's rapidly diminishing population growth. As a result of a decades-long family planning campaign, most Mexicans are having far fewer children than was the norm a generation ago. The campaign, organized around the slogan that "the small family lives better," saw the Mexican government establish family-planning clinics and offer free contraception. For nearly three decades, the government's message concerning population hasn't wavered.

The result of Mexico's efforts to stem population growth is nothing short of stunning. In 1968, the average Mexican woman had six children; today, the figure is two. For two primary reasons, Mexico's new demographics could greatly impact the number of Mexicans seeking work in the U.S. First, smaller families by their nature limit the pool of potential migrants. Second, the slowing of Mexico's population growth has fostered hope that Mexico will develop a healthy middle class of people content to make their livelihoods in their home country.

Though the former of these factors is all but assured, the growth of a healthy middle class is far from any signs of reality. The critical challenge for Mexico is what it does with the next 20 years. Mexico must invest in education, job training, and infrastructure, as well as a social-security system to protect its aging population, which is a direct result of the family planning programs run over many decades. If Mexico is willing to step forward and meet this challenge, America may one day wake up to find that, like cheap gasoline, cheap Mexican labor has become a thing of the past.

22. Which of the following statements can NOT be inferred from the passage?

- A. Due to the government's family planning campaign, Mexico's population is currently diminishing.
- B. On average, Mexican women are having one-third the number of children that they had in 1968.
- C. Many Mexicans still migrate to the United States in search of work.
- D. As a result of declining birth rates, Mexico's population is aging.
- E. A healthy middle class in Mexico has not yet fully developed.

23. Which of the following can be inferred about U.S. employers of Mexican immigrants?

- A. Most of these employers pay Mexican immigrants less money than they pay American citizens.
- B. Some of these employers violate wage laws.
- C. Many of these employers work in the agricultural industry.
- D. Without Mexican immigrants, some of these employers would be forced to close their businesses.
- E. Most of these employers show no concern for the welfare of their workers.

24. With which of the following statements would the author of the passage MOST likely agree?

- A. The United States will soon have to replace lost Mexican labor with labor provided by other immigrant groups.
- B. It is difficult for a country with a large population to develop a healthy middle class.
- C. Many Mexican immigrants who work in the United States believe that they are taken advantage of by American employers.
- D. Most rapidly growing countries should institute a family planning campaign to limit population growth.
- E. Mexico does not currently have a healthy middle class.

For years, many U.S. employers have employed a steady flow of laborers from Mexico who readily accept low-skilled, low paying jobs. These workers, many of whom leave economically depressed villages in the Mexican interior, are often more than willing to work for wages well below both the "U.S. Minimum Wage" and the poverty line, a reality duly exploited by many U.S. employers. However, thanks to a dramatic demographic shift currently taking place in Mexico, the seemingly inexhaustible supply of workers migrating from Mexico to the United States might one day greatly diminish if not cease.

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The result of Mexico's efforts to stem population growth is nothing short of stunning. In 1968, the average Mexican woman had six children; today, the figure is two. For two primary reasons, Mexico's new demographics could greatly impact the number of Mexicans seeking work in the U.S. First, smaller families by their nature limit the pool of potential migrants. Second, the slowing of Mexico's population growth has fostered hope that Mexico will develop a healthy middle class of people content to make their livelihoods in their home country.

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25. One function of the final paragraph of the passage is to

- A. explain why the number of Mexican immigrants seeking work in the United States is bound to decline.
- B. detail the successes of Mexico's family planning campaign.
- C. explain why the number of Mexican immigrants seeking work in the United States may not dramatically decrease.
- D. specify the types of infrastructure in which Mexico must invest.
- E. warn American employers that they will soon need to find alternative sources of labor.



Passage 6

In a 1984 book, Claire C. Robertson argued that, before colonialism, age was a more important indicator of status and authority than gender in Ghana and in Africa generally. British colonialism imposed European-style male-dominant notions upon more egalitarian local situations to the detriment of women generally, and gender became a defining characteristic that weakened women's power and authority.

Subsequent **research** in Kenya convinced Robertson that she had overgeneralized about Africa. Before colonialism, gender was more salient in Kenya than it was in Ghana, although age was still crucial in determining authority. In contrast with Ghana, where women had traded for hundreds of years and achieved legal majority (not unrelated phenomena), the evidence regarding Kenya indicated that women were legal minors and were sometimes treated as male property, as were European women at that time. Factors like strong patrilinearity and patrilocality, as well as women's inferior land rights and lesser involvement in trade, made women in Kenya more dependent on men than was generally the case in Ghana. However, since age apparently remained the overriding principle of social organization in central Kenya, some senior women had much authority there.

26. The passage indicates that Robertson's subsequent research in Kenya caused her to change her mind regarding which of the following?

- A. Whether age was the prevailing principle of social organization in Africa before colonialism
- B. Whether gender was the primary determinant of social authority in Africa generally before colonialism
- C. Whether it was after colonialism that gender became a significant determinant of authority in Kenyan society
- D. Whether age was a crucial factor determining authority in Africa after colonialism
- E. Whether British colonialism imposed European-style male-dominant notions upon local situations in Ghana

27. The passage suggests that after conducting the research mentioned in the highlighted text, but not before, Robertson would have agreed with which of the following about women's status and authority in Ghana?

- A. Greater land rights and greater involvement in trade made women in precolonial Ghana less dependent on men than were European women at that time.
- B. Colonialism had a greater impact on the status and authority of Ghanaian women than on Kenyan women.
- C. Colonialism had less of an impact on the status and authority of Ghanaian women than it had on the status and authority of other African women.
- D. The relative independence of Ghanaian women prior to colonialism was unique in Africa.
- E. Before colonialism, the status and authority of Ghanaian women was similar to that of Kenyan women.

28. The author of the passage mentions the status of age as a principle of social organization in precolonial central Kenya in the highlighted text most likely in order to

- A. indicate that women's dependence on men in precolonial Kenya was not absolute
- B. contrast the situation of senior women to that of less senior women in precolonial Ghana
- C. differentiate between the status and authority of precolonial Kenyan women and that of precolonial African women
- D. explain why age superseded gender to a greater extent in precolonial Kenya than it did elsewhere in Africa
- E. identify a factor that led Robertson to revise her hypothesis about precolonial Ghana

Passage 7

Australian researchers have discovered electroreceptors (sensory organs designed to respond to electrical fields) clustered at the tip of the spiny anteater's snout. The researchers made this discovery by exposing small areas of the snout to extremely weak electrical fields and recording the transmission of resulting nervous activity to the brain. These electroreceptors should not be confused with tactile receptors, another kind of sensory organ on the anteater's snout, that can also respond to electrical stimuli, but such receptors do so only in response to electrical field strengths about 1,000 times greater than those known to excite electroreceptors.

Having discovered the electroreceptors, researchers are now investigating how anteaters utilize such a sophisticated sensory system. In one behavioral experiment, researchers successfully trained an anteater to distinguish between two troughs of water, one with a weak electrical field and the other with none. Such evidence is consistent with researchers' **hypothesis** that anteaters use electroreceptors to detect electrical signals given off by prey; however, researchers as yet have been unable to detect electrical signals emanating from termite mounds, where the favorite food of anteaters live. Still, researchers have observed anteaters breaking into a nest of ants at an oblique angle and quickly locating nesting chambers. This ability quickly to locate unseen prey made these researchers conjecture that the anteaters may have been using their electroreceptors to locate the nesting chambers.

29. Which of the following can be inferred about the experiment described in the first paragraph?

- A. Researchers had difficulty verifying the existence of electroreceptors in the anteater because electroreceptors respond to such a narrow range of electrical field strengths.
- B. Researchers found that the level of nervous activity in the anteater's brain increased dramatically as the strength of the electrical stimulus was increased.
- C. Researchers found that some areas of the anteater's snout were not sensitive to a weak electrical stimulus.
- D. Researchers found that the anteater's tactile receptors were more easily excited by a strong electrical stimulus than were the electro receptors.
- E. Researchers tested small areas of the anteater's snout in order to ensure that only electroreceptors were responding to the stimulus.

30. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the hypothesis mentioned in the highlighted text?

- A. Researchers are able to train anteaters to break into an underground chamber that is emitting a strong electrical signal.
- B. Researchers are able to detect a weak electrical signal emanating from the nesting chamber of an ant colony.
- C. Anteaters are observed taking increasingly longer amounts of time to locate the nesting chambers of ants.
- D. Anteaters are observed using various angles to break into nests of ants.
- E. Anteaters are observed using the same angle used with nests of ants to break into the nests of other types of prey.

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31. The passage suggests that the researchers mentioned in the second paragraph who observed anteaters break into a nest of ants would most likely agree with which of the following statements?

- A. The event they observed provides conclusive evidence that anteaters use their electroreceptors to locate unseen prey.
- B. The event they observed was unusual and may not reflect the usual hunting practices of anteaters.
- C. It is likely that the anteaters located the ants' nesting chambers without the assistance of electroreceptors.
- D. Anteaters possess a very simple sensory system for use in locating prey.
- E. The speed with which the anteaters located their prey is greater than what might be expected in the absence of any external stimulus.

32. Which of the following can be inferred about anteaters from the behavioral experiment mentioned in the second paragraph?

- A. They are unable to distinguish between stimuli detected by their electroreceptors and stimuli detected by their tactile receptors.
- B. They are unable to distinguish between the electrical signals emanating from termite mounds and those emanating from ant nests.
- C. They can be trained to recognize the presence of a particular electrical stimulus.
- D. They react more readily to strong than to weak stimuli.
- E. They are more efficient at detecting stimuli in a controlled environment than in a natural environment.

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33. The author of the passage most probably discusses the function of tactile receptors in order to

- A. eliminate an alternative explanation of anteaters' response to electrical stimuli
- B. highlight a type of sensory organ that has a function identical to that of electroreceptors
- C. point out a serious complication in the research on electroreceptors in anteaters.
- D. suggest that tactile receptors assist electroreceptors in the detection of electrical signals.
- E. introduce a factor that was not addressed in the research on electroreceptors in anteaters.

34. According to the passage, which of the following is a characteristic that distinguishes electroreceptors from tactile receptors?

- A. The manner in which electroreceptors respond to electrical stimuli
- B. The tendency of electroreceptors to be found in clusters
- C. The unusual locations in which electroreceptors are found in most species.
- D. The amount of electrical stimulation required to excite electroreceptors
- E. The amount of nervous activity transmitted to the brain by electroreceptors when they are excited

Passage 8

Insect behavior generally appears to be explicable in terms of unconscious, inflexible stimulus-response mechanisms. For instance, a female sphex wasp leaves her egg sealed in a burrow alongside a paralyzed grasshopper, which her larvae can eat upon hatching. Before she deposits the grasshopper in the burrow, she inspects the burrow; if the inspection reveals no problems, she drags the grasshopper inside by its antennae. As thoughtful as this behavior appears, it reveals its mechanistic character upon interference. Darwin discovered that prior removal of the grasshopper's antennae prevents the wasp from depositing the grasshopper, even though the legs or ovipositor could also serve as handles. Likewise, Fabre moved the grasshopper a few centimeters away from the burrow's mouth while the wasp was inside inspecting. The wasp returned the grasshopper to the edge of the burrow and then began a new inspection. Fabre performed this disruptive maneuver forty times; the wasp's response never changed.



35. The author mentions the work of Darwin and Fabre in order to

- A. provide experimental evidence of the inflexibility of one kind of insect behavior
- B. contradict the conventional wisdom about "typical" wasp behavior
- C. illustrate the strength of the wasp's maternal affection
- D. explore the logical implications of the thesis articulated earlier
- E. highlight historical changes in the conduction of scientific research

36. Which of the following hypothetical variations in the experiments described in the passage would most weaken the primary claim of the passage?

- A. Darwin removes the ovipositor, a small appendage, instead of the antennae; the wasp fails to deposit the grasshopper in the burrow.
- B. Darwin restrains the grasshopper while the wasp attempts to drag it by its antennae, which subsequently break off; although Darwin then releases the grasshopper, the wasp ignores it.
- C. Fabre moves the grasshopper several meters away during the wasp's inspection; the wasp takes significant time to retrieve the grasshopper, then re-inspects the burrow.
- D. Fabre repeatedly varies the exact position near the burrow to which he moves the grasshopper, causing the wasp to adjust its retrieval path slightly before re-inspecting the burrow.
- E. Fabre replaces the grasshopper with a paralyzed praying mantis, a rather different insect that the wasp inspects and then deposits in the burrow.

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37. The passage supports which of the following statements about insect behavior?

- A. Reptiles such as snakes behave more flexibly than do insects.
- B. Insects such as honeybees can always be expected to behave inflexibly.
- C. Many species of insects leave eggs alongside living but paralyzed food sources.
- D. Stimulus-response mechanisms in insects have evolved because, under ordinary circumstances, they help insects to survive.
- E. More than one species of insect displays inflexible, routine behaviors.

38. Based on the passage, which of the following would prove a similar point to that promoted by the author?

- I. In a similar experiment, the paralyzed grasshopper was replaced with another, equally nutritive insect, and the wasp did not drag it into the burrow.
In a similar experiment with a bird, the bird was shown to act in the exact same manner as the wasp.
- II. In a similar experiment with a different wasp, the wasp dragged the grasshopper into the burrow by its ovipositor.

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II only
- D. II and III
- E. I, II and III

Answer Key – RC Session 4: Inference

Detailed OCTAAVE based video solutions (to each of these passages) in [RC Video 4](#), shared as part of Top-One-Percent GMAT courses (for registered courses only).

Passage 1

- 1. A
- 2. A
- 3. D
- 4. B
- 5. C
- 6. D

Passage 2

- 7. C
- 8. C
- 9. C
- 10.D
- 11.D
- 12.B
- 13.A

Passage 3

- 14.E
- 15.D
- 16.C
- 17.C
- 18.A

Passage 4

- 19.C
- 20.D
- 21.A

Passage 5

- 22. A
- 23. B
- 24. E
- 25. C

Passage 6

- 26. C
- 27. B
- 28. A

Passage 7



- 29. C
- 30. B
- 31. E
- 32.C

Passage 8

- 33. A
- 34. D
- 35. A
- 36. E
- 37. E
- 38. A

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Passage 1

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q1.

(E) - The author is primarily concerned here with the approach Keyssar had which was till 1920. The passage states that historians have focused on the great depression and the line from paragraph 1 states that the narrowness of this perspective ignores the pervasive recessions and joblessness of the previous decade, not of the great depression era of the 1930's.

Q3.

(E) - First, Keyssar's study adhered to the 1870s to 1920s, and not to the period of Great Depression. So, we cannot say that his study of the 1870s to 1920s led historians to reconsider the role of the working class **during the Great Depression**.

Second, that the historians **reconsidered** (i.e. revised their methods/stance about the **working class is wrong** - Keyssar's study was about **worklessness**. Plus, historian's reaction to Keyssar's findings is not given.

Therefore, E is incorrect.

Passage 2

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)



Q7.

(D) - D is totally wrong even by verification:

compare (no comparison) a history of one Japanese American community with studies of Japanese settlements (no other settlements) throughout California (only pajaro valley)

Alternate sol from gmatclub

Q8.

(C) - Nakane's case study of one rural Japanese American community provides valuable information about the lives and experiences of the Issei. It is, however, too particularistic. This limitation derives from Nakane's methodology—that of oral history—which cannot substitute for a broader theoretical or comparative perspective. Future research might well consider two issues raised by her study: were the Issei of the Pajaro Valley similar to or different from Issei in urban settings, and what variations existed between rural Japanese American communities?

As Nakane's case study is focused on a very particular area, the study will be in broader scope if it can cover the lives of 1st class Japanese immigration people in urban or in other areas. Option C covers this aspect.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q9.

(C) - The passage clearly states that the land was leased by tenants, who were the Japanese farmers. They worked on the land owned by someone else. The landowners provided capital for growing the crop. The tenants paid for this by sharing the crop that was grown on the landowner's land. This is the basic definition of a sharecropping agreement. So, this is 100% verifiable.

Q10.

(C) – The fact that the cooperative was formed after the Issei had lived in the Pajaro Valley for some time (whatever amount of time that is) is not mentioned anywhere in the passage. So we cannot deduce that as Option (C) is doing.

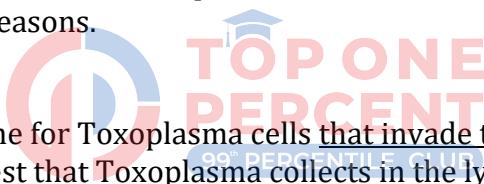
(D) – All we know is that this was a cooperative, and Japanese immigrant labourers used to pay (annual) fees to be a member of it. Option (D) tells us that.

Q11.

(D) – (In order to understand how this answer choice is verifiable from the passage) First generation immigrants are the parents that went to the US. Their US-born children are American. The land laws applied to the first-generation immigrants (they couldn't buy / lease land etc). The parents could circumvent these laws by buying / leasing property in their US-born children's names. This, therefore, implies that the laws did not apply to the children.

Passage 3**Alternate sol****Q14.**

(C) – The passage states only that Toxoplasma infects dendritic cells. No information is given as to the proportion of the cells that are affected when a person is infected with Toxoplasma. Hence, Option (C) is incorrect for these additional reasons.

**Q17.**

The question talks about "outcome for Toxoplasma cells that invade the human body".

(B) – The passage does not suggest that Toxoplasma collects in the lymphatic system.

(C) – The passage states that Toxoplasma can reproduce only in a host cat. Therefore, any Toxoplasma cells that remain in the human body are not likely to reproduce. Hence, Option (C) is correct.

(D) – This is not verifiable. Where is it written in the passage that "Toxoplasma cells that invade the human body WILL BE detected after several weeks"? This information cannot be verified/inferred from the passage at all. D is completely wrong.

Passage 4**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Additional context on the passage – The passage says there is a land bridge called isthmus that connects North and South America (if you look at a map, this 'bridge' is where Panama is, for example). The isthmus was formed due to volcanic activity long after dinosaurs had gone. The isthmus had quite an effect on marine (water) and also terrestrial (land) species. For the former, the isthmus created 'sister species' or geminates. These species were now separated right (because of the isthmus)? So they grew and evolved differently from each other. As an example, pistol shrimp from the Pacific and the Atlantic (the two oceans are on either side of the isthmus) don't mate with each other any more (they have grown apart so much and become so different). However, the passage says that the isthmus is not the only reason for such species becoming different from each other. Much before the isthmus was formed, the Pacific and the Atlantic were becoming very different types of oceans - they had started to form vastly different conditions. Whereas the Pacific was becoming colder and more nutrient-rich, the Atlantic was becoming warmer and more nutrient-poor. The passage says these conditions, much more than the isthmus, caused such species to grow apart and differently.

Then the passage talks about the impact of the isthmus on land animals (obviously changes in the oceans will not affect such animals much, and so the isthmus had a much more profound and direct impact on these animals). The passage says land animals travelled / migrated from North to South America and vice versa on the isthmus. However, North American species of animals turned out to be better colonizers. This means North American land animals, when they moved to South America, survived more than did South American animals, when they moved to North America. As an example, only three animal species that came from South America to North America survive to this day - armadillo, opossum, and hedgehog.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q19.

Approach to solve the question – This bridge (the isthmus) helped animals move across NA and SA. We don't know how many indigenous species were there in NA and SA respectively before the isthmus, and we don't know how many of these moved to the other side and stayed on / survived. But we do know one thing - indigenous NA animals turned out to be better colonizers. In this context that means a greater number of indigenous NA animals survived (and continue to survive today) in SA than the number of indigenous SA animals that moved to NA and survive till today. The passage gives this information as such, and then gives the number of animals in the latter category - 3. Then the number of animals in the former category *has to be greater than 3*. That is what **Option (C)** tells us.

Observe how to reach the relevant part of the passage (the line that talks about NA animals having turned out to be better colonizers, 3 SA animals survive to this day in NA). Except for inference questions, we have to read the passage and find the relevant section(s) to answer a question.

Q20.

(A) – The passage says 'geminates' evolved independently. They suddenly didn't become different from each other; it was a process. Eliminate.

(B) – The passage says the Pacific was cooler, the upswelling currents making it more nutrient-rich; The Atlantic was warmer and nutrient-poor. It's not like the passage does not give any support to the connection between temperature and nutrient-density of the two oceans. At least some part of the process of creating differential nutritional content etc probably did coincide with the formation of the isthmus based on the overall tonality of the passage. So, at least to some extent, Option (B) is verifiable. Eliminate.

(C) – The passage says there are two species who are different enough not to even mate with each other (the Pacific and the Atlantic Pistol Shrimp). There may be more, but there are at least two species. Eliminate.

(D) – This does not find any support in the passage. The passage says something to the contrary. The passage says all these things happened; it doesn't elucidate what caused what explicitly. This is where your comprehension skills are being tested - can you understand implied meaning. The passage does say, as an example, that the Pacific side grew colder and the upwelling waters became more nutrient rich. So an implied causality is being established, even if not explicit. That being said, look at the language of the question - what, among the answer choices, finds the least support from the passage? So if there is an answer choice that is even less verifiable, then that answer choice is the answer (as an example for Option (D), there is no implied causality even that is provided).

(E) – This is said almost verbatim in the passage: "The isthmus cleaved...species. These twin species...independently." Eliminate.

Hence, **(D)** is the correct answer.

Note –

(B) – The passage says all these things happened; it doesn't elucidate what caused what *explicitly*. This is where your comprehension skills are being tested - can you understand implied meaning. The passage does say, as an example, that the Pacific side grew colder and the upwelling waters became more nutrient rich. So an implied causality is being established, even if not explicit. That being said, look at the language of the question - what, among the answer choices, finds the *least* support from the passage? So if there is an answer choice that is even less verifiable, then that answer choice is the answer (as an example for Option (D), there is no implied causality even that is provided).

Q21.

(A) – The passage word for word says the species that got cleaved evolved separately and now are not similar to each other. To show how different these species have become, the author mentions that two such species of pistol shrimp don't mate with each other. In biology, when two similar species (which were the same species earlier) stop mating with each other, they are called totally different species. Hence, Option (A) is correct.

The question asked is 'why', not 'what'. The author won't mention the 'why' directly in the passage.

(C) – The marine sister species evolved independently after isthmus cleaved them. The manifestation of the independent evolution can take and probably has taken various forms - the example of Pacific Pistol Shrimp not mating with their Atlantic counterparts is just one example. Other species may have evolved independently and show different behavior to that end - the passage doesn't say in general no sister marine species, after being cleaved, mate with each other. Therefore, "in general" is not verifiable - It will mean all of them.

Hence, Option (C) is incorrect.

**Passage 5****Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Additional context on the passage – This passage talks about how America has been getting a seemingly inexhaustible supply of Mexican workers. It also says that Mexico has been doing some good things - population control measures have been great. This is stated as a fact. Then it goes on to say the success of these population control measures may limit the number of workers going to the US, with the second reason far from reality as of now. So far (and we have summarized the passage), we haven't come across anything in the overall picture the passage says good or bad things about. It doesn't say, as an example, that here is a reason why workers moving to the US is good, and here are some reasons why it is bad. If that was the case, the passage would have been balanced. Here the passage is simply talking about the present situation, and what can potentially happen in the future, without the author passing any opinion / judgment on what is good / bad and / or what should / should not be done.

Hence, the tone of the passage is neutral.

Q22.

(A) – The **passage** states several times that Mexico's **population growth** is diminishing/reducing, but **Option (A)** states that **the population** itself is diminishing.

Let's say the population is 100. Let usual Population growth be 5%. Then the new population should be 105.

But, let's say now the **population growth has reduced** from 5% to 3%. Then the new population is 103. The **population growth is reduced**, i.e. from 105 to **103**.

The population did not reduce. **Reduction in population** would imply a value **less than 100**.

Q23.

(B) – (To understand how to infer this answer choice) If some of these immigrant workers are working for wages "well below the U.S. minimum wage," their American employers must be violating wage laws (i.e., paying wages below what the U.S. minimum wage requires. Therefore, Option (B) is a direct inference.

Passage 6**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Summary of the passage - Claire C. Robertson wrote a book in which she said that in Ghana (and generally in Africa), before the British arrived, age was a more important social parameter than was gender. However, after the British arrived, this changed, and gender became very important (to the detriment of women). That is to say, women now became 'inferior' and the society became a lot more patriarchal. Claire later looked at central Kenya and said she was wrong about this being true for all of Africa in general (i.e. there were indeed places in Africa, such as central Kenya, where even before the British arrived, gender was very important and the society was patriarchal, much more so than what the situation was in Ghana before the British arrived). However, age was still the more important parameter even in central Kenya. So as an example if there was a woman who was old, the fact that she was a woman was overridden by the fact that she was old.

Alternate sol

Additional context on the passage – Before the research, Robertson believed that:

- In pre-colonial times "age was a more important indicator of status and authority than gender in Ghana and in Africa generally."
- After colonization, "gender became a defining characteristic that weakened women's power and authority."

After the research, she believed that:

- She had overgeneralized about the role of gender in pre-colonial Africa
- In Ghana, "women had traded for hundreds of years and achieved legal majority." This aligns with Robertson's previous belief that gender was not as important as age as an indicator of status and authority.
- However, in pre-colonial Kenya, "women were legal minors and were sometimes treated as male property, as were European women at that time." This **differs** from Robertson's previous views, so she revised her hypothesis to say that gender played a more important role in some African locations before colonization.

Notice that Robertson's beliefs about the role of gender in Ghana did not change from before the research to after it -- in both cases, she thought that gender did not play the most important role in determining status and authority. The significant change in her hypothesis concerned Kenya, where women had less power in pre-colonial times than she had previously thought.

Q26.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

From our understanding above, what did she change her mind about? Earlier she used to think that in all of Africa age was more important than gender before the British arrived. Afterwards, she changed her mind and said that that is not the case; in places like central Kenya, gender was always very important).

There are two things here - before and after studying Kenya, and before and after the British arrived (colonialism)

Option (A) - Before studying Kenya, she thought that age was the primary parameter before colonialism. After studying Kenya, she did not change her mind about this. Even in Kenya, she found age to be the overriding parameter.

Option (B) - Before studying Kenya, she thought gender was not the primary determinant in Africa generally, before colonialism. After studying Kenya, she still thought gender was not the primary determinant in Africa generally. She did not change her mind on this

Option (C) - She did change her mind about this! Before studying Kenya she thought the arrival of colonialism caused gender to become more important in Kenya. But after studying Kenya, she realized gender was always important in Kenya. We have already reached the answer, but we will still eliminate the other two answer choices to be sure

Option (D) - Didn't change her mind; age was still the most crucial factor in Africa generally

Option (E) - She always believed this, so studying Kenya didn't change her mind

Q27.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The first thing that should come to your mind is that the research itself is about Kenya. The question is about Ghana. The answer needs to connect the two.

(A) - The author has not changed her opinion about Ghana and Europe, but that of Kenya only. Before research, she thought age was more important, but after research, she discovered that women were dominated by men, like in Europe.

(C) - Option (C) is eliminated, because women in the rest of Africa are not really mentioned.

(D) - This just says that according to the passage, since Robertson had overgeneralized what was true for Ghana for Africa, so relative independence of women was unique to Africa compared to the rest of the world. Whereas the answer choice says that **only** Ghana from whole of Africa had such independence for women. Option (D) is eliminated because even after the research, she did not believe the Ghanaian women's independence to be unique in Africa.

(E) - She believed the opposite of what is given in Option (E) after the research (she believed what is given in Option (E) before the research). So the answer is flipped and Option (E) is eliminated.

Option (B) is the answer.

Passage 7**Q31.****Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

In the last two lines of the last paragraph: "Still, researchers have observed anteaters breaking into a nest of ants at an oblique angle and **quickly locating nesting chambers**".

This **ability to quickly** locate unseen prey suggests, according to the researchers, that the anteaters were using their electroreceptors to locate the nesting chambers. The researchers in question observed anteaters break into nests that weren't emitting signals, and eat their prey at oblique angles, quickly.

(A) – This is incorrect. The finding is generally weak. We are told that the researchers "as yet have been unable to detect" signals, so the observation isn't exactly conclusive.

(E) – This is correct because we are told that "researchers observed anteaters breaking into a nest....at an oblique angle and quickly locating nesting chambers". This is analogous to someone walking into their bedroom at night-time with the lights turned off and getting into bed. This person would rely on other sensors to navigate his way as well as his familiarity. What's insinuated by E is that the fact the anteaters got into the nests awkwardly, but so quickly, makes it hard to believe that the anteater got lucky in identifying the ants.

Q33.**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

(B) – The passage doesn't say that they have **the exact same** function. Their functions can't be identical. One responds to weak current, and the other responds to strong current. Also, the purpose of the question is to ask 'why' and not 'what': "in order to".

Passage 8**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)****Q35.**

Additional context on the question – The thesis posited earlier is that insect behavior is inflexible and rigidly stimulus-response based. The 'logical' implications of this that are being discussed through the two scientists' work is that the works show experimental proof of the thesis mentioned earlier. Hence, **(A)** is the answer.

Q36.

Because the question asks which variation would most weaken the primary claim, review that primary claim: insect behavior can be explained by unconscious, inflexible behaviors. To weaken this claim, you would need evidence that the insect can act in a flexible way, adapting or changing its behavior in some way. Further, the question talks about variations in the experiments (described in the passage), so review the two experiments. Darwin interrupts the wasp's standard behavior by removing the antennae, even though the wasp could have adapted by using something else to drag the grasshopper. Fabre interrupts the process by moving the grasshopper a short distance away; because the grasshopper is no longer in the "right" spot, the wasp begins the inspection process all over again.

Answer choice (A) depicts a situation in which Darwin removes the small ovipositor appendage instead of the antennae but the wasp fails to deposit the grasshopper in the burrow. This removal disturbs the wasp enough to prevent it from using the grasshopper, although the slightness of the change is implied by the term “small appendage,” and thus you can assume that the grasshopper would still be appropriate for the wasp’s purpose (feed the larvae). This result actually strengthens the primary claim. [Direct Contradiction]

In answer choice (B), the wasp and Darwin get into a tug of war, during which the wasp winds up breaking off the antennae and then abandoning the grasshopper, even though the latter became available once Darwin released it. In essence, this choice is similar to the real experiment Darwin conducted: in both cases, the wasp rejects a grasshopper lacking antennae; therefore, this choice also strengthens the primary claim. [Direct Contradiction]

In answer choice (C), the wasp re-inspects the burrow only after a long delay, because the grasshopper has been moved several meters away. Thus, the reinspection might be seen as a result either of an inflexible stimulus-response mechanism (“inspect after bringing the grasshopper to the burrow”) or of a flexible, conscious decision process (“since I have been absent from the burrow for a while, I’d better check it again”). This choice is tricky, since flexibility now enters the picture. However, choice (C) does not rule out the inflexible mechanism or create any preference one way or the other, so it does not attack the primary claim itself, which is still permitted. At most, you can say that this choice provides ambiguous evidence, and so does not really strengthen or weaken the primary claim. As such, this choice is “Out of Scope,” because it does not provide definitive evidence one way or the other. [Out of Scope]

Answer choice (D) is similar to (B) in that it describes a variation that isn’t really a change. In the real experiment, Fabre moved the grasshopper 10 centimeters. In this choice, Fabre varies the exact position, causing the grasshopper to change its path slightly. In both cases, the grasshopper continues to be inflexible and reinspect the burrow because the grasshopper is not where the wasp expected it to be.

In answer choice (E), the wasp is confronted with a significantly changed situation (praying mantis instead of grasshopper). The wasp inspects the new insect, which is described as rather different, and then deposits it in the burrow anyway. This indicates that the wasp is able to accept a significant difference and, after inspection, proceed with the original plan anyway; in other words, the wasp demonstrates substantial flexibility, especially in comparison to how it acts in the real experiments. **The correct answer is (E).**

Alternate sol - The primary claim of the passage is that insect behavior is mechanistic. How does the wasp show this mechanistic behavior, as described in the passage? It picks up the grasshopper by its antennae and deposits the grasshopper into the burrow. Focus on both parts: grasshopper and antennae; they together constitute the mechanistic behavior. If Darwin cuts off ovipositors (but antennae still remain), and the wasp deposits the grasshopper by the antennae, we are not being able to weaken the main claim that the wasp is showing a mechanistic behavior (the antennae are still there, its mechanistic behavior, as claimed, was anyway to drag the grasshopper by the antennae).

On the other hand, if the grasshopper is replaced by a different insect, which the wasp inspects and deposits, then we are more sure that the behavior was not simply mechanistic to begin with (remember how both the grasshopper and the dragging by the antennae together constituted the supposedly mechanistic behavior).

One thing is Option (E) clearly shows the behavior is not mechanistic - something entirely different from a grasshopper is being inspected and deposited by the wasp, so the wasp is definitely not just taking the grasshopper and depositing it through muscle memory / mechanistically. So, we know this definitely weakens the main claim the most.

(A) - The full grasshopper and the antennae are both required for the mechanistic behavior. In this case the failure to deposit still shows mechanistic behavior; it's not a grasshopper in the form the wasp is used to depositing. This Option is actually eliminated also because of the similarity of the situation with what is given in the passage. If antennae are cut off, then too, the wasp is unable to deposit. Basically, it needs the grasshopper to be exactly what it knows it to be to be able to deposit it - mechanistic behavior.

(D) – This option describes a variation that isn't a real change. In the real experiment, Fabre moved the grasshopper 10 centimeters. In this choice, Fabre varies the exact position, causing the wasp to change its path slightly. In both cases, the wasp continues to be inflexible and re-inspect the burrow because the grasshopper is not where the wasp expected it to be.

Q38.

Statement II – It is about insect behavior. Clear elimination as it has the word "bird" in it .



Conclusion / Opinion / Main Point Identification Exercise

Learning objectives: This exercise has been designed to help you strengthen your grip on Conclusion / Opinion for Primary Purpose / Main Idea Questions in RC and to help you with the foundational building blocks for CR.

Note: this question-type is **NOT** tested on the GMAT. This is part of the concept-building pre-work for a great performance in RC and CR.

Remember the following:

What constitutes an opinion (Future | Feeling | Uncertainty | Debatability | Challengeability)?

- Prediction ... (may | might | can | could | will | would | likely etc.) – FUTURE
- Suggestion ... (should | propose | recommend | make a case for | ‘would need to do’ | would be wise to follow etc. | must | ought to etc.) – FEELING / FUTURE
- Position | stand | stance | viewpoint | belief – FEELING / DEBatability
- Criticism and praise | Agreement and disagreement – FEELING
- Conclusion drawn | Judgment reached | Hypothesis | Claim – DEBatability / UNCERTAINTY



Conclusion Cues: So, Thus, Therefore, Thereby, Consequently, Clearly, As a result, For this reason, This demonstrates that, They conclude that, Hence, Accordingly, It must be that, It shows that, It follows that, It is likely that

Premise Cues: Since, The reason is, Because, For (when it means ‘because’), For example, For the reason that, In that, Given that, As indicated by, Due to, Owing to, This can be seen from, We know this by

Contradiction Cues: But, However, Nonetheless, Nevertheless, Notwithstanding, Even so, Despite, Rather, Yet, On the other hand, Admittedly, In contrast, By contrast, Contrary to, Although, Even though, Still, Whereas, In spite of, After all, Alternatively, Apart from, Conversely, Regardless, Then again, Unfortunately, Ironically etc.

A special cue: *Some people believe*: One of the most frequently used constructions is to raise a viewpoint at the beginning of the stimulus and then **disagree** with it immediately thereafter. This efficiently raises two opposing views in a very short paragraph. These stimuli are recognizable because they often begin with the phrase, "Some people claim..." or one of the many variations on this theme, including but not limited to the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| "Some people propose..." | "Many people believe..." |
| "Some people argue that..." | "Some critics claim..." |
| "Some critics maintain..." | "Some scientists believe..." |

All these imply that, in the passage, there will be challenge to whatever is said by others.



Remember, these cues are just guidelines, not the final verdict.

For example, every time the word *thus* may not signal a conclusion. The test maker knows this: the moment you see the word "thus", you will automatically be thinking "conclusion!" So, sometimes the GMAT will attempt to fool you.



Focus on the sentence below:

Countries that invest heavily in technology and **thus** become highly advanced automatically start seeing themselves as global superpowers.

Here the word *thus* doesn't signal a conclusion.

Exercise: 60 Questions, untimed

1. The term “pit bull” does not designate a breed of dog, as do the terms “German shepherd” and “poodle.” It is like the terms “Seeing-Eye dog” and “police dog,” which designate dogs according to what they do. If you take two German shepherds and place them side by side, you cannot tell by appearance alone which is the police dog and which is the Seeing-Eye dog.

Which one of the following is the main point of the passage?

- A. German shepherds can be pit bulls.
- B. Pit bulls can be distinguished from other kinds of dogs by appearance alone.
- C. A dog is a pit bull because of what it does, not because of its breed.
- D. German shepherds can function both as police dogs and as Seeing-Eye dogs.
- E. Some breeds of dogs cannot be distinguished from other breeds of dogs by appearance alone.

2. Can any research be found to validate the contention that those who spend time plucking out their gray hairs have more negative attitudes toward the elderly than those who shrug their shoulders about their gray hairs? Unless a person’s psychopathology leads him or her to overgeneralize, there is no necessary connection. Certainly, it is reasonable to like the elderly yet dislike the idea of impaired eyesight and hearing. Furthermore, holding negative attitudes toward older people merely because they are old is immoral, according to nearly universally accepted ethical standards. But there is nothing immoral about disliking some concomitants of the aging process.

Which one of the following best expresses the main point of the passage?

- A. It cannot be assumed that people who dislike some of the physical concomitants of growing old necessarily have negative feelings toward the elderly.
 - B. To dislike some of the physical concomitants growing old is reasonable, while to dislike the elderly is immoral.
 - C. Since no one likes the physical concomitants of growing old, it is wrong to dislike the elderly merely because of their physical characteristics.
 - D. Being elderly is fine, but the process of becoming elderly is not; and people need to understand the distinction between the two.
 - E. To dislike the elderly is immoral, and to do so just because one dislikes some of the physical concomitants of growing old is unreasonable.
3. As symbols of the freedom of the wilderness, bald eagles have the unique capacity to inspire people and foster in them a sympathetic attitude toward the needs of other threatened species. Clearly, without that sympathy and the political will it engenders, the needs of more obscure species will go unmet. The conservation needs of many obscure species can only be met by beginning with the conservation of this symbolic species, the bald eagle.

Which one of the following is the main point of the passage as a whole?

- A. Because bald eagles symbolize freedom, conservation efforts should be concentrated on them rather than on other, more obscure species.
- B. The conservation of bald eagles is the first necessary step in conserving other endangered species.
- C. Without increased public sympathy for conservation, the needs of many symbolic species will go unmet.
- D. People’s love of the wilderness can be used to engender political support for conservation efforts.
- E. Other threatened species do not inspire people or foster sympathy as much as do bald eagles.

4. Like a number of other articles, Ian Raghnall's article relied on a recent survey in which over half the couples applying for divorces listed "money" as a major problem in their marriages. Raghnall's conclusion from the survey data is that financial problems are the major problem in marriages and an important factor contributing to the high divorce rate. Yet couples often express other types of marital frustrations in financial terms. Despite appearances, the survey data do not establish that financial problems are the major problem in contemporary marriages.

Which one of the following sentences best expresses the main point of the passage?

- A. Financial problems are not an important factor contributing to the divorce rate.
- B. Marital problems are more easily solved by marriage counselors than by married couples on their own.
- C. The conclusion drawn in Raghnall's article is inadequately justified.
- D. Over half the couples applying for divorces listed money as a major problem in their marriages.
- E. Many articles wrongly claim that financial problems are the major factor contributing to the divorce rate.

5. The United States government generally tries to protect valuable natural resources. But one resource has been ignored for too long. In the United States, each bushel of corn produced might result in the loss of as much as two bushels of topsoil. Moreover, in the last 100 years, the topsoil in many states, which once was about fourteen inches thick, has been eroded to only six or eight inches. Nonetheless, federal expenditures for nationwide soil conservation programs have remained at ridiculously low levels. Total federal expenditures for nationwide soil conservation programs have been less than the allocations of some individual states.

Which one of the following best expresses the main point of the argument?

- A. Corn is not a cost-effective product and substitutes should be found where possible.
 - B. A layer of topsoil only six to eight inches thick cannot support the continued cultivation of corn.
 - C. Soil conservation is a responsibility of the federal government, not the states.
 - D. The federal government's expenditures for soil conservation in the various states have been inequitable.
 - E. The federal government should spend much more on soil conservation than it has been spending.
6. A law that is not consistently enforced does not serve its purpose. Law without enforcement is not law; it is merely statute—a promise of law. To institute real law is not merely to declare that such and such behavior is forbidden; it is also to punish those who violate that edict. Furthermore, those who enforce law must punish without favor for their friends or malice for their enemies. To punish only those one dislikes while forgiving others is not to enforce law but to engage in the arbitrary and unjust exercise of power.

The main point of the passage is that instituting real law consists in

- A. the exercise of power
- B. authorizing the enforcement of punishments
- C. the unbiased punishment of prohibited behavior
- D. understanding the purpose of law
- E. clearly defining unacceptable behavior

7. There is no mystery as to why figurative painting revived in the late 1970s. People want to look at recognizable images. Sorting out art theories reflected in abstract paintings is no substitute for the sense of empathy that comes from looking at a realistic painting of a figure in a landscape. Perhaps members of the art-viewing public resented abstract art because they felt that its lack of realistic subject matter was a rejection of the viewers and their world.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of the passage?

- A. Abstract paintings often include shapes or forms that are suggestive of real objects or emotions.
- B. The art-viewing public wished to see traditional subjects treated in a nontraditional manner.
- C. Paintings that depict a recognizable physical world rather than the emotional world of the artist's life require more artistic talent to create.
- D. The general public is unable to understand the theories on which abstract painting is based.
- E. The artistic preferences of the art-viewing public stimulated the revival.

8. Arguing that there was no trade between Europe and East Asia in the early Middle Ages because there are no written records of such trade is like arguing that the yeti, an apelike creature supposedly existing in the Himalayas, does not exist because there have been no scientifically confirmed sightings. A verifiable sighting of the yeti would prove that the creature does exist, but the absence of sightings cannot prove that it does not.

Which one of the following best expresses the point of the argument?

- A. Evidence for the existence of trade between Europe and East Asia in the early Middle Ages is, like evidence for the existence of the yeti, not scientifically confirmed.
- B. In order to prove that in the early Middle Ages there was trade between Europe and East Asia it is necessary to find both Asian and European evidence that such trade existed.
- C. That trade between Europe and East Asia did not exist in the early Middle Ages cannot be established simply by the absence of a certain sort of evidence that this trade existed.
- D. The view that there was trade between Europe and East Asia in the early Middle Ages can only be disproved by showing that no references to this trade exist in surviving records.
- E. There is no more evidence that trade between Europe and East Asia existed in the early Middle Ages than there is that the yeti exists.

9. Some legislators refuse to commit public funds for new scientific research if they cannot be assured that the research will contribute to the public welfare. Such a position ignores the lessons of experience. Many important contributions to the public welfare that resulted from scientific research were never predicted as potential outcomes of that research. Suppose that a scientist in the early twentieth century had applied for public funds to study molds: who would have predicted that such research would lead to the discovery of antibiotics—one of the greatest contributions ever made to the public welfare?

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of the argument?

- A. The committal of public funds for new scientific research will ensure that the public welfare will be enhanced.
- B. If it were possible to predict the general outcome of a new scientific research effort, then legislators would not refuse to commit public funds for that effort.
- C. Scientific discoveries that have contributed to the public welfare would have occurred sooner if public funds had been committed to the research that generated those discoveries.
- D. In order to ensure that scientific research is directed toward contributing to the public welfare, legislators must commit public funds to new scientific research.
- E. Lack of guarantees that new scientific research will contribute to the public welfare is not sufficient reason for legislators to refuse to commit public funds to new scientific research.

10. Balance is particularly important when reporting the background of civil wars and conflicts. Facts must not be deliberately manipulated to show one party in a favorable light, and the views of each side should be fairly represented. This concept of balance, however, does not justify concealing or glossing over basic injustices in an effort to be even-handed. If all the media were to adopt such a perverse interpretation of balanced reporting, the public would be given a picture of a world where each party in every conflict had an equal measure of justice on its side, contrary to our experience of life and, indeed, our common sense.

99th PERCENTILE CLUB

Which one of the following best expresses the main point of the argument?

- A. Balanced reporting presents the public with a picture of the world in which all sides to a conflict have equal justification.
- B. Balanced reporting requires impartially revealing injustices where they occur no less than fairly presenting the views of each party in a conflict.
- C. Our experience of life shows that there are indeed cases in which conflicts arise because of an injustice, with one party clearly in the wrong.
- D. Common sense tells us that balance is especially needed when reporting the background of civil wars and conflicts.
- E. Balanced reporting is an ideal that cannot be realized, because judgments of balance are necessarily subjective.

11. The fire that destroyed the Municipal Building started before dawn this morning, and the last fire fighters did not leave until late this afternoon. No one could have been anywhere in the vicinity of a fire like that one and fail to notice it. Thomas must have seen it, whatever he now says to the contrary. He admits that, as usual, he went from his apartment to the library this morning, and there is no way for him to get from his apartment to the library without going past the Municipal Building.

The main conclusion of the argument is that

- A. Thomas was in the vicinity of the fire this morning
- B. Thomas claimed not to have seen the fire
- C. Thomas saw the fire this morning
- D. Thomas went directly from his apartment to the library this morning
- E. Thomas went by the Municipal Building this morning

12. That long-term cigarette smoking can lead to health problems including cancer and lung disease is a scientifically well-established fact. Contrary to what many people seem to believe, however, it is not necessary to deny this fact in order to reject the view that tobacco companies should be held either morally or legally responsible for the poor health of smokers. After all, excessive consumption of candy undeniably leads to such health problems as tooth decay, but no one seriously believes that candy eaters who get cavities should be able to sue candy manufacturers.

The main point of the argument is that

- A. no one should feel it necessary to deny the scientifically well-established fact that long-term cigarette smoking can lead to health problems
- B. people who get cavities should not be able to sue candy manufacturers
- C. the fact that smokers' health problems can be caused by their smoking is not enough to justify holding tobacco companies either legally or morally responsible for those problems
- D. excessive consumption of candy will lead to health problems just as surely as long-term cigarette smoking will
- E. if candy manufacturers were held responsible for tooth decay among candy eaters then tobacco companies should also be held responsible for health problems suffered by smokers

13. It is probably within the reach of human technology to make the climate of Mars inhabitable. It might be several centuries before people could live there, even with breathing apparatuses, but some of the world's great temples and cathedrals took centuries to build. Research efforts now are justified if there is even a chance of making another planet inhabitable. Besides, the intellectual exercise of understanding how the Martian atmosphere might be changed could help in understanding atmospheric changes inadvertently triggered by human activity on Earth.

The main point of the argument is that

- A. it is probably technologically possible for humankind to alter the climate of Mars
- B. it would take several centuries to make Mars even marginally inhabitable
- C. making Mars inhabitable is an effort comparable to building a great temple or cathedral
- D. research efforts aimed at discovering how to change the climate of Mars are justified
- E. efforts to change the climate of Mars could facilitate understanding of the Earth's climate

14. Since multinational grain companies operate so as to maximize profits, they cannot be relied to initiate economic changes that would reform the world's food-distribution system. Although it is true that the actions of multinational companies sometimes do result in such economic change, this result is incidental, arising not from the desire for reform but from the desire to maximize profits. The maximization of profits normally depends on a stable economic environment, one that discourages change.

The main point of the argument is that

- A. the maximization of profits depends on a stable economic environment
- B. when economic change accompanies business activity, that change is initiated by concern for the profit motive
- C. multinational grain companies operate so as to maximize profits
- D. the world's current food-distribution system is not in need of reform
- E. multinational grain companies cannot be relied on to initiate reform of the world's food-distribution system

15. Kim: Some people claim that the battery-powered electric car represents a potential solution to the problem of air pollution. But they forget that it takes electricity to recharge batteries and that most of our electricity is generated by burning polluting fossil fuels. Increasing the number of electric cars on the road would require building more generating facilities since current facilities are operating at maximum capacity. So even if all of the gasoline-powered cars on the roads today were replaced by electric cars, it would at best be an exchange of one source of fossil-fuel pollution for another.

The main point made in Kim's argument is that

- A. replacing gasoline-powered cars with battery-powered electric cars will require building more generating facilities
- B. a significant reduction in air pollution cannot be achieved unless people drive less
- C. all forms of automobile transportation are equally harmful to the environment in terms of the air pollution they produce
- D. battery-powered electric cars are not a viable solution to the air-pollution problem
- E. gasoline-powered cars will probably remain a common means of transportation for the foreseeable future

16. A report on the likely effects of current levels of air pollution on forest growth in North America concluded that, since nitrogen is necessary nutrient for optimal plant growth, the nitrogen deposited on forest soil as result of air pollution probably benefits eastern forests. However, European soil scientists have found that in forests saturated with sulfate and nitrate, trees begin to die when the nitrogen deposited exceeds the amount of nitrogen absorbed by the forest system. Since this finding is likely to apply to forests everywhere, large areas of eastern forests of North America are, undoubtedly, already being affected adversely.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of the passage?

- A. The implication of the report cited is that the amount of nitrogen reaching eastern forests by way of polluted air is approximately what those forests need for optimal growth.
- B. If large areas of eastern forests were increasingly saturated with sulfate and nitrate, the capacity of those forest systems for absorbing nitrogen would also increase.
- C. The type of analysis used by European soil scientists does not necessarily apply to eastern forests of North America.
- D. The eastern forests are the only forests of North America currently affected by polluted air.
- E. Contrary to the report cited, the nitrogen pollution now in the air is more likely to cause trees to die in eastern forests than to benefit them.

17. Those who support the continued reading and performance of Shakespeare's plays maintain that in England appreciation for his work has always extended beyond educated elites and that ever since Shakespeare's own time his plays have always been known and loved by comparatively uneducated people. Skepticism about this claim is borne out by examining early eighteen-century editions of the plays. These books, with their fine paper and good bindings, must have been far beyond the reach of people of ordinary means.

The main point of the argument is to

- A. suggest that knowledge of Shakespeare's play is a suitable criterion for distinguishing the educated elite from other members of English society
- B. provide evidence that at some time in the past appreciation for Shakespeare's play was confined to educated elites
- C. prove that early eighteenth-century appreciation for Shakespeare's works rested on aspects of the works that are less appreciated today
- D. demonstrate that since Shakespeare's time the people who have known and loved his work have all been members of educated elites
- E. confirm the skepticism of the educated elite concerning the worth of Shakespeare's plays

18. The frequently expressed view that written constitutions are inherently more liberal than unwritten ones is false. No written constitution is more than a paper with words on it until those words are both interpreted and applied. Properly understood, then, a constitution is the sum of those procedures through which the power of the state is legitimately exercised and limited. Therefore, even a written constitution becomes a liberal constitution only when it is interpreted and applied in a liberal way.

The main point of the argument above is that

- A. written constitutions are no more inherently liberal than are unwritten constitutions
- B. the idea of a written constitution, properly understood, is inherently self-contradictory
- C. unwritten constitutions are less subject to misinterpretation than are constitutions that have been written down
- D. liberal constitutions are extremely difficult to preserve
- E. there are criteria for evaluating the interpretation and application of a constitution

19. Engineer: Some people argue that the world's energy problems could be solved by mining the Moon for helium-3, which could be used for fuel in fusion reactors. But this is nonsense. Even if it were possible to mine the Moon for helium-3, the technology needed to build viable fusion reactors that could use such fuel is at least 50 years away. If the world's energy problems are not solved before then, it will be too late to solve those problems.

The main point of the argument is that

- A. mining the Moon for helium-3 is currently not feasible
- B. fusion reactors that are now being planned are not designed to use helium-3 as fuel
- C. people who advocate mining the Moon for helium-3 do not realize that fusion reactors could be designed to use fuels other than helium-3
- D. mining the Moon for helium-3 is not a possible solution to the world's energy problems
- E. if the world's energy problems are not solved within the next 50 years, it will be too late to solve those problems

20. Most people are indignant at the suggestion that they are not reliable authorities about their real wants. Such self-knowledge, however, is not the easiest kind of knowledge to acquire. Indeed, acquiring it often requires hard and even potentially risky work. To avoid such effort, people unconsciously convince themselves that they want what society says they should want.

The main point of the argument is that

- A. acquiring self-knowledge can be risky
- B. knowledge of what one really wants is not as desirable as it is usually thought to be
- C. people cannot really want what they should want
- D. people usually avoid making difficult decisions
- E. people are not necessarily reliable authorities about what they really want

21. When politicians resort to personal attacks, many editorialists criticize these attacks but most voters pay them scant attention. Everyone knows such attacks will end after election day, and politicians can be excused for mudslinging. Political commentators, however, cannot be. Political commentators should be engaged in sustained and serious debate about ideas and policies. In such a context personal attacks on opponents serve not to beat those opponents but to cut off the debate.

Which of the following most accurately states the main point of the argument?

- A. Personal attacks on opponents serve a useful purpose for politicians.
- B. Political commentators should not resort to personal attacks on their opponents.
- C. Editorialists are right to criticize politicians who resort to personal attacks on their opponents.
- D. The purpose of serious debate about ideas and policies is to counteract the effect of personal attacks by politicians.
- E. Voters should be concerned about the personal attacks politicians make on each other.

22. Most people who ride bicycles for pleasure do not ride until the warm weather of spring and summer arrives. Yet it is probably more effective to advertise bicycles earlier in the year. Most bicycles are purchased in the spring, but once shoppers are ready to shop for a bicycle, they usually have already decided which brand and model of bicycle they will purchase. By then it is generally too late to induce them to change their minds.

The main point of the argument is that

- A. bicycle advertisements are probably more effective if they appear before the arrival of warm spring weather
- B. most bicycle purchasers decide on the brand and model of bicycle that they will buy before beginning to shop for a bicycle
- C. more bicycles are purchased in the spring than at any other time of year
- D. in general, once a bicycle purchaser has decided which bicycle he or she intends to purchase, it is difficult to bring about a change in that decision
- E. spring and summer are the time of year in which bicycle riding as a leisure activity is most popular

23. The terms “sex” and “gender” are often used interchangeably. But “sex” more properly refers to biological differences of male and female, while “gender” refers to society’s construction of a system that identifies what is masculine and feminine. Unlike the set of characteristics defining biological sex, the set of traits that are associated with gender does not sort people into two nonoverlapping groups. The traits characterize people in a complex way, so that a person may have both “masculine” and “feminine” traits.

Which one of the following statements best expresses a main point of the argument?

- A. Distinctions based on gender are frequently arbitrary.
- B. Gender traits are not determined at birth.
- C. Masculine gender traits are highly correlated with maleness.
- D. The terms “sex” and “gender” are not properly interchangeable.
- E. Society rather than the individual decides what is considered proper behavior.

24. For years scientists have been scanning the skies in the hope of finding life on other planets. But in spite of the ever-increasing sophistication of the equipment they employ, some of it costing hundreds of millions of dollars, not the first shred of evidence of such life has been forthcoming. And there is no reason to think that these scientists will be any more successful in the future, no matter how much money is invested in the search. The dream of finding extraterrestrial life is destined to remain a dream as science's experience up to this point should indicate.

Which one of the following most accurately states the main point of the argument?

- A. There is no reason to believe that life exists on other planets.
- B. The equipment that scientists employ is not as sophisticated as it should be.
- C. Scientists searching for extraterrestrial life will not find it.
- D. Only if scientists had already found evidence of life on other planets would any more continued search be justified.
- E. We should not spend money on sophisticated equipment to aid in the search for extraterrestrial life.

25. The authors of a recent article examined warnings of an impending wave of extinctions of animal species within the next 100 years. These authors say that no evidence exists to support the idea that the rate of extinction of animal species is now accelerating. They are wrong, however. Consider only the data on fishes: 40 species and subspecies of North American fishes have vanished in the twentieth century, 13 between 1900 and 1950, and 27 since 1950.

Which one of the following is the main point of the argument?

- A. There is evidence that the rate of extinction of animal species is accelerating.
- B. The future rate of extinction of animal species cannot be determined from available evidence.
- C. The rate of extinction of North American fishes is parallel to the rate of extinction of all animal species taken together.
- D. Forty species and subspecies of North American fishes have vanished in the twentieth century.
- E. A substantial number of fish species are in danger of imminent extinction.

26. Generations of European-history students have been taught that a political assassination caused the First World War. Without some qualification, however, this teaching is bound to mislead, since the war would not have happened without the treaties and alliances that were already in effect and the military force that was already amassed. These were the deeper causes of the war, whereas the assassination was a cause only in a trivial sense. It was like the individual spark that happens to ignite a conflagration that was, in the prevailing conditions, inevitable.

Which one of the following most accurately restates the main point of the passage?

- A. The assassination did not cause the war, since the assassination was only the last in a chain of events leading up to the war, each of which had equal claim to being called its “cause.”
- B. The war was destined to happen, since the course of history up to that point could not have been altered.
- C. Though the statement that the assassination caused the war is true, the term “cause” more fundamentally applies to the conditions that made it possible for that event to start the war.
- D. If the assassination had occurred when it did but less military force had at that time been amassed, then the war’s outbreak might have been considerably delayed or the war might not have occurred at all.
- E. Although the conditions prevailing at the time the war started made war inevitable, if the war had not been triggered by the assassination it would not have taken the course with which students of history are familiar.

27. Taxpayer: For the last ten years, Metro City’s bridge-maintenance budget of \$1 million annually has been a prime example of fiscal irresponsibility. In a well-run bridge program, the city would spend \$15 million a year on maintenance, which would prevent severe deterioration, thus limiting capital expenses for needed bridge reconstruction to \$10 million. However, as a result of its attempt to economize, the city is now faced with spending \$400 million over two years on emergency reconstruction of its bridges.

The main point of the taxpayer’s argument is that Metro City

- A. should have budgeted substantially more money for maintenance of its bridges
- B. would have had a well-run bridge program if it had spent more money for reconstruction of its bridges
- C. is spending more than it needs to on maintenance of its bridges
- D. is economizing on its bridge program to save money in case of emergencies
- E. has bridges that are more expensive to maintain than they were to build

28. It is well known that many species adapt to their environment, but it is usually assumed that only the most highly evolved species alter their environment in ways that aid their own survival. However, this characteristic is actually quite common. Certain species of plankton, for example, generate a gas that is converted in the atmosphere into particles of sulfate. These particles cause water vapor to condense, thus forming clouds. Indeed, the formation of clouds over the ocean largely depends on the presence of these particles. More cloud cover means more sunlight is reflected, and so the Earth absorbs less heat. Thus, plankton cause the surface of the Earth to be cooler and this benefits the plankton.

Of the following, which one most accurately expresses the main point of the argument?

- A. The Earth would be far warmer than it is now if certain species of plankton became extinct.
- B. By altering their environment in ways that improve their chances of survival, certain species of plankton benefit the Earth as a whole.
- C. Improving their own chances of survival by altering the environment is not limited to the most highly evolved species.
- D. The extent of the cloud cover over the oceans is largely determined by the quantity of plankton in those oceans.
- E. Species such as plankton alter the environment in ways that are less detrimental to the wellbeing of other species than are the alterations to the environment made by more highly evolved species.

29. Some judges complain about statutes that specify mandatory minimum sentences for criminal offenses. These legal restrictions, they complain, are too mechanical and prevent judges from deciding when a given individual can or cannot be rehabilitated. But that is precisely why mandatory minimum sentences are necessary. History amply demonstrates that when people are free to use their own judgment, they invariably believe themselves to act wisely when in fact they are often arbitrary and irrational. There is no reason to think that judges are an exception to this rule. **Which one of the following sentences most accurately expresses the main point of the passage?**

- A. People believe that they have good judgment but never do.
- B. Mandatory minimum sentences are too mechanical and reduce judicial discretion.
- C. Judges should be free to exercise their own judgment.
- D. Judges are often arbitrary and irrational.
- E. Mandatory minimum sentences are needed to help prevent judicial arbitrariness.

30. The current theory about earthquakes holds that they are caused by adjoining plates of rock sliding past each other; the plates are pressed together until powerful forces overcome the resistance. As plausible as this may sound, at least one thing remains mysterious on this theory. The overcoming of such resistance should create enormous amounts of heat. But so far, no increases in temperature unrelated to weather have been detected following earthquakes.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of the argument?

- A. No increases in temperature have been detected following earthquakes.
- B. The current theory does not fully explain earthquake data.
- C. No one will ever be sure what the true cause of earthquakes is.
- D. Earthquakes produce enormous amounts of heat that have so far gone undetected.
- E. Contrary to the current theory, earthquakes are not caused by adjoining plates of rock sliding past one another.

31. Doctor: The practice of using this therapy to treat the illness cannot be adequately supported by the claim that any therapy for treating the illness is more effective than no therapy at all. What must also be taken into account is that this therapy is expensive and complicated.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of the doctor's argument?

- A. The therapy is more effective than no treatment at all for the illness.
- B. The therapy is more effective than other forms of treatment for the illness.
- C. The therapy is more expensive and complicated than other forms of treatment for the illness.
- D. The therapy should not be used to treat the illness unless it is either effective or inexpensive.
- E. The therapy's possible effectiveness in treating the illness is not sufficient justification for using it.

32. Camera manufacturers typically advertise their products by citing the resolution of their cameras' lenses, the resolution of a lens being the degree of detail the lens is capable of reproducing in the image it projects onto the film. Differences between cameras in this respect are irrelevant for practical photography, however, since all modern lenses are so excellent that they project far more detail onto the film than any photographic film is capable of reproducing in a developed image.

Which one of the following most accurately states the main point of the argument?

- A. Camera manufacturers ought to concentrate on building other desirable qualities into their cameras' lenses, rather than concentrating only on the lenses' resolution.
- B. Apart from differences in resolution, there is no practical difference among modern cameras in the quality of the images that they produce.
- C. Advertised differences among cameras in the resolution of their lenses have no practical bearing on the cameras' relative quality as photographic tools.
- D. In concentrating their advertising on the issue of image quality, manufacturers are making a mistake about the interests of potential purchasers of cameras.
- E. Differences among photographic films in the amount of detail they reproduce have a more significant effect on the quality of the developed image than do differences in the resolution of camera lenses.

33. It is widely believed that eating chocolate can cause acne. Indeed, many people who are susceptible to acne report that, in their own experience, eating large amounts of chocolate is invariably followed by an outbreak of that skin condition. However, it is likely that common wisdom has mistaken an effect for a cause. Several recent scientific studies indicate that hormonal changes associated with stress can cause acne and there is good evidence that people who are fond of chocolate tend to eat more chocolate when they are under stress.

Of the following, which one most accurately expresses the main point of the argument?

- A. People are mistaken who insist that whenever they eat large amounts of chocolate they invariably suffer from an outbreak of acne.
- B. The more chocolate a person eats, the more likely that person is to experience the hormonal changes associated with stress.
- C. Eating large amounts of chocolate is more likely to cause stress than it is to cause outbreaks of acne.
- D. It is less likely that eating large amounts of chocolate causes acne than that both the chocolate eating and the acne are caused by stress.
- E. The more stress a person experiences, the more likely that person is to crave chocolate.

34. Last month OCF, Inc., announced what it described as a unique new product: an adjustable computer workstation. Three days later ErgoTech unveiled an almost identical product. The two companies claim that the similarities are coincidental and occurred because the designers independently reached the same solution to the same problem. The similarities are too fundamental to be mere coincidence, however. The two products not only look alike, but they also work alike. Both are oddly shaped with identically placed control panels with the same types of controls. Both allow the same types of adjustments and the same types of optional enhancements.

The main point of the argument is that

- A. the two products have many characteristics in common
- B. ErgoTech must have copied the design of its new product from OCF's design
- C. the similarities between the two products are not coincidental
- D. product designers sometimes reach the same solution to a given problem without consulting each other
- E. new products that at first appear to be unique are sometimes simply variations of other products

35. Musicologist: Many critics complain of the disproportion between text and music in Handel's *da capo* arias. These texts are generally quite short and often repeated well beyond what is needed for literal understanding. Yet such criticism is refuted by noting that repetition serves a vital function: it frees the audience to focus on the music itself, which can speak to audiences whatever their language.

Which one of the following sentences best expresses the main point of the musicologist's reasoning?

- A. Handel's *da capo* arias contain a disproportionate amount of music.
- B. Handel's *da capo* arias are superior to most in their accessibility to diverse audiences.
- C. At least one frequent criticism of Handel's *da capo* arias is undeserved.
- D. At least some of Handel's *da capo* arias contain unnecessary repetitions.
- E. Most criticism of Handel's *da capo* arias is unwarranted.

36. A famous artist once claimed that all great art imitates nature. If this claim is correct, then any music that is great art would imitate nature. But while some music may imitate ocean waves or the galloping of horses, for example, most great music imitates nothing at all.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of the argument?

- A. Music is inferior to the other arts.
- B. Either the artist's claim is incorrect, or most great music is not great art.
- C. Like some great music, some great painting and sculpture may fail to imitate nature.
- D. Some elements of nature cannot be represented adequately by great art.
- E. Sounds that do not imitate nature are not great music.

37. Economist: Prosperity is a driving force behind increases in the release of carbon dioxide, the main cause of global warming. As incomes rise, more people spend money on energy-consuming devices such as cars, thereby producing more carbon dioxide. Also, in countries that experienced deep economic recessions, there were steep drops in carbon dioxide emissions.

Which one of the following most accurately states the overall conclusion drawn in the economist's argument?

- A. Carbon dioxide is the main cause of global warming.
- B. Prosperity is an important cause of increases in the release of carbon dioxide.
- C. When incomes rise, more people spend money on energy-consuming devices.
- D. Countries that experienced deep economic recessions also experienced steep drops in carbon dioxide emissions.
- E. When people spend money on energy-consuming devices, more carbon dioxide is produced as a result.

38. Brianna: It would have been better to buy a tree last summer rather than this summer. The one we bought this summer is struggling to survive this summer's drought. If we had bought one last summer, it would have been able to survive this summer's drought, because last summer's normal rainfall would have enabled it to develop established roots. Trees with established roots can better withstand droughts.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the overall conclusion drawn in Brianna's argument?

- A. It would have been better to buy a tree last summer rather than this summer.
- B. The tree purchased this summer is struggling to survive this summer's drought.
- C. If a tree had been purchased last summer, it would be better able to survive this summer's drought.
- D. A tree purchased last summer would have established roots.
- E. Trees with established roots can better withstand droughts.

39. Research into artificial intelligence will fail to produce truly intelligent machines unless the focus of the discipline is radically changed. Progress has been made in creating devices of tremendous computational sophistication, but the present focus on computational ability to the exclusion of other abilities will produce devices only as capable of displaying true intelligence as a human being would be who was completely devoid of emotional and other noncognitive responses.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main conclusion argued for above?

- A. The current focus of research into artificial intelligence will produce devices no more capable of displaying true intelligence than a person would be who lacked emotions and other noncognitive responses.
- B. If the current focus of research into artificial intelligence is not radically changed, this research will not be able to produce machines capable of true intelligence.
- C. Despite progress in creating machines of great computational sophistication, current research into artificial intelligence has failed to fulfill its objectives.
- D. The capacity to express noncognitive responses such as emotion is at least as important for true intelligence as is computational sophistication.
- E. If a machine is not capable of producing humanlike noncognitive responses, then it cannot be regarded as truly intelligent.

40. Some claim that migratory birds have an innate homing sense that allows them to return to the same areas year after year. However, there is little evidence to support this belief, since the studies testing whether the accuracy of birds' migratory patterns is due to such an innate ability are inconclusive. After all, birds may simply navigate using landmarks, just as humans do, and we do not say that humans have an innate sense of direction simply because they find their way home time after time.

Which one of the following statements most accurately expresses the main conclusion drawn in the argument?

- A. Neither migratory birds nor humans have an innate homing sense.
- B. There is as yet little reason to accept that birds have an innate homing sense.
- C. Studies testing whether the accuracy of birds' migratory patterns is due to an innate homing sense are inconclusive.
- D. The ability to use landmarks to find one's way home is probably not an innate ability in birds.
- E. It is as false to claim that humans have an innate sense of direction as it is to claim that birds have an innate homing sense.

41. Counselor: Many people assume that personal conflicts are inevitable, but that assumption is just not so. Personal conflicts arise primarily because people are being irrational. For instance, people often find it easier to ascribe bad qualities to a person than good ones—even when there is more evidence of the latter. If someone suspects that a friend is unreliable, for example, a single instance may turn this suspicion into a feeling of certainty, whereas a belief that someone is reliable is normally built up only after many years of personal interaction.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main conclusion drawn in the argument?

- A. Many people assume that personal conflicts are inevitable.
- B. Even when there is more evidence of good qualities than of bad ones, people find it easier to ascribe bad qualities than good ones.
- C. It is irrational to allow a single instance to turn one's suspicion that a friend is unreliable into a feeling of certainty.
- D. Personal conflicts are not inevitable.
- E. Unlike a suspicion that a friend is unreliable, a belief that someone is reliable is normally built up only after many years of personal interaction.

42. Doctor: It would benefit public health if junk food were taxed. Not only in this country but in many other countries as well, the excessive proportion of junk food in people's diets contributes to many common and serious health problems. If junk food were much more expensive than healthful food, people would be encouraged to make dietary changes that would reduce these problems.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the conclusion drawn in the doctor's argument?

- A. Taxing junk food would benefit public health.
- B. In many countries, the excessive proportion of junk food in people's diets contributes to many common and serious health problems.
- C. If junk food were much more expensive than healthful food, people would be encouraged to make dietary changes that would reduce many common and serious health problems.
- D. Taxing junk food would encourage people to reduce the proportion of junk food in their diets.
- E. Junk food should be taxed if doing so would benefit public health.

43. Scientists generally believe that no deep-sea creature can detect red light, but they need to reassess that view. Researchers recently discovered a foot-long deep-sea creature of the genus *Erenna* with bioluminescent red lights on some of its tentacles. These red lights, which are shaped like a common food source for small, deep-sea fish, probably function as lures to attract prey.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the overall conclusion drawn in the argument?

- A. Red lights on the tentacles of a newly discovered deep-sea creature probably function as lures.
- B. Red lights on the tentacles of a newly discovered deep-sea creature are shaped like a common food source for small, deep-sea fish.
- C. A foot-long deep-sea creature of the genus *Erenna* has been discovered recently.
- D. Scientists generally believe that deep-sea creatures cannot detect red light.
- E. Scientists need to reconsider the belief that deep-sea creatures cannot detect red light.

44. Parents who consistently laud their children for every attempt to accomplish something, whether successful or not, actually erode the youngsters' sense of self-esteem. Children require commendation for their achievements, but if uniformly praised for both what they have accomplished and what they have merely attempted, they will eventually discount all words of commendation. In effect, such children never hear any praise at all.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the overall conclusion of the argument?

- A. Parents should praise their children for their achievements.
- B. Children whose actions are praised undeservedly eventually learn to discount all words of praise.
- C. Parents need to distinguish between their own expectations for their children and what their children are actually capable of accomplishing.
- D. Children's self-esteem will suffer if their parents uniformly praise their attempts to accomplish things regardless of their success or failure.
- E. Children will develop low self-esteem if their parents do not praise them when they succeed.

45. Field studies, which have long been a staple of anthropological research, involve the researcher living within the community being studied. However, the usefulness of field studies tends to be overrated by anthropologists. Although most anthropologists do realize that living within the community one is studying affects that community, they generally underestimate the extent of such effects.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the conclusion drawn in the argument?

- A. Anthropologists tend to overestimate the value of field studies.
- B. In a field study, the researcher lives within the community being studied.
- C. Field studies have been a central feature of anthropological research for a long time.
- D. Most anthropologists know that when they live within a community being studied, the community is affected at least somewhat.
- E. Most anthropologists underestimate how much of an effect the researcher's presence has on a community being studied.

46. Some heartburn-medication advertisements imply that unrelieved heartburn is likely to cause esophageal cancer. This is simply false. The fact is that only about 5 percent of people with severe heartburn have a condition called Barrett's esophagus, in which cells similar to those in the stomach's lining develop in the lower esophagus. Only these people have an increased risk of developing cancer because of heartburn.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the overall conclusion drawn in the argument?

- A. Only those people with Barrett's esophagus can suffer an increased risk of developing cancer from heartburn.
- B. An increase in the risk of esophageal cancer arises from cells similar to those in the stomach's lining developing in the lower esophagus.
- C. Unrelieved heartburn is not likely to cause esophageal cancer.
- D. Some heartburn-medication advertisements imply that unrelieved heartburn is likely to cause esophageal cancer.
- E. The dangers touted by heartburn-medication advertisements will affect relatively few of the people who see those advertisements.

47. Essayist: If Earth's population continues to grow geometrically, then in a few centuries there will be ten people for every square meter (approximately one person per square foot) of Earth's surface. Some people have claimed that this will probably not be a problem, since humans will have learned by then how to colonize other planets. This would, however, be a temporary solution at best: if the population continues to double every 30 years, and if in the year 2500 half of Earth's population emigrated to Mars, then by the year 2530 Earth would be just as crowded as it had been before the emigration.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the conclusion drawn in the essayist's argument?

- A. If Earth's population continues to grow geometrically, then in a few centuries the population density of Earth's surface will be ten people per square meter.
- B. Due to the continuing geometric growth of Earth's population, the problem of overpopulation of Earth will probably persist.
- C. If Earth's population continues to double every 30 years, and if at some point half of the population of Earth emigrated elsewhere, then after 30 years Earth would be just as crowded as it had been before the emigration.
- D. The population of Earth's surface will probably continue to grow geometrically even if temporary solutions to population growth, such as colonizing other planets, are adopted.
- E. Learning how to colonize other planets would, at best, be a temporary solution to the overcrowding of Earth.

48. Ethicist: Robert Gillette has argued that because a thorough knowledge of genetics would enable us to cure the over 3,000 inherited disorders that affect humanity, deciphering the human genetic code will certainly benefit humanity despite its enormous cost. Gillette's argument is not persuasive, however, because he fails to consider that such knowledge might ultimately harm human beings more than it would benefit them.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the conclusion of the ethicist's argument?

- A. Gillette's argument wrongly assumes that deciphering the genetic code will lead to cures for genetic disorders.
- B. Deciphering the genetic code might ultimately harm human beings more than benefit them.
- C. Because of its possible negative consequences, genetic research should not be conducted.
- D. Gillette's claim that a thorough knowledge of genetics would enable us to cure over 3,000 disorders is overstated.
- E. Gillette's argument is unconvincing because it ignores certain possible consequences of genetic research.

49. Consumer advocate: Even if one can of fruit or vegetables weighs more than another, the heavier can does not necessarily contain more food. Canned fruits and vegetables are typically packed in water, which can make up more than half the total weight of the can's contents. And nothing stops unscrupulous canning companies from including more water per can than others include.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the conclusion drawn in the consumer advocate's argument?

- A. The heavier of two cans of fruit or vegetables does not necessarily contain more food than the lighter of the two cans contains.
- B. The weight of the water in a can of fruit or vegetables can be more than half the total weight of the can's contents.
- C. Nothing stops unscrupulous canning companies from including more water per can than others include.
- D. Some canning companies include less food in cans of a given weight than others include.
- E. The heavier of two cans of fruits or vegetables may include more water than the lighter of the two cans contains.

50. Electric stovetop burners would cause fewer fires if their highest temperature were limited to 350°C (662°F), which provides more than enough heat for efficient and effective cooking. The lowest temperature at which cooking oil and most common fibers ignite is 387°C, and electric burners on high go well above 700°C.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the conclusion drawn in the argument?

- A. Electric stovetop burners would cause fewer fires if their highest temperature were limited to 350°C.
- B. A maximum temperature of 350°C provides more than enough heat for efficient and effective cooking.
- C. The lowest ignition temperature for cooking oil and most common fibers is 387°C.
- D. Electric burners on high go well above 700°C.
- E. Electric stovetop burners cause fires because they go well above 700°C when set on high.

51. Restaurant owner: The newspaper reporter who panned my restaurant acknowledges having no special expertise about food and its preparation. His previous job was as a political reporter. He is a good writer, but he is not a true restaurant critic. A newspaper would never call someone a drama critic who had no special training in theater.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the conclusion drawn in the restaurant owner's argument?

- A. The newspaper reporter who panned the restaurant acknowledges having no special expertise about food and its preparation.
- B. The previous job of the newspaper reporter who panned the restaurant was as a political reporter.
- C. The newspaper reporter who panned the restaurant is a good writer.
- D. The newspaper reporter who panned the restaurant is not a true restaurant critic.
- E. A newspaper would never call someone a drama critic who had no special training in theater.

52. Politician: Some proponents of unilateral nuclear arms reduction argue that it would encourage other countries to reduce their own nuclear arsenals, eventually leading to an international agreement on nuclear arms reduction. Our acting on the basis of this argument would be dangerous, because the argument ignores the countries presently on the verge of civil wars. These countries, many of which have nuclear capability, cannot be relied upon to conform to any international military policy.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the conclusion of the politician's argument?

- A. Countries that are on the verge of civil wars are unlikely to agree to reduce either their nuclear arms or their conventional weapons.
- B. Unilateral nuclear arms reduction by the politician's country would encourage all countries to reduce their nuclear arsenals.
- C. Many countries cannot be relied upon to disclose the extent of their nuclear capability.
- D. It is unlikely that an international agreement on nuclear disarmament will ever be achieved.
- E. It is risky for the politician's country to unilaterally reduce nuclear arms in hopes of achieving an international agreement on arms reduction.



53. Municipal legislator: The mayor proposes that the city accept a lighting company's gift of several high-tech streetlights. Surely there would be no problem in accepting these despite some people's fear that the company wants to influence the city's decision regarding park lighting contracts. The only ulterior motive I can find is the company's desire to have its products seen by mayors who will visit the city for an upcoming convention. In any case, favoritism in city contracts is prevented by our competitive-bidding procedure.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main conclusion of the municipal legislator's argument?

- A. Some people's fear that the company wants to influence the city's decision regarding park lighting contracts is unfounded.
- B. The mayor's proposal to accept the gift of streetlights should not be considered problematic.
- C. It is not appropriate that any company should have the unique opportunity to display its products to mayors attending the upcoming convention.
- D. The city's competitive-bidding procedure prevents favoritism in the dispensing of city contracts.
- E. The lighting company's desire to display its products to visiting mayors is the real motivation behind the suggested gift of streetlights.

54. While biodiversity is indispensable to the survival of life on Earth, biodiversity does not require the survival of every currently existing species. For there to be life on Earth, various ecological niches must be filled; many niches, however, can be filled by more than one species.

Which one of the following statements most accurately expresses the conclusion drawn in the argument?

- A. Biodiversity does not require that all existing species continue to exist.
- B. There are various ecological niches that must be filled if there is to be life on Earth.
- C. The survival of life on Earth depends upon biodiversity.
- D. There are many ecological niches that can be filled by more than one species.
- E. The species most indispensable for biodiversity fill more than one ecological niche.

55. Manager: This company's supply chain will develop significant weaknesses unless we make changes to our vendor contracts now. Some will argue that this problem is so far in the future that there is no need to address it today. But that is an irresponsible approach. Just imagine if a financial planner offered the same counsel to a 30-year-old client: "Don't worry, Jane, retirement is 35 years away; you don't need to save anything now." That planner would be guilty of gross malpractice.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the overall conclusion drawn in the manager's argument?

- A. Some people argue that the supply-chain problem is so far in the future that there is no need to address it now.
- B. It would be irresponsible to postpone changes to the vendor contracts just because the supply chain will not develop weaknesses for a long time.
- C. If no changes are made to the vendor contracts, the supply chain will eventually develop significant weaknesses.
- D. In planning to meet its future obligations, a company should follow the same practices that are appropriate for an individual who is planning for retirement.
- E. Financial planners should advise their clients to save money for retirement only if retirement is many years away.

56. Community organizations wanting to enhance support for higher education programs need to convince the public that such programs benefit society as a whole. Taking this approach makes the public more receptive. It is much easier, for example, to get the public to support road building, which is seen as benefiting everyone, than it is to get them to support programs that are seen as benefiting only a relatively small segment of society.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the overall conclusion drawn in the argument?

- A. Community organizations seeking to encourage higher education programs must persuade the public that these programs benefit society as a whole.
- B. It is easier to get the public to support programs that are seen as benefiting everyone than it is to get them to support programs that are seen as benefiting only a small segment of society.
- C. It is easy to get the public to support road building, because road building is seen as benefiting society as a whole.
- D. Convincing the public that higher education programs will benefit society as a whole makes the public more receptive to those programs.
- E. Higher education is similar to road building in that both are beneficial to society as a whole.

57. Historian: During the Industrial Revolution, for the first time in history, the productivity of the economy grew at a faster rate than the population and thus dramatically improved living standards. An economist theorizes that this growth was made possible by the spread of values such as hard work and thrift. But successful explanations need to be based on facts, so no one should accept this explanation until historical evidence demonstrates that a change in values occurred prior to the Industrial Revolution.

The overall conclusion of the historian's argument is that

- A. during the Industrial Revolution the productivity of the economy grew at a faster rate than the population
- B. the fact that the productivity of the economy grew at a faster rate than the population during the Industrial Revolution led to a dramatic improvement in living standards
- C. no one should accept the economist's explanation until historical evidence demonstrates that a change in values occurred prior to the Industrial Revolution
- D. the improvement in living standards that occurred during the Industrial Revolution was not due to the spread of a change in values
- E. values such as hard work and thrift did not become widespread prior to the Industrial Revolution

58. Client: The owners of the catering company we use decided to raise their rates. They argued that the increase was necessary to allow them to hire and train new staff to accommodate their expanding client base. They should reconsider that decision and not raise their rates. After all, the mission of the company is to provide low-cost gourmet catering, and this mission will be jeopardized if they raise rates.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main conclusion of the client's argument?

- A. The owners of the catering company decided to raise their rates.
- B. The catering company needs to increase its rates to accommodate its expanding client base.
- C. The catering company's rates should not be raised.
- D. The catering company's mission is to provide low-cost gourmet catering.
- E. The catering company's mission will be jeopardized if its rates are increased.

59. The local news media have long heralded Clemens as an honest politician. They were proven wrong when Clemens was caught up in a corruption scandal. This demonstrates how the local media show too much deference toward public figures. Even the editor of the local newspaper admitted that her reporters neglected to follow leads that might have exposed the scandal far earlier.

Which one of the following most accurately expresses the overall conclusion drawn in the argument?

- A. Clemens has long been portrayed as an honest politician by the local news media.
- B. The local news media were wrong to herald Clemens as an honest politician.
- C. The local news media show too much deference toward public figures.
- D. Reporters from the local newspaper neglected to follow leads that might have exposed the scandal much earlier.
- E. The local newspaper's treatment of Clemens is indicative of its treatment of public figures in general.

60. Johnson is on firm ground when he asserts that the early editors of Dickinson's poetry often distorted her intentions. Yet Johnson's own, more faithful, text is still guilty of its own forms of distortion. To standardize Dickinson's often indecipherable handwritten punctuation by the use of the dash is to render permanent a casual mode of poetic phrasing that Dickinson surely never expected to see in print. It implies that Dickinson chose the dash as her typical mark of punctuation when, in fact, she apparently never made any definitive choice at all.

Which of the following best summarizes the author's main point?

- A. Although Johnson is right in criticizing Dickinson's early editors for their distortion of her work, his own text is guilty of equally serious distortions.
- B. Johnson's use of the dash in his text of Dickinson's poetry misleads readers about the poet's intentions.
- C. Because Dickinson never expected her poetry to be published, virtually any attempt at editing it must run counter to her intentions.
- D. Although Johnson's attempt to produce a more faithful text of Dickinson's poetry is well-meaning, his study of the material lacks sufficient thoroughness.
- E. Dickinson's editors, including Johnson, have failed to deal adequately with the problem of deciphering Dickinson's handwritten manuscripts.

Answer Key

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 21. B | 41. D |
| 2. A | 22. A | 42. A |
| 3. B | 23. D | 43. E |
| 4. C | 24. C | 44. D |
| 5. E | 25. A | 45. A |
| 6. C | 26. C | 46. C |
| 7. E | 27. A | 47. E |
| 8. C | 28. C | 48. E |
| 9. E | 29. E | 49. A |
| 10. B | 30. B | 50. A |
| 11. C | 31. E | 51. D |
| 12. C | 32. C | 52. E |
| 13. D | 33. D | 53. B |
| 14. E | 34. C | 54. A |
| 15. D | 35. C | 55. B |
| 16. E | 36. B | 56. A |
| 17. B | 37. B | 57. C |
| 18. A | 38. A | 58. C |
| 19. D | 39. B | 59. C |
| 20. E | 40. B | 60. B |



Solutions on the next pages

Detailed Solutions

1. (C)

You can tell that the point of the argument comes in the first clause—*The pit bull is not a breed*—because everything that follows it is signaled by “as do...” and “It is like...,” both of which are reliable signals of evidence, examples, and analogies. Both police dogs and Seeing-Eye dogs—terms that are “like” the term “pit bull,” remember—are of the German shepherd breed, we’re told; what differentiates them is what they do. Inferably, then, a “pit bull” could be a dog of any number of breeds, because it’s a designation of what the dog does. (C) picks up on this analogy: If “Seeing-eye dog” and “police dog” designate dogs according to what they do, and “pit bull” is like those terms in this respect, then a dog can be designated a “pit bull” based only on what the dog does, irrespective of its breed.

(A) is quite possible, logically speaking, since “pit bull” is a term for a function not a breed. But it’s hardly the point the author is leading toward. The role of the German shepherd here is to illustrate the difference between breed and function.

(B) 180°, a pit bull is distinguished by what it does and *not* by appearance alone.

(D) repeats evidence. The phrase “It is like” introduces an analogy, and the last sentence (which is (D), after all) is there to explain what that analogy is all about.

(E) Distinguishing *between breeds* is totally outside the author’s scope.

2. (A)

We’re asked for the main point of the passage, and so you’ll want to key in whenever the author expresses her opinion. The first sentence merely asks if there is a necessary relationship between negative feelings toward the elderly and plucking out gray hairs. The second sentence begins with the Keyword “unless,” signaling an exception, followed by the strong statement of opinion “there is no necessary connection.” The third sentence makes a distinction between attitudes that supports the notion that there is no necessary connection. The fourth sentence begins with the Keyword “furthermore,” signaling additional supporting evidence, and the fifth sentence begins with the Keyword “but,” signaling a contrast to the supporting evidence in the previous sentence. Neither of these sentences can be the main point. So where are the expressions of opinion? The second sentence is the only qualifier. It claims that it would be premature to conclude that there is a necessary connection between hair-plucking and having negative attitudes about the elderly, which is paraphrased by choice (A).

(B) is a statement with which the author would agree, but the differing evaluations of these attitudes is used to support the author’s argument that there is no necessary connection between them. (B) is a step along the way, but not the final destination.

(C) The two claims mentioned in (C) are not linked to each other by the passage. They are both used to support a further point, the view that there is no necessary connection between disliking aging and disliking the elderly.

(D) brings in a new term, “fine,” without support from the stimulus. Furthermore, “being elderly” is not part of the distinction drawn in the stimulus—that distinction is between people’s *attitude toward* the elderly and their feelings about the process of getting old themselves.

(E), like (B), is a view with which the author would agree, but as discussed above, the author’s moral arguments are used to support the main point that there is no necessary connection between these two attitudes.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

If you do a straightforward inventory of everything the passage is saying, Option (B) only encapsulates this part - 'Certainly it is reasonable...aging process'. But what the passage says before this is also important. Also, if you look at the previous (left-out) parts of the passage, one of the major ideas the

passage conveys is that 'there is no necessary connection' between disliking the concomitants of old age and disliking the elderly in general. This crux is entirely left out in Option (B), whereas it is completely captured (along with what Option (B) says) in Option (A).

3. (B)

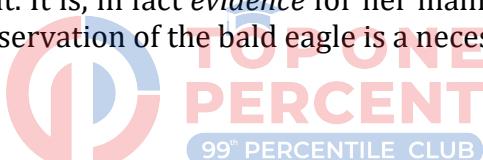
This author pounds home the main point with each sentence. First: bald eagles have the unique capacity to foster a sympathetic attitude toward *other threatened species*. Second: without that sympathy, the needs of those other species will be unmet. Third: the needs of other species can *only* be met by *beginning* with the conservation of the bald eagle. Clearly, the author's point is that it is first necessary to see to the conservation of the bald eagle if we hope to be able to conserve any other threatened species; or, as (B) has it, the conservation of the bald eagle is the *necessary* first step toward conserving other threatened species.

(A) The author doesn't say conservation efforts should concentrate on bald eagles *instead of* other species; she says they should concentrate on bald eagles because that's the only way other obscure endangered species can be saved.

(C) is a distortion of the author's point; it makes only a vague reference to the bald eagle (an important symbolic species), although never mentions it by name, and also ignores entirely the conservation needs of the more obscure endangered species.

(D) is too vague—like (C), it doesn't even mention the bald eagle, which was clearly the focus of the argument.

(E) While (E) is technically correct in saying that the author gives special importance to the bald eagle, this is not the author's main point. It is, in fact *evidence* for her main point: that *because* of the unique importance of the bald eagle, conservation of the bald eagle is a necessary first step toward conserving other species.



4. (C)

The author's whole point is that Raghnall's conclusion is based on inadequate evidence. The *author's* evidence is the alternative explanation he provides for the survey's results; namely, that couples may blame finances for their marriage problems when finances aren't the real problem. He uses this alternative explanation to make the point that Raghnall has jumped to conclusions—that she has failed to consider other possible explanations for the survey's results. Thus, the author believes that Raghnall's conclusion is inadequately justified.

(A) distorts the argument. The author's point isn't so much that financial problems are not a big factor in the breakup of marriages, but rather that Raghnall cannot reasonably conclude that they are without additional evidence.

(B) is outside the scope, a sure sign it's not the main point. Marriage counselors have never even been mentioned.

(D) simply restates the evidence, and not even the author's evidence, but Raghnall's.

(E) is a subtle misreading. The author does allude to "a number of other articles," but all we know is that these articles *relied* on the same survey that Raghnall's did; we don't know that they necessarily drew the same *conclusion* that Raghnall did.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

The conclusion is that while couples are saying they have financial troubles, they are expressing other troubles in financial terms. So they may not be facing financial troubles to the extent apparent through the survey data

5. (E)

The author has found an exception to the general government policy of conserving valuable natural resources—topsoil, which is eroding at an alarming rate. In many states, 100 years of farming has led to the loss of half the topsoil. The federal government's response has been inadequate; federal funding is described as "ridiculously low," and we're told that some states actually devote more money to conserving topsoil than the federal government does. The point of all this is expressed in (E): The federal government is spending far too little on soil conservation and it should spend more.

(A) Come on, you know this thing isn't about corn—in fact, corn is only mentioned as an *example* of topsoil erosion. This choice fails to even mention the main topic, topsoil.

(B) may or may not be inferable, but it's certainly not the main point. Like (A), this choice over-relies on the corn element, and totally ignores the issue in the last two sentences: federal expenditures.

(C) misses the author's criticism; instead of merely arguing that the federal government is responsible, she says that the feds aren't doing enough monetarily and should do more. Moreover, she never says conservation isn't the responsibility of the states.

(D) too is a distortion. The author doesn't accuse the feds of making an unfair distribution *between* states; her point is that the federal government is shortchanging all the states.

If you tried to summarize the whole argument in a single sentence, would it be (A), "corn isn't cost effective," or (B), "six inches of topsoil isn't enough?" Clearly not. These choices don't even mention the federal government. No, a summary of the argument must include the author's criticism of the feds; something like "the federal government isn't spending enough on soil conservation."

There are two main elements to this argument: topsoil and federal expenditures relating to topsoil conservation. Any choice that omits either one of these elements must be wrong.

6. (C)

"Law without enforcement is not law." So, to the author, a necessary condition for real law must be "enforcement." That's not one of the answer choices *per se*, but the author goes on to define "enforcement" not just as announcing forbidden acts, but as punishing those acts, and "without favor." This is what (C) is getting at: the author's deeper definition of enforcement—that without which "real law" doesn't exist.

(A) lacks context. Our author would consider impartial and just use of power as a part of real law, but not its "arbitrary and unjust" use. So (A) leaves matters too vague.

(B) Law that merely authorizes enforcement, without its being carried through, would fall short of the author's definition of real law.

(D) distorts the stimulus. The author sets out to specify when law is and is not "real," and that's independent of whether someone "understands law's purpose."

(E) Sentence three makes it clear that real law "is not merely" (E)'s definition, but involves the punishment of violators as well.

7. (E)

Previewing the stem, we see that we need to discern the author's main point. When the author begins by saying that something "is no mystery," it's a good bet that his point will be the mystery's solution, and so it is here. Those unfamiliar with the term "figurative painting" must figure out that it means "recognizable images," and you can do so by combining the first two sentences. The author figures that in the 1970s, people wanted to empathize with paintings, and puzzling over abstract art didn't afford this opportunity; he equates "lack of realism" with abstraction in the final sentence, and asserts that abstract art left people alienated. So, what explains the revival of figurative art in the 70's? Evidently, the author believes the public's taste is the solution to the mystery, choice (E).

(A) Quite the contrary: if abstract art did reflect reality, by the author's own logic people might have been drawn to it. His whole point is that abstract art is *divorced* from reality—which may help explain why the 70's public resented it.

(B) is a little vague—technically, the idea of "traditionalism" is not mentioned at all. But even if we interpret "traditional" to mean the recognizable realistic paintings the author believes that people prefer to abstract paintings, one would have to conclude from the argument that people wanted to see such subjects portrayed in *traditional* ways, not nontraditional ways as (B) would have it.

(C) The argument is about what the art-viewing public wants to see, and why; not which form of art is more difficult to create. Talent plays no part in the argument, which is why (C) is far from the author's main point.

(D) The passage doesn't lead us to believe that the public can't understand the theoretical basis of abstract art. It's just that, in the 1970s, they didn't want to. They wanted an art closer to home.

8. (C)

Determining the point of the argument hinges on one tiny phrase: "so-and-so is like arguing that the yeti etc." To be sure, all the rest of the evidence concerns the Himalayan yeti, but that's all in the service of "so-and-so," the analogy that *precedes* the yeti material. The point is that just as the absence of documentation for the yeti doesn't prove that it doesn't exist, the absence of documentation for European/East Asian trade in a certain time frame doesn't prove that it didn't happen. It's the historical trade issue that the author is interested in; the yeti is just used as analogous evidence. (C) is right on.

(A) The author applies the term "scientific confirmation" to the yeti example only, and anyway it doesn't really apply to a situation in which one is trying to prove whether trade existed between two world regions.

(B) The author never indicates that we need evidence from both sides; we can't even be sure that the author *agrees* with (B), and so (B) cannot be the main point of the argument.

(D) focuses on *disproving* the idea that the author seems interested in proving or, at least, keeping alive (that these two areas traded during the Middle Ages). The author, by use of the analogy, tries to say the opposite: Just because there are no records, that alone *doesn't* disprove the existence of the trade.

(E) merely compares the relative amounts of evidence for the two analogous alleged phenomena, when what the author's trying to do is keep alive the possibility of trade between Europe and East Asia in the *face* of the absence of evidence. (E) gives too much prominence to the place of the yeti example in the argument; as discussed above, it's there to shed light on the trade issue, and is thus not part of the main point itself.

9. (E)

The author's point of view jumps forcefully off the page from the second sentence: "Such a position ignores the lessons of experience." So, we know right away that the author is arguing against the "position" in the first sentence: the refusal of some legislators to commit public money to research lacking a clearly defined public benefit. Predictably, the author's rationale for arguing against this position comes next: Many unexpected, yet socially beneficial discoveries have emerged from just such research. Antibiotics is offered as an example of a hugely beneficial discovery that was accidentally born out of the seemingly unrelated study of molds. Where is the author going with all this? You may have been able to pre-phrase, at least in spirit, if not word for word, the point the author is leading toward: The legislators are wrong—specifically, they are wrong to refuse to fund research solely because that research isn't *guaranteed* to benefit the public welfare. (E) is a close paraphrase of this idea.

(A) is overly optimistic: The author's notion that you can't know for sure whether a given research program will benefit society is a far cry from arguing that *any* public funding for scientific research will *necessarily* enhance the public good.

(B) is too broad, for it necessarily leads to an absurd result: Suppose the predicted "general outcome" of a new research effort was utter failure, something with no public use, or something that would even harm the public? Would legislators *really* be willing to fund such research? According to (B), simply knowing the outcome would result in funding, but this is far from the point the author is trying to make. (C) While the author may possibly agree with (C), still, this isn't the main point she's trying to make. The author's evidence is not presented in order to lament what could have been the case for past discoveries, but rather to show what the unexpected results of past research can tell us about the short-sightedness of the legislators' current position.

(D) The author certainly believes that legislators should fund research, but not, as (D) has it, because this would ensure that the research is *directed* toward the public good. Rather, she promotes funding because we can't be sure what research, regardless of its direction, will ultimately increase the public good.

Don't confuse a statement with which the author might agree, like (C) here, with the author's main point. It's very possible for a statement to be consistent with the author's argument without it being the main point s/he's trying to make.

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10. (B)

It's especially important to have balance when reporting on civil conflicts, eschewing bias and fact manipulation, *but* — this idea doesn't justify concealing injustices in order to be fair to both sides, since if everyone were to bend over backwards to seem impartial while ignoring real problems, the resulting picture would portray everyone equally, in violation of reality or common sense.

So, the main point is that balanced reporting requires that one not only fairly report the views of each party, but also be sure not to ignore basic injustices in order to seem impartial; and that's what correct choice (B) says. Choice (A) erroneously picks up on the conclusion — if reporters ignored injustices, then balanced reporting would show that everyone has equal justification. This is a detail, the author's hypothesis of what could happen — not the main point. (C) is outside the scope, since the author doesn't mention the idea of life experience making us aware of specific cases of conflict involving injustice. (D) just repeats the topic, while adding the idea of "common sense" gleaned from the last line, which gives us no idea of the point of the argument. And (E) might have been tempting, but it goes too far beyond the scope, since the author doesn't mention the problem of subjectivity in reaching the ideal of balanced reporting.

11. (C)

After stating that anyone in the vicinity of the fire would have seen it, the speaker places Thomas in the area and states that "he must have seen it." All statements regarding Thomas build up to this point; nothing more, nothing less. Therefore, "he must have seen [the fire]" is this argument's conclusion. (A), (D), and (E) represent the logical link between the fact that Thomas went to the library and the conclusion that Thomas must have seen the fire. As such, they're part of the logical progression that eventually culminates in the conclusion just stated, not the conclusion itself.

(B) Thomas' claim that he did not see the fire is specifically what the author is trying to refute in order to form the real conclusion: that he did.

Remember that an argument's conclusion needn't come at the end of the stimulus; it's often in the beginning, and sometimes will be found in the middle. The conclusion is the terminal point of the logical chain. For every statement made in an argument, determine whether it represents the "final step" or whether other statements are logical consequences of it. Statements of fact introduced into an argument are usually pieces of evidence, rather than conclusions.

12. (C)

The author doesn't deny that too much smoking causes health problems. The point of his argument is that those problems are not the legal or moral responsibility of the tobacco industry. To support this point, the author reasons by analogy that too, much candy also causes health problems, and this, too, is public, undisputed information; yet no one looks to sue the candy makers.

(A) The author does seem to believe in open acknowledgment of the hazards of smoking, but this is only a springboard into the main thrust of the argument.

(B), (D) The references to the candy industry are evidence, present only to support the author's main point, that the tobacco companies are blameless.

(E) turns the argument inside out. The purpose of the argument is to convince the reader that the tobacco companies shouldn't be held responsible for the health problems of their customers. Why not? Because the candymakers aren't. Why worry about a Never-Never Land where candy companies are held responsible for cavities?

Remember, the conclusion isn't always at the beginning or end of the passage. Here, it's in the middle. Recognize when an issue or idea is brought up specifically to support a larger overriding point. Choices that focus too heavily on a side issue, such as (B), (D), and (E) here, will never be the answer to a main point or conclusion question.

13. (D)

Research efforts into making the Martian climate inhabitable are justified. This is the main point—everything else (the possibility of successful climate change, the success of other long-term efforts, the benefits of climate research) is support.

(A) merely restates part of the evidence. Very well, the change is possible, but the author is trying to persuade us that research should be begun now.

(B) states a drawback to the author's plan, a drawback the author deals with by saying that other worthwhile projects have taken centuries to complete.

(C) concentrates on an illustration, instead of the main point, and furthermore misses the meaning of the comparison between cathedral building and changing the Martian climate. The comparison had to do with time, not effort.

(E) Again, is evidence supporting the main point, giving one of the reasons for beginning the research the author recommends.

A common problem with wrong choices on “main point” questions is that they restate *part* of the argument, usually some of the supporting evidence. Don't be satisfied with evidence; you want a choice that expresses the purpose of the whole argument.

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If you read the passage, overall it says living on Mars might be possible in the future. It might take time, but so did many great architectural efforts / efforts to build something on Earth. **It is a justifiable pursuit**, not just for the aforementioned reasons, but also for the fact that such a pursuit may help us understand Earth's climate. So, everything is centred around that one thing - it is a justifiable pursuit, and there are various reasons for that.

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In this case, you can say it's a positive, hopeful tone overall. The crux of the passage is found around the word 'Besides'.

14. (E)

We get the crux of the argument in the first sentence. The conclusion, or main point, is that one cannot depend on multinational grain companies to start the process “that would reform the world's food-distribution system.” Why not? (that's the question that the first sentence should have prompted in your mind)—Because such companies operate in order to maximize profits. The rest of the stimulus simply explains what it means for a company to be interested in maximizing profits (change is incidental, stability is preferred).

(A) explains *why* the evidence leads to the conclusion (interest in profits discourages interest in change) but is not itself the main point, or conclusion.

(B) and (C) are both evidences. (B) goes back to the second sentence, restating the author's reason for saying that economic change caused by multinational companies is merely incidental. (C) simply repeats the main piece of evidence from the first sentence's capsule statement of the argument: multinational companies are unreliable *because* they operate to maximize profits.

(D) introduces a scope shift, bringing up an irrelevant issue. The author says nothing about whether or not reform of the food-distribution system is needed, only about who can be relied upon to initiate such reform.

On main point questions, reject any choice that rehashes material that is prefaced in the stimulus by a Keyword such as “although” or “because” or “since” (like (C) above). Such Keywords signal evidence, not conclusion, so they never introduce the main point. The conclusion can appear in the beginning or middle or end of the stimulus.

15. (D)

Kim's conclusion or main point is nicely highlighted in the last sentence by the Keyword "So." Replacing gas-powered cars with electric cars would be, at best, an even trade in terms of air pollution. And remember, the argument is framed around the claim that the battery-powered electric car *would* solve the air pollution problem. Based on the last sentence, then, we can rest assured that the author disagrees with that claim and that (D) is the main point.

- (A) simply restates part of Kim's evidence. It isn't the conclusion.
- (B) Kim doesn't call for a reduction in driving, for one thing; for another, maybe there are ways of reducing air pollution besides "cleaner" cars; e.g., switching from coal to hydroelectric power plants. So (B) is way off in scope and point of view.
- (C) is too extreme. Kim deals only with gasoline-powered cars and electric cars, concluding that the latter isn't better for air pollution than the former. To go one step further and say that Kim's point is that *all* cars create an *equal* amount of air pollution involves a major distortion.
- (E) Maybe Kim believes that gasoline-powered cars are here to stay, maybe not. We just don't know; in any case, there's no way that this can be the point she set out to prove in her argument.

All Kim says about battery-powered cars is that they aren't an improvement over gasoline-powered cars in terms of air pollution. The argument remains silent on other issues such as noise or fuel economy.

16. (E)

The author takes issue with the report's conclusion that nitrogen deposited by air pollution is good for North America's eastern forests. He points out that European scientists have found that when too much nitrogen is deposited, trees begin to die. He says that this probably applies to North America's eastern forests also, which are *already* suffering from excess nitrogen. The point is stated in (E): The report's conclusion is wrong, and the nitrogen in air pollution, far from benefiting trees in North America's eastern forests, will probably cause them to die. 99th PERCENTILE CLUB

- (A) The author disagrees with the report's conclusion, so his "main point" can hardly be simply to state that conclusion.
- (B) The author never says anything to suggest that the capacity of forests to absorb nitrogen increases as the forest becomes nitrate-saturated—quite the opposite!
- (C) 180° —the author states that "this finding is likely to apply to forests everywhere."
- (D) makes a false comparison not based on the argument; the author never contrasts eastern North American forests to other North American forests.

Grab those keywords! The whole passage hinges on the word "however". Once you see that the author's disagreeing with the report, the answer becomes obvious. Also, note the elegance of the word "however," a contrast keyword, leading towards a correct answer choice that begins with the phrase "contrary to."

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Here the stem itself makes it very clear that when it is talking about eastern forests, it is only talking about North American ones. That is the reason the stem uses 'eastern forests' by itself once too (without referencing North America explicitly). (a) That is implicitly understood in the given context and (b) The point is to familiarize you with the usage because it will be repeated in an answer choice

17.

The stimulus begins with a claim made by lovers of Shakespeare's works, who feel that in England, at least, Shakespeare's work has been known and loved by all classes, not just the elite. The key phrase comes midway: "Skepticism about this claim is borne out by. ..." This indicates that the author's main point is to take issue with that claim. Meanwhile, the counterevidence comes from only one period and source, the bound copies of Shakespeare from the early 1800's that the author feels could not have been available to ordinary folk. So (B) is correct in taking issue with the original claim, and has an appropriately narrow scope ("at some time in the past").

(A) The issue here is 'Who historically has revered Shakespeare (the elite or all classes?)', and not 'How can you tell the elite apart from everyone else?'

(C) What aspects? What lack of appreciation today?

(D) goes too far. The evidence, as noted above, comes only from the 1800's. The author cannot be leading to a blanket statement that only the educated upper class has ever known and loved Shakespeare.

(E) It's not the elite who are skeptical but the author, and that skepticism is of the claim made in sentence 1, not of whether Shakespeare in fact wrote worthy plays.

18. (A)

If that "frequently expressed view ... is false," it must mean that, to the author, written constitutions are inherently no more liberal than, and may be even *less* liberal than, unwritten ones. Which is all (A) is saying. Notice that the actual "therefore" sentence, the one you expect to be the conclusion, does in fact simply echo sentence 1: It asserts a condition (liberal interpretation and application) that's necessary for a written constitution to become liberal, in contrast to the view that a written constitution is *per se* liberal.

(B) screws up the phrase "properly understood." The author uses it in sentence 3 to introduce her view of what a constitution should be properly understood to be—namely, a sum of procedures. But (B) crazily implies that one cannot properly understand a written constitution. Huh?

(C), besides making no sense (how could it be easier to misinterpret a written document than a set of concepts that are mental or verbal only?), falls into much the same trap as (B), by implying that the issue is how a constitution can be understood or interpreted, when the issue is, in fact, how liberal *per se*, is a written constitution?

(D) The preservation of constitutions is never mentioned or alluded to.

(E) There probably *are* criteria for evaluating how a constitution is to be interpreted and applied, but the author never gets into that. What she's presenting, in the last sentence, are criteria for deeming a constitution as "liberal."

Don't be surprised when the author seems to state her conclusion twice—once at the outset and once at the end, albeit in slightly different words. This is a common tactic in argument and debate.

19. (D)

"Some people argue blah-blah-blah. But this is nonsense." The sentence demands the response: *How so? What's your evidence?* This alerts us that that which "is nonsense," that which demands evidence, is almost certainly the argument's main point. (D) has it just right: The argument that using the Moon's helium-3 will solve Earth's energy problems is nuts because, as sentences 3 and 4 explain, we couldn't build the reactors that the helium-3 would fuel until too late.

(A) The feasibility of mining the Moon is taken off the table by the engineer's "Even if." He bypasses that whole question, in order to take up his real issue, which is the feasibility of using helium-3 in time to do the world any good.

(B) Current reactors are beside the point. The engineer is concerned with the reactors 50 years hence which could, conceivably, be designed to use helium-3.

(C) implies that the people mentioned in line 1 are the engineer's target, but they're not; it's their point of view that he objects to. Besides, fuels other than helium-3 are never mentioned, so they could hardly be part of the "main point."

(E) is the gist of the engineer's last sentence, which is evidence for the main point, not the point itself. (If you chose (E), ask yourself: Where is the evidence supporting it? None is provided, so (E) can't be the main point the author is trying to make.)

Remember that the author's conclusion can appear anywhere—at the beginning, middle, or end.

20. (E)

The author begins by telling us how "most people" feel; they're insulted by the suggestion that they may not understand what they really want. The rest of the stimulus is devoted to explaining why these people are misguided to feel this way—self-knowledge is hard to come by, it's easier just to go with the flow and accept what society says, etc. So, the point of the argument is to show that it's *true* that people aren't necessarily the best authorities as to what their real wants are, despite the fact that most people don't want to hear it.

(A) The author does say acquiring self-knowledge can be risky, but that's not her main point; she makes that point in order to show why many people never bother to acquire self-knowledge.

(B) The author doesn't argue that self-knowledge is undesirable, only that it's not as easy to acquire or as common as people think.

(C) is an overstatement and a distortion; the author says that many people don't *know* what they *do* want, not that all people don't want what they *should* want.

(D) is far too vague. The author never speaks of "difficult decisions" in general; her point is limited to the fact that people often avoid doing the work necessary to gain *self-knowledge*.

When a stimulus begins by telling you what "most people" think, or what "accepted theory" holds, or what "used to be believed," usually the purpose of the stimulus is to attack that belief.

21. (B)

Campaign mudslinging—who should do it?

To draw a distinction between those who should sling mud and those who should not. The evidence provided speaks to the latter— “Who is it that should not sling mud?”—and the answer is “commentators,” for reasons spelled out in the last two sentences.

(A) focuses only on the broad topic, and ignores the crucial distinction drawn. In addition, the author only says that politicians can be excused for mudslinging, not that mudslinging serves any useful purpose.

(C) distorts the author’s reference (which is a side note anyway) to editorialists. The author takes no stance on the right or wrong of their criticism of mudslinging.

(D) This “counteraction” business is simply an enormous distortion. To the author, serious debate is an end in itself and not, as (D) says, mainly designed to counteract mudslinging.

(E) While the author feels that voters *aren’t* concerned about political mud, we cannot be sure that she believes they *should* be. Besides which, if this is the main point, where’s the evidence for it? None provided.

22. (A)

On the issue of when bikes should be advertised for purchase, the author takes the position that the likely best time is *prior* to peak riding season, for the reasons laid out in the last two sentences: You want to influence the consumer’s purchase decision when his/her mind is still open. (A) is practically verbatim.

(B), (C), and (D) all cite evidence provided en route to the conclusion. The pre-shopping decision made by consumers (B) is a prime reason as to why bike advertising ought to be done before the warm weather and shopping season begin. Once people’s minds are made up it’s hard to change them (D)—another good reason to get the ads in early. And of course, since most bikes *are* sold in the spring (C), the smart bike seller will try to get a piece of that action by advertising when ads will do the most amount of good—i.e., before the weather warms up.

(E) distorts sentence one, which deals with when bike riding *starts*, not when it’s most popular. For (E) to be the conclusion, all the evidence would have to concern numbers of bike riders at different times during the year. But as we know, all of the evidence concerns one central question—When is the best time to advertise ... that (A) answers.

23. (D)

People use the words “sex” and “gender” interchangeably, but *they shouldn’t*—there are the two missing words—and the rest of the stimulus explains why: because the two words mean very different things.

(D) expresses the main point here.

(A) and (B) are both discardable because the author gives equal weight to the concepts of sex *and* gender; he’s interested in a comparison, but these two choices mention gender only. If you need more reasons to toss them, note that (A) distorts the author’s view—the fact that the nature of gender definition is complex doesn’t mean that it’s “arbitrary”; while (B) offers an unwarranted inference (for all we know, gender traits *are* determined at birth).

(C) tries to lump together “maleness” (a sex trait) and “gender,” but the whole point of the evidence is that these two are different, however much the average person may think they’re one and the same.

(E) goes way off into another topic altogether, i.e., who decides whether behavior is proper or not.

24. (C)

"But" in the second sentence signals that a contrast to the first sentence is forthcoming, and that's exactly what we get: Despite the fact that scientists have been looking for life on other planets, they haven't found any evidence of it. The continuation Keyword "And" indicates that the author is continuing this line of reasoning—there's no reason to believe that evidence of extraterrestrial life will be found in the future. Finally, the author expresses her opinion in the last sentence: The dream will remain a dream. All this points to (C)—scientists will not find life on other planets.

(A) shifts the scope ever so slightly—saying that we'll never *find* extraterrestrial life is not the same as saying that such life *does not exist*. There may be many reasons for believing in the existence of life on other planets, but the author here is concerned only with the likelihood of *discovering* it.

(B) Attempts to find extraterrestrial life have failed despite the sophistication of the equipment; the problem evidently lies elsewhere. At no point does the author claim or imply that the equipment needs to be more sophisticated, so (B) cannot be the main point here.

For (D) to be the correct answer, the author would have to explicitly lobby for calling off the search for life on other planets. However, she never advocates ending the search; instead, she simply states that the dream "is destined to remain a dream."

(E) seems like a practical sentiment, but is one step beyond the scope of the argument. The cost of the equipment is mentioned in passing, and the author does suggest via the rest of her argument that such spending will be in vain, but she never explicitly says that the money should not be spent. "The dream will remain a dream"—but the author leaves it to the space people to decide whether or not to continue springing for costly equipment.

Many students have trouble eliminating choice (E), probably because (E) seems like such a practical and logical extension of the argument. However, we're looking for the main point, not a likely implication of the argument. (E) contains a recommendation ("We should not"), and the wording of the argument is simply not strong enough for us to infer that the main point of the argument is to suggest what should or should not be done. (C) fits in better with the tone of the passage.

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(A) – Nothing in the argument says extraterrestrial life may or may not exist. The argument is not about that. The argument say *scientists are unlikely* to be able to find ET life even if it exists (again, the last part is inconsequential to the argument).

25. (A)

Some authors believe that the rate of extinctions is not accelerating. Moreover, they make the stronger claim that *no evidence exists* which supports the opposing view. The author disagrees with this extreme claim ("They are wrong, however"), meaning the author believes that there is at least some evidence that the rate of extinction is accelerating. The final sentence provides such evidence, in the form of data on North American fishes. So, the author's main point is, as choice (A) has it, that there is some evidence that animal species are becoming extinct at an increasing rate.

(B) undermines the author's argument, since the author is trying to make a prediction.

(C) goes too far. The statement "They are wrong, however" is a reaction to what immediately preceded it: the claim that there is no evidence at all. The fish data just shows that there is at least some evidence. It isn't supposed to be a model of the entire animal population.

(D) This data is used to support a further point about the rate of extinctions; it isn't the main point itself.

(E) We don't know anything about species that are *in danger* of becoming extinct, so (E) isn't part of the argument, much less the author's main point. The author disagrees with the article writers, since she says "They are wrong," but picking up on the *way* in which the author disagrees is key to picking up the point.

26. (C)

The topic here is the cause of World War I, and the passage quickly establishes the author's view that the commonly accepted idea (that an assassination caused the war) "is bound to mislead." Mislead? How so? We read on to learn the evidence: The war had deeper political and military causes, so the assassination was the cause in a limited sense only; it lit the spark that set off the "gunpowder" represented by the treaties and alliances and armies. So, the right answer, the main point of the passage, has to involve a correction of the "misleading" view that the main cause of the war was the assassination. Consider each choice in turn.

(A) denies the assassination as a cause, which contradicts the third sentence which states that it *was* a cause, if only a trivial one. Also, the passage's list of political and military causes doesn't amount to "a chain of events." (A) is way off.

(B)'s fatalistic assessment distorts the text. The author believes that the outbreak of war was "inevitable" once the various "prevailing conditions" were in place. But (B) implies that it was the *establishment of those conditions* that was inevitable, unalterable; and for that we have no evidence.

(C) has it right, granting the assassination as a cause *per se* but arguing (as the passage does) that the *true* causes run deeper. (C) essentially paraphrases the spark/conflagration metaphor with which the passage ends.

(D)'s hypothesis is in no way supported by the passage's information. Logically speaking, the statement that "These factors made war inevitable" does not imply that "An *absence* of these factors would've made war *avoidable*." Another problem with (D) is that it unreasonably singles out military force for special attention, whereas the author merely lumps in military force as one of the "prevailing conditions" before the war.

(E), by acknowledging the huge impact of the assassination on the war, echoes the misleading teaching with which the passage opens. The author's whole purpose is to assign that single event a back seat in the face of the many overwhelming and complex other causes, but (E) reverses that emphasis.

27. (A)

According to the first sentence, the city's annual bridge maintenance budget has demonstrated "fiscal irresponsibility" for a decade. That value judgment has to be supported by evidence, and it is—that's what the rest of the passage is all about. Maintenance, says the author, ideally should cost \$15 million a year, which would require another \$10 million for repairs. However, in the upcoming two years alone, the repair bill will hit a staggering \$400 million. And why? Because the city was so cheap as to budget not \$15 million, but \$1 million for maintenance originally. They cut corners up front and are paying through the nose now. The "irresponsibility," then, is that the original maintenance budget was suicidally low; and that's (A).

(B), for one thing, confuses necessity and sufficiency: A necessary trait of a well-run program is good budgeting, but (B) seems to believe that fiscal responsibility would *ensure* a well-run program. For another thing, (B) commits a scope shift: The author is attacking the city's maintenance budgeting, not its repairs spending.

(C) 180°: It's not that the city is spending too much; it's that they're not budgeting enough in the first place.

(D) is one possible explanation of why the budgeting was so chintzy. But we already know that it was an "attempt to economize," so (D) just repeats evidence without focusing on the author's fundamental point.

(E) We have no idea how much these bridges cost to build; that issue is outside the scope, so the comparison in (E) certainly doesn't express the main point here.

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(A) – In this passage, the taxpayer is very critical of the bridge maintenance program. That is explicit. What is implicit is that the taxpayer is saying said program should have been managed better.

28. (C)

It's well-known that species adapt to their environment, but most assume that only highly evolved species actually change their environment to aid in survival. But we find out, this behavior is actually quite common, as the plankton example is presented to demonstrate. The process that follows is actually relatively unimportant, given that we're looking for general stuff like the main point and the argumentative technique. (See bullet point below.) The Keyword "However" indicates that the example of plankton is meant to show that not only the highly evolved species act in the manner described. (C) captures the main gist of the argument.

(A) and (D) deal with specifics relating to plankton behavior (namely, its effect on earth temperature and cloud cover) and ignore the *function* of the plankton example altogether. The main point here must somehow relate to the common assumption stated in the first sentence.

(B) Far from the main point, (B) is not even inferable. The plankton's looking out for number one—the chain it sets in motion benefits itself. Nowhere do we find out that these reactions benefit "the Earth as a whole." And again, even if we *could* infer this, (B) wouldn't suffice as the main point. Nothing that ignores the common assumption presented in the second half of the first sentence will do.

(E) posits an unwarranted and unsupported comparison between the effects of plankton's alteration of the environment and those of more highly-evolved species. But all we know is that these species, highly developed or not, alter their environments to suit themselves. The relative well-being of other species as influenced by these alterations is beyond the scope.

29. (E)

Some judges think that minimum sentences are too restrictive, as they prevent judges from exercising discretion in certain matters. "But," (note the Keyword) the author says this is precisely the problem. So, the author must believe that judges shouldn't have the power to make certain kinds of decisions. The rest of the stimulus backs up the notion that judges act arbitrarily when left on their own. So minimum sentences, which remove this discretion, are a good thing after all. (E) captures this point.

(A) is a bit extreme, since some people might have good judgment at least some of the time, even if people don't *use* their judgment in an objective way. In any case, (A) doesn't mention sentencing, and so cannot be the main point here.

(B) and (C) go against the author's view. The author *likes* minimum sentencing rules and doesn't trust judges.

(D) is a view the author would agree with, but isn't the main point. The point about arbitrary decisions is designed to prove the author's case regarding sentencing rules.

When you're asked for the author's main point, follow the chain of statements in the argument and see where they end up. A point that supports another point cannot be the author's main conclusion. Words like "but" help you predict where the passage will go and keep you involved, making you less likely to lose your concentration.

30. (B)

An earthquake theory is plausible save one mystery: There should be lots of heat given off during earthquakes, but such increases in heat have not been detected. What's the main point? Simply that—the current theory doesn't fully explain earthquake data; specifically, the absence of enormous amounts of heat. That's (B).

(A) distorts the text: There may be weather-related increases in heat following earthquakes. More importantly, however, even if we overlook this distinction, the lack of large heat increases following earthquakes isn't the overall point of the argument but rather the mystery suggesting that the current theory isn't fully plausible.

(C) A little fatalistic, eh? (C) is way too extreme. Nothing in the passage suggests that this theory won't be amended to plausibly explain the causes of earthquakes one day, or that some other theory won't do the same. The author's not this negative; just a little puzzled, perhaps.

(D) Because the author finds the theory "plausible," we might infer that he believes the theory is right and the heat evidence is simply lacking. But we can't rule out the possibility that he feels that the lack of heat evidence points to a flaw in the theory. Even if we go with the former, we would only be able to say that the author would *agree* with (D), but not that the argument is structured to lead to this conclusion. The main point must include something about the theory.

(E) No, the author doesn't rule out the possibility that the theory may be correct. He simply points to one aspect of it that to this point remains mysterious.

Beware of extreme answer choices that blow the author's ideas way out of proportion. (C) is a perfect example.

31. (E)

This argument requires careful paraphrasing. "Don't use this therapy merely because doing something is better than doing nothing. Also consider that the therapy is expensive and complicated." In other words, the possible benefit of the therapy must be weighed against the fact that it's costly and complicated. That, in a nutshell, is answer choice (E). Note the similarities between the wording of the stimulus and (E): "...cannot be adequately supported..." in the stimulus is perfectly in line with (E)'s "...is not sufficient justification..."

(A) First of all, the doctor is making reference to a *claim* that any therapy for the illness is better than nothing at all; this fact is not itself the doctor's idea. Furthermore, even if we attribute this notion to the doctor, what about the whole thing about the expense and complication of the therapy? We can't just ignore this in formulating the doctor's main point, so (A) is not only a distortion but also too narrow to serve as the main point here.

(B), (C) Other forms of treatment aren't mentioned, so nothing regarding them can be part of the main point here.

(D) The passage gives no conditions under which the treatment should definitely be used, so this choice is out.

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The way Option (D) is constructed, it means that if the treatment is either effective or inexpensive, then it should be used. But the doctor is not saying that. The doctor is saying these are factors to be considered on top of the fact that the treatment should not be used just because it is better than no treatment at all. In other words, (a) there are lots of problems with the treatment and (b) there may even be a situation where no therapy is better than using this one (may, not to say there is). All of these are subsumed most comprehensively in Option (E) vs in Option (D).

32. (C)

The structure here is: factual claim; conclusion (the value judgment about the irrelevancy of resolution differences); and evidence (signaled by “since”). That value judgment is paraphrased by (C), with “have no practical bearing” translating into “irrelevant for practical photography.”

(A) asserts that which camera makers “ought to” do, but no recommendation is made in this argument. By saying that the cameras have no differences apart from lens resolution, (B) is a 180.

(D) focuses (pardon the pun) on the tastes of camera consumers, but for all intents and purposes they are outside the scope. (E) constructs an unwarranted distinction between resolution differences and film differences; the former are the sole topic of the conclusion.

33. (D)

“It is widely believed that....However,” is a sure sign that the author takes issue with the common view. The author says that those who believe that chocolate-eating can cause acne “[mistake] an effect for a cause,” but that doesn’t mean that those people reverse the two. She goes on to specify that both are effects, that it’s stress that causes both chocolate-eating (which sentence 1 says people believe is a cause) and acne. All of that is summed up by (D). To the author, chocolate-eating and acne are a correlation, and both phenomena share an independent cause.

The author doesn’t contradict those who see acne appear after a big chocolate binge (A); indeed, since both are caused by stress, she’d be surprised if they didn’t occur together. (B) reverses the stress chocolate-eating relationship posited by the author. (C) creates an unwarranted comparison between two phenomena—stress and acne—that are in a cause + effect relationship, not an opposed one. Causes of chocolate-craving (E) are outside the scope of chocolate-eating. One can crave a foodstuff without eating it, and vice versa. The author never mentions craving.

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Q33.

Additional context on the question – Here, the passage says - Y (acne) is something that is happening, X (eating chocolate) is commonly thought to be *causing* Y. But this may not be so. Z (stress and hormones released during stress) may actually cause Y. Z causes Y but Z also causes X; so, people tend to think X causes Y (and Z is hidden from common visibility). This is what Option (D) says verbatim.

Option (A) says whenever someone says they have found a *positive correlation* between Y and X (X has happened, Y has also happened), they are wrong. How is that correct to say? It may very well be true that many of these people got stressed, they ate lots of chocolate because of that, and also the stress itself caused the acne - just that eating chocolate and acne appearing both happened. Correlation versus causation - a huge chunk of statistics, research, corporate problem solving, depends on disentangling the two.

34. (C)

The conclusion is summed up in a single sentence: “The similarities are too fundamental to be mere coincidence, however.” The information that comes before is factual background, and the information that follows provides evidence for the conclusion. Choice (C) effectively restates the conclusion, and thus describes the argument’s main point.

(A) is true, but doesn’t go far enough. The author is not just saying that the products are similar; they are so similar that (in his or her opinion) it can’t be coincidence.

(B)—The author seems to imply that one of the companies copied the other, but there is no evidence about which company did the copying.

(D) is a 180 wrong answer choice. The author believes that believes that it was not simply parallel evolution, but something more which caused the similarities.

(E)—The products don’t appear to be at all unique, even at first glance.

35. C

This author first introduces a commonly held position and then refutes it. The initial viewpoint is that Handel's *de capo* arias needlessly repeat texts. The author's response is that the repetition serves an important purpose and allows audiences to focus on the music itself. In such a stimulus, the main point is always the author's response.

Answer choice (A): This does not accurately describe either the initial viewpoint (that the arias contain a disproportionate amount of text) or the author's response (that the amount of text is vital to appreciating the arias).

Answer choice (B): Neither the critics nor the musicologist address other arias. Thus, we cannot infer if the musicologist believes Handel's *de capo* arias to be superior to most in any way, much less in their accessibility to diverse audiences.

Answer choice (C): This is the correct answer choice. This is a relatively accurate restatement of the musicologists claim that "such criticism is refuted by noting that repetition serves a vital function."

Answer choice (D): This may be an appropriate paraphrase of the critics' complaint regarding the disproportion between text and music in Handel's arias, but the question stem asks us to express the musicologist's main point.

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Q35.

This author first introduces a commonly held position and then refutes it. This pattern allows the test-makers to add multiple viewpoints to a single speaker stimulus. The initial viewpoint is that Handel's *de capo* arias needlessly repeat texts. The author's response is that the repetition serves an important purpose and allows audiences to focus on the music itself. In such a stimulus, the main point is always the author's response.

(C) – This is the correct answer choice. This is a relatively accurate restatement of the musicologists claim that "such criticism is refuted by noting that repetition serves a vital function."

(D) – This may be an appropriate paraphrase of the critics' complaint regarding the disproportion between text and music in Handel's arias, but the question stem asks us to express the musicologist's main point.

Answer choice (E): This answer is too broad. The musicologist rejects a particular criticism, but makes no claim regarding most criticism of the arias.

36. B

The author introduces a famous artist's claim that all great art imitates nature:

Great art → Imitate nature

According to the author, the logical implication of this claim is that any music that is great art would also imitate nature:

Great art_{music} → Imitate nature_{music}

CONCLUSION: The great artist was wrong to say that all great art imitates nature, OR great music is not always great art.

We can conclude that most great music is *not* great art—assuming, of course, that the famous artist's claim is correct. It need not be: the artist's claim is presented as an *opinion*, whereas the claims in the second and the third sentences are presented as *fact*. Like all opinions on the test, the artist's assertion should be approached with caution. If it were correct, then most great music is indeed not great art. But if it were incorrect, then great music can still be great art even if it imitates nothing. This prephrase is consistent with answer choice (B).

Answer choice (A): This answer choice is incorrect because the author never argued that music is inferior to other forms of art. The only logical implication of the artist's claim is that most great music is not great art, not that all music is inferior to all other art forms. Furthermore, this answer choice does not acknowledge the possibility that the artist's claim is incorrect.

Answer choice (B): This is the correct answer choice. Either the artist's claim is incorrect, and great music need not imitate anything to be considered great art, or his claim is correct—in which case most great music is not great art.

Artist's Claim: Great art → Imitates Nature



Author's evidence: Some great music does not imitate nature

It's possible that great music is not always great art. If true, then it could be that the artist is correct, and

any great music that doesn't imitate nature is not great art.

If great music is great art, then the artist is wrong, because great music doesn't always imitate nature.

If the artist is right, then great music is sometimes not great art.

Answer choice (C): The author never compares music to other art forms such as painting or sculpture. This answer choice falls entirely outside the scope of the argument.

Answer choice (D): Whether great art can represent all elements of nature cannot be determined with the information provided in the stimulus.

Answer choice (E): This is an attractive answer choice because it can easily be concluded by the contrapositive of the artist's claim. Indeed, if all great art imitates nature, then sounds that do *not* imitate nature *cannot* be great music. The question stem, however, never asked us to identify the *artist's* hypothetical conclusion given the facts presented by the author. Instead, our goal is to express the *author's* main point, who does not necessarily agree with the artist (note the conditional qualifier “if this claim is correct...” at the beginning of the second sentence).

1. The author never mentioned great paintings or sculpture.
2. The author never said whether or not it's possible to imitate all of nature.
3. This would be true if the artist was correct, and if great music is necessarily correct.

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Conclusion: (implicit) Not ALL great art imitates nature.

Evidence: If all great art imitated nature, then all great music would imitate nature, and most great music imitates nothing.

Answer Anticipation:

This conclusion was implicit because the author argued by contrapositive. If an author ever says, "If X were true, then Y would be true. But Y is NOT true." then she's implicitly arguing that X is not true.

(A) This is never said or implied.

(B) Yes It seemed like the author was saying that "the artist's claim is incorrect", but another way to resolve the tension would be to say that most great music isn't great art.

(C) Painting and sculpture were never discussed.

(D) This is never said or implied.

(E) The author is not arguing that to be great music you MUST imitate nature, as this answer implies.

Claim: A famous artist once claimed that all great art imitates nature.

P1: If this claim was correct, then any music that is great art would imitate nature.

P2: But while some music may imitate ocean waves or the galloping of horses, for example, most great music imitates nothing at all.

The easiest way for me to work through the stimulus was using conditional language:

Claim: Great art --> imitate nature

P1: We would think since.... music --> great art --> imitate nature

P2: But, most great music --> ~imitate nature

Therefore... Most great art -->~imitate nature --> ~great art

Most music is not great art, which is (B).

(A) has nothing to do with anything.

(C) brings up stuff that isn't in the argument.

(D) makes it about nature, when it's about art.

(E) is never stated or even suggested. And the argument is about music that IS great.

37. B

Conclusion: Prosperity is a driving force behind increases in the release of CO₂ (main cause of global warming).

Evidence: As incomes rise, more things like cars are purchased, producing more CO₂. As incomes decline due to recessions, steep drops in CO₂ emissions follow.

- (A) That is an aside in the first sentence, not the main claim about the connection between prosperity and CO₂ emissions.
- (B) YES! First sentence.
- (C) Premise
- (D) Premise
- (E) Premise

The economist's first premise is that as incomes rise, more people spend money on energy-consuming devices, such as cars, thereby producing more carbon dioxide. This premise establishes a correlation between prosperity (i.e., when incomes rise) and carbon dioxide: as prosperity increases, carbon dioxide increases.

Next, the economist provides another correlation between prosperity and carbon dioxide. In countries that experienced deep economic recessions, there were steep drops in carbon dioxide emissions. So, as prosperity decreases, carbon dioxide emissions decrease.

Based on these bookend *correlations* between prosperity and carbon dioxide, the economist reaches the *causal* conclusion that prosperity is a driving force behind increases in the release of carbon dioxide. This conclusion is flawed, because the evidence of correlation does not by itself establish causation. However, the task in this Main Point question is merely to identify the conclusion, which is presented in the first sentence of the stimulus.

Answer choice (A): This choice is not a restatement of the conclusion, because it fails to mention prosperity and its relationship to increases in carbon dioxide. While it is true that the phrase "a main cause of global warming" followed the conclusion, it plays the role of an appositive, further explaining what carbon dioxide is.

Answer choice (B): This is the correct answer choice. This choice restates the conclusion, essentially replacing the phrase "driving force" with "important cause."

Answer choice (C): This choice restates a premise of the argument.

Answer choice (D): This choice also restates a premise of the argument.

Answer choice (E): As with choices (C) and (D), this choice restates a premise of the argument.

38. A

Conclusion: It would've been better to buy a tree last summer rather than this summer. *Evidence:* This summer's tree is struggling to survive the drought. Had we bought one last year, it would've stood a better chance against the drought because its roots would've been better established. Here, we see we are front loaded with an opinion, and once the author proceeds to start supporting that opinion, we can confirm our suspicion that the first sentence was the conclusion.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| (A) Yes, first sentence. | (B) Premise | (C) Premise | (D) Premise |
| (E) Premise | | | |

39. B

This author discusses the prospect for future production of truly intelligent machines, saying that artificial intelligence research will not be able to produce such machines without making major changes to the focus of the discipline. The author says the current focus on computational ability, without focus on other types of abilities, has limited potential—limited in the same way that a person would be without any emotional or any other non-cognitive response. In short, while progress has been made in some areas, without a radical shift in focus, potential is limited.

The argument's logical components break down as follows:

Premise: Progress has been made in creating computationally complex devices.

Premise: The present focus will create devices that are limited in the true intelligence they are capable of.

Conclusion: Thus, research will be incapable of creating truly intelligent machines without major changes to the focus of their discipline.

The question stem asks for the main conclusion of the author's argument. As discussed, based on the limits of the discipline's current focus, the author concludes that research will be unable to produce machines of true intelligence without a major shift in focus.

Answer choice (A): This point, that a machine with mere computational sophistication is limited in the same way as a person without emotional or other non-cognitive responses, is a premise that the author provides in support of the main point, it is not the main conclusion itself. Answer choice (B): This is the correct answer choice. As prephrased above, the author's main conclusion is that without a major shift in the discipline's focus, the research into artificial intelligence will be incapable of creating truly intelligent machines.

Answer choice (C): The author does not specify the objectives of current research. If the objective was to create devices of sophisticated computational ability, that objective has been met. If the objective was to create "truly intelligent machines," the objective has not been met. Regardless, this is certainly not the conclusion of the author's argument, so it should be ruled out of contention in response to this Main Point question.

Answer choice (D): The author does not specify whether noncognitive responses are more or less important to true intelligence than computational sophistication; the author's point is that computational complexity is not enough to achieve true intelligence. Since this point cannot be confirmed by the information in the stimulus, it fails the Fact Test and cannot possibly be the main point of the stimulus.

Answer choice (E): The author makes a point of saying that a machine with just computational ability is only as close to true intelligence as a person lacking noncognitive responses, but this is not the author's main point, which is that unless there is a shift in focus the current research will not be able to produce truly intelligent machines.

40. B

The author opens this stimulus by introducing the claim that migrating birds may have some sort of innate directional sense that allows them to find their way back to the same areas each year. The author refutes this assertion, based on the lack of conclusive evidence that birds have such an innate homing ability. The author goes on to provide the counter example of people who are able to find their way home based on the use of landmarks; despite this ability, the author points out, no one thinks that humans have a similar innate sense of direction. Birds, the author suggests, could be using the same method.

Re-ordered and simplified, the argument breaks down as follows:

Premise: Some claim that migratory birds have an innate homing sense.

Premise: But they may just use landmarks, much like humans.

Conclusion: Thus, there is not much support for the belief that migratory birds have a homing sense. The question that follows asks for the author's main conclusion. In this case, based on the lack of conclusive evidence, the author concludes that there is little support for the argument that birds have an innate sense of direction.

Answer choice (A): The author does not go so far as to claim that migratory birds have no innate homing

sense; rather, the author's conclusion is that there is insufficient evidence to support this assertion.

Answer choice (B): This is the correct answer choice. As discussed, the author's main conclusion is that there is not much support for the claim that migratory birds have an innate homing sense.

Answer choice (C): The author does not mention inconclusive studies of migratory birds; while this choice would support the author's conclusion, it is not the main point of the argument and should thus be eliminated from contention.

Answer choice (D): The author introduces the use of landmarks as an approach the birds might take if they do not actually have an innate homing sense. The author does not mention whether or not such landmark use is an innate ability itself, so this cannot be the main point of the argument.

Answer choice (E): The author does not go so far as to say that birds definitely lack an innate homing ability; rather, the conclusion is merely that there is insufficient evidence for the claim that the birds have such an ability.

41. D

The author introduces a common belief, only then to immediately refute it: Many people believe this to be the case, but they are mistaken. In this case, the author is discussing the common assumption that personal conflicts are inevitable, an assumption, the author asserts, which is mistaken, since personal conflicts are generally just the result of human irrationality. The author gives the example of a common rush to negative judgment, in spite of what the evidence might otherwise suggest:

people more quickly perceive someone as unreliable (often after a single instance) than as reliable (a perception that can take years to foster). The argument breaks down more simply as follows:

Premise: Personal conflicts are primarily the result of irrationality.

Conclusion: Thus, despite common perception, personal conflicts are not actually inevitable.

The question stem asks for the author's main conclusion, which has already been prephrased above: Personal conflicts are not inevitable.

42. A

Conclusion: It would benefit public health if junk food were taxed.

Evidence: Eating too much junk food contributes to many health problems. If it were more expensive (taxed) than healthy food, people would switch to healthier food, which would reduce these problems.

(A) Yes! First sentence.

(B) Premise

(C) Premise

(D) Never said, but kind of implied, not the first sentence.

(E) Tricky! But the conclusion was "if junk food taxed, it would ben public health", and this says the conclusion was "if taxing would benefit public health, we should do it."

This comes down to (A) vs. (E), as long as we correctly recognized the 1st sentence as the conclusion. At that point, we can't be duped by the "word match" in (E). We need to look for the "meaning match", which we get with (A).

43.

E

Premise: A recently discovered deep-sea creature has red lights on some of its tentacles that probably serve to attract prey.

Conclusion: Scientists need to reassess their belief that no deep-sea creature can detect red light.

(A) This is a rewording of the premise.

(B) This is a rewording of the premise.

(C) This is part of the premise. You could consider it background information: the fact that the red lights are shaped like a common food source for deep-sea fish, and probably serve as lures, is really the support for the conclusion. The genus of the creature, its size, and even the fact that it has only been discovered recently aren't the parts that provide support. In any case, this isn't the conclusion.

(D) This is what we call an opposing point. It describes the scientists' belief, which is refuted by the conclusion of the argument.

(E) Correct. This is the conclusion.

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44. D

Premise: If children receive as much praise for attempting something as for accomplishing something, they eventually disregard all praise.

Intermediate Conclusion:

This effectively means that the children never hear any praise.

Conclusion: Parents who consistently praise children for accomplishments regardless of whether or not they succeed will erode the children's self-esteem.

OR

Parents should not necessarily raise their children the way that experts recommend.

(A) This is background information. It's similar to the statement at the beginning of the second sentence in the stimulus, but that isn't the conclusion.

(B) This is the premise—sort of. We might say that "undeservedly" is a slight change from what's in the stimulus. But regardless of that, choice (B) doesn't describe the conclusion.

(C) Out of scope. Nothing in the stimulus is about parents' expectations or children's capabilities.

(D) This is correct. It is a rewording of the conclusion, but retains the same meaning.

(E) Out of scope. Nothing in the stimulus tells us exactly what happens if children aren't praised when they succeed.

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This author opens the stimulus with the conclusion of the argument: that parents who applaud both successful and failed attempts to accomplish something erode their children's sense of accomplishment. The author concedes that children do need to be commended when they achieve something, but says that children who are commended for both accomplishments and mere attempts eventually start to ignore all commendations, hearing no praise at all.

The argument is structured as follows:

Premise: Children require commendation for achievements, but getting commended for all mere attempts can lead children to discount all praise.

Conclusion: When parents commend both every accomplishment and every attempt, they actually erode their children's self-esteem.

The question that follows asks for the author's overall conclusion. The main point is that parents' offering commendation for both accomplishments and attempts erode their children's self-esteem.

Answer choice (A): The author does say that parents should commend their children's accomplishments, but, as discussed, this is not the conclusion of the argument, so this choice should be ruled out of contention.

Answer choice (B): The author provides that undeserved praise eventually leads children to stop hearing all praise, but this is not the author's main point; it is, rather, a premise offered in support of the author's main conclusion, that uniform commendation for both achievements and attempts will erode children's self-esteem.

Answer choice (C): The stimulus does not make any reference to parents' expectations of their children, so this cannot be the main point of the author's argument.

Answer choice (D): This is the correct answer choice; if parents offer praise for both actual achievements and mere accomplishments, the children's self esteem will erode.

Answer choice (E): This author says that parents should commend their children's accomplishments, but concludes that across-the-board commendation (for both achievements and attempts) can erode children's self-esteem—not, as this choice suggests, a failure to praise successes.

The author does imply that unsuccessful attempts are undeserving of praise. If unsuccessful attempts were deserving of praise, why would the author argue they shouldn't be praised for them or that being praised for them would ultimately discount all words of commendation? If that part of the argument had been the main point, I don't think the concept "undeservedly" would be enough to invalidate that answer choice. The problem with answer choice (B)--and the only thing you really need to eliminate an answer choice in a Main Point question--is that it does not describe the conclusion of the argument. The conclusion is the 1st sentence so we need an answer choice that matches the meaning of that 1st sentence. All answer choices describing other parts of the argument are automatically out!

Premise:

If children receive as much praise for attempting something as for accomplishing something, they eventually disregard all praise.

Intermediate Conclusion:

This effectively means that the children never hear any praise.

Conclusion:

Parents who consistently praise children for accomplishments regardless of whether or not they succeed will erode the children's self-esteem.

Answer Anticipation:

Watch for wrong answers that identify a different component of the argument or distort the meaning of the conclusion.

Correct Answer:

(D)

Answer Choice Analysis:

(A) This is background information. It's similar to the statement at the beginning of the second sentence in the stimulus, but that isn't the conclusion.

(B) This is the premise—sort of. We might say that "undeservedly" is a slight change from what's in the stimulus. But regardless of that, choice (B) doesn't describe the conclusion.

(C) Out of scope. Nothing in the stimulus is about parents' expectations or children's capabilities.

(D) This is correct. It is a rewording of the conclusion, but retains the same meaning.

(E) Out of scope. Nothing in the stimulus tells us exactly what happens if children aren't praised when they succeed.



Takeaway/Pattern: Identify the Conclusion questions require you to identify, not interpret. Watch out for answer choices that contain ideas which aren't actually discussed in the stimulus.

45. A

This author begins by outlining what is involved in anthropological “field studies,” but quickly interjects by claiming that their usefulness is overrated. Note the use of the adverb “however,” which is commonly used to change the direction of the argument. The last sentence provides support for the second: field studies are not terribly useful *because* anthropologists underestimate the impact of living within the communities they study. The argument is structured as follows:

Premise: Anthropologists underestimate the impact of living within the communities they study.

Conclusion: Anthropologists overestimate the usefulness of field studies.

The question that follows asks for the author’s overall conclusion. Answer choice (A) agrees with our prephrase, and is correct. Note that the first sentence is irrelevant to the author’s conclusion, as it merely defines field studies and concedes that they have played an important role in research. Another concession is made in the beginning of the last sentence: most anthropologists know about the impact they are having on the communities they study. Neither claim plays any structural role in the argument. To identify the conclusion of this argument it’s helpful to recognize that the word “however” represents a pivot in the argument away from an opposing point and towards the author’s point. At the pivot the author states the argument’s conclusion and then goes on to offer qualified evidence. The word “although” qualifies the support for the argument’s main point.

Answer choice (A): This is the correct answer choice, because the second sentence of the stimulus is directly supported by the third. Do not be misled by the fact that certain words, such as “usefulness” and “value,” or “overrate” and “overestimate,” are being used interchangeably. Correct answers to Main Point questions frequently avoid restating the conclusion verbatim.

Answer choice (B): The author does say that in a field study, the researcher lives within the community being studied. However, as discussed, this is not the conclusion of the argument, so this choice should be ruled out of contention.

Answer choice (C): It is true that field studies have long been a staple of anthropological research, but the argument as a whole is not intended to support this claim.

Answer choice (D): It is true that most anthropologists know about the impact they are having on the communities they study, but the argument is not intended to support this observation, and no evidence is given to substantiate it.

Answer choice (E): The author clearly states that anthropologists underestimate the impact they are having on the communities they study, but this is not the conclusion of the argument. Rather, it is the only premise for that conclusion, because it provides support for the claim that the value of field studies is overrated.

46. C

In this case, the author began, “Some heartburn-medication advertisements imply...” This introduction foreshadows that the author’s conclusion will disagree with the implication made by the advertisements, and the author concludes that “This (i.e., the implication by some heartburn-medication advertisements) is simply false.”

"This is simply false" does not provide support to any other piece of the argument, but is itself supported by the third and fourth sentences of the stimulus. Because it is supported by other parts of the stimulus and does not support any other part, the statement that "this is simply false" is the conclusion.

Answer choice (A): This statement was a premise offered in support of the conclusion.

Answer choice (B): While this causal statement makes sense in the context of the stimulus, the stimulus did not include a causal statement. Rather than causality, the stimulus presented a conditional relationship, in which only the people who have cells similar to those in the stomach's lining developing in their lower esophagus have an increased risk of developing cancer because of heartburn.

Answer choice (C): This is the correct answer choice. While the information in this answer choice is worded from a negative perspective, such that "unrelieved heartburn is not likely to cause esophageal cancer," it is a restatement of the conclusion, that it is false to imply that unrelieved heartburn is likely to cause esophageal cancer.

Answer choice (D): This statement was a claim presented by the argument to introduce the topic and concerning which the author disagreed.

Answer choice (E): While being close to a statement presented in the stimulus, that "only 5 percent of people with severe heartburn have a condition called Barrett's esophagus," *it is not identical to that statement*. The difference between the statements is that the information in this answer choice refers to a small percentage of the people who see the advertisement, as opposed to a small percentage of people with severe heartburn.

The argument follows a common pattern: opposing point, conclusion, premises. The conclusion here is that the claim made in the first sentence is false; in other words, unrelieved heartburn is not likely to cause esophageal cancer.



47. E

In the second sentence, the author uses the "some people say..." technique, providing the viewpoint of someone else, which the author will conclude is incorrect. Some people say that by a few centuries from now, humans will have learned to colonize other planets and, because of this ability, the geometric growth of the population will not be a problem.

As we anticipated, the author disagrees with this position, and concludes that colonizing other planets would be a temporary solution at best. The author points out that if the population doubles every 30 years, then if half the Earth's population emigrated to Mars in 2500, a date within the "few centuries" timeline provided in the first sentence, the population would be back to the 2500 level by 2530. Because of this basic math, the author concludes colonization of other planets would only be a temporary solution.

Answer choice (A): This statement was a claim made to provide the factual background for the argument. It was neither a premise nor a conclusion.

Answer choice (B): The author does not make a prediction about whether overpopulation will persist. Instead, the author concludes the planetary emigration idea will not be a permanent solution.

Answer choice (C): This statement was a premise offered in support of the conclusion.

Answer choice (D): As with answer choice (B), this choice is incorrect, because the author does not make a prediction about what will occur.

Answer choice (E): This is the correct answer choice, because it is a restatement of the author's conclusion.

48. E

The ethicist's argument starts with an opposing point (Gillette's argument), followed by the ethicist's conclusion (Gillett's argument is not persuasive), followed by support for the ethicist's conclusion.

(A) This misrepresents the ethicist's conclusion. The ethicist doesn't disagree with Gillette's claim about curing genetic disorders.

(B) This is the ethicist's premise. It provides support for the ethicist's conclusion that Gillette's argument is not persuasive.

(C) This also misrepresents the ethicists conclusion. It's definitely appealing at first glance, but the ethicist's actual conclusion is not that genetic research should not be conducted. The ethicist's conclusion is specifically about Gillette's argument for deciphering the human genome, and specifically that this one argument is not persuasive.

(D) This misrepresents the ethicist's conclusion in a similar way to (A). The ethicist doesn't disagree with Gillette's claim about curing genetic disorders.

(E) This is the correct answer. It properly states the ethicist's precise conclusion, which is that Gillette's argument is unconvincing.

49. A

The author concludes that "even if one can of fruit or vegetables weighs more than another, the heavier can does not necessarily contain more food." Without conclusion indicators to rely on, you must identify this statement as the conclusion based on its relationship to the other statements in the stimulus. Why is it that the heavier can does not necessarily contain more food? Because canned fruits and vegetables are packed in water. More than half of the total can weight can be comprised of water, rather than the fruits or vegetables. Moreover, it is possible for "unscrupulous" canning companies to include even more water per can.

"canned fruits and vegetables are typically packed in water, which can make up more than half the total weight of the can's contents"

because

"even if one can of fruit or vegetables weighs more than another, the heavier can does not necessarily contain more food"

Do you notice how this configuration does not sound right? Hopefully, you do. The fact that the heavier can does not necessarily contain more food does not provide evidence for a conclusion that canned fruits and vegetables are typically packed in water.

Answer choice (A): This is the correct answer choice, because it provides a restatement of the first sentence in the stimulus, which, as discussed above, was the conclusion.

Answer choice (B): This statement is true according to the stimulus. However, it is incorrect because it was a premise in the advocate's argument.

Answer choice (C): As with answer choice (B), this statement, while true according to the stimulus, was a premise of the argument, not the main point.

Answer choice (D): While this statement is *possible* given the advocate's argument, it is not something that *must* be true. And, even if it were provable from the stimulus, this statement does not capture the main point.

(D) seems close, but doesn't exactly match the conclusion. The consumer advocate's conclusion specifically compares one can of food that weighs more than another, while "cans of a given weight" in choice (D) implies a comparison between cans that weigh the same. Also, choice (D) specifically compares cans from different companies, while the consumer advocate's conclusion doesn't necessarily involve cans from different companies.

Answer choice (E): This statement is a valid inference drawn from the stimulus. However, it is incorrect because it does not reflect the advocate's main point.

(E) This is also not an exact match with the conclusion. We have to be careful, because it seems close, but the advocate's conclusion is specifically about the amount of food in the heavier can, not the amount of water. Wouldn't a giant, restaurant-sized can of peaches usually contain more water than a small, snack-sized one? The consumer advocate might not be concerned about that as long as the giant can also contains more peaches. The problem is that the larger can could be almost all water, and not contain more peaches. That's the consumer advocate's point.

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Q49.

Note that the question is asking to find the **conclusion** and not just inference.

Option (A) is correct over Option (E) because **Option (A)** is absolutely the reworded version of the conclusion (the heavier can does not necessarily contain more food) stated in the passage whereas **Option (E)** is explaining the conclusion of why the heavier can doesn't necessarily contain more food and thus **is a premise**.

If we rephrase the argument – The heavier can **does not necessarily contain more food** since Canned fruits and vegetables are typically packed in water, which can make up more than half the total weight of the can's contents.

50. A

Here, the stimulus begins with the statement that if the temperature of electric stovetop burners was capped at 350° C, then the burners would cause fewer fires. The reason given in support of this statement, which is the argument's conclusion, is that cooking oil and most common fibers do not ignite at less than 387° C. This is a simply structured one-premise, one-conclusion argument.

In addition to the premise and conclusion, the argument contains two other pieces of information: a temperature of 350° C provides enough heat for efficient and effective cooking; and electric burners can reach temperatures well above 700° C. These facts provide context, but are neither premises nor conclusions of the argument. Respectively, they tell us that the suggested change is practical and necessary.

Conclusion: "electric stovetop burners would cause fewer fires if their highest temperature was limited to 350° C (662° F).

Answer choice (A): This is the correct answer choice, and is a nearly perfect restatement of the conclusion. All that is missing is the parenthetical statement of the proposed temperature limit in Fahrenheit.

Answer choice (B): This choice restates one of the context-providing statements from the stimulus, and does not restate the conclusion. This is evidence that supports the conclusion indirectly. If 350 degrees provides enough heat, then it's realistic to limit electric stove burners to that temperature. This helps show the conclusion is not describing a ridiculous situation.

Answer choice (C): This answer choice describes a premise of the argument. This is evidence that supports the conclusion that a 350-degree limit would lead to fewer fires.

Answer choice (D): As with answer choice (A), this choice restates a fact offered in the stimulus to provide context to the argument, rather than restating the conclusion. This is evidence that supports the conclusion. Current stove max temperatures are more than high enough to start fires.

Answer choice (E): While this statement of causality was implied by the argument, it was not explicitly stated anywhere. The argument actually doesn't say this answer. It's just implied that stoves cause fires because they go above 700 degrees Celsius. That is not the main conclusion. That's something that supports the idea that we'd have fewer fires if stove heat was limited.

51. D

The restaurant owner in this stimulus takes issue with the qualifications of a critic who wrote a negative review of his restaurant in the newspaper. Apparently, the critic, whose last job was as a political reporter, acknowledges that he is not an expert in the fields of food or food preparation. So, while conceding that the critic is a good writer, the owner concludes that the “critic” is not a true restaurant critic. By analogy, the owner points out that a newspaper would not label someone with no special training in theater a “drama critic.”

CONCLUSION: The newspaper reporter is not a true restaurant critic.

REASONING: The reporter has said he has no expertise about food or food preparation. His past experience was as a political reporter.

ANALYSIS: The restaurant owner is annoyed at the negative review. So, she's trying to show that the review shouldn't be listened to. She wants to show us that the newspaper reporter isn't really a good critic. Notice the word “but”. Words like “but”, “however” etc. almost always introduce a conclusion.

The real point of the argument, of course, is that we should not pay attention to the negative review. But that main point is merely implied. The fact about the reporter not being a true critic is the explicitly stated conclusion.

You may have had some difficulty isolating the conclusion because the stimulus contains neither a premise nor a conclusion indicator. In cases such as this, focus on the *relationship* between the statements in the stimulus and the word choice. Here, the phrase “true restaurant critic” implies that the owner is making a judgment regarding the critic's qualifications. The other statements in the stimulus provide facts concerning the critic's qualifications. By taking that context into consideration, we can understand that the owner's conclusion is that the critic is not a true restaurant critic.

Answer choice (A): This answer choice restates one of the argument's premises.

Answer choice (B): This too is a restatement of a premise supporting the owner's conclusion.

Answer choice (C): Here, the answer choice describes the concession made by the owner regarding the general writing ability of the critic. The fact that the reporter is a good writer is evidence in favor of the reporter. The restaurant owner hopes to sound more persuasive by acknowledging a positive (but mostly irrelevant) fact about the reporter.

Answer choice (D): This is the correct answer choice. The word “but” indicates that this is the author's opinion. And this answers the question “why is the owner telling us this?”. The entire argument was aimed at convincing us that the reporter is not a true food critic (and therefore we shouldn't pay attention to the negative review).

Answer choice (E): This answer choice contains the author's analogy invoking the case of a purported drama critic with no expertise in theater. This is an analogy that supports the conclusion that someone without food training is not a food critic.

52. E

"some people say..."

The politician disagrees with this view, concluding that unilateral nuclear arms reduction would be dangerous. In support of this view, the politician says that it does not consider countries that are about to enter into civil wars, many of which have nuclear capability, and which cannot be trusted to abide by an international arms reduction agreement.

ANALYSIS: The argument has the following structure:

1. Opposing opinion ("some proponents")
2. Conclusion ("this would be dangerous")
3. First premise ("because....")
4. Second premise ("These countries cannot be relied upon....")

The word "because" indicates the conclusion. In an argument, the words before "because" are usually the conclusion, and what comes after "because" is evidence.

Also, usually when an answer says "some proponents argue", the author's conclusion will be "those proponents are wrong".

Conclusion: reducing the country's nuclear arsenal unilaterally would be dangerous.

Answer choice (A): The politician did reference the problem of nations on the verge of civil war, but that statement was a premise offered in support of the conclusion, not the conclusion itself. This is evidence. The conclusion is that, *because of this*, we shouldn't get rid of our nuclear weapons.

Answer choice (B): This answer choice restates the view of unilateral nuclear arms reduction proponents, with which the politician disagrees. The author *disagrees* with this idea. Countries in civil war wouldn't be influenced by international agreements.

Answer choice (C): While this seems to be a rational real-world consideration, the politician did not raise it. The author doesn't say this. This answer is playing on your outside knowledge. In the real world, many countries hide the extent of their nuclear programs. But while this is *true*, it has nothing to do with the argument!

Answer choice (D): It appears that the politician would agree with this sentiment. However, this concern did not appear in the stimulus.

The author didn't say we couldn't make an agreement. We might succeed in making an international agreement. But it would be dangerous to rely on it, since countries in civil war can't be expected to obey the agreement.

Answer choice (E): This is the correct answer choice, because it restates the politician's conclusion, as described above. This is it. It would be risky *because* many countries are near civil war and couldn't be relied upon.

53. B

The municipal legislator discusses the mayor's proposal to accept a gift of several high-tech streetlights from a lighting company. The legislator does not think that there is any problem with accepting the streetlights as a gift, even though there are those who are afraid that the reason the company is giving the gift is to influence the city's decision concerning park lighting contracts. In support of this view, the legislator offers two reasons. First, the legislator considers the company's only potential ulterior motive to be gaining visibility for its products. Second, even if there is some other ulterior motive, the city's competitive-bidding procedure precludes favoritism from influencing city contracts. For these two reasons, the legislator concludes that there is no problem with the city accepting the lighting company's gift.

Conclusion: there is no problem with the city accepting the lighting company's gift.

Answer choice (A): This answer choice is incorrect because the legislator does not conclude that the company has no desire to influence the city's decision regarding lighting contracts. Rather, the legislator thinks that there is no problem with accepting the gift, regardless of the company's motives in offering it.

Answer choice (B): This is the correct answer choice because it contains a restatement of the legislator's main point, as discussed above.

Answer choice (C): The legislator did not discuss the propriety of a company having a unique opportunity to display its products, so this answer choice is inconsistent with the stimulus.

Answer choice (D): Here, the answer choice restates a premise of the argument.

Answer choice (E): As with answer choice (D), this answer choice restates a premise of the legislator's argument.

54. A

The "While" at the beginning suggests a concession being made before the author shifts, and we see that in the second clause. That's a statement that needs back up, so it seems a good candidate for conclusion. The following information seems to cut against it, but the author shifts back again with a "however".

Focus on the second half of the first statement and the "however" statement, using the "Therefore" test to see which supports which. In this case, the final statement (multiple species fill the same role) supports the second half of the first sentence (that some species can die off while maintaining B). The answer should reflect the statement that we don't need all these species.

CONCLUSION: Biodiversity doesn't require the survival of all current species.

REASONING: Biodiversity requires that all niches be filled, but often a niche can be filled by more than one species.

ANALYSIS: The word "while" is a conclusion indicator. Any statement of opinion, uncertainty or qualification tends to be the conclusion.

Another way of finding the conclusion is asking yourself: why are they telling me this? In this case, the author is trying to convince us that not all species are essential to biodiversity.

A third way to find the conclusion is to ask which statements support other statements, and which are supported. In this case, the second sentence is clearly supporting a claim about biodiversity in general. In particular, the fact that many niches can be filled by multiple species is support for the conclusion that biodiversity does not require that all species survive.

- A. CORRECT. The correct answer is almost word-for-word the statement we identified.
- B. This is context that provides support for the conclusion.
- C. This is a qualifying statement used to give context to the conclusion.
- D. This is evidence that not all species are necessary.
- E. The stimulus didn't mention "the species most indispensable for biodiversity". This can't be the conclusion.

55. B

In this stimulus, the manager's argument concerning problems with the company's supply chain is structurally complicated. It begins with a conditional statement that if the company does not change its vendor contracts now, its supply chain will develop significant weaknesses. This statement is offered as a fact that sets the stage for the argument, and is not part of the reasoning that leads to the manager's conclusion.

"some people say..." ... the manager immediately concludes that their position is wrong and labels their position "irresponsible." In support of this conclusion, the manager argues by analogy, pointing out that it would be negligent for a financial planner to tell a 30-year-old client not to worry about retirement investing since the client would not retire for another 35 years.

Conclusion: it is irresponsible not to address the vendor contract problems now just because the supply chain problems will not emerge until later.

Answer choice (A): This answer choice restates the anticipated view of others that the manager concludes is irresponsible.

Answer choice (B): This is the correct answer choice because it restates the manager's conclusion, as described above.

It brings "irresponsible" in from the text of the argument, which should have led you to spend more time with this answer. While it is much more verbose than the actual conclusion, the stimulus refers back to the initial approach ("that is an irresponsible approach"), and this answer just rephrases "that approach" to what it actually is.

Answer choice (C): Here, the answer choice restates the factual assertion made at the beginning of the stimulus to establish that there is a problem with the vendor supply contracts. Answer choice (D): This answer choice is inconsistent with the stimulus. Although the manager made an analogy between the company's responsibilities and those of a financial planner, the manager did not say that the company should follow the *same* practices as the financial planner.

Answer choice (E): As with answer choice (D), this answer is inconsistent with the stimulus, which did not say that financial planners should advise their clients to save for retirement *only* if retirement is far in the future. Rather, the manager's analogy indicated that financial planners should advise retirement savings *even when* retirement is far in the future. Even if this answer choice were an accurate restatement of what occurred in the stimulus it would still be incorrect, because it relates to the manager's support for the conclusion, rather than to the conclusion itself.

56. A

If a community organization wants to accomplish this goal, they need to convince the public of the benefit. Why? That approach will convince more people. This is then backed up with an example.

The final sentence is explicitly stated to be an example of the preceding sentence, so it's a premise backing up a conclusion (that conclusion being the second sentence). At this point, it's a matter of determining if the first sentence is a premise of that conclusion, or if the second sentence is an intermediate conclusion.

In this case, the second sentence is the reason why the author believes the first sentence (Why must community orgs do this? Because it'll be more effective.). As the second sentence is the reason to do something, it is support for that action. Therefore, the second sentence is an i. conclusion, with the first sentence being the main conclusion.

What this author wants us to believe, and what they set out to prove, is the first sentence, about what community organizations need to do. The rest of the stimulus is designed to support that claim. Rearranging the stimulus can help clarify this, as follows:

Premise: Convincing the public that they will benefit from a program makes them more receptive to it.

Premise/Example: It's easier to get support for roads, which benefit everyone, than for things that do not.

Conclusion: If you want support for education, you need to convince the public it is beneficial to everyone. OR Community organizations need to convince the public that higher education is good for all of society.

REASONING: It's easier to get the public to support-programs which benefit everyone, like road building.

ANALYSIS: In this case, the author is giving advice to community groups that want to get funding for higher education. The author is telling them *how* to make their case. The author says that community groups should argue that higher education benefits everyone.

The second sentence, that the public is receptive to widely beneficial programs, is not the conclusion. This is evidence supporting the idea that the approach in the first sentence will be effective.

The words "for example" are a structural indicator. They show that what comes after "for example" is a premise supporting the conclusion.

Note: You may think that higher education obviously benefits everybody. Why would anyone have to argue for that? The main reason you believe university benefits everyone is because you *went* to university. The American university system asserts that education **benefits** everyone in order to justify its existence. That claim is not a universal truth. **99th PERCENTILE CLUB**

(A) Bingo. This is a paraphrase of the first sentence.

(B) Wrong function (premise). This answer is the example, stripped of the specific application (roads).

(C) Wrong function (premise/example).

This answer misstates the premise about roads. Nobody said it was *easy* to get support for roads - they just said it was *easier*, relative to programs that do not appear to benefit everyone.

(D) Wrong function. This is the intermediate conclusion with the topic of the argument written in. This answer is essentially an implied premise of the argument, using much of the same language as found in the conclusion, but it misses the mark by not expressing the idea that community organizations need to take this approach if they want to achieve their goal. This answer is about what *will* happen, rather than what *needs to* happen.

(E) Unstated in the argument. This answer is actually an assumption of the argument.

Answer choice (E): The author never suggested that education IS beneficial to everyone, but only that community organizations supporting education need to convince people of this idea. Again, the conclusion is not about what will happen or what is true, but is instead about what those groups need to do if they want to achieve their goal. The author didn't say that higher education benefits us all. They said community groups should *say* that it does, in order to get funding. This is a subtle distinction, but it's important to notice these.

57. C

A historian tells us about an historical fact and then shares the view of an economist who offered an explanation for that fact. This follows a very common pattern of "some people say something, but they are wrong, and here's why," with the exception that the historian doesn't directly state that the economist is wrong. Instead, he says that some evidence is required before that explanation can be accepted. This is the main point of the argument, and our task is to find the answer that restates that conclusion.

CONCLUSION: We shouldn't accept the "thrift and hard work" hypothesis for the success of the industrial revolution. We need historical evidence first.

REASONING: Successful explanations need to be based on facts.

ANALYSIS: Certain words indicate conclusions and premises. In the final sentence, "but" indicates that the author disagrees with what was said before. "So" introduces their conclusion.

For instance: John says we should buy the car. But it's too expensive, so we should look for a better deal.
But = contrasting evidence.

So = conclusion.

Answer choice (A): This is a true statement, but only restates the historical fact and not the author's conclusion. The productivity growth of the economy is what we're trying to explain. It's not the conclusion. The point of the argument is that we don't yet know how to explain this growth.

Answer choice (B): Like answer A, this is true according to the stimulus, but still just the background facts and not the conclusion of the argument.

This is just context. The fact that productivity growth raised living standards explains why we care about the industrial revolution in the first place.

Answer choice (C): This is the correct answer choice. This answer correctly restates the conclusion that more evidence is required before we can accept the position of the economist mentioned in the passage.

Answer choice (D): At no point in the stimulus did the author claim that the economist was wrong. This would have been a good answer if the stimulus had followed the usual pattern of a "some people say something, but they are wrong" argument, but it did not. Instead, the structure was "some people say something, but more evidence is needed."

The historian didn't say that values were not the cause. The historian said that *we don't know* if values were the cause. It's possible they were – we just lack evidence.

Answer choice (E): The historian does not claim that there was no change in values prior to the Industrial Revolution, but only that more evidence was needed before one could make a causal claim about such changes and growth in productivity.

This is just like D. The historian didn't say there was no shift in values. They said *we don't know* if there was a shift in values. It's possible that there was one.

58. C

CONCLUSION: The catering company shouldn't raise their rates.

REASONING: The catering company's mission is to provide low-cost gourmet catering.

ANALYSIS: There are two major clues that indicate the conclusion here:

- The word "should". A sentence with the word "should" tends to be the conclusion.
- *After all* indicates that the sentence is evidence that supports the previous sentence.

Both of these tell us that the third sentence is the conclusion: the gourmet catering company shouldn't raise rates.

The sentence about the company training and hiring new staff isn't structurally relevant to the argument. It's just context explaining why the catering company is raising rates.

- A. This is just a fact. The client is arguing that the catering company should reconsider.
- B. This is just the reason that the catering company wants to raise rates. The client's conclusion is that the catering company should reconsider that decision.
- C. CORRECT. See the analysis above. You might have hesitated to choose this answer since it didn't mention reconsidering. But since the conclusion said "reconsider *and* not raise their rates." It's implied that the author will only be happy if the reconsideration results in not changing rates.
- D. This is just a fact supporting the conclusion. *Because* the company mission is to provide low-cost catering, the client argues the company shouldn't raise rates.
- E. This is a fact supporting the conclusion that the catering company therefore shouldn't raise its rates.

59. C

Media darling Clemens was recently shown to be corrupt. This demonstrates that the media was too deferential to public figures, which even the local newspaper's editor admits.

"This demonstrates" is the key phrase here, indicating a conclusion preceded by premises. The first two statements are evidence for the third sentence, so that's a conclusion. The admission by the editor is further evidence of the deference afforded public figures, so the conclusion is that local media is too deferential.

CONCLUSION: The Clemens scandal is an example of how the all, media is too nice to public figures.

REASONING: The media thought Clemens was honest. As such they didn't bother investigating him. It turns out that Clemens was dishonest.

ANALYSIS: The gist of the argument is that the media is too deferential to public figures like Clemens. Clemens isn't the point – he is just an example demonstrating this point about the media. Note that the third sentence says "This [Clemens' corruption] *demonstrates*". Media failure is the real point of the argument.

Ideally, you should be able to figure that out just from reading it. But if you're still having trouble, I've identified some words below that indicate conclusions and evidence.

"This demonstrates" indicates that the sentence is a conclusion and the previous sentence supports it.

"Even.... admitted" indicates that the sentence is evidence, supporting the conclusion in the previous sentence. Here, "even" shows that someone we would expect to object (the newspaper editor) agrees with the author.

(A) Background/counterpoint.

This fact supports the conclusion. Clemens was *not* honest, so the fact that the media portrayed him as honest shows the media is too deferential.

(B) Premise supporting that they were too deferential.

This is *true*, and a very tempting answer. But the point is that Clemens' case demonstrates *how* the media are too deferential. The scandal is just evidence showing the excess deference.

(C) Correct!

(D) Premise supporting that they were too deferential (so deferential, in fact, that they didn't really investigate). This is just evidence supporting the conclusion that the media is too deferential.

(E) If anything, this answer is an assumption of the argument. It's definitely not stated in the argument, so it can't be the conclusion.

The argument said the local *media* is too deferential. But this answer only talks about how the local *newspaper* treats public figures. The media is bigger than the newspaper. Also the conclusion is not just that Clemens' case is typical. It's that Clemens' case shows excess *deference*.

60. B

(A) Equally Serious?? The passage only says Johnson's text is still guilty of its own forms of distortion discard. The author never states that Johnson's texts equally distort Dickinson's work.

(B) Johnson's use of the dash in his text of Dickinson's poetry misleads readers about the poet's intentions. Exactly

(C) Because Dickinson never expected her poetry to be published, virtually any attempt at editing it must run counter to her intentions.

The text is more focused on the limitations of Johnson's texts than on Dickinson's intentions or the possibility to adequately edit his work.

That's going too far. We don't have evidence to believe Dickinson never expected her poetry to be published. Irrelevant.

(D) Although Johnson's attempt to produce a more faithful text of Dickinson's poetry is well-meaning, his study of the material lacks sufficient thoroughness.

Out of scope and irrelevant

The author does not say anything about the thoroughness of Johnson's study of the material.

(E) Dickinson's editors, including Johnson, have failed to deal adequately with the problem of deciphering Dickinson's handwritten manuscripts.

This shifts the focus from analyzing distortions created by Dickinson's editors to deciphering Dickinson's handwritten manuscripts -- out of scope and irrelevant

The author says that editors often distorted Dickinson's intentions. However, he does not say whether these editors managed to decipher adequately Dickinson's manuscripts or not.

Another reason to discard this option could be that both editors and Johnson had a problem to decipher Dickinson's punctuation, not manuscripts. Here, however, we could argue whether the concept "punctuation" is part of a broader concept "manuscripts".

(E) says problem of deciphering Dickinson's handwritten manuscripts. The passage sentence only says "to standardize Dickinson's often indecipherable handwritten punctuation is to render permanent" etc... that doesn't mean these authors were tasked with dealing with the problem of Dickinson's handwriting. Remember PROBLEM is the keyword – there was no such PROBLEM and hence the SHIFT OF FOCUS OF E.

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Q60.

The key to finding the main conclusion in passages such as these is to ask yourself which statement is supported by the other statements. The statement that is supported by the other sentences in the passage will be the author's main conclusion. One way is to continually ask yourself, while reading the stimulus, why is this author telling me this?

Is the purpose of the argument to tell you that Johnson has good reason to question other people's interpretations of Dickinson's writing? (i.e., sentence 1) If this is the author's main conclusion, then there should be some supporting evidence in favor of this statement.

However, the next sentences go on to discuss how Johnson, himself, has distorted Dickinson's intention. We are then told why using a hyphen may distort Dickinson's original intent. After reading the stimulus, we can see that the other sentences really do not support the 1st sentence. Thus, the first sentence cannot be the main conclusion.

The actual conclusion made by the author is that Johnson has himself distorted Dickinson's intent by inserting the use of a certain type of punctuation: a hyphen. The use of this hyphen changes and wrongly interprets the original intent of Dickinson's writing. The second half of the stimulus discusses reasons WHY the hyphen distorts her original intent, and these sentences are used by the author to make the conclusion about Johnson.

(A) – The answer seems to start okay, but veers off in the wrong direction at the end. We can not say that the author's main point is to argue that Johnson has made "equally serious distortions." We know the author believes Johnson has distorted Dickinson's intent, but she is not comparing the seriousness of this distortion.

(B) – Perfectly sums up the author's main reason for writing this argument. The author believes Johnson's use of this specific punctuation (the hyphen) conveys a meaning that Dickinson herself would never have intended.

(C) – The author's focus is on Johnson's distortion of Dickinson's writing. The author does not mention that any attempt to interpret Dickinson's writing is doomed to failure.

(D) – The author does not discuss Johnson's "study of Dickinson's material" and the extent of its thoroughness. The author is instead focused on the author's use of the hyphen and it how distorts Dickinson's original intent. The author is focused on the use of a punctuation mark and how it distorts Dickinson's original intent. Whether Johnson's study is thorough is not up for discussion.

(E) – The key to quickly eliminating Option (E) is to realize that the author never even discusses "editors." Since editors are never even discussed, this can not be the main point of the argument.

Option (B) best summarizes the main point of the argument.

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(E) – Is the passage really talking about deciphering Dickinson's handwritten manuscripts OR deciphering Dickinson's handwritten punctuation/distorting Dickinson's intentions? It is the latter. We know that Johnson and early editors distorted her intentions in one way or another. But is it fair to say that Dickinson's editors (which included all editors, and there is no mention of all editors) failed to deal adequately with the problem of deciphering Dickinson's handwritten manuscripts? No. That is not what the passage is about. Additionally, no information about deciphering handwritten manuscripts is given. So E is incorrect.

A perfectly fits the bill for us. We know that even though Johnson criticises early editors of Dickinson's poetry for distorting her intentions, his own work is guilty of this distortion. So B is correct.

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Passage 1

Immigrants' adoption of English as their primary language is one measure of assimilation into the larger United States society. Generally, languages define social groups and provide justification for social structures. Hence, a distinctive language sets a cultural group off from the dominant language group. Throughout United States history this pattern has resulted in one consistent, unhappy consequence, discrimination against members of the cultural minority. Language differences provide both a way to rationalize subordination and a ready means for achieving it.

Traditionally, English has replaced the native language of immigrant groups by the second or third generation. Some characteristics of today's Spanish-speaking population, however, suggest the possibility of a departure from this historical pattern. Many families retain ties in Latin America and move back and forth between their present and former communities. This "revolving door" phenomenon, along with the high probability of additional immigrants from the south, means that large Spanish-speaking communities are likely to exist in the United States for the indefinite future.

This expectation underlies the call for national support for bilingual education in Spanish-speaking communities' public schools. Bilingual education can serve different purposes, however. In the 1960s, such programs were established to facilitate the learning of English so as to avoid disadvantaging children in their other subjects because of their limited English. More recently, many advocates have viewed bilingual education as a means to maintain children's native languages and cultures. The issue is important for people with **different political agendas**, from absorption at one pole to separatism at the other.

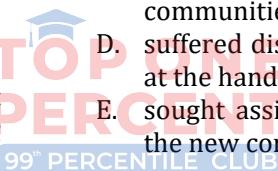
To date, the evaluations of bilingual education's impact on learning have been inconclusive. The issue of bilingual education has, nevertheless, served to unite the leadership of the nation's Hispanic communities. Grounded in concerns about status that are directly traceable to the United States history of discrimination against Hispanics, the demand for maintenance of the Spanish language in the schools is an assertion of the worth of a people and their culture. If the United States is truly a multicultural nation—that is, if it is one culture reflecting the contributions of many—this demand should be seen as a demand not for separation but for inclusion.

More direct efforts to force inclusion can be misguided. For example, movements to declare English the official language do not truly advance the cohesion of a multicultural nation. They alienate the twenty million people who do not speak English as their mother tongue. They are unnecessary since the public's business is already conducted largely in English. Further, given the present state of understanding about the effects of bilingual education on learning, it would be unwise to require the universal use of English. Finally, it is for parents and local communities to choose the path they will follow, including how much of their culture they want to maintain for their children.

1. **It can be inferred from the passage that one of the characteristics of immigrant groups to the United States has traditionally been that, after immigration, relatively few members of the group**
 - A. became politically active in their new communities
 - B. moved back and forth repeatedly between the United States and their former communities
 - C. used their native languages in their new communities
 - D. suffered discrimination in their new communities at the hands of the cultural majority
 - E. sought assimilation into the dominant culture of the new communities they were entering

2. **The passage suggests that one of the effects of the debate over bilingual education is that it has**
 - A. given the Hispanic community a new-found pride in its culture
 - B. hampered the education of Spanish-speaking students
 - C. demonstrated the negative impact on imposing English as the official United States language
 - D. provided a common banner under which the Spanish-speaking communities could rally
 - E. polarized the opinions of local Spanish-speaking community leaders

3. **The phrase "different political agendas" refers specifically to conflicting opinions regarding the**
 - A. means of legislating the assimilation of minorities into United States society
 - B. methods of inducing Hispanics to adopt English as their primary language
 - C. means of achieving nondiscriminatory education for Hispanics
 - D. official given responsibility for decisions regarding bilingual education
 - E. extent to which Hispanics should blend into the larger United States society



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Immigrants' adoption of English as their primary language is one measure of assimilation into the larger United States society. Generally, languages define social groups and provide justification for social structures. Hence, a distinctive language sets a cultural group off from the dominant language group. Throughout United States history this pattern has resulted in one consistent, unhappy consequence, discrimination against members of the cultural minority. Language differences provide both a way to rationalize subordination and a ready means for achieving it.

Traditionally, English has replaced the native language of immigrant groups by the second or third generation. Some characteristics of today's Spanish-speaking population, however, suggest the possibility of a departure from this historical pattern. Many families retain ties in Latin America and move back and forth between their present and former communities. This "revolving door" phenomenon, along with the high probability of additional immigrants from the south, means that large Spanish-speaking communities are likely to exist in the United States for the indefinite future.

This expectation underlies the call for national support for bilingual education in Spanish-speaking communities' public schools. Bilingual education can serve different purposes, however. In the 1960s, such programs were established to facilitate the learning of English so as to avoid disadvantaging children in their other subjects because of their limited English. More recently, many advocates have viewed bilingual education as a means to maintain children's native languages and cultures. The issue is important for people with **different political agendas**, from absorption at one pole to separatism at the other.

To date, the evaluations of bilingual education's impact on learning have been inconclusive. The issue of bilingual education has, nevertheless, served to unite the leadership of the nation's Hispanic communities. Grounded in concerns about status that are directly traceable to the United States history of discrimination against Hispanics, the demand for maintenance of the Spanish language in the schools is an assertion of the worth of a people and their culture. If the United States is truly a multicultural nation—that is, if it is one culture reflecting the contributions of many—this demand should be seen as a demand not for separation but for inclusion.

More direct efforts to force inclusion can be misguided. For example, movements to declare English the official language do not truly advance the cohesion of a multicultural nation. They alienate the twenty million people who do not speak English as their mother tongue. They are unnecessary since the public's business is already conducted largely in English. Further, given the present state of understanding about the effects of bilingual education on learning, **it would be unwise to require the universal use of English**. Finally, it is for parents and local communities to choose the path they will follow, including how much of their culture they want to maintain for their children.

4. **The author says that "It would be unwise to require the universal use of English." One reason for this, according to the author, is that**
 - A. it is not clear yet whether requiring the universal use of English would promote or hinder the education of children whose English is limited
 - B. the nation's Hispanic leaders have shown that bilingual education is most effective when it includes the maintenance of the Spanish language in the schools
 - C. requiring the universal use of English would reduce the cohesion of the nation's Hispanic communities and leadership
 - D. the question of language in the schools should be answered by those who evaluate bilingual education, not by people with specific political agendas
 - E. it has been shown that bilingual education is necessary to avoid disadvantaging in their general learning children whose English is limited

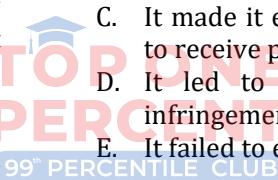
5. **In the last paragraph, the author of the passage is primarily concerned with discussing**
 - A. reasons against enacting a measure that would mandate the forced inclusion of immigrant groups within the dominant United culture
 - B. the virtues and limitations of declaring English the official language of the United States
 - C. the history of attitudes within the Hispanic community toward bilingual education in the United States
 - D. the importance for immigrant groups of maintaining large segments of their culture to pass on to their children
 - E. the difference in cultures between Hispanics and other immigrant groups in the United States

Passage 2

Because the framers of the United States Constitution (written in 1787) believed that protecting property rights relating to inventions would encourage the new nation's economic growth, they gave Congress—the national legislature—a constitutional mandate to grant patents for inventions. The resulting patent system has served as a model for those in other nations. Recently, however, **scholars** have questioned whether the American system helped achieve the framers' goals. These scholars have contended that from 1794 to roughly 1830, American inventors were unable to enforce property rights because judges were "antipatent" and routinely invalidated patents for arbitrary reasons. This argument is based partly on examination of court decisions in cases where patent holders ("patentees") brought suit alleging infringement of their patent rights. In the 1820s, for instance, 75 percent of verdicts were decided against the patentee. The proportion of verdicts for the patentee began to increase in the 1830s, suggesting to these scholars that judicial attitudes toward patent rights began shifting then.

Not all patent disputes in the early nineteenth century were litigated, however, and litigated cases were not drawn randomly from the population of disputes. Therefore, the rate of verdicts in favor of patentees cannot be used by itself to gauge changes in judicial attitudes or enforceability of patent rights. If early judicial decisions were prejudiced against patentees, one might expect that subsequent courts—allegedly more supportive of patent rights—would reject the former legal precedents. But pre-1830 cases have been cited as frequently as later decisions, and they continue to be cited today, suggesting that the early decisions, many of which clearly declared that patent rights were a just recompense for inventive ingenuity, provided a lasting foundation for patent law. The proportion of judicial decisions in favor of patentees began to increase during the 1830s because of a change in the underlying population of cases brought to trial. This change was partly due to an 1836 revision to the patent system: an examination procedure, still in use today, was instituted in which each application is scrutinized for its adherence to patent law. Previously, patents were automatically granted upon payment of a \$30 fee.

- 6. The passage implies that which of the following was a reason that the proportion of verdicts in favor of patentees began to increase in the 1830s?**
- Patent applications approved after 1836 were more likely to adhere closely to patent law.
 - Patent laws enacted during the 1830s better defined patent rights.
 - Judges became less prejudiced against patentees during the 1830s.
 - After 1836, litigated cases became less representative of the population of patent disputes.
 - The proportion of patent disputes brought to trial began to increase after 1836.
- 7. The passage implies that the scholars mentioned in the highlighted text would agree with which of the following criticisms of the American patent system before 1830?**
- Its definition of property rights relating to inventions was too vague to be useful.
 - Its criteria for the granting of patents were not clear.
 - It made it excessively more difficult for inventors to receive patents.
 - It led to excessive large number of patent-infringement suits.
 - It failed to encourage national economic growth.
- 8. It can be inferred from the passage that the frequency with which pre-1830 cases have been cited in court decisions is an indication that**
- judicial support for patent rights was weaker in the period before 1830
 - judicial support for patent rights did not increase after 1830
 - courts have not returned to judicial standards that prevailed before 1830
 - the number of verdicts favoring patentees in patent-infringement suits increased after 1830
 - judicial bias against patentees didn't persist after 1830



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9. It can be inferred from the passage that the author and the scholars referred to in the highlighted text disagree about which of the following aspects of the patents defended in patent-infringement suits before 1830?
 - A. Whether the patents were granted for inventions that were genuinely useful
 - B. Whether the patents were actually relevant to the growth of the United States economy
 - C. Whether the patents were particularly likely to be annulled by judges
 - D. Whether the patents were routinely invalidated for reasons that were arbitrary
 - E. Whether the number of patents vindicated was significantly lower than the number in later suits

10. The author of the passage cites which of the following as evidence challenging the argument referred to in the highlighted text?
 - A. The number of cases that were decided against patentees in the 1820s
 - B. The total number of patent disputes that were litigated from 1794 to 1830
 - C. The fact that later courts drew upon the legal precedents set in pre-1830 patent cases
 - D. The fact that the number of judicial decisions in favor of patentees began to increase during the 1830s
 - E. The constitutional rationale for the 1836 revision of the patent system

Passage 3

Film scholars agree that Hollywood portrayals of America at war follow a cyclical pattern. During and immediately after a conflict, important films trumpet glory and sacrifice. Ten to fifteen years later, questioning and sometimes pacifistic movies about the conflict dominate. In the late 1960's, "the raging bulls" of Hollywood—the young trendsetters rising to prominence—proclaimed this pattern obsolete. However, the passage of time has demonstrated this cultural pattern to be more resilient than it seemed in those days of social change.

Throughout the majority of the last century, evidence of the cyclical portrayal of war in film abounds. After America declared war against Germany during World War I, the still infant film industry glorified the fight against "*the Hun*." By the early 1930's, major releases had changed their tone; for example, *All Quiet on the Western Front* put forth an anti-war message by displaying the horrors of combat. After World War II began, the industry shifted gears. Suddenly, important pictures again portrayed glories and courage without the questioning or despair. For example, *Guadalcanal Diary*, produced during the war, showed "the ultimate sacrifice" as a noble and undoubted good. Once again, though, by 1957, films such as *The Bridge on the River Kwai* won awards for depicting the moral confusion of war.

Those who later declared this pattern dead based their conviction on their hearts rather than their minds. During the Vietnam War, the only major film about that conflict was *The Green Berets*, starring John Wayne and far closer in tone to *Guadalcanal Diary* than to *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. Similarly, years went by before more complex visions of war, such as *Apocalypse Now*, and then *Platoon*, emerged.

While today's film industry is more diverse and its audience more culturally fragmented, this cycle largely continues. *Jarhead*, a layered depiction of the first gulf war, premiered more than ten years after that conflict. Further evidence of this pattern can be seen in the release of *Apocalypse Now Redux*, which contained additional footage that the producers originally thought would repel audiences. Thus, the famous aphorism "The more things change, the more they stay the same" certainly applies to this aspect of the film industry.

- 11.** According to the passage, *Apocalypse Now Redux* differed from *Apocalypse Now* in which of the following ways?
- The added footage made it less appealing to a more culturally diverse audience.
 - The added footage made its portrayal of war less glorified and more ambiguous.
 - The added footage made its portrayal of war less harsh and more glorified.
 - The added footage made it more similar in tone to other war movies.
 - The removed footage made its portrayal of war less glorified and less appealing.
- 12.** The passage implies that the combat depicted in *All Quiet on the Western Front* least resembles the depiction of combat in which of the following?
- Jarhead*
 - Apocalypse Now*
 - The Bridge on the River Kwai*
 - Platoon*
 - Guadalcanal Diary*
- 13.** In the second paragraph, the author implies that "*the Hun*" refers to which of the following?
- The Huns
 - The Hungarians
 - The Austro-Hungarians
 - The Germans
 - The Russians



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14. What is the function of the last paragraph of the passage?

- A. It shows that, despite changes in the industry and audience, the pattern discussed still exists.
- B. It points out that the film industry never changes.
- C. It shows that changes in the film industry and its audience have made the pattern previously discussed obsolete.
- D. It discusses how *Jarhead* and *Apocalypse Now Redux* are fundamentally different from all the war movies that preceded them.
- E. It demonstrates that war movies have changed to reflect the more culturally diverse audience.

15. Which one of the following does the author believe is true about *The Bridge on the River Kwai*?

- A. It deserved the awards that it won.
- B. It is a more intelligent and well-crafted movie than *The Green Berets*.
- C. It was the first movie to portray the moral confusion of war.
- D. Its portrayal of war is more ambivalent than that in *Guadalcanal Diary*.
- E. It was more financially successful than any war movie that came before it.



Passage 4

Jacob Burckhardt's view that Renaissance European women "stood on a footing of perfect equality" with Renaissance men has been repeatedly cited by feminist scholars as a prelude to their presentation of rich historical evidence of women's inequality. In striking contrast to Burckhardt, Joan Kelly in her famous 1977 essay, "Did Women Have a Renaissance?" argued that the Renaissance was a period of economic and social decline for women relative both to Renaissance men and to medieval women. Recently, however, a significant trend among feminist **scholars** has entailed a rejection of both Kelly's dark vision of the Renaissance and Burckhardt's rosy one. Many recent works by these scholars stress the ways in which differences among Renaissance women—especially in terms of social status and religion—work to complicate the kinds of generalizations both Burckhardt and Kelly made on the basis of their observations about upper-class Italian women.

The trend is also evident, however, in works focusing on those middle- and upper-class European women whose ability to write gives them disproportionate representation in the historical record. Such women were, simply by virtue of their literacy, members of a tiny minority of the population, so it is risky to take their descriptions of their experiences as typical of "female experience" in any general sense. Tina Krontiris, for example, in her fascinating study of six Renaissance women writers, does tend at times to conflate "women" and "women writers," assuming that women's gender, irrespective of other social differences, including literacy, allows us to view women as a homogeneous social group and make that group an object of analysis. Nonetheless, Krontiris makes a significant contribution to the field and is representative of those authors who offer what might be called a cautiously optimistic assessment of Renaissance women's achievements, although she also stresses the social obstacles Renaissance women faced when they sought to raise their "oppositional voices." Krontiris is concerned to show women intentionally negotiating some power for themselves (at least in the realm of public discourse) against potentially constraining ideologies, but in her sober and thoughtful concluding remarks, she suggests that such verbal opposition to cultural stereotypes was highly circumscribed; women seldom attacked the basic assumptions in the ideologies that oppressed them.

- 16. The author of the passage discusses Krontiris primarily to provide an example of a writer who**
- is highly critical of the writings of certain Renaissance women
 - supports Kelly's view of women's status during the Renaissance
 - has misinterpreted the works of certain Renaissance women
 - has rejected the views of both Burckhardt and Kelly
 - has studied Renaissance women in a wide variety of social and religious contexts
- 17. According to the passage, feminist scholars cite Burckhardt's view of Renaissance women primarily for which of the following reasons?**
- Burckhardt's view forms the basis for most arguments refuting Kelly's point of view.
 - Burckhardt's view has been discredited by Kelly.
 - Burckhardt's view is one that many feminist scholars wish to refute.
 - Burckhardt's work provides rich historical evidence of inequality between Renaissance women and men.
 - Burckhardt's work includes historical research supporting the arguments of the feminist scholars.
- 18. It can be inferred that both Burckhardt and Kelly have been criticized by the scholars mentioned in the highlighted text for which of the following?**
- Assuming that women writers of the Renaissance are representative of Renaissance women in general
 - Drawing conclusions that are based on the study of an atypical group of women
 - Failing to describe clearly the relationship between social status and literacy among Renaissance women
 - Failing to acknowledge the role played by Renaissance women in opposing cultural stereotypes
 - Failing to acknowledge the ways in which social status affected the creative activities of Renaissance women

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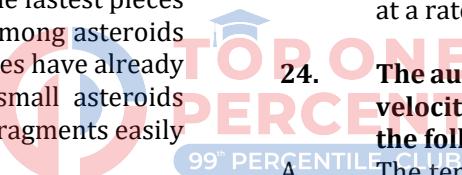
- 19. The author of the passage suggests that Krontiris incorrectly assumes that**
- social differences among Renaissance women are less important than the fact that they were women
 - literacy among Renaissance women was more prevalent than most scholars today acknowledge
 - during the Renaissance, women were able to successfully oppose cultural stereotypes relating to gender
 - Renaissance women did not face many difficult social obstacles relating to their gender in order to attain power, Renaissance women attacked basic assumptions in the ideologies that oppressed them
- 20. The last sentence in the passage serves primarily to**
- suggest that Krontiris's work is not representative of recent trends among feminist scholars
 - undermine the argument that literate women of the Renaissance sought to oppose social constraints imposed on them
 - show a way in which Krontiris's work illustrates a "cautiously optimistic" assessment of Renaissance women's achievements
 - summarize Krontiris's view of the effect of literacy on the lives of upper- and middle-class Renaissance women
 - illustrate the way in which Krontiris's study differs from the studies done by Burckhardt and Kelly
- 21. The author of the passage implies that the women studied by Krontiris are unusual in which of the following ways?**
- They faced obstacles less formidable than those faced by other Renaissance women.
 - They have been seen by historians as more interesting than other Renaissance women.
 - They were more concerned about recording history accurately than were other Renaissance women.
 - Their perceptions are more likely to be accessible to historians than are those of most other Renaissance women.
 - Their concerns are likely to be of greater interest to feminist scholars than are the ideas of most other Renaissance women.

Passage 5

When asteroids collide, some collisions cause an asteroid to spin faster; others slow it down. If asteroids are all monoliths—single rocks—undergoing random collisions, a graph of their rotation rates should show a bell-shaped distribution with statistical “tails” of very fast and very slow rotators. If asteroids are rubble piles, however, the tail representing the very fast rotators would be missing, because any loose aggregate spinning faster than once every few hours (depending on the asteroid's bulk density) would fly apart. Researchers have discovered that all but **five observed asteroids** obey a strict limit on rate of rotation. The exceptions are all smaller than 200 meters in diameter, with an abrupt cutoff for asteroids larger than that.

The evident **conclusion**—that asteroids larger than 200 meters across are multicomponent structures or rubble piles—agrees with recent computer modeling of collisions, which also finds a transition at that diameter. A collision can blast a large asteroid to bits, but after the collision those bits will usually move slower than their mutual escape velocity. Over several hours, gravity will reassemble all but the fastest pieces into a rubble pile. Because collisions among asteroids are relatively frequent, most large bodies have already suffered this fate. Conversely, most small asteroids should be monolithic, because impact fragments easily escape their feeble gravity.

- 22. The passage implies which of the following about the five asteroids mentioned in the highlighted text?**
- Their rotation rates are approximately the same.
 - They have undergone approximately the same number of collisions.
 - They are monoliths.
 - They are composed of fragments that have escaped the gravity of larger asteroids.
 - They were detected only recently.
- 23. The discovery of which of the following would call into question the conclusion mentioned in the highlighted text?**
- An asteroid 100 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once per week
 - An asteroid 150 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of 20 times per hour
 - An asteroid 250 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once per week
 - An asteroid 500 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once per hour
 - An asteroid 1,000 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once every 24 hours
- 24. The author of the passage mentions “escape velocity” in order to help explain which of the following?**
- The tendency for asteroids to become smaller rather than larger over time
 - The speed with which impact fragments reassemble when they do not escape an asteroid's gravitational attraction after a collision
 - The frequency with which collisions among asteroids occur
 - The rotation rates of asteroids smaller than 200 meters in diameter
 - The tendency for large asteroids to persist after collisions



Passage 6

Jon Clark's study of the effect of the modernization of a telephone exchange on exchange maintenance work and workers is a solid contribution to a debate that encompasses two lively issues in the history and sociology of technology: technological determinism and social constructivism.

Clark makes the point that the characteristics of a technology have a decisive influence on job skills and work organization. Put more strongly, technology can be a primary determinant of social and managerial organization. Clark believes this possibility has been obscured by the recent sociological fashion, exemplified by Braverman's analysis, that emphasizes the way machinery reflects social choices. For Braverman, the shape of a technological system is subordinate to the manager's desire to wrest control of the labor process from the workers. Technological change is construed as the outcome of negotiations among interested parties who seek to incorporate their own interests into the design and configuration of the machinery. This position represents the new mainstream called social constructivism.

The constructivists gain acceptance by misrepresenting technological determinism: technological determinists are supposed to believe, for example, that machinery imposes appropriate forms of order on society. The alternative to constructivism, in other words, is to view technology as existing outside society, capable of directly influencing skills and work organization.

Clark refutes the extremes of the constructivists by both theoretical and empirical arguments. Theoretically he defines "technology" in terms of relationships between social and technical variables. Attempts to reduce the meaning of technology to cold, hard metal are bound to fail, for machinery is just scrap unless it is organized functionally and supported by appropriate systems of operation and maintenance. At the empirical level Clark shows how a change at the telephone exchange from maintenance-intensive electromechanical switches to semi-electronic switching systems altered work tasks, skills, training opportunities, administration, and organization of workers. Some changes Clark attributes to the particular way management and labor unions negotiated the introduction of the technology, whereas others are seen as arising from the capabilities and nature of the technology itself. Thus, Clark helps answer the question: "When is social choice decisive and when are the concrete characteristics of technology more important?"

- 25.** The information in the passage suggests that which of the following statements from hypothetical sociological studies of change in industry most clearly exemplifies the social constructivists' version of technological determinism?
- A. It is the available technology that determines workers' skills, rather than workers' skills influencing the application of technology.
 B. All progress in industrial technology grows out of a continuing negotiation between technological possibility and human need.
 C. Some organizational change is caused by people; some is caused by computer chips.
 D. Most major technological advances in industry have been generated through research and development.
 E. Some industrial technology eliminates jobs, but educated workers can create whole new skills areas by the adaptation of the technology.
- 26.** The information in the passage suggests that Clark believes that which of the following would be true if social constructivism had not gained widespread acceptance?
- A. Businesses would be more likely to modernize without considering the social consequences of their actions.
 B. There would be greater understanding of the role played by technology in producing social change.
 C. Businesses would be less likely to understand the attitudes of employees affected by modernization.
 D. Modernization would have occurred at a slower rate.
 E. Technology would have played a greater part in determining the role of business in society.

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- 27. The author of the passage uses the expression "are supposed to" primarily in order to**
- suggest that a contention made by constructivists regarding determinists is inaccurate
 - define the generally accepted position of determinists regarding the implementation of technology
 - engage in speculation about the motivation of determinists
 - lend support to a comment critical of the position of determinists
 - contrast the historical position of determinists with their position regarding the exchange modernization
- 28. Which of the following statements about Clark's study of the telephone exchange can be inferred from information in the passage?**
- Clark's reason for undertaking the study was to undermine Braverman's analysis of the function of technology.
 - Clark's study suggests that the implementation of technology should be discussed in the context of conflict between labor and management.
 - Clark examined the impact of changes in the technology of switching at the exchange in terms of overall operations and organization.
 - Clark concluded that the implementation of new switching technology was equally beneficial to management and labor.
 - Clark's analysis of the change in switching systems applies only narrowly to the situation at the particular exchange that he studied.



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Passage 7

A small number of the forest species of lepidoptera (moths and butterflies, which exist as caterpillars during most of their life cycle) exhibit regularly recurring patterns of population growth and decline—such fluctuations in population are known as population cycles. Although many different variables influence population levels, a regular pattern such as a population cycle seems to imply a dominant, driving force. Identification of that driving force, however, has proved surprisingly elusive despite considerable research. The common approach of studying causes of population cycles by measuring the mortality caused by different agents, such as predatory birds or parasites, has been unproductive in the case of lepidoptera. Moreover, population ecologists' attempts to alter cycles by changing the caterpillars' habitat and by reducing caterpillar populations have not succeeded. In short, the evidence implies that these insect populations, if not self-regulating, may at least be regulated by an agent more intimately connected with the insect than are predatory birds or parasites.

Recent work suggests that this agent may be a virus. For many years, viral disease had been reported in declining populations of caterpillars, but population ecologists had usually considered viral disease to have contributed to the decline once it was underway rather than to have initiated it. The recent work has been made possible by new techniques of molecular biology that allow viral DNA to be detected at low concentrations in the environment. Nuclear polyhedrosis viruses are hypothesized to be the driving force behind population cycles in lepidoptera in part because the viruses themselves follow an infectious cycle in which, if protected from direct sunlight, they may remain virulent for many years in the environment, embedded in durable crystals of polyhedrin protein. Once ingested by a caterpillar, the crystals dissolve, releasing the virus to infect the insect's cells. Late in the course of the infection, millions of new virus particles are formed and enclosed in polyhedrin crystals. These crystals reenter the environment after the insect dies and decomposes, thus becoming available to infect other caterpillars.

One of the attractions of this hypothesis is its broad applicability. Remarkably, despite significant differences in habitat and behavior, many species of lepidoptera have population cycles of similar length, between eight and eleven years. Nuclear polyhedrosis viral infection is one factor these disparate species share.

- 29. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's conclusion in the last sentence of the first paragraph?**
- A. New research reveals that the number of species of birds and parasites that prey on lepidoptera has dropped significantly in recent years.
 B. New experiments in which the habitats of lepidoptera are altered in previously untried ways result in the shortening of lepidoptera population cycles.
 C. Recent experiments have revealed that the nuclear polyhedrosis virus is present in a number of predators and parasites of lepidoptera.
 D. Differences among the habitats of lepidoptera species make it difficult to assess the effects of weather on lepidoptera population cycles.
 E. Viral disease is typically observed in a large proportion of the lepidoptera population.



Passage 8

In *Winters v. United States* (1908), the Supreme Court held that the right to use waters flowing through or adjacent to the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation was reserved to American Indians by the treaty establishing the reservation. Although this treaty did not mention water rights, the Court ruled that the federal government, when it created the reservation, intended to deal fairly with American Indians by reserving for them the waters without which their lands would have been useless. Later decisions, citing *Winters*, established that courts can find federal rights to reserve water for particular purposes if

1. the land in question lies within an enclave under exclusive federal jurisdiction;
2. the land has been formally withdrawn from federal public lands—i.e., withdrawn from the stock of federal lands available for private use under federal land use laws—and set aside or reserved; and
3. the circumstances reveal the government intended to reserve water as well as land when establishing the reservation.

Some American Indian tribes have also established water rights through the courts based on their traditional diversion and use of certain waters prior to the United States' acquisition of sovereignty. For example, the Rio Grande pueblos already existed when the United States acquired sovereignty over New Mexico in 1848. Although they at that time became part of the United States, the pueblo lands never formally constituted a part of federal public lands; in any event, no treaty, statute, or executive order has ever designated or withdrawn the pueblos from public lands as American Indian reservations. This fact, however, has not barred application of the *Winters* doctrine. What constitutes an American Indian reservation is a question of practice, not of legal definition, and the pueblos have always been treated as reservations by the United States. This pragmatic approach is buttressed by *Arizona v. California* (1963), wherein the Supreme Court indicated that the manner in which any type of federal reservation is created does not affect the application to it of the *Winters* doctrine. Therefore, the reserved water rights of Pueblo Indians have priority over other citizens' water rights as of 1848, the year in which pueblos must be considered to have become reservations.

- 30.** The passage suggests that, if the three criteria were the only criteria for establishing a reservation's water rights, **which of the following would be true?**
- A. The water rights of the inhabitants of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation would not take precedence over those of other citizens.
 - B. Reservations established before 1848 would be judged to have no water rights.
 - C. There would be no legal basis for the water rights of the Rio Grande pueblos.
 - D. Reservations other than American Indian reservations could not be created with reserved water rights.
 - E. Treaties establishing reservations would have to mention water rights explicitly in order to reserve water for a particular purpose.
- 31.** Which of the following most accurately summarizes the relationship between *Arizona v. California*, as that decision is described in the passage, and the three criteria discussed?
- A. *Arizona v. California* abolishes these criteria and establishes a competing set of criteria for applying the *Winters* doctrine.
 - B. *Arizona v. California* establishes that the *Winters* doctrine applies to a broader range of situations than those defined by these criteria.
 - C. *Arizona v. California* represents the sole example of an exception to the criteria as they were set forth in the *Winters* doctrine.
 - D. *Arizona v. California* does not refer to the *Winters* doctrine to justify water rights, whereas these criteria do rely on the *Winters* doctrine.
 - E. *Arizona v. California* applies the criteria derived from the *Winters* doctrine only to federal lands other than American Indian reservations.

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- 32. The “pragmatic approach” mentioned in the highlighted text of the passage is best defined as one that**
- A. grants recognition to reservations that were never formally established but that have traditionally been treated as such
 - B. determines the water rights of all citizens in a particular region by examining the actual history of water usage in that region
 - C. gives federal courts the right to reserve water along with land even when it is clear that the government originally intended to reserve only the land
 - D. bases the decision to recognize the legal rights of a group on the practical effect such a recognition is likely to have on other citizens
 - E. dictates that courts ignore precedents set by such cases as *Winters v. United States* in deciding what water rights belong to reserved land
- 33. It can be inferred from the passage that the *Winters* doctrine has been used to establish which of the following?**
- A. A rule that the government may reserve water only by explicit treaty or agreement
 - B. A legal distinction between federal lands reserved for American Indians and federal lands reserved for other purposes
 - C. Criteria governing when the federal government may set land aside for a particular purpose
 - D. The special status of American Indian tribes' rights to reserved land
 - E. The federal right to reserve water implicitly as well as explicitly under certain conditions
- 34. The author cites the fact that the Rio Grande pueblos were never formally withdrawn from public lands primarily in order to do which of the following?**
- A. Suggest why it might have been argued that the *Winters* doctrine ought not to apply to pueblo lands
 - B. Imply that the United States never really acquired sovereignty over pueblo lands
 - C. Argue that the pueblo lands ought still to be considered part of federal public lands
 - D. Support the argument that the water rights of citizens other than American Indians are limited by the *Winters* doctrine
 - E. Suggest that federal courts cannot claim jurisdiction over cases disputing the traditional diversion and use of water by Pueblo Indians

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- 35. The passage suggests that the legal rights of citizens other than American Indians to the use of water flowing into the Rio Grande pueblos are**
- A. guaranteed by the precedent set in *Arizona v. California*
 B. abolished by the *Winters* doctrine
 C. deferred to the Pueblo Indians whenever treaties explicitly require this
 D. guaranteed by federal land-use laws
 E. limited by the prior claims of the Pueblo Indians



Passage 9

Antonia Castañeda has utilized scholarship from women's studies and Mexican-American history to examine nineteenth-century literary portrayals of Mexican women. As Castañeda notes, scholars of women's history observe that in the United States, male novelists of the period—during which, according to these scholars, women's traditional economic role in home-based agriculture was threatened by the transition to a factory-based industrial economy—define women solely in their domestic roles of wife and mother. Castañeda finds that during the same period that saw non-Hispanic women being economically displaced by industrialization, Hispanic law in territorial California protected the economic position of "Californianas" (the Mexican women of the territory) by ensuring them property rights and inheritance rights equal to those of males.

For Castañeda, the laws explain a **stereotypical plot** created primarily by male, non-Hispanic novelists: the story of an ambitious non-Hispanic merchant or trader desirous of marrying an elite Californiana. These novels' favorable portrayal of such women is noteworthy, since Mexican-American historians have concluded that unflattering literary depictions of Mexicans were vital in rallying the United States public's support for the Mexican-American War (1846–1848). The importance of economic alliances forged through marriages with Californianas explains this apparent contradiction. Because of their real-life economic significance, the Californianas were portrayed more favorably than were others of the same nationality.

- 36. The “apparent contradiction” mentioned refers to the discrepancy between the**
- legal status of Mexican women in territorial California and their status in the United States
 - unflattering depiction of Mexicans in novels and the actual public sentiment about the Mexican-American War
 - existence of many marriages between Californianas and non-Hispanic merchants and the strictures against them expressed in novels
 - literary depiction of elite Californianas and the literary depiction of other Mexican individuals
 - novelistic portrayals of elite Californianas' privileged lives and the actual circumstances of those lives

- 37. Which of the following could best serve as an example of the kind of fictional plot discussed by Antonia Castañeda?**
- A land speculator of English ancestry weds the daughter of a Mexican vineyard owner after the speculator has migrated to California to seek his fortune.
 - A Californian woman of Hispanic ancestry finds that her agricultural livelihood is threatened when her husband is forced to seek work in a textile mill.
 - A Mexican rancher who loses his land as a result of the Mexican-American War migrates to the northern United States and marries an immigrant schoolteacher.
 - A wealthy Californiana whose father has bequeathed her all his property contends with avaricious relatives for her inheritance.
 - A poor married couple emigrate from French Canada and gradually become wealthy as merchants in territorial California.
- 38. Which of the following, if true, would provide the most support for Castañeda's explanation of the “stereotypical plot” mentioned in the highlighted text?**
- Non-Hispanic traders found business more profitable in California while it was a territory than when it became a state.
 - Very few marriages between Hispanic women and non-Hispanic men in nineteenth-century territorial California have actually been documented.
 - Records from the nineteenth century indicate that some large and valuable properties were owned by elite Californianas in their own right.
 - Unmarried non-Hispanic women in the nineteenth-century United States were sometimes able to control property in their own right.
 - Most of the property in nineteenth-century territorial California was controlled by Hispanic men.

Passage 10

Anthropologists once thought that the ancestors of modern humans began to walk upright because it freed their hands to use stone tools, which they had begun to make as the species evolved a brain of increased size and mental capacity. But discoveries of the three-million-year-old fossilized remains of our hominid ancestor *Australopithecus* have yielded substantial anatomical evidence that upright walking appeared prior to the dramatic enlargement of the brain and the development of stone tools.

Walking on two legs in an upright posture (bipedal locomotion) is a less efficient proposition than walking on all fours (quadrupedal locomotion) because several muscle groups that the quadruped uses for propulsion must instead be adapted to provide the biped with stability and control. The shape and configuration of various bones must likewise be modified to allow the muscles to perform these functions in upright walking. Reconstruction of the pelvis (hipbones) and femur (thighbone) of "Lucy," a three-million-year-old skeleton that is the most complete fossilized skeleton from the Australopithecine era, has shown that they are much more like the corresponding bones of the modern human than like those of the most closely related living primate, the quadrupedal chimpanzee. Lucy's wide, shallow pelvis is actually better suited to bipedal walking than is the rounder, bowl-like pelvis of the modern human, which evolved to form the larger birth canal needed to accommodate the head of a large-brained human infant. By contrast, the head of Lucy's baby could have been no larger than that of a baby chimpanzee.

If the small-brained australopithecines were not toolmakers, what evolutionary advantage did they gain by walking upright? One **theory** is that bipedality evolved in conjunction with the nuclear family: monogamous parents cooperating to care for their offspring. Walking upright permitted the father to use his hands to gather food and carry it to his mate from a distance, allowing the mother to devote more time and energy to nurturing and protecting their children. According to this view, the transition to bipedal walking may have occurred as long as ten million years ago, at the time of the earliest hominids, making it a crucial initiating event in human evolution.

- 39.** The passage suggests that proponents of the theory mentioned in the highlighted text assume that which of the following steps in human evolution occurred most recently?
- A. Development of a nuclear family structure
 - B. Transition from walking on all fours to walking upright
 - C. Dramatic enlargement of the brain
 - D. Use of the hands to gather and carry food
 - E. Modification of propulsive muscles to provide stability and control in locomotion
- 40.** According to the passage, the hominid *australopithecine* most closely resembled a modern human with respect to which of the following characteristics?
- A. Brain size
 - B. Tool-making ability
 - C. Shape of the pelvis
 - D. Method of locomotion
 - E. Preference for certain foods
- 41.** The passage suggests that, in comparison with the hominid *australopithecines*, modern humans are
- A. less well adapted to large-group cooperation
 - B. less well adapted to walking upright
 - C. more agile in running and climbing
 - D. more well suited to a nuclear family structure
 - E. more well suited to cooperative caring for their offspring
- 42.** The theory mentioned in the highlighted text suggests that which of the following was true for the hominid ancestors of modern humans before they made the transition to walking upright?
- A. Their brains were smaller than the brains of present-day chimpanzees.
 - B. They competed rather than cooperated in searching for food.
 - C. Their mating patterns and family structure were closer to those of present-day chimpanzees than to those of modern humans.
 - D. Males played a more significant role in child rearing than they played after the transition to walking upright.
 - E. Females' ability to nurture and protect their offspring was limited by the need to find food for themselves.

Passage 11

Recent feminist scholarship concerning the United States in the 1920s challenges earlier interpretations that assessed the 1920s in terms of the unkept “promises” of the women’s suffrage movement. This **new scholarship** disputes the long-held view that because a women’s voting bloc did not materialize after women gained the right to vote in 1920, suffrage failed to produce long-term political gains for women. These feminist scholars also challenge the old view that pronounced suffrage a failure for not delivering on the promise that the women’s vote would bring about moral, corruption-free governance. Asked whether women’s suffrage was a failure, these scholars cite the words of turn-of-the-century social reformer Jane Addams, “Why don’t you ask if suffrage in general is failing?”

In some ways, however, these **scholars** still present the 1920s as a period of decline. After suffrage, they argue, the feminist movement lost its cohesiveness, and gender consciousness waned. After the mid-1920s, few successes could be claimed by feminist reformers: little could be seen in the way of legislative victories.

During this decade, however, there was intense activism aimed at achieving increased autonomy for women, broadening the spheres within which they lived their daily lives. Women’s organizations worked to establish opportunities for women: they strove to secure for women the full entitlements of citizenship, including the right to hold office and the right to serve on juries.

- 43.** It can be inferred that the author of the passage disagrees with the “new scholarship” mentioned in the highlighted text regarding the
 A. degree to which the “promises” of the suffrage movement remained unkept
 B. degree to which suffrage for women improved the morality of governance
 C. degree to which the 1920s represented a period of decline for the feminist movement
 D. degree of legislative success achieved by feminist reformers during the 1920s
 E. accuracy of the view that a women’s voting bloc did not materialize once suffrage was achieved
- 44.** It can be inferred from the passage that recent scholars cite the words of Jane Addams primarily in order to
 A. suggest that women’s achievement of suffrage brought about changes in government that were not taken into account by early interpretations
 B. point out contradictions inherent in the goals of the women’s suffrage movement
 C. show why a women’s voting bloc was not formed when women won the right to vote
 D. emphasize the place of social reform movements in the struggle for suffrage for women
 E. suggest that the old view of women’s suffrage was inappropriate
- 45.** The “new scholarship” mentioned in the first paragraph suggests which of the following concerning the “promises” mentioned in the highlighted text?
 A. Failure to keep these promises is not a measure of the success of the suffrage movement.
 B. Failure to keep these promises caused the feminist movement to lose cohesiveness during the 1920s.
 C. Failure to keep these promises led recent feminist scholars to reevaluate the success of the suffrage movement.
 D. These promises included securing for women the right to hold office and the right to serve on juries.
 E. These promises were of little importance in winning suffrage for women.

Passage 12

This passage is excerpted from material published in 1997.

Is there a massive black hole at the center of our galaxy, the Milky Way? The evidence is inconclusive. Just as the Sun's mass can be determined, given knowledge of other variables, by the velocity at which its planets orbit, the mass at the center of the Milky Way can be revealed by the velocities of stars and gas orbiting the galactic center. This **dynamical evidence**, based on recently confirmed assumptions about the stars' velocities, argues for an extremely compact object with a mass two to three million times the mass of our Sun. Although according to current theory this makes the mass at the center of the galaxy too dense to be anything but a black hole, the relative lack of energy radiating from the galactic center presents a **serious problem**. A black hole's gravity attracts surrounding matter, which swirls around the black hole, emitting some energy as it is engulfed. Scientists believe that the amount of energy that escapes the black hole should be about 10 percent of the matter's rest energy (the energy equivalent of its mass according to the equation $E=mc^2$). But when the energy coming from the galactic center is compared to widely held predictions based on how much matter should be falling into a theoretical central black hole, there is a discrepancy by a factor of a few thousand.



- 46.** According to the passage, the dynamical evidence referred to in the highlighted text supports which of the following?
- Recent assumptions about the velocities of stars
 - Widely held predictions about the amount of matter a black hole will engulf
 - The existence of an extremely dense object at the center of the Milky Way
 - The contention that too much energy is coming from the mass at the Milky Way's galactic center for that mass to be a black hole
 - The conclusion that a compact object of two to three million times the mass of our Sun is too dense to be anything but a black hole
- 47.** The “serious problem” referred to in the highlighted text could be solved if which of the following were true?
- Current assumptions about how much matter a black hole would engulf proved to be several thousand times too high.
 - Current assumptions about how much matter a black hole would engulf proved to be a few thousand times too low.
 - The object at the center of the Milky Way turned out to be far denser than it is currently estimated to be.
 - The object at the center of the Milky Way turned out to be far more massive than it is currently estimated to be.
 - Matter being engulfed by a black hole radiated far more energy than is currently assumed.
- 48.** The “widely held predictions” mentioned in the highlighted text are predictions about the
- compactness of objects whose mass is millions of times the mass of our Sun
 - velocities of stars orbiting the galactic center
 - amount of matter swirling around the object at the center of the Milky Way
 - amount of matter falling into a theoretical central black hole
 - amount of energy that should be coming from a black hole at the center of the Milky Way

Passage 13

Despite their many differences of temperament and of literary perspective, Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, and Whitman shared certain beliefs. Common to all these writers is their humanistic perspective. Its basic premises are that humans are the spiritual center of the universe and that in them alone is the clue to nature, history, and ultimately the cosmos. Without denying outright the existence of a deity, this perspective explains humans and the world in terms of humanity.

This common perspective is almost always universalized. It emphasizes the human as universal, freed from the accidents of time, space, birth, and talent. Thus, for Emerson, the "American Scholar" turns out to be simply "Man Thinking," while, for Whitman, the "Song of Myself" merges imperceptibly into a song of all the "children of Adam," where "every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you."

Also common to all five writers is the belief that self-realization depends on the harmonious reconciliation of two universal psychological tendencies: first, the self-asserting impulse of the individual to be responsible only to himself or herself, and second, the self-transcending impulse of the individual to know and become one with that world. These conflicting impulses can be seen in the democratic ethic. Democracy advocates individualism, the preservation of the individual's freedom and self-expression. But the democratic self is torn between the duty to self, which is implied by the concept of liberty, and the duty to society, which is implied by the concepts of equality and fraternity.

A third assumption common to the five writers is that intuition and imagination offer a surer road to truth than does abstract logic or scientific method. It is illustrated by their emphasis upon introspection—their belief that the clue to external nature is to be found in the inner world of individual psychology—and by their interpretation of experience as, in essence, symbolic. Both these stresses presume an organic relationship between the self and the cosmos of which only intuition and imagination can properly take account. These writers' faith in the imagination and in themselves led them to conceive of the writer as a seer.

- 49.** According to the passage, the five writers object to the scientific method primarily because they think it
- is not the best way to obtain an understanding of the relationship between the individual and the cosmos
 - is so specialized that it leads to an understanding of separate parts of the universe but not of the relationships among those parts
 - cannot provide an adequate explanation of intuition and imagination
 - misleads people into believing they have an understanding of truth, when they do not
 - prevents people from recognizing the symbolic nature of experience
- 50.** The author quotes Whitman primarily in order to
- show that the poet does not agree with Emerson
 - indicate the way the poet uses the humanist ideal to praise himself
 - suggest that the poet adapts the basic premises of humanism to his own individual outlook on the world
 - illustrate a way the poet expresses the relationship of the individual to the humanistic universe
 - demonstrate that the poet is concerned with the well-being of all humans
- 51.** It can be inferred that intuition is important to the five writers primarily because it provides them with
- information useful for understanding abstract logic and scientific method
 - the discipline needed in the search for truth
 - inspiration for their best writing
 - clues to the interpretation of symbolic experience
 - the means of resolving conflicts between the self and the world

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52. **The author discusses "the democratic ethic" in order to**
- A. explain the relationship between external experience and inner imagination
 - B. support the notion that the self contains two conflicting and irreconcilable factions
 - C. illustrate the relationship between the self's desire to be individual and its desire to merge with all other selves
 - D. elaborate on the concept that the self constantly desires to realize its potential
 - E. give an example of the idea that, in order to be happy, the self must reconcile its desires with external reality
53. **It can be inferred that the idea of "an organic relationship between the self and the cosmos" is necessary to the thinking of the five writers because such a relationship**
- A. enables them to assert the importance of the democratic ethic
 - B. justifies their concept of the freedom of the individual
 - C. sustains their faith in the existence of a deity
 - D. is the foundation of their humanistic view of existence
 - E. is the basis for their claim that the writer is a seer

Passage 14

The final quarter of the nineteenth century marked a **turning point** in the history of biology—biologists became less interested in applying an ideal of historical explanation deductively to organic function and more interested in discerning the causes of vital processes through experimental manipulation. But it is impossible to discuss the history of biology in the nineteenth century without emphasizing that those areas of biology most in the public eye had depended on historical explanation. Wherever it was applied, historical explanation was deemed causal explanation. The biologist-as-historian and the general historian of human events dealt with comparable phenomena and assumed necessarily a common mode of explanation.

Nineteenth-century biologists found a historical explanation of organic function attractive partly because their observation of the formation of a new cell from a preexisting cell seemed to confirm a historical explanation of cell generation. The same direct observation of continuous stages of development was also possible when they examined the complex sequence of events of embryogenesis. In both cases, the observer received a concrete impression that the daughter cell was brought into being, or caused, by the prior cell. The argument that these scientists employed confuses temporal succession and causal explanation, of course, but such confusion is the heart of most historical explanation.

Not surprisingly, the evolutionary biologists of the nineteenth century encountered a particularly troublesome problem in their attempts to document historical explanation convincingly: the factual record of the history of life on earth (e.g., that provided by fossils) was incomplete. The temporal continuity of living forms was convincing, but was an assumption that was difficult to uphold when one compared species or organisms forming any two stages of the evolutionary record. Nineteenth-century biologists recognized this problem and attempted to resolve it. Their solution today appears to be only verbal, but was then regarded as eminently causal. The fact of evolution demanded some connection between all reproducing individuals and the species that they compose, as well as between living species and their extinct ancestors. Their solution, the concept of heredity, seemed to fill in an admittedly deficient historical record and seemed to complete the argument for a historical explanation of evolutionary events.

- 54.** According to information presented in the passage, which of the following is a true statement about the methods of explanation used by biologists and historians in the nineteenth century?
- A. Neither biologists nor historians were able to develop methods of explanation that were accepted by the majority of their colleagues.
 B. The methods used by biologists to explain phenomena changed dramatically, whereas the methods used by historians to explain events did not change as noticeably.
 C. Biologists believed that they had refined the methods of explanation used by historians.
 D. Biologists' and historians' methods of explaining what they believed to be comparable phenomena were similar.
 E. Although biologists and historians adopted similar methods of explanation, the biologists were more apologetic about their use of these methods.
- 55.** Which of the following best summarizes the “turning point” mentioned in the highlighted text?
- A. The beginning of the conflict between proponents of the ideal of historical explanation and the proponents of experimentation
 B. The substitution of historical explanation for causal explanation
 C. The shift from interest in historical explanation to interest in experimentation
 D. The attention suddenly paid to problems of organic function
 E. The growth of public awareness of the controversies among biologists
- 56.** The author implies that nineteenth-century biologists who studied embryogenesis believed that they
- A. had discovered physical evidence that supported their use of historical explanation
 B. were the first biologists to call for systematic experimentation on living organisms
 C. were able to use historical explanation more systematically than were biologists who did not study embryogenesis
 D. had inadvertently discovered an important part of the factual record of the history of living organisms on earth
 E. had avoided the logical fallacies that characterize the reasoning of most nineteenth-century biologists

The final quarter of the nineteenth century marked a turning point in the history of biology—biologists became less interested in applying an ideal of historical explanation deductively to organic function and more interested in discerning the causes of vital processes through experimental manipulation. But it is impossible to discuss the history of biology in the nineteenth century without emphasizing that those areas of biology most in the public eye had depended on historical explanation. Wherever it was applied, historical explanation was deemed causal explanation. The biologist-as-historian and the general historian of human events dealt with comparable phenomena and assumed necessarily a common mode of explanation.

Nineteenth-century biologists found a historical explanation of organic function attractive partly because their observation of the formation of a new cell from a preexisting cell seemed to confirm a historical explanation of cell generation. The same direct observation of continuous stages of development was also possible when they examined the complex sequence of events of embryogenesis. In both cases, the observer received a concrete impression that the daughter cell was brought into being, or caused, by the prior cell. The argument that these scientists employed confuses temporal succession and causal explanation, of course, but such confusion is the heart of most historical explanation.

Not surprisingly, the evolutionary biologists of the nineteenth century encountered a particularly troublesome problem in their attempts to document historical explanation convincingly: the factual record of the history of life on earth (e.g., that provided by fossils) was incomplete. The temporal continuity of living forms was convincing, but was an assumption that was difficult to uphold when one compared species or organisms forming any two stages of the evolutionary record. Nineteenth-century biologists recognized this problem and attempted to resolve it. Their solution today appears to be only verbal, but was then regarded as eminently causal. The fact of evolution demanded some connection between all reproducing individuals and the species that they compose, as well as between living species and their extinct ancestors. Their solution, the concept of heredity, seemed to fill in an admittedly deficient historical record and seemed to complete the argument for a historical explanation of evolutionary events.

57. **The passage would be most likely to appear in which of the following?**
- A. An essay investigating the methodology used by historians of human events
 - B. A book outlining the history of biology in the nineteenth century
 - C. A seminar paper on the development of embryogenesis as a field of study in nineteenth-century biology
 - D. A review of a book whose topic is the discovery of fossils in the nineteenth century
 - E. A lecture whose subject is the limitations of experimental investigation in modern biology



Passage 15

Critics maintain that the fiction of Herman Melville (1819–1891) has limitations, such as its lack of inventive plots after *Moby-Dick* (1851) and its occasionally inscrutable style. A more serious, yet problematic, charge is that Melville is a deficient writer because he is not a practitioner of the “art of fiction,” as critics have conceived of this art since the late nineteenth-century essays and novels of Henry James. Indeed, most twentieth-century commentators regard Melville not as a novelist but as a writer of romance, since they believe that Melville's fiction lacks the continuity that James viewed as essential to a novel: the continuity between what characters feel or think and what they do, and the continuity between characters' fates and their pasts or original social classes. Critics argue that only *Pierre* (1852), because of its subject and its characters, is close to being a novel in the Jamesian sense.

However, although Melville is not a Jamesian novelist, he is not therefore a deficient writer. A more reasonable position is that Melville is a different kind of writer, who held, and should be judged by, presuppositions about fiction that are quite different from James's. **It is true that Melville wrote “romances”; however, these are not the escapist fictions this word often implies, but fictions that range freely among very unusual or intense human experiences. Melville portrayed such experiences because he believed that these experiences best enabled him to explore moral questions, an exploration he assumed was the ultimate purpose of fiction.** He was content to sacrifice continuity or even credibility as long as he could establish a significant moral situation. Thus, Melville's romances do not give the reader a full understanding of the complete feelings and thoughts that motivate actions and events that shape fate. Rather, the romances leave unexplained the sequence of events and either simplify or obscure motives. Again, such simplifications and obscurities exist in order to give prominence to the depiction of sharply delineated moral values, values derived from a character's purely personal sense of honor, rather than, as in a Jamesian novel, from the conventions of society.

- 58. The author draws which of the following conclusions about the fact that Melville's fiction often does not possess the qualities of a Jamesian novel?**
- A. Literary critics should no longer use Jamesian standards to judge the value of novels.
 - B. Literary critics who have praised Melville's fiction at the expense of James's fiction should consider themselves justified.
 - C. Literary critics should no longer attempt to place writers, including Melville and James, in traditions or categories.
 - D. Melville and James should be viewed as different sorts of writers and one should not be regarded as inherently superior to the other.
 - E. Melville and James nevertheless share important similarities and these should not be overlooked or slighted when literary critics point out differences between the two writers.
- 59. The author probably mentions Melville's *Pierre* to**
- A. refute those literary critics who have made generalizations about the quality of Melville's fiction
 - B. argue that the portrayal of characters is one of Melville's more accomplished literary skills
 - C. give an example of a novel that was thought by James to resemble his own fiction
 - D. suggest that literary critics find few exceptions to what they believe is a characteristic of Melville's fiction
 - E. reinforce the contention of literary critics
- 60. Which of the following statements best describes the author's method of argumentation in the highlighted text?**
- A. The author describes an important standard of evaluation used by critics of Melville and then attacks that standard.
 - B. The author admits a contention put forward by critics of Melville but then makes a countercharge against those critics.
 - C. The author describes a charge advanced by critics of Melville and then points out a logical flaw in this charge.
 - D. The author provides evidence that seems to support a position held by critics of Melville but then demonstrates that the evidence actually supports a diametrically opposed position.
 - E. The author concedes an assertion made by critics of Melville but then mitigates the weight of the assertion by means of an explanation.

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- 61. Which of the following can logically be inferred from the passage about the author's application of the term “romance” to Melville's work?**
- The author uses the term in a broader way than did Melville himself.
 - The author uses the term in a different way than do many literary critics.
 - The author uses the term in a more systematic way than did James.
 - The author's use of the term is the same as the term's usual meaning for twentieth-century commentators.
 - The author's use of the term is less controversial than is the use of the term “novel” by many commentators.
- 62. Which of the following can most logically be inferred about the author's estimation of the romantic and novelistic traditions of fiction?**
- The romantic tradition should be considered at least as valuable as the novelistic tradition in the examination of human experience.
 - The romantic tradition should be considered the more vital tradition primarily because Melville is part of that tradition.
 - The romantic tradition should be considered the superior tradition because it is so widespread.
 - The romantic tradition has had as much success in pleasing literary critics as has the novelistic tradition.
 - The romantic and novelistic traditions have always made important contributions to literature, but their most important contributions have been in the twentieth century.
- 63. The author of the passage would be most likely to agree that a writer's fiction should be evaluated by which of the following criteria?**
- How consistently that fiction establishes credibility with the reader
 - How skillfully that fiction supersedes the presuppositions or conventions of a tradition
 - How completely that fiction satisfies the standards of judgment held by most literary critics
 - How well that fiction fulfills the premises about fiction maintained by the writer of the fiction
 - How well that fiction exhibits a continuity of subject and style over the course of the writer's career

Passage 16

Behind every book review there are two key figures: a book review editor and a reviewer. Editors decide whether a book is reviewed in their publication, when the review appears, how long it is, and who writes the review.

When many periodicals feature the same books, this does not prove that the editors of different periodicals have not made individual decisions. Before publication, editors receive news releases and printer's proofs of certain books, signifying that the publishers will make special efforts to promote these books. They will be heavily advertised and probably be among the books that most bookstores order in quantity. Not having such books reviewed might give the impression that the editor was caught napping, whereas too many reviews of books that readers will have trouble finding in stores would be inappropriate. Editors can risk having a few of the less popular titles reviewed, but they must consider what will be newsworthy, advertised, and written about elsewhere.

If these were the only factors influencing editors, few books that stand little chance of selling well would ever be reviewed. But editors feel some concern about what might endure, and therefore listen to literary experts. A generation ago, a newspaper used a brilliant system of choosing which books to feature. The book review editor sent out a greater number of books than reviews he actually intended to publish. If a review was unenthusiastic, he reasoned that the book was not important enough to be discussed immediately, and if good reviews of enough other books came in, the unenthusiastic review might never be printed. The **unenthusiastic reviewers** were paid promptly anyway, but they learned that if they wanted their material to be printed, it was advisable to be kind.

Most editors print favorable and unfavorable reviews; however, the content of the review may be influenced by the editor. Some editors would actually feel that they had failed in their responsibility if they gave books by authors they admired to hostile critics or books by authors they disapproved of to critics who might favor them. Editors usually can predict who would review a book enthusiastically and who would tear it to shreds.

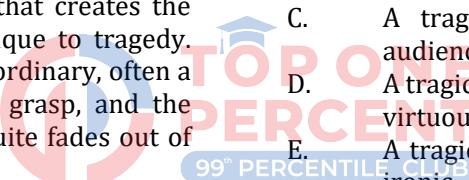
- 64.** According to the passage, book review editors pay attention to all of the following in deciding which books should be reviewed in their publications EXCEPT
- A. news releases from publishers
 - B. sales figures compiled by bookstores
 - C. the opinions of literary experts
 - D. the probability that the books will be extensively advertised
 - E. the likelihood that the books will be reviewed in other publications
- 65.** According to the passage, a major concern of the unenthusiastic book reviewers in the highlighted text was
- A. to ensure prompt payment for their work
 - B. to influence public opinion of books
 - C. to confirm the opinions of other reviewers
 - D. to promote new books by their favorite authors
 - E. to have their reviews published in the newspaper
- 66.** The passage suggests which of the following about book review readers?
- A. They pay careful attention to reviewers' biases as they read reviews.
 - B. They disapprove of book review editors who try to influence what their reviewers write.
 - C. They use book reviews in order to gauge whether a book is likely to endure.
 - D. They expect to see timely reviews of widely publicized books in the periodicals they read.
 - E. They are usually willing to search in several stores for a highly recommended book that is hard to find.
- 67.** Which of the following words, if substituted for "brilliant" in the highlighted text, would LEAST change the meaning of the sentence?
- A. showy
 - B. articulate
 - C. literate
 - D. stingy
 - E. absurd

Passage 17

There are two theories that have been used to explain ancient and modern tragedy. Neither quite explains the complexity of the tragic process or the tragic hero, but each explains important elements of tragedy, and, because their conclusions are contradictory, they **represent extreme views**. The first theory states that all tragedy exhibits the workings of external fate. Of course, the overwhelming majority of tragedies do leave us with a sense of the supremacy of impersonal power and of the limitation of human effort. But this theory of tragedy is an oversimplification, primarily because it confuses the tragic condition with the tragic process: the theory does not acknowledge that fate, in a tragedy, normally becomes external to the hero only after the tragic process has been set in motion. Fate, as conceived in ancient Greek tragedy, is the internal balancing condition of life. It appears as external only after it has been violated, just as justice is an internal quality of an honest person, but the external antagonist of the criminal. Secondarily, this theory of tragedy does not distinguish tragedy from irony. Irony does not need an exceptional central figure: as a rule, the more ignoble the hero the sharper the irony, when irony alone is the objective. It is heroism that creates the splendor and exhilaration that is unique to tragedy. The tragic hero normally has an extraordinary, often a nearly divine, destiny almost within grasp, and the glory of that original destiny never quite fades out of the tragedy.

The second theory of tragedy states that the act that sets the tragic process in motion must be primarily a violation of moral law, whether human or divine; in short, that the tragic hero must have a flaw that has an essential connection with sin. Again, it is true that the great majority of tragic heroes do possess hubris, or a proud and passionate mind that seems to make the hero's downfall morally explicable. But such hubris is only the precipitating agent of catastrophe, just as in comedy the cause of the happy ending is usually some act of humility, often performed by a noble character who is meanly disguised.

- 68.** The author objects to the theory that all tragedy exhibits the workings of external fate primarily because
 A. fate in tragedies is not as important a cause of action as is the violation of a moral law
 B. fate in tragedies does not appear to be something that is external to the tragic hero until after the tragic process has begun
 C. the theory is based solely on an understanding of ancient Greek tragedy
 D. the theory does not seem to be a plausible explanation of tragedy's ability to exhilarate an audience
 E. the theory does not seem applicable to the large number of tragedies in which the hero overcomes fate
- 69.** Which of the following comparisons of the tragic with the ironic hero is best supported by information contained in the passage?
 A. A tragic hero's fate is an external condition, but an ironic hero's fate is an internal one.
 B. A tragic hero must be controlled by fate, but an ironic hero cannot be.
 C. A tragic hero's moral flaw surprises the audience, but an ironic hero's sin does not.
 D. A tragic hero and an ironic hero cannot both be virtuous figures in the same tragedy.
 E. A tragic hero is usually extraordinary, but an ironic hero may be cowardly or even villainous.
- 70.** The author contrasts an honest person and a criminal primarily to
 A. prove that fate cannot be external to the tragic hero
 B. establish a criterion that allows a distinction to be made between irony and tragedy
 C. develop the distinction between the tragic condition and the tragic process
 D. introduce the concept of sin as the cause of tragic action
 E. argue that the theme of omnipotent external fate is shared by comedy and tragedy



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71. The author suggests that the tragic hero's "original destiny never quite fades out of the tragedy" primarily to
- A. qualify the assertion that the theory of tragedy as a display of external fate is inconsistent
 - B. introduce the discussion of the theory that tragedy is the consequence of individual sin
 - C. refute the theory that the tragic process is more important than the tragic condition
 - D. support the claim that heroism creates the splendor and exhilaration of tragedy
 - E. distinguish between fate as conceived in ancient Greek tragedy and fate in more recent tragedy
72. In the author's opinion, an act of humility in comedy is most analogous to
- A. a catastrophe in tragedy
 - B. an ironic action in tragedy
 - C. a tragic hero's pride and passion
 - D. a tragic hero's aversion to sin
 - E. a tragic hero's pursuit of an unusual destiny



Passage 18

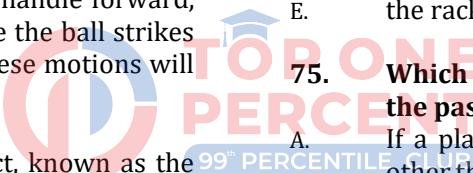
Though most tennis players generally strive to strike the ball on the racket's vibration node, more commonly known as the "sweet spot," many players are unaware of the existence of a second, lesser-known location on the racket face, the center of percussion, that will also greatly diminish the strain on a player's arm when the ball is struck.

In order to understand the physics of this second sweet spot, it is helpful to consider what would happen to a tennis racket in the moments after impact with the ball if the player's hand were to vanish at the moment of impact. The impact of the ball would cause the racket to bounce backwards, experiencing a translational motion away from the ball. The tendency of this motion would be to jerk all parts of the racket, including the end of its handle, backward, or away from the ball. Unless the ball happened to hit the racket precisely at the racket's center of mass, the racket would additionally experience a rotational motion around its center of mass—much as a **penny that has been struck near its edge will start to spin**. Whenever the ball hits the racket face, the effect of this rotational motion will be to jerk the end of the handle forward, towards the ball. Depending on where the ball strikes the racket face, one or the other of these motions will predominate.

However, there is one point of impact, known as the center of percussion, which causes neither motion to predominate; if a ball were to strike this point, the impact would not impart any motion to the end of the handle. The reason for this lack of motion is that the force on the upper part of the hand would be equal and opposite to the force on the lower part of the hand, resulting in no net force on the tennis players' hand or forearm. The center of percussion constitutes a second sweet spot because a tennis player's wrist typically is placed next to the end of the racket's handle. When the player strikes the ball at the center of percussion, her wrist is jerked neither forward nor backward, and she experiences a relatively smooth, comfortable tennis stroke.

The manner in which a tennis player can detect the center of percussion on a given tennis racket follows from the nature of this second sweet spot. The center of percussion can be located via simple trial and error by holding the end of a tennis racket between your finger and thumb and throwing a ball onto the strings. If the handle jumps out of your hand, then the ball has missed the center of percussion.

- 73.** The author mentions "a penny that has been struck near its edge" in order to
 A. show how the center of mass causes the racket to spin
 B. argue that a penny spins in the exact way that a tennis racket spins
 C. explain how translational motion works
 D. provide an illustration of a concept
 E. demonstrate that pennies and tennis rackets do not spin in the same way
- 74.** According to the passage, all of the following are true of the forces acting upon a tennis racket striking a ball EXCEPT
 A. the only way to eliminate the jolt that accompanies most strokes is to hit the ball on the center of percussion
 B. the impact of the ball striking the racket can strain a tennis player's arm
 C. there are at least two different forces acting upon the racket
 D. the end of the handle of the racket will jerk forward after striking the ball unless the ball strikes the racket's center of mass
 E. the racket will rebound after it strikes the ball
- 75.** Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
 A. If a player holds the tennis racket anywhere other than the end of the handle, the player will experience a jolting sensation.
 B. The primary sweet spot is more effective at damping vibration than is the secondary sweet spot.
 C. Striking a tennis ball at a spot other than the center of percussion may result in a jarring feeling.
 D. Striking a tennis ball repeatedly at spots other than a sweet spot leads to "tennis elbow."
 E. If a player lets go of the racket at the moment of impact, the simultaneous forward and backward impetus causes the racket to drop straight to the ground.



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76. It can be inferred that a tennis ball that strikes a racket's center of percussion will do which of the following?

- I. Cause the racket to bounce backwards
- II. Not cause the wrist to jerk
- III. Allow for a cleaner stroke than a ball striking a racket's primary sweet spot

- A. II only
- B. III only
- C. II and III only
- D. I and II only
- E. I and III only

77. According to the passage, which of the following occurs when a ball strikes the racket strings on a sweet spot?

- A. The jolt that accompanies most strokes will be more pronounced.
- B. The racket experiences rotational motion but not translational motion.
- C. The racket experiences translational motion but not rotational motion.
- D. The player experiences less vibration in the arm holding the racket.
- E. The center of mass and the center of percussion coincide.



Passage 19

It is common to assume that people who act morally are normally motivated to act so, while those who act immorally lack moral motivation. However, research carried out by Monin and Miller strongly points to the existence of a moral licensing effect, according to which performance of morally commendable actions in turn licenses subjects to later engage in dubious behavior. This work suggests that individuals are motivated to perform moral acts not by an innate goodness on their part, but by a desire to appear to be moral people, whether to themselves or others. Researchers continue to disagree whether licensing is best understood as involving moral credentials, in which subjects interpret their later, dubious activity in terms of the moral identity they have supposedly established for themselves in prior acts, or as involving moral credits, where subjects see themselves as having built up a surplus that they can then "trade in" by acting selfishly. The research strongly suggests, however, that individuals care about their moral self-image (how they think about themselves morally), and not merely about what others think of them. Khan and Dhar, for example, found that subjects who were asked to merely imagine performing a generous act, such as tutoring a student, were later less likely to donate a portion of their earnings to charity than those who were asked to imagine engaging in a morally neutral activity; that is, those who simply imagined their own generosity then gave themselves license to be selfish. If individuals are normally motivated to at least strive for a moral self-image in this way, we should not be too hasty to discount the common-sense assumption that moral motivation is typically behind moral action.

- 78.** **The author refers to a study by Khan and Dhar in order to demonstrate that**
 A. individuals can perform moral actions without giving themselves moral license
 B. there is no correlation between individuals' giving themselves moral license and individuals' moral behavior
 C. there is no relation between individuals' moral self-image and their moral standards
 D. individuals appear to take any kind of moral behavior to count toward or against their moral credits or credentials
 E. individuals can give themselves moral license without performing any moral action
- 79.** **Which of the following results of a later study, if true, would weaken the conclusion stated in the last sentence of the passage?**
 Subjects who, on a scale of generous to selfish, rated themselves as more generous were no more or less likely to act generously than subjects who rated themselves as more selfish. Subjects who acted the most generously in a spontaneous situation were largely unable to identify clear reasons for their actions.
 Subjects who acted generously in the first phase of an experiment were less likely to act generously in the next phase of the experiment.
- I. III.
 II.
- A. I only
 B. II only
 C. I and II only
 D. I and III only
 E. II and III only

Passage 20

Before the age of space exploration, the size and composition of the Moon's core were astronomical mysteries. Astronomers assumed that the Moon's core was smaller than that of the Earth, in both relative and absolute terms—the radius of the Earth's core is 55 percent of the overall radius of the Earth and the core's mass is 32 percent of the Earth's overall mass—but they had no way to verify their assumption. However, data gathered by Lunar Prospector have now given astronomers the ability to determine that the Moon's core accounts for 20 percent of the Moon's radius and for a mere 2 percent of its overall mass.

Two sets of data have been analyzed. As part of the Doppler Gravity Experiment, scientists measured minute, relatively rapid variations in the wavelength of radio signals from Lunar Prospector as the craft moved towards or away from the Earth. Just as shifts in the pitch of a siren can indicate the speed and direction of travel of a police car, so did these radio-signal variations reveal even the slightest changes in the craft's velocity while the craft orbited the Moon. These changes resulted from inconsistency in the gravitational pull of the Moon on the craft and permitted the creation of a "gravity map" of both near and far sides of the Moon, highlighting new details of the distribution of the Moon's internal mass. Through the analysis of lunar mass concentrations, scientists have been able to determine that the Moon has a small, metallic core, which, if composed mostly of iron, has a radius of approximately 350 kilometers. The second data set was gathered by capturing echoes of the faint magnetic field generated by electrical currents within the lunar core caused by the Moon's monthly passage through the tail of the Earth's magnetosphere. These magnetic data confirmed the results obtained through examination of the gravity map.

The size and composition of the Moon's core are not academic concerns; they have serious implications for our understanding of the Moon's origins. For example, if the Moon and Earth developed as distinct entities, the sizes of their cores should be more comparable. In actuality, it seems that the Moon was once part of the Earth and broke away at an early stage in the Earth's evolution, perhaps as the result of a major asteroid impact. The impact could have loosened iron that had not already sunk to the core of the Earth, allowing it to form the core around which the Moon eventually accreted. Alternatively, according to fission theory, the early Earth may have been spinning so rapidly that it ejected a quantity of material by **so-called** centrifugal force, material that later coalesced by mutual gravitational attraction into the Moon.

- 80.** The author mentioned "gravity map" in the second paragraph in order to
 A. illustrate the method used to correct the Lunar Prospector's velocity
 B. confirm the results obtained by examining the Moon's magnetic field
 C. detail a step in the investigation of the composition of a specific orbiting body
 D. detail a step in the investigation of the effects of gravity on the Moon and the Earth
 E. explain a step in the process of confirming a new hypothesis and discarding an older theory
- 81.** If the wavelength of radio signals emitted by a second Lunar Prospector changed only in a slowly oscillating fashion, then which of the following could be most properly inferred?
 A. The velocity of the second spacecraft appears to be constant over time.
 B. The size and mass of the Moon's core may be more comparable to the size and mass of the Earth's core than is currently believed.
 C. The gravitational pull of the Moon seems to be more uniform than was measured by the first spacecraft.
 D. The Earth and the Moon seem to have originated independently.
 E. It would be impossible to create a gravity map of the Moon.
- 82.** According to the passage, electrical currents within the Moon's core
 A. capture echoes of a faint magnetic field
 B. are generated when the Moon moves through the Earth's magnetosphere
 C. call the results of the radio signal analysis into question
 D. permit the creation of a gravity map corresponding to lunar mass concentrations
 E. indicate the speed and direction of travel of the Moon

Before the age of space exploration, the size and composition of the Moon's core were astronomical mysteries. Astronomers assumed that the Moon's core was smaller than that of the Earth, in both relative and absolute terms—the radius of the Earth's core is 55 percent of the overall radius of the Earth and the core's mass is 32 percent of the Earth's overall mass—but they had no way to verify their assumption. However, data gathered by Lunar Prospector have now given astronomers the ability to determine that the Moon's core accounts for 20 percent of the Moon's radius and for a mere 2 percent of its overall mass.

Two sets of data have been analyzed. As part of the Doppler Gravity Experiment, scientists measured minute, relatively rapid variations in the wavelength of radio signals from Lunar Prospector as the craft moved towards or away from the Earth. Just as shifts in the pitch of a siren can indicate the speed and direction of travel of a police car, so did these radio-signal variations reveal even the slightest changes in the craft's velocity while the craft orbited the Moon. These changes resulted from inconsistency in the gravitational pull of the Moon on the craft and permitted the creation of a "gravity map" of both near and far sides of the Moon, highlighting new details of the distribution of the Moon's internal mass. Through the analysis of lunar mass concentrations, scientists have been able to determine that the Moon has a small, metallic core, which, if composed mostly of iron, has a radius of approximately 350 kilometers. The second data set was gathered by capturing echoes of the faint magnetic field generated by electrical currents within the lunar core caused by the Moon's monthly passage through the tail of the Earth's magnetosphere. These magnetic data confirmed the results obtained through examination of the gravity map.

The size and composition of the Moon's core are not academic concerns; they have serious implications for our understanding of the Moon's origins. For example, if the Moon and Earth developed as distinct entities, the sizes of their cores should be more comparable. In actuality, it seems that the Moon was once part of the Earth and broke away at an early stage in the Earth's evolution, perhaps as the result of a major asteroid impact. The impact could have loosened iron that had not already sunk to the core of the Earth, allowing it to form the core around which the Moon eventually accreted. Alternatively, according to fission theory, the early Earth may have been spinning so rapidly that it ejected a quantity of material by **so-called** centrifugal force, material that later coalesced by mutual gravitational attraction into the Moon.

- 83.** According to the passage, scientists employed one research method that measured
- changes in a spacecraft's velocity as it returned to Earth
 - changes in the gravitational pull on the Lunar Prospector as it orbited the moon
 - changes in the moon's gravity as it orbited the earth
 - changes in a spacecraft's radio signals as it changed position relative to the earth
 - changes in the moon's gravitational pull over time
- 84.** It can be inferred from the passage that:
- the earth's core contributes a higher proportion of both the earth's total radius and its total mass than the core of the moon contributes to its own total radius and mass
 - a comparison of the earth's and moon's cores suggests that the earth did break away from the moon
 - scientists will eventually be able to use the gravity map to further the proof that a major asteroid impact caused the earth and moon to separate
 - because the earth and moon were once joined, it is probable that scientists will eventually discover fossils and other evidence on the moon that indicates that a major asteroid impact caused the extinction of the dinosaurs
 - the moon's core has a higher ratio of iron in its composition than does the earth's

Passage 21

The evolution of intelligence among early large mammals of the grasslands was due in great measure to the interaction between two ecologically synchronized groups of these animals, the hunting carnivores and the herbivores that they hunted. The interaction resulting from the differences between predator and prey led to a general improvement in brain functions; however, certain components of intelligence were improved far more than others.

The kind of intelligence favored by the interplay of increasingly smarter catchers and increasingly keener escapers is defined by attention — that aspect of mind carrying consciousness forward from one moment to the next. It ranges from a passive, free-floating awareness to a highly focused, active fixation. The range through these states is mediated by the arousal system, a network of tracts converging from sensory systems to integrating centers in the brain stem. From the more relaxed to the more vigorous levels, sensitivity to novelty is increased. The organism is more awake, more vigilant; this increased vigilance results in the apprehension of ever more subtle signals as the organism becomes more sensitive to its surroundings. The processes of arousal and concentration give attention its direction. Arousal is at first general, with a flooding of impulses in the brain stem; then gradually the activation is channeled. Thus, begins concentration, the holding of consistent images. One meaning of intelligence is the way in which these images and other alertly searched information are used in the context of previous experience. Consciousness links past attention to the present and permits the integration of details with perceived ends and purposes.

The elements of intelligence and consciousness come together marvelously to produce different styles in predator and prey. Herbivores and carnivores develop different kinds of attention related to escaping or chasing. Although in both kinds of animal, arousal stimulates the production of adrenaline and norepinephrine by the adrenal glands, the effect in herbivores is primarily fear, whereas in carnivores the effect is primarily aggression. For both, arousal attunes the animal to what is ahead. Perhaps it does not experience forethought as we know it, but the animal does experience something like it. The predator is searchingly aggressive, inner-directed, tuned by the nervous system and the adrenal hormones, but aware in a sense closer to human consciousness than, say, a **hungry lizard's** instinctive snap at a passing beetle. Using past events as a framework, the large mammal predator is working out a relationship between movement and food, sensitive to possibilities in cold trails and distant sounds — and yesterday's unforgotten lessons. The herbivore prey is of a different mind. Its mood of wariness rather than searching and its attitude of general expectancy instead of anticipating are silk-thin veils of tranquility over an explosive endocrine system.

- 85.** It can be inferred from the passage that in animals less intelligent than the mammals discussed in the passage
 A. past experience is less helpful in ensuring survival
 B. attention is more highly focused
 C. muscular coordination is less highly developed
 D. there is less need for competition among species
 E. environment is more important in establishing the proper ratio of prey to predator
- 86.** According to the passage, improvement in brain function among early large mammals resulted primarily from which of the following?
 A. Interplay of predator and prey
 B. Persistence of free-floating awareness in animals of the grasslands
 C. Gradual dominance of warm-blooded mammals over cold-blooded reptiles
 D. Interaction of early large mammals with less intelligent species
 E. Improvement of the capacity for memory among herbivores and carnivores
- 87.** According to the passage, as the process of arousal in an organism continues, all of the following may occur EXCEPT
 A. the production of adrenaline
 B. the production of norepinephrine
 C. a heightening of sensitivity to stimuli
 D. an increase in selectivity with respect to stimuli
 E. an expansion of the range of states mediated by the brain stem
- 88.** The sensitivity is most clearly an example of
 A. "Free-floating awareness"
 B. "Flooding of impulses in the brain stem"
 C. "The holding of consistent images"
 D. "Integration of details with perceived ends and purposes"
 E. "Silk-thin veils of tranquility"

The evolution of intelligence among early large mammals of the grasslands was due in great measure to the interaction between two ecologically synchronized groups of these animals, the hunting carnivores and the herbivores that they hunted. The interaction resulting from the differences between predator and prey led to a general improvement in brain functions; however, certain components of intelligence were improved far more than others.

The kind of intelligence favored by the interplay of increasingly smarter catchers and increasingly keener escapers is defined by attention — that aspect of mind carrying consciousness forward from one moment to the next. It ranges from a passive, free-floating awareness to a highly focused, active fixation. The range through these states is mediated by the arousal system, a network of tracts converging from sensory systems to integrating centers in the brain stem. From the more relaxed to the more vigorous levels, sensitivity to novelty is increased. The organism is more awake, more vigilant; this increased vigilance results in the apprehension of ever more subtle signals as the organism becomes more sensitive to its surroundings. The processes of arousal and concentration give attention its direction. Arousal is at first general, with a flooding of impulses in the brain stem; then gradually the activation is channeled. Thus, begins concentration, the holding of consistent images. One meaning of intelligence is the way in which these images and other alertly searched information are used in the context of previous experience. Consciousness links past attention to the present and permits the integration of details with perceived ends and purposes.

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- 89. The author provides information that would answer which of the following questions?**

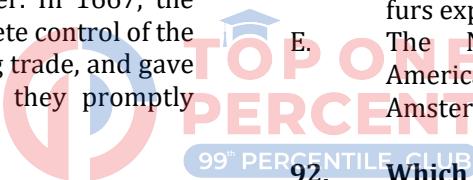
- I. Why is an aroused herbivore usually fearful?
 - II. What are some of the degrees of attention in large mammals?
 - III. What occurs when the stimulus that causes arousal of a mammal is removed?
- A. I only
 B. III only
 C. I and II only
 D. II and III only
 E. I, II and III



Passage 22

Commonplace items sometimes play surprising roles in world development. For example, though most people today associate nutmeg with simple baked goods, this common spice once altered the course of political history. For centuries, the nutmeg tree grew only in the Banda Islands, a small chain in the southwest Pacific. Locals harvested the aromatic nuts of the tree and sold them to traders. Eventually these nuts, from which the spice is made, ended up as a luxury item in the European market, via Venetian spice merchants. Eager to establish a monopoly over this valuable spice, the Dutch attacked the Bandas, subjugating the native people in a mostly successful attempt to control the nutmeg trade.

However, one island in the Banda chain remained in the hands of the British and was the object of much conflict between the Netherlands and England. After many battles, the British offered to cede control of the island in exchange for New Amsterdam, a Dutch outpost on the east coast of North America. At the time, the Dutch, inveterate traders, were more interested in the spice trade than in the mercantile value of New Amsterdam and so accepted the offer. In 1667, the Treaty of Breda gave the Dutch complete control of the Banda Islands, and thus of the nutmeg trade, and gave the British New Amsterdam, which they promptly renamed New York.



- 90. The second paragraph performs which of the following functions in the passage?**
- A. It offers specific information to complete the logic of the author's claims.
 - B. It summarizes and evaluates the evidence given thus far.
 - C. It presents the author's main point to explain a unique situation.
 - D. It cites a particular case to demonstrate the importance of historical change.
 - E. It discusses the necessary outcome of the author's assertions.
- 91. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the claim that New Amsterdam would have remained a Dutch possession if not for the conflict over nutmeg?**
- A. Attempts to cultivate nutmeg trees outside of the Banda Islands had failed.
 - B. Few people lived in New Amsterdam before it was ceded to the British.
 - C. The British controlled trade in other valuable spices, such as cloves.
 - D. New Amsterdam served as a trading center for furs exported to Europe.
 - E. The Netherlands controlled no North American territories other than New Amsterdam.
- 92. Which of the following is mentioned in the passage as a reason for the initial interest of the Netherlands in the Banda Islands?**
- A. Increased economic competition with Britain
 - B. Disappointment with the economic development of New Amsterdam
 - C. Frustration with the practices of Venetian spice merchants
 - D. Failure to cultivate nutmeg in other locations
 - E. Desire to restrict access to a commodity
- 93. The passage suggests which of the following about the Banda Islands?**
- A. The British arrived in the islands before the Dutch.
 - B. Nutmeg was the only spice that grew on the islands.
 - C. Natives of the islands produced nutmeg from the nuts of the nutmeg tree.
 - D. The Banda Islands are still in the possession of the Dutch.
 - E. The local economy of the islands depended completely on nutmeg.

Passage 23

Nearly a century ago, biologists found that if they separated an invertebrate animal embryo into two parts at an early stage of its life, it would survive and develop as two normal embryos. This led them to believe that the cells in the early embryo are undetermined in the sense that each cell has the potential to develop in a variety of different ways. Later biologists found that the situation was not so simple. It matters in which plane the embryo is cut. If it is cut in a plane different from the one used by the early investigators, it will not form two whole embryos.

A debate arose over what exactly was happening. Which embryo cells are determined, just when do they become irreversibly committed to their fates, and what are the “morphogenetic determinants” that tell a cell what to become? But the debate could not be resolved because no one was able to ask the crucial questions in a form in which they could be pursued productively. Recent discoveries in molecular biology, however, have opened up prospects for a resolution of the debate. Now investigators think they know at least some of the molecules that act as morphogenetic determinants in early development. They have been able to show that, in a sense, cell determination begins even before an egg is fertilized.

Studying sea urchins, biologist Paul Gross found that an unfertilized egg contains substances that function as morphogenetic determinants. They are located in the cytoplasm of the egg cell; i.e., in that part of the cell's protoplasm that lies outside of the nucleus. In the unfertilized egg, the substances are inactive and are not distributed homogeneously. When the egg is fertilized, the substances become active and, presumably, govern the behavior of the genes they interact with. Since the substances are unevenly distributed in the egg, when the fertilized egg divides, the resulting cells are different from the start and so can be qualitatively different in their own gene activity. The substances that Gross studied are maternal messenger RNA's—products of certain of the maternal genes. He and other biologists studying a wide variety of organisms have found that these particular RNA's direct, in large part, the synthesis of histones, a class of proteins that bind to DNA. Once synthesized, the histones move into the cell nucleus, where section of DNA wrap around them to form a structure that resembles beads, or knots, on a string. The beads are DNA segments wrapped around the histones; the string is the intervening DNA. And it is the structure of these beaded DNA strings that guide the fate of the cells in which they are located.

- 94.** **It can be inferred from the passage that the morphogenetic determinants present in the early embryo are**
- located in the nucleus of the embryo cells
 - evenly distributed unless the embryo is not developing normally
 - inactive until the embryo cells become irreversibly committed to their final function identical to those that were already present in the unfertilized egg
 - present in larger quantities than is necessary for the development of a single individual
- 95.** **It can be inferred from the passage that when biologists believed that the cells in the early embryo were undetermined, they made which of the following mistakes?**
- They did not attempt to replicate the original experiment of separating an embryo into two parts.
 - They did not realize that there was a connection between the issue of cell determination and the outcome of the separation experiment.
 - They assumed that the results of experiments on embryos did not depend on the particular animal species used for such experiments.
 - They assumed that it was crucial to perform the separation experiment at an early stage in the embryo's life.
 - They assumed that different ways of separating an embryo into two parts would be equivalent as far as the fate of the two parts was concerned.
- 96.** **It can be inferred from the passage that the initial production of histones after an egg is fertilized takes place**
- in the cytoplasm
 - in the maternal genes
 - throughout the protoplasm
 - in the beaded portions of the DNA strings
 - in certain sections of the cell nucleus
- 97.** **It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is dependent on the fertilization of an egg?**
- Copying of maternal genes to produce maternal messenger RNA's
 - Synthesis of proteins called histones
 - Division of a cell into its nucleus and the cytoplasm
 - Determination of the egg cell's potential for division
 - Generation of all of a cell's morphogenetic determinants

Nearly a century ago, biologists found that if they separated an invertebrate animal embryo into two parts at an early stage of its life, it would survive and develop as two normal embryos. This led them to believe that the cells in the early embryo are undetermined in the sense that each cell has the potential to develop in a variety of different ways. Later biologists found that the situation was not so simple. It matters in which plane the embryo is cut. If it is cut in a plane different from the one used by the early investigators, it will not form two whole embryos.

A debate arose over what exactly was happening. Which embryo cells are determined, just when do they become irreversibly committed to their fates, and what are the "morphogenetic determinants" that tell a cell what to become? But the debate could not be resolved because no one was able to ask the crucial questions in a form in which they could be pursued productively. Recent discoveries in molecular biology, however, have opened up prospects for a resolution of the debate. Now investigators think they know at least some of the molecules that act as morphogenetic determinants in early development. They have been able to show that, in a sense, cell determination begins even before an egg is fertilized.

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- 98. Which of the following circumstances is most comparable to the impasse biologists encountered in trying to resolve the debate about cell determination?**
- A. The problems faced by a literary scholar who wishes to use original source materials that are written in an unfamiliar foreign language
 - B. The situation of a mathematician who in preparing a proof of a theorem for publication detects a reasoning error in the proof
 - C. The difficulties of a space engineer who has to design equipment to function in an environment in which it cannot first be tested
 - D. The predicament of a linguist trying to develop a theory of language acquisition when knowledge of the structure of language itself is rudimentary at best
 - E. The dilemma confronting a foundation when the funds available to it are sufficient to support one of two equally deserving scientific projects but not both



Passage 24

Many readers assume that, as a neoclassical literary critic, Samuel Johnson would normally prefer the abstract, the formal, and the regulated to the concrete, the natural, and the spontaneous in a work of literature. Yet any close reading of Johnson's criticism shows that Johnson is not blind to the importance of the immediate, vivid, specific detail in literature; rather, he would underscore the need for the *telling* rather than the merely *accidental* detail.

In other ways, too, Johnson's critical method had much in common with that of the Romantics, with whom Johnson and, indeed, the entire neoclassical tradition, are generally supposed to be in conflict. Johnson was well aware, for example, of the sterility of literary criticism that is legalistic or pedantic, as was the case with the worst products of the neoclassical school. His famous argument against the slavish following of the "three unities" of classical drama is a good example, as is his defense of the supposedly illegitimate "tragicomic" mode of Shakespeare's latest plays. Note, in particular, the basis of that defense: "That this is a practice contrary to the rules of criticism," Johnson wrote, "will be readily allowed; but there is always an appeal from criticism to nature."

The sentiment thus expressed could easily be endorsed by any of the Romantics; the empiricism it exemplifies is vital quality of Johnson's criticism, as is the willingness to jettison "laws" of criticism when to do so makes possible a more direct appeal to the emotions of the reader. Addison's *Cato*, highly praised in Johnson's day for its "correctness," is damned with faint praise by Johnson: "*Cato* affords a splendid exhibition of artificial and fictitious manners, and delivers just and noble sentiments, in diction easy, elevated, and harmonious, but its hopes and fears communicate no vibration to the heart." Wordsworth could hardly demur.

Even on the question of poetic diction, which, according to the usual interpretation of Wordsworth's 1800 preface to the *Lyrical Ballads*, was the central area of conflict between Romantic and Augustan, Johnson's views are surprisingly "modern." In his *Life of Dryden*, he defends the use of a special diction in poetry, it is true; but his reasons are all-important. For Johnson, poetic diction should serve the ends of direct emotional impact and ease of comprehension, not those of false profundity or grandiosity. "Words too familiar," he wrote, "or too remote, defeat the purpose of a poet. From those sounds which we hear on small or on coarse occasions, we do not easily receive strong impressions, or delightful images; and words to which we are nearly strangers, whenever they occur, draw that attention on themselves which they should transmit to things." If the poetic diction of the neoclassical poets, at its worst, erects needless barriers between reader and meaning, that envisioned by Johnson would do just the opposite: it would put the reader in closer contact with the "things" that are the poem's subject.

- 99.** The passage implies that the judging of literary works according to preconceived rules
- tends to lessen the effectiveness of much modern literary criticism
 - is the primary distinguishing mark of the neoclassical critic
 - was the primary neoclassical technique against which the Romantics rebelled
 - is the underlying basis of much of Johnson's critical work
 - characterizes examples of bad neoclassical criticism
- 100.** According to the author, Johnson's defense of Shakespeare's latest plays illustrates Johnson's reliance on which of the following in his criticism?
- The sentiments endorsed by the Romantics
 - The criteria set forth by Wordsworth in his 1800 preface to the *Lyrical Ballads*
 - The precedents established by the Greek and Roman playwrights of the Classical Age
 - The principles followed by the neoclassical school of criticism
 - His own experience and judgment
- 101.** According to the passage, Johnson's views on the use of a special diction in the writing of poetry were
- "modern" in their rejection of a clear-cut division between the diction of poetry and that of prose
 - "neoclassical" in their emphasis on the use of language that appeals directly to the emotions of the reader
 - "Romantic" in their defense of the idea that a special diction for poetry could be stylistically effective
 - "modern" in their underlying concern for the impact of the literary work on the sensibility of the reader
 - "neoclassical" in their emphasis on ease of comprehension as a literary virtue
- 102.** It can be inferred from the passage that in addition to being a literary critic, Johnson was also a
- surprisingly modern poet
 - poet in the Augustan mode
 - dramatist
 - biographer
 - naturalist

Passage 25

All of the cells in a particular plant start out with the same complement of genes. How then can these cells differentiate and form structures as different as roots, stems, leaves, and fruits? The answer is that only a small subset of the genes in a particular kind of cell are expressed, or turned on, at a given time. This is accomplished by a complex system of chemical messengers that in plants include hormones and other regulatory molecules. Five major hormones have been identified: auxin, abscisic acid, cytokinin, ethylene, and gibberellin. Studies of plants have now identified a new class of regulatory molecules called oligosaccharins.

Unlike the oligosaccharins, the five well-known plant hormones are pleiotropic rather than specific; that is, each has more than one effect on the growth and development of plants. The five have so many simultaneous effects that they are not very useful in artificially controlling the growth of crops. Auxin, for instance, stimulates the rate of cell elongation, causes shoots to grow up and roots to grow down, and inhibits the growth of lateral shoots. Auxin also causes the plant to develop a vascular system, to form lateral roots, and to produce ethylene.

The pleiotropy of the five well-studied plant hormones is somewhat analogous to that of certain hormones in animals. For example, hormones from the hypothalamus in the brain stimulate the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland to synthesize and release many different hormones, one of which stimulates the release of hormones from the adrenal cortex. These hormones have specific effects on target organs all over the body. One hormone stimulates the thyroid gland, for example, another the ovarian follicle cells, and so forth. In other words, there is a hierarchy of hormones. Such a hierarchy may also exist in plants. Oligosaccharins are fragments of the cell wall released by enzymes: different enzymes release different oligosaccharins. There are indications that pleiotropic plant hormones may actually function by activating the enzymes that release these other, more specific chemical messengers from the cell wall.

- 103.** According to the passage, the five well-known plant hormones are not useful in controlling the growth of crops because
- it is not known exactly what functions the hormones perform
 - each hormone has various effects on plants
 - none of the hormones can function without the others
 - each hormone has different effects on different kinds of plants
 - each hormone works on only a small subset of a cell's genes at any particular time
- 104.** The passage suggests that the place of hypothalamic hormones in the hormonal hierarchies of animals is similar to the place of which of the following in plants?
- Plant cell walls
 - The complement of genes in each plant cell
 - A subset of a plant cell's gene complement
 - The five major hormones
 - The oligosaccharins
- 105.** The passage suggests that which of the following is a function likely to be performed by an oligosaccharin?
- To stimulate a particular plant cell to become part of a plant's root system
 - To stimulate the walls of a particular cell to produce other oligosaccharins
 - To activate enzymes that release specific chemical messengers from plant cell walls
 - To duplicate the gene complement in a particular plant cell
 - To produce multiple effects on a particular subsystem of plant cells
- 106.** The passage suggests that, unlike the pleiotropic hormones, oligosaccharins could be used effectively to
- trace the passage of chemicals through the walls of cells
 - pinpoint functions of other plant hormones
 - artificially control specific aspects of the development of crops
 - alter the complement of genes in the cells of plants
 - alter the effects of the five major hormones on plant development

Answer Key – RC Inference Marathon: 25 toughest RC passages ever tested on the GMAT

Detailed OCTAAVE based video solutions (to each of these passages) in [RC Inference Marathon Videos Part 1 to 4](#), shared as part of Top-One-Percent GMAT courses (for registered courses only).

Passage 1

- 1. B
- 2. D
- 3. E
- 4. A
- 5. A

Passage 2

- 6. A
- 7. E
- 8. B
- 9. D
- 10.C

Passage 3

- 11.B
- 12.E
- 13.D
- 14.A
- 15.D

Passage 4

- 16.D
- 17.C
- 18.B
- 19.A
- 20.C
- 21.D

Passage 6

- 25. A
- 26. B
- 27. A
- 28. C

Passage 7

- 29. B

Passage 8

- 30. C
- 31. B
- 32. A



- 33. E
- 34. A
- 35. E

Passage 9

- 36. D
- 37. A
- 38. C

Passage 10

- 39. C
- 40. D
- 41. B
- 42. E

Passage 5

- 22.C
- 23.D
- 24.E

Passage 11

- 43. C
- 44. E
- 45. A

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Passage 12 | 76. A |
| 46. C | 77. D |
| 47. A | |
| 48. E | |
| Passage 13 | Passage 19 |
| 49. A | 78. E |
| 50. D | 79. C |
| 51. D | |
| 52. C | |
| 53. D | |
| | Passage 20 |
| 54. D | 80. C |
| 55. C | 81. C |
| 56. A | 82. B |
| 57. B | 83. D |
| | 84. A |
| Passage 14 | |
| 58. D | Passage 21 |
| 59. D | 85. A |
| 60. E | 86. A |
| 61. B | 87. E |
| 62. A | 88. D |
| 63. D | 89. C |
| Passage 15 | |
| 64. B | Passage 22 |
| 65. E | 90. A |
| 66. D | 91. D |
| 67. E | 92. E |
| | 93. A |
| Passage 16 | Passage 23 |
| 68. B | 94. E |
| 69. E | 95. E |
| 70. C | 96. A |
| 71. D | 97. B |
| 72. C | 98. D |
| Passage 17 | |
| 73. D | Passage 24 |
| 74. A | 99. E |
| 75. C | 100. E |
| | 101. D |
| | 102. D |
| Passage 18 | Passage 25 |
| 76. A | 103. B |
| 77. C | 104. D |
| 78. D | 105. A |
| 79. B | 106. C |



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Passage 1

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q1.

(B) – What is the passage saying?

"Some characteristics of today's Spanish-speaking population, however, suggest the possibility of a **departure from this historical pattern**.

What departure is being talked about? "**Many families retain ties in Latin America and move back and forth between their present and former communities.**" (Remember, this is the departure from the traditional characteristic/behaviour)

So if the above sentence highlights the departure from the historical pattern//traditional characteristic, what is the historical pattern//traditional characteristic?

"Traditionally, **few** families retained ties in Latin America and moved back and forth between their present and former communities." That is exactly what B is saying and that is why it is correct.

(D) – The author mentions this line: "Finally, it is for parents and local communities to choose the path they will follow, including how much of their culture they want to maintain for their children" as a reason why forced inclusion should not take place. Although Option (D) can be verified from the passage it doesn't imply that it is the correct answer. Here, you have to select the answer that gives the primary purpose of last para which comes from this line: "**More direct efforts to force inclusion can be misguided...**". Option (D) is incorrect.

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Q2.

(E) – The author does not say that *the effect of bilingual education to be the reason for unwise decision*. He is saying that given the present understanding about the effects (which are inconclusive), it would be unwise to make English language universally required. The author clearly mentions in beginning of 4th para that: 'To date, the evaluations of bilingual education's impact on learning have been inconclusive.'

Option (E) is not giving author's opinion. In the lines: "In the 1960s, such programs were established to facilitate the learning of English so as to avoid disadvantaging children in their other subjects because of their limited English". This is not the author's opinion; it is the opinion of people who established those programs.

Q4.

The answer comes from the last para only

Also, nothing has been shown in the last para (the author is unsure - "given the present state of understanding" means "we don't understand fully" means "it is not clear").

Note – 'General learning' is totally wrong.

'Education' is different from 'general learning'.

Passage 2**Alternate sol**

Additional context on the passage – In the first paragraph (P1), the author presents the viewpoint of recent scholars.

- These scholars question whether the American patent system achieved the goals of its creators.
- They think that "antipatent" judges prevented inventors from enforcing patents.

In the second paragraph, the author undermines the viewpoint presented in P1.

- He/she points out a flaw in the scholars' evidence: the cases that the scholars cite do not represent the full picture.
- Then, he/she provides an alternate explanation for a change in patent law outcomes: "antipatent" judges were not the issue. Instead, a change to the patenting process resulted in an increase of favorable outcomes to patent holders.

Q6.

Here, we're looking for the answer choice implied by the passage as a reason for the proportion of verdicts in favor of patentees beginning to increase in the 1830s.

(A) – The final sentences of the passage tell us of the 1836 revision to the patent system "*in which each application is scrutinized for its adherence to patent law.*" This suggests a patent granted after 1836 was much more likely to adhere to the correct law, as mentioned in Option (A). This would, in turn, have made it easier for a patentee to gain a successful verdict in court as they would know their patent adhered to the appropriate law.

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The passage implies that Option (A) was a reason the proportion of verdicts in favor of the patentee increased after 1836. Hence, **Option (A)** is our answer.

(E) – The increase in the proportion of judicial decisions in favor of patentees mentioned in the passage is not the same as the increase in the proportion of patent disputes brought to trial.

The passage talks about the proportion of cases that are **ruled in favor of the patentee** by a judge. Think of this as the fraction: (judicial decisions in favor of the patentee) ÷ (total number of judicial decisions).

This is not the same as the proportion of **patent disputes brought to trial**. We can think of this as the fraction: (number of patent disputes brought to trial) ÷ (total number of patent disputes, whether or not they reach a trial)

From the passage, we don't have any evidence that the proportion of disputes brought to trial increased after 1836. Hence, Option (E) can't be the correct answer.

Q7.**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

Essentially the framers had certain ideas in mind when they set up the patent system - that protecting property rights on IP would help promote innovation. The scholars are of the opinion that these ideas did not materialize in the period prior to 1830. So then the question becomes, what would the scholars agree with?

Nothing in the passage indicates receiving patents was too difficult or that the number of patent infringement lawsuits were too high. The passage only says that the basis on which the scholars have formed their opinion (again, that what the framers wanted did not happen before 1830, i.e. the patent system did not promote innovation prior to 1830) are datasets of infringement lawsuits where it was seen that a majority of verdicts went against the patentees. So Option (C) and Option (D) are immediately ruled out.

Again, extending that same thought process, nothing indicates that the criteria for granting patents itself were wrong. Patents that were granted did not end up in favour of the patentees when somebody 'infringed' on those patents (nothing to indicate the patents itself was wrongly granted). Exactly similarly, nothing is mentioned that the definition of property rights as they relate to intellectual property was wrong either. Then Option (E), which is actually explicitly mentioned in the passage holds true. The framers thought that the patent system would promote national economic growth, and the scholars, based on their analysis, seem to think the framers' ideas did not materialize - i.e. the patent system did not promote economic growth (at least to the extent envisioned by the framers) before 1830.

(B) – The criteria may be clear, but the judges were “antipatent” and routinely invalidated patents for arbitrary reasons, that is they were prejudiced. While the scholars do question judicial verdicts, they do not cite the criteria for granting patents as a reason. Hence, Option (B) is incorrect.

(E) – If the scholars are *questioning* whether the American system helped achieve the framers' goals, which was the new nation's economic growth. Any option that says that the American system failed to encourage national economic growth would suffice. This is done by Option (E).

Q8.



Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

(B) – Refer to the following portion from the passage:

“If early judicial decisions were prejudiced against patentees, one might expect that subsequent courts—allegedly more supportive of patent rights—would reject the former legal precedents.”

We are then told that this was NOT the case. In other words, subsequent courts did NOT reject the former legal precedents and, instead, cited them as frequently as later decisions.

This is evidence that early judicial decisions were NOT prejudiced against patentees and that the increase in the proportion of verdicts for the patentee in the 1830s was NOT a sign of a shift in judicial attitudes. Instead, according to the passage, this increase was caused by "a change in the underlying population of cases brought to trial."

Thus, the author presents evidence that 1) early judicial decisions were NOT prejudiced against patentees and 2) judicial attitudes toward patent rights did NOT change in the 1830s. Choice (B) can be inferred on the basis of this evidence:

(E) – For something to not persist later, it should have been there in the first place. The author of the passage does not express a belief that the judges were biased (before or after 1830).

Pre1830 cases are still referred means they must be some of the best cases. So, there was no bias.

Passage 4

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage -

- Jacob Burckhardt's view: Renaissance European women "stood on a footing of perfect equality" with Renaissance men.
- Kelly's view: Renaissance was a period of economic and social decline for women relative both to Renaissance men and to medieval women.
- Recent feminist scholars view: Both above views are wrong. Renaissance women were different based on social status etc so you cannot make such generalisations.

The same trend is also evident in works on Renaissance women writers. They were a small minority so it is risky to take their descriptions of their experiences as typical of "female experience" in any general sense.

One such e.g. is Krontiris who in her study merges women with women writers - basically whatever women writers' experience, she says is the women's experience. Still, Krontiris makes a significant contribution to the field and is representative of those authors who offer what might be called a cautiously optimistic assessment of Renaissance women's achievements.

Q17.

(D) – Option D says that Burkhardt's work provides rich historical evidence while it is very clearly written that it is used as a prelude that is as an introduction just to furthering their argument about women's inequality during the renaissance. It is nowhere given that feminist scholars have used Jacob's work because of the evidence, in fact even that it had any. In fact Jacob's work has not even been cited, only his view has been.

Q18.

(A) – This is the reason why Krontiris is criticized, not Jacob and Kelly. Eliminate.

Q20.

(C) – "Show a way in which something is done" means HOW something is done. It is clearly justifiable (by meaning) and verifiable (direct word verification).

Passage 5

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q22.

The tail on the normal distribution that would show fast rotators is absent among asteroids. Scientists have seen that asteroids do *not* rotate very fast (whatever that speed is, and it varies from asteroid to asteroid depending on the size), except for 5 observed ones. Also all of these 5 have diameters smaller than 200 metres across. So these 5 *do* rotate very fast. If asteroids rotate very fast and they are rubble piles, then the rubble pieces would have flown off. So this means that these 5 asteroids must *not* be rubble piles. Conversely the other ones (not rotating very fast) must be. Conversely, asteroids with diameters greater than 200 metres across are rubble piles.

Now look at the answer choices and see which one matches any of the above. Option (C) will - these 5 asteroids are *not* rubble piles; hence they are monoliths.

Q23.

What is the conclusion being referred to in the question? It is that "*asteroids greater than 200 meters across are rubble piles*".

What else do we know about **rubble piles** from the first paragraph? That they cannot achieve very high rotation speeds, because any loose aggregate spinning faster than once every few hours would fly apart.

So, in conclusion, according to the researcher's theory, "*asteroids greater than 200 meters across (or rubble piles) cannot achieve speeds higher than once every few hours*".

We need to choose an option that questions/weakens/invalidates this conclusion/theory.

So what are we looking for here? It should be clear that we're looking for an option that tells us about the existence of an **asteroid/asteroids that is/are greater than 200 metres across (diameter) and achieves/achieve speeds higher than once every few hours**.

Look at D now. D talks about an asteroid 500 metres in diameter rotating at a rate of once per **hour**. This is perfect, right? This is exactly what we wanted. We wanted to show that an asteroid greater than 200 metres in diameter can achieve speeds higher than once every **few hours**. This is exactly what D gives us.

Look at C now. C is saying that an asteroid 250 metres in diameter rotating at a rate of once per **WEEK**. Now, pay attention to the rate of rotation mentioned here. The rate of rotation is once per week. We already know from the passage that asteroids greater than 200 metres in diameter cannot achieve speeds higher than once every few hours. C is strengthening the conclusion/theory.

C is also saying that an asteroid 250 metres in diameter (> 200 metres in diameter) has a rate of rotation of once per **WEEK** (much less than once per every few hours). So C is a strengthener and not a weakener. And so, C is out

(E) - If we show that asteroids larger than 200 m in diameter can also rotate very fast, then this will weaken the conclusion above. To that end, one rotation every 24 hours is very slow. Option (E) doesn't weaken the conclusion.

Passage 6

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage –

Paragraph 1: The author introduces a study that contributes to a debate.

- The debate is between technological determinism and social constructivism.
- John Clark is the author of the study.

Paragraph 2: The author explains which side of the debate that the new study supports, then discusses the other side.

- Clark is on the "technological determinism" side.
- Clark disagrees with Braverman, who is on the "social constructivism" side.

Paragraph 3: The author criticizes the "social constructivism" side of the debate.

- The social constructivists misrepresent the "technological determinism" side.

Paragraph 4: The author further explains how Clark argues against social constructivists.

Q25.

Option (C), Option (D), and Option (E) are not mentioned anywhere in the passage, explicitly or implicitly. The passage makes a distinction between constructivism and their version of determinism. Option (B) only talks about what the constructivists believe; not what their definition of determinism encompasses. Therefore, by elimination as well, Option (A) is correct.

Q26.

Answering this question involves understanding a point of view as it is described in the passage. The passage aligns Clark's study closely with the technological determinists, summarizing his view in lines: "technology can be a primary determinant of social and managerial organization". In the following sentence, the passage states that Clark believes that this possibility is obscured by the recent sociological fashion, exemplified by Braverman's analysis. After illustrating Braverman's analysis, the passage then states that it represents social constructivism.

(A) – According to the passage, Clark holds that constructivists obscure how modernization might have social consequences.

(B) – Correct. According to the passage, Clark sees constructivism as obscuring the possibility that technology plays a primary role in social change.

(C) – The passage does not discuss how the attitudes of employees are perceived by their employers.

(D) – The passage describes a debate about the history and sociology of technology; it does not suggest that sociological analyses affect the pace of modernization.

(E) – The passage describes a debate about the history and sociology of technology; it does not suggest that sociological analyses affect the role that technology plays in business.

Hence, Option (B) is correct.

Q27.

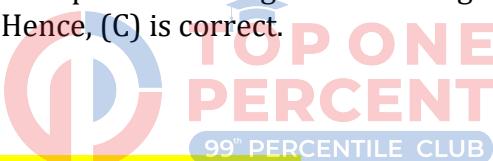
Clark is a determinist, and Braverman is a constructivist. The author is on the side of the determinists. The author says that constructivists misrepresent determinists. The 'supposed to' stands for what the constructivists believe of determinists' thought processes. The author, by saying that the constructivists misrepresent determinists has already established that the former's belief about the latter's thought processes is wrong (the former misrepresent the thought processes of the latter). Then Option (A) immediately follows.

Q28.

This question requires understanding what the passage implies in its discussion of a point of view. The details of Clark's views are discussed primarily in the final paragraph. The passage states that on an empirical level, Clark demonstrates that technological change regarding switches at the telephone exchange altered work tasks, skills, training opportunities, administration, and organization of workers. The passage goes on to state Clark's contention that these changes even influenced negotiations between management and labor unions.

(A) – This option is not verifiable. Braverman and Clark sit on either ends of the constructivist and deterministic spectrum. Clark opposes Braverman and that school of thought's views. But there is nothing to tell us that Clark undertook the study *in order to* undermine Braverman.

(C) – The passage word for word says that Clark studied the changes that were brought about in the organization and operations at the telephone exchange due to changing from electromechanical switches to semi-electronic ones. Hence, **(C)** is correct.

Passage 7

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q29.

What is the author saying? Let's break it down to its bare bones and nothing more - Lepidoptera keep going through population cycles, but none of predators, parasites or even habitats have been found to be driving forces for such cycles. So something else, something more intimate than any of these factors, must be causing the cycles. That's it; that's the argument.

What will weaken this? Without even looking at the answer choices - something that shows these variables (or a subset thereof) *are* actually responsible? Yes, that can weaken the argument. Another thing that can weaken the argument is if we find something that shows other variables outside this set are *not* at play when it comes to population cycles. Let's look at the answer choices now.

Option (A) is inconsequential and immaterial. Even if the number of predators has dropped, *nothing* tells us predators are regulating the population cycles. If anything, especially as population cycles continue with fewer predators, this just lends more credence to the idea that predators are *not* responsible for such cycles. In other words, this is strengthening the author's argument, if anything.

Option (B) on the other hand, implies that alteration of the habitats was not sufficiently conducive to changing the cycles. If altered in previously unattempted ways, the habitat changes *can* cause population cycle changes. There we go. The first line of thinking we were doing (something that shows these variables *can* alter population cycles). There is our weakener.

Passage 8

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – The first paragraph is not written to simply tell us about the Supreme Court decision in Winters v. United States (1908). The larger purpose of the paragraph is to tell us that, CITING Winters v US, *later* decisions established that courts can find federal rights to reserve water for particular purposes if certain criteria are met. In other words, the author wants us to realize that the Winters v US case was an important precedent for later cases involving federal rights to reserve water for particular purposes.

As for the second paragraph, the main purpose is not to educate readers on the reserved water rights of Pueblo Indians, or to tell us about the Arizona v. California (1963) decision. These examples serve a larger purpose, which is to show that the Winters doctrine has been used to establish water rights even when the waters were not part of a *legally* defined reservation. In other words, as long as an area was TREATED like a reservation in practice, the courts can consider that area a reservation and thus apply the Winters doctrine to reserve water for particular purposes.

The main purpose of the passage is not to tell us about specific court decisions. Rather, taken together, the two paragraphs are meant to tell us about the legal water rights of American Indian tribes.

Q30.

Referring to the three criteria given in the passage: "Later decisions, citing Winters, established that courts can find federal rights...(1) the land in question...(2) the land has been formally withdrawn...(3) the circumstances reveal...".

The Rio Grande pueblos were never formally withdrawn from federal public lands ("the pueblo lands never formally constituted a part of federal public lands"), so the second criteria would not apply. Also, the pueblos were never established as a reservation, so the third criteria would not apply. Thus, according to those criteria alone, the courts would NOT be able to find federal rights to reserve the waters of the Rio Grande pueblos (since not all three criteria are satisfied).

Establishing water rights for the pueblos required something beyond those three criteria: "What constitutes an American Indian reservation is a question of practice, not of legal definition, and the pueblos have always been treated as reservations by the United States." A legal basis for the water rights of the pueblos only exists if this "pragmatic approach" is upheld by the courts. If we only use the three criteria referred to in this question, there is no legal basis.

Thus, **Option (C)** is the best answer.

Q35.

Meaning of "limited by prior claims" – X is the set of all entities other than Pueblo Indians / American Indians; then there are Pueblo Indians (PI). X and PI are both trying to figure out who has right over the water, to what extent, and whose right comes first. To that end, PI have rights that take precedence over the rights of X.

Here is a finance example - say there is a commercial property which was bought with a loan from a bank (B1). Now another bank (B2) also wants to lend against the property. But B2's claim (called 'charge' or 'lien') on the property will take second place. In case the owner of the property cannot pay the debts any more, and the property is sold to make good on the outstanding debts of the two banks, B1's principal amount will be paid out first and completely, before B2's principal amount is paid (out of any proceeds that remain).

Passage 10**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)****Q39.**

We are talking about people who believe this theory but as it stands the fact about enlargement of the brain does come from a different location. In the place about the theory there is nothing written about the brain, so we will look for the location where the passage is talking about the brain. The final answer is still inferred from the location of the theory but it is not so that we have to ignore the whole passage in order to eliminate choices and infer the correct one. The context has to be taken into account, even though the final inference will be verified from the location.

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Q41.

First, find the location from where the answer should come.

Line 26, "Lucy's wide ... human infant". In this sentence, the author states that Lucy's bone structure was better suited for bipedal walking. Lucy is the most complete skeleton from the Australopithecine era.

Let's eliminate options:

A: less well adopted to large group cooperation – this may or may not be true in reality but we have no idea according to the passage. Absolutely no clue about this.

B: as we have seen, in the lines above, since australopithecine hominids' skeleton is more suited to bipedal walking(walking on 2 feet) than modern humans, modern humans are therefore less suited than them. Correct.

C: more agile – no such comparison made between Lucy and modern humans.

D: more suited to nuclear families – it is said that there is one theory about australopithecine according, which bipedal walking can be explained. But this still does not give any evidence whether they were more or less suited than modern humans towards nuclear family structure.

E: Same as option D. In the third paragraph, the passage suggests that australopithecines may have been physically well suited to cooperative caring for their offspring. The passage gives no information as to whether they were more or less physically well suited to such caring than modern humans. What other factors play a role in making humans more or less suited to cooperative caring for their offspring than australopithecines, we don't know. So we cannot say whether australopithecines or modern humans are more suited to this. So, E is incorrect.

Option B is straightforward, and directly given.

Q42.

(E) - The passage clearly says that the father gathering food "allowed" the mother to devote more time to nurture and protect. So food gathering was something that limited her 'nurture and protect time' previously. Now when the father started doing it, she had more time.

So option (E) is correct.

(C) - The theory does suggest that prior to the development of bipedality, these ancestors were not as capable of cooperative care. However, this still does not imply that their mating patterns and family structures were more similar to those of chimpanzees than to those of modern humans.

Passage 11**Q43.**

In the final paragraph of the passage, the author offers several points to counter the claim made by the new scholarship that the 1920s were still, in some ways, a period of decline.

(A) – Both the author and this new scholarship question the claims of the earlier interpretation that the "promises" of the women's suffrage movement were unkept. Eliminate.

(B) – There is no indication of agreement or disagreement between the author of the passage and this new scholarship about how much women improved the morality of governance in the 1920s. Eliminate.

(C) – In the final paragraph, the author gives a counterpoint to the claim of the new scholarship that the 1920s, in some ways, represented a period of decline for the feminist movement. Hence, Option (C) is correct.

(D) – Nothing in the passage supports the claim that the author disagrees with the new scholarship regarding the degree of legislative success achieved by feminist reformers. Note that none of the achievements discussed in the final paragraph are indicated to be legislative successes. Eliminate.

(E) – While the author of the passage mentions the new scholarship's claim that a women's voting bloc failed to materialize once suffrage was achieved, the author does not explicitly disagree with this statement. Eliminate.

The correct answer is C.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Look at the first two paragraphs carefully.

The first paragraph says that there is existing scholarship about the US in the 1920s that recent feminist scholars disagree with. The exciting view is that the suffrage movement did not follow up on its promises. The recent scholars disagree with this view - this means that the recent scholars (the ones the question talks about) *don't* hold the view that the promises were not kept. This means that the recent scholars *do* think that the promises of the suffrage movement were kept.

The second paragraph says that even though the above is true (again, recent scholars believe promises were kept), recent scholars believe that some other things - more specifically that the period of the 1920s was a period of decline for the movement, the movement lost cohesiveness etc. *This* is something the author disagrees with (the author thinks the period was *not* one of decline). There is no disagreement between the recent feminist scholars and the author about earlier point (one about the movement not having kept its promises)

Passage 12**Q46.****Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)**

The lines state - 'This **dynamical evidence**, based on recently confirmed assumptions about the stars' velocities, **argues for an extremely compact object** with a mass two to three million times the mass of our Sun' -> This essentially means that the dynamical evidence supports that (alternate wording for 'argues for') there is an extremely compact object... (Which is exactly what option C states)

If you look closely at Option E, its focus is that 'a compact object of 2-3 million times the mass of Sun is too dense to be anything but a blackhole'. The debate being focused on in option E is whether a compact object with 2-3 million times the mass of the Sun is a black hole or not.

Whereas the debate being focused on in Option C is whether there is a dense object present at the centre of Milky Way or not.

The dynamical evidence supports the fact that there is a dense object at the centre, not whether a dense object with 2-3 million times the mass of the sun is a black hole or not. Hence, option C is correct

Q47.

What is the passage saying?

Based on the dynamical evidence and nearby stars' velocities, we have calculated/estimated the mass at the center of the galaxy. We find that the mass/black hole is an extremely compact object with a mass of around 2-3 million times the mass of our Sun. Now, based on this estimation of mass, we have a certain estimate of the amount of energy that should be emitted from this mass/black hole. Let us say that this theoretical value/estimated value is x. This is what we expect. **But what is observed is that the actual energy that is emitted from this mass/black hole is lower than our estimated value by a factor of 1000. (In other words, our estimated energy emitted is 1000 times too high compared to the actual energy emitted. Make sure you understand this relationship)**

We need to solve this discrepancy. Recall that our energy estimate was based on the estimated mass of the black hole/matter engulfed by the black hole. What if our estimated mass is too high? If that is the case, then the mass that we should be using to calculate the energy emitted will be significantly lower and our energy estimate will be closer to the value observed.

Now look at A. A is saying that the current assumptions about the mass of the black hole are 1000 times too high. Meaning that the actual mass we should be using in our calculations should in fact be 1000 times lower than the previous mass used. If that is the case, then our energy estimate will also be 1000 times lower than previously calculated and the discrepancy will be solved. So A is the answer.

Q47.

Alternate sol

First, let's look at the ASSUMPTION made by scientists: "Scientists believe that the amount of energy that escapes the black hole should be about 10 percent of the matter's rest energy."

Matter's rest energy = $E = 1000$

Scientists believe the energy radiated should be 10% of rest energy = $0.1 E = 100$

Now let's look at the ACTUAL amount of energy escaping the black hole: "the relative lack of energy radiating from the galactic center presents a serious problem... compared to widely held predictions based on how much matter should be falling into a theoretical central black hole, there is a discrepancy by a factor of a few thousand."

Actual observations:

The observed energy radiated = $E_a = 10$

Given condition = $E_a \ll 0.1 E$ ($10 \ll 100$)

So, the ACTUAL amount of energy escaping the black hole is significantly lower than the amount that scientists believe should be escaping based on their ASSUMPTION.

Stated another way, the amount of energy that scientists ASSUME should be escaping from the black hole is much higher than the ACTUAL amount of energy escaping the black hole.

The question asks us to solve this problem. Note that the question is focusing on the Assumption side and not on the Observed side.

(A) – According to Option (A), the scientists' current ASSUMPTION is way too high. What happens if we modify the current assumption to be thousands of times lower than it currently is, as suggested by Option (A)?

This totally fixes our problem -- the current assumption is much higher than the actual value. An assumption of a much lower amount of energy escaping the black hole would match the actual observation.

In other words, the scientists assumed that E was too high. Thus, in practical conditions E 's value would decrease. Thus $0.1E$'s value can decrease from 100 to 10-15. Thus, now E_a will be closer to $0.1E$.

Option (A) is the correct answer.

(B) – If the current assumption is much too low, then we would need to modify it to be higher than it currently is. But the current assumption is already much higher than the actual amount of energy escaping the black hole. If we say that the current assumption needs to be higher than it already is, then the gap between the assumption and the actual value will increase -- which is not what we want.

In other words, the scientists assumed that E was too low. Thus, in actual conditions the value of E should be few thousand times → E will increase from 1000 to 100,000 → 0.1E → 10,000 and E_a will remain 10. Thus, we see that the difference has increased.

Option (B) makes our "serious problem" even worse. Eliminate.

(C) – The passage does not specify what impact a greater-than-estimated density would have on the quantity of energy that is radiated. That is, even if greater mass would change predictions, greater density may not do so. Eliminate.

(D) – If the object were more massive, then presumably the matter engulfed by this hypothetical more massive black hole would radiate a quantity of energy even greater than the observed quantity. This again would simply make the "serious problem" worse. Eliminate.

(E) – Again, we are talking about the ASSUMED amount of energy, which was already much higher than the ACTUAL amount of energy being emitted.

Option (E), if true, means that matter would radiate far more energy than is currently assumed and the current assumption is too low.

In other words, the matter radiated far more energy. Means instead of 10% the matter releases say 70% energy. Thus, the inequality will transform into $E_a << 0.7E$.

Just like Option (B), Option (E) increases the gap between the too-high assumption and the actual value, which worsens our problem.

Option (E) is out, and Option (A) is the answer.

Q48.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

(E) – This passage discusses that the evidence regarding a **black hole at the center of Milky way is inconclusive**. There is a **compact mass** at the center with a very high mass which is a **characteristic of a black hole**. However, it is **not radiating enough energy** to be a black hole. 'Widely held predictions' refers to the **amount of energy** that **should be radiating** from this black hole. Hence, Option (E) is correct.

Passage 14

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q57.

The passage discusses a turning point in the late nineteenth century in the history of biology. It then focuses primarily on the use of historical explanation in the field of biology during the nineteenth century. Therefore, it seems that, among the five options here, the one this passage would be most likely to appear in would be a book discussing the history of biology in the nineteenth century.

- A. The passage focuses on nineteenth-century biologists' use of historical explanation. It presents no specific investigation of how historians used that methodology. Therefore, it would not be of particular value in an essay investigating the methodology used by historians of human events.
- B. Correct. The passage focuses mainly on nineteenth-century biologists' use of historical explanation. It also mentions a turning point in the history of biology. It references the history of human events primarily as an analogy to help clarify the biologists' use of this historical method. These facts about the passage suggest that, among the five options here, the one the passage would be most likely to appear in would be a book outlining the history of biology in the nineteenth century.
- C. The passage spends only a portion of one paragraph saying anything about embryogenesis. Even that portion is primarily offered only to give some explanation of why nineteenth-century biologists were attracted to the use of historical explanation. It does not seem that it would appropriate to use the entire passage in a seminar paper on the topic of embryogenesis as a field of study in nineteenth-century biology.
- D. There is no reference to a book whose topic is the discovery of fossils in the nineteenth century. The passage only briefly mentions fossils. It seems unlikely that the passage would be of any use to a review of such a book.
- E. The passage says almost nothing about experimental investigation in modern biology, and says absolutely nothing about its limitations.



The correct answer is B.

Passage 15

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q59.

(E) – The answer to this should be the 180 *opposite* of Option (E). Critics have said Melville was a deficient novelist (because he didn't subscribe to the Jamesian model of novel-writing). However, his 'Pierre' is actually one of those novels where he does toe this line. The novel is one of the few exceptions to the critics' stand, not something that reinforces it.

Passage 18

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q74.

To understand why Option (D) is inferable from the passage – The passage says irrespective of where on the face of the racket the ball hits it, the racket will have a translational motion backward (every point of the racket). Unless the ball hits the centre of mass, the racket will also rotate torsionally around a vertical axis, with the end of the handle moving forward toward the ball. That is to say, if the ball hits the centre of mass, the only motion that will happen is the translational motion backward.

Q75.

(C) – This can be inferred from the lines: "many players are unaware of the existence of a second, lesser-known location on the racket face, the center of percussion, **that will also greatly diminish the strain on a player's arm when the ball is struck.**"

Option (C) says that striking a tennis ball at a spot other than the center of percussion can result, not will result in a jarring feeling. This leaves a window open for the 1st sweet spot as well. Author is not denying or rejecting the 1st sweet spot, he is simply saying that the 2nd sweet spot can also diminish strain on a player's arm to a great extent.

Q76.

To understand why Statement III is not verifiable from the passage – The passage states: "When the player strikes the ball at the center of percussion, her wrist is jerked neither forward nor backward, and she experiences a relatively smooth, comfortable tennis stroke."

The problem here is that 'a relatively clean etc. stroke' is not relative to the stroke when the ball hits the primary sweet spot. Those two strokes are not being compared in the bolded line you have sent. What is being said in the bolded line is that, by itself, when a ball hits the center of percussion, the stroke is fairly smooth.

Passage 19

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – Let's summarize what the passage is saying.

It starts off by saying moral motivation may not be the driver of moral behaviour in people. Instead, moral licensing may be at play, which in general means that people who act morally / generously at first, give themselves some kind of license to act non-morally later. Licensing says people act morally to create a moral image - either to others or to themselves. Now licensing itself is an umbrella explanation which is at play, and imagine two offshoots to it.

The passage says the jury is still out (means it is still undecided) on which offshoot is actually at play, driving moral behaviour / or lack of it in people. The first offshoot is moral credentials, where later immoral acts are compared against the earlier moral image people created. The second offshoot is moral credits, where people build up, exactly as the name suggests, moral credits, that they adjust against when performing subsequent immoral acts.

Looking upwards at the licensing umbrella, the passage then suggests that moral behaviour is definitely due to trying to create a moral self-image (remember how licensing involved creating a moral image for sure, we just weren't sure if it was for oneself or for others). Then the passage gives an example of an experiment that was done to prove this - that creating a moral self-image (a part of moral licensing) is what drives moral behaviour. Then the passage does a completion of the circle it started by saying that it may actually be moral motivation (which it had doubted at the start itself) that drives moral behaviour, because moral motivation cannot be discounted to drive this desire to create a moral self-image. The last line is the conclusion that the question talks about, and this is also under the overall licensing umbrella that the passage says drives moral behaviour.

Q79.

The conclusion of the passage is that “If individuals are normally motivated to at least strive for a moral self-image in this way, we should not be too hasty to discount the common-sense assumption that moral motivation is typically behind moral action.” In other words, the author argues that people may be motivated to moral action, at least in part, by their desire to maintain a moral self-image (how they think about themselves morally).

This conclusion would be weakened by any scenario in which moral action was *not* motivated by moral self-image but by some other factor. Another study that would weaken the conclusion would be one showing that moral self-image mattered to people, but did not influence moral actions one way or the other.

(I) CORRECT. This is a scenario in which moral self-image may matter to people, but it does not influence their actions.

(II) CORRECT. This is a scenario in which moral self-image does not seem to be the driver of moral action, because the subjects in question were unable to identify the reasons for their behavior. If they cannot identify the reasons, then moral self-image cannot be a motivation for their generous behavior (at least, not consciously).

(III) This study provides another observation of the “moral licensing” effect. However, it does not shed any further light on the particular ~~reasons~~ for that effect. You don’t know whether moral self-image or other factors caused the moral licensing to happen. So this result does not weaken (or strengthen) the conclusion. Statement III is straight in line with moral licensing - people acting morally first and then giving themselves the license to act immorally later (either through credentials or through credits). So, if this is true, then it strengthens what the passage is saying, does not weaken it. Hence, Statement III is incorrect.

Passage 21**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)****Q85.**

(A) – A hungry lizard's instinctive snap at a passing beetle. Using past events as a framework, the large mammal predator is working out a relationship between movement and food (prey), sensitive to possibilities—in cold trails and distant sounds—and yesterday's unforgotten lessons.

The herbivore prey is of a different mind. Its mood of wariness rather than searching and its attitude of general expectancy instead of anticipating are silk-thin veils of tranquility over an explosive endocrine system. This implies that past events are used by large mammal predators in catching prey (animals with less intelligence): attributed to their survival.

(B) – Incorrect. Nowhere in the passage is it mentioned that the attention of less intelligent animals is more concentrated than mammals.

Q87.

(D) – This is an except question,

So, if the option is true as per the passage then it is incorrect.

"The processes of arousal and concentration give attention its direction. Arousal is at first general, with a flooding of impulses in the brain stem; then gradually the activation is channelled."

These are the line verbatim in the passage. This means exactly that the activation is channelled therefore implying that the increased sensitivity is this channelled to something particular thereby becoming selective.

For example a deer, will first get alert in general and then will become focused on the area where sound is coming from or from where the movement is perceived i.e., deer has now become selective in his attention to stimuli.

Q88.

(D) – In lines 56-61, sensitivity is referred to as follows:

"Using **past events** as a framework, the large mammal predator is.... sensitive to possibilities-in cold trails and distant sounds—and yesterday's unforgotten lessons."

The end of the second paragraph has reference to past:

Consciousness links **past attention** to the present and permits the integration of details with perceived ends and purposes."



Hence linking these two sentences, Option (D) is the correct answer. No other option talks about using the past knowledge.

The consciousness is explained by the end of the third paragraph and the sensitivity described must be an example of Option (D).

Passage 22

Q90.

Claim 1: Commonplace items sometimes play surprising roles in world development.

Claim 2: This common spice once altered the course of political history. This is used as an example to support the main claim

The author's main point is: "Commonplace items sometimes play surprising roles in world development.... this common spice once altered the course of political history." The example of nutmegs and the Banda islands is provided as evidence of this point. So, the main purpose of the second para is to draw the connection between this evidence and the author's main point.

(A) – The analysis stated above points to Option (A). It offers specific info to complete the logic of the author's claims. Without the second para, this connection is not valid.

(D) – It slightly distorts the main point by referring to "importance of historical change". Also this is not a particular case, but a continuation of the example in the first para. There is no **importance** of historical change discussed in the passage. Historical change is further illustrated by a case of Dutch and British, and this case is not evaluated for its importance, the case is just stated.

Q91.

(D) – The reason that the Dutch attacked the Bandas was because nutmeg became a luxury item in the European market. It was a valuable spice and they wanted to establish monopoly over it. That is the reason why the Dutch gave up New Amsterdam in exchange for one island in the Banda chain.

The question asks us what would interest the Dutch in keeping New Amsterdam if there was no conflict over nutmeg. The Dutch would be interested in keeping New Amsterdam if it was valuable in some way. Option (D) provides that information. If New Amsterdam served as a trading centre for furs exported to Europe then it strengthens the argument that New Amsterdam would have remained in Dutch possession.

Q92.

(D) – The problem with this answer choice is that **maybe** others **never attempted** cultivation of nutmeg. Then, **it is not a failure**.

(E) – In the lines from the passage:

"Eager to establish a monopoly over this valuable spice, the Dutch attacked the Bandas, subjugating the native people in a mostly successful attempt to control the nutmeg trade."

This points to Option (E). Desire to restrict access to a commodity. This is because if the Dutch wanted to monopolize and control nutmeg trade, it can be reasonably inferred that they wanted to restrict access to nutmegs.



Passage 24

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q99.

(B) – Para 1 and Para 2 do convey that the neoclassical more rigid rules but is it the primary distinguishing mark of the neoclassical criticism is not verifiable here. That is why we can eliminate B.

Q100.

(A) – It talks about the sentiments endorsed by romantics. While His criticism might be in line with the sentiments of the romantics it is a little extreme to say that Johnson relies on the Romantics for his criticism. Johnson agrees with their sentiment but in his own words Johnson calls his criticism Natural i.e., his own natural judgement.

Q101.

(E) – Option E is definitely incorrect in equating neoclassical with ease of comprehension that is totally 180 degree.

(A) – Although modern, Johnson's views do not reject the division between poetry and prose, they support special diction.

(D) – definitely modern and in addition in the whole last para his support for special diction is talked about from the point of view of the reader.

Q102.

The best way to get to D is to eliminate all the other answers first

(A) - We know he is a critic and not a poet himself.

(B) - His style is definitely different from augustan, this is the whole point of the passage anyways.

(C) - Dramatist : Johnson believes in giving the actual details rather than using the abstract, which is contrary to what a dramatist would do.

(E) - Naturalist : Naturalist is someone who studies nature definitely not true

(D) - Biographer : this is verifiable from the line about " life of Dryden" , life of dryden is a biography of poetry of John Dryden whose poetry lacked the pedantic poetic diction. In his Life of Dryden, Samuel Johnson defends this type of special diction. I know this is knowledge not common to everyone, apart from eliminating other choices and looking at a few subtle clues this is how you can justify choosing Option D.



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Scientists long believed that two nerve clusters in the human hypothalamus, called suprachiasmatic nuclei (SCNs), were what controlled our circadian rhythms. Those rhythms are the biological cycles that recur approximately every 24 hours in synchronization with the cycle of sunlight and darkness caused by Earth's rotation. Studies have demonstrated that in some animals, the SCNs control daily fluctuations in blood pressure, body temperature, activity level, and alertness, as well as the nighttime release of the sleep-promoting agent melatonin. Furthermore, cells in the human retina dedicated to transmitting information about light levels to the SCNs have recently been discovered.

Four critical genes governing circadian cycles have been found to be active in every tissue, however, not just the SCNs, of flies, mice, and humans. In addition, when laboratory rats that usually ate at will were fed only once a day, peak activity of a clock gene in their livers shifted by 12 hours, whereas the same clock gene in the SCNs remained synchronized with light cycles. While scientists do not dispute the role of the SCNs in controlling core functions such as the regulation of body temperature and blood pressure, scientists now believe that circadian clocks in other organs and tissues may respond to external cues other than light—including temperature changes—that recur regularly every 24 hours.

- 503. The primary purpose of the passage is to**
- challenge recent findings that appear to contradict earlier findings
 - present two sides of an ongoing scientific debate
 - report answers to several questions that have long puzzled researchers
 - discuss evidence that has caused a long-standing belief to be revised
 - attempt to explain a commonly misunderstood biological phenomenon
- 504. The passage mentions each of the following as a function regulated by the SCNs in some animals EXCEPT**
- activity level
 - blood pressure
 - alertness
 - vision
 - temperature
- 505. The author of the passage would probably agree with which of the following statements about the SCNs?**
- The SCNs are found in other organs and tissues of the body besides the hypothalamus.
 - The SCNs play a critical but not exclusive role in regulating circadian rhythms.
 - The SCNs control clock genes in a number of tissues and organs throughout the body.
 - The SCNs are a less significant factor in regulating blood pressure than scientists once believed.
 - The SCNs are less strongly affected by changes in light levels than they are by other external cues.

In their study of whether offering a guarantee of service quality will encourage customers to visit a particular restaurant, Tucci and Talaga have found that the effect of such guarantees is mixed. For higher-priced restaurants, there is some evidence that offering a guarantee increases the likelihood of customer selection, probably reflecting the greater financial commitment involved in choosing an expensive restaurant. For lower-priced restaurants, where one expects less assiduous service, Tucci and Talaga found that a guarantee could actually have a negative effect: a potential customer might think that a restaurant offering a guarantee is worried about its service. Moreover, since customers understand a restaurant's product and know what to anticipate in terms of service, they are empowered to question its quality. This is not generally true in the case of skilled activities such as electrical work, where, consequently, a guarantee might have greater customer appeal.

For restaurants generally, the main benefit of a service guarantee probably lies not so much in customer appeal as in managing and motivating staff. Staff members would know what service standards are expected of them and also know that the success of the business relies on their adhering to those standards. Additionally, guarantees provide some basis for defining the skills needed for successful service in areas traditionally regarded as unskilled, such as waiting tables.

506. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. question the results of a study that examined the effect of service-quality guarantees in the restaurant industry
- B. discuss potential advantages and disadvantages of service-quality guarantees in the restaurant industry
- C. examine the conventional wisdom regarding the effect of service-quality guarantees in the restaurant industry
- D. argue that only certain restaurants would benefit from the implementation of service-quality guarantees
- E. consider the impact that service-quality guarantees can have on the service provided by a restaurant

507. It can be inferred that the author of the passage would agree with which of the following statements about the appeal of service guarantees to customers?

- A. Such guarantees are likely to be somewhat more appealing to customers of restaurants than to customers of other businesses.
- B. Such guarantees are likely to be more appealing to customers who know what to anticipate in terms of service.
- C. Such guarantees are likely to have less appeal in situations where customers are knowledgeable about a business's product or service.
- D. In situations where a high level of financial commitment is involved, a service guarantee is not likely to be very appealing.
- E. In situations where customers expect a high level of customer service, a service guarantee is likely to make customers think that a business is worried about its service.

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508. According to the passage, Tucci and Talaga found that service guarantees, when offered by lower-priced restaurants, can have which of the following effects?
- Customers' developing unreasonably high expectations regarding service
 - Customers' avoiding such restaurants because they fear that the service guarantee may not be fully honored
 - Customers' interpreting the service guarantee as a sign that management is not confident about the quality of its service
 - A restaurant's becoming concerned that its service will not be assiduous enough to satisfy customers
 - A restaurant's becoming concerned that customers will be more emboldened to question the quality of the service they receive



One proposal for preserving rain forests is to promote the adoption of new agricultural technologies, such as improved plant varieties and use of chemical herbicides, which would increase productivity and slow deforestation by reducing demand for new cropland. Studies have shown that farmers in developing countries who have achieved certain levels of education, wealth, and security of land tenure are more likely to adopt such technologies. But these studies have focused on villages with limited land that are tied to a market economy rather than on the relatively isolated, self-sufficient communities with ample land characteristic of rain-forest regions. A recent **study** of the Tawahka people of the Honduran rain forest found that farmers with some formal education were more likely to adopt improved plant varieties but less likely to use chemical herbicides and that those who spoke Spanish (the language of the market economy) were more likely to adopt both technologies. Nonland wealth was also associated with more adoption of both technologies, but availability of uncultivated land reduced the incentive to employ the productivity-enhancing technologies. Researchers also measured land-tenure security: in Tawahka society, kinship ties are a more important indicator of this than are legal property rights, so researchers measured it by a household's duration of residence in its village. They found that longer residence correlated with more adoption of improved plant varieties but less adoption of chemical herbicides.

509. The passage suggests that in the study mentioned in the highlighted text the method for gathering information about security of land tenure reflects which of the following pairs of assumptions about Tawahka society?
- The security of a household's land tenure depends on the strength of that household's kinship ties, and the duration of a household's residence in its village is an indication of the strength of that household's kinship ties.
 - The ample availability of land makes security of land tenure unimportant, and the lack of a need for secure land tenure has made the concept of legal property rights unnecessary.
 - The strength of a household's kinship ties is a more reliable indicator of that household's receptivity to new agricultural technologies than is its quantity of nonland wealth, and the duration of a household's residence in its village is a more reliable indicator of that household's security of land tenure than is the strength of its kinship ties.
 - Security of land tenure based on kinship ties tends to make farmers more receptive to the use of improved plant varieties, and security of land tenure based on long duration of residence in a village tends to make farmers more receptive to the use of chemical herbicides.
 - A household is more likely to be receptive to the concept of land tenure based on legal property rights if it has easy access to uncultivated land, and a household is more likely to uphold the tradition of land tenure based on kinship ties if it possesses a significant degree of nonland wealth.
510. According to the passage, the proposal mentioned in line 1 is aimed at preserving rain forests by encouraging farmers in rain-forest regions to do each of the following EXCEPT
- adopt new agricultural technologies
 - grow improved plant varieties
 - decrease their use of chemical herbicides
 - increase their productivity
 - reduce their need to clear new land for cultivation

The argument for “monetizing”—or putting a monetary value on—ecosystem functions may be stated thus: Concern about the depletion of natural resources is widespread, but this concern, in the absence of an economic argument for conservation, has not translated into significant conservational progress. Some critics blame this impasse on **environmentalists**, whom they believe fail to address the economic issues of environmental degradation. Conservation can appear unprofitable when compared with the economic returns derived from converting natural assets (pristine coastlines, for example) into explicitly commercial ones (such as resort hotels). But according to David Pearce, that illusion stems from the fact that “services” provided by ecological systems are not traded on the commodities market, and thus have no readily quantifiable value. To remedy this, says Pearce, one has to show that all ecosystems have economic value—indeed, that all **ecological services** are economic services. Tourists visiting wildlife preserves, for example, create jobs and generate income for national economies; undisturbed forests and wetlands regulate water runoff and act as water-purifying systems, saving millions of dollars’ worth of damage to property and to marine ecosystems. In Gretchen Daily’s view, monetization, while unpopular with many environmentalists, reflects the dominant role that economic considerations play in human behavior, and the expression of economic value in a common currency helps inform environmental decision-making processes.

511. Information in the passage suggests that David Pearce would most readily endorse which of the following statements concerning monetization?

- A. Monetization represents a strategy that is attractive to both environmentalists and their critics.
- B. Monetization is an untested strategy, but it is increasingly being embraced by environmentalists.
- C. Monetization should at present be restricted to ecological services and should only gradually be extended to such commercial endeavors as tourism and recreation.
- D. Monetization can serve as a means of representing persuasively the value of environmental conservation.
- E. Monetization should inform environmental decision-making processes only if it is accepted by environmentalist groups.

512. Which of the following most clearly represents an example of an “ecological service” as that term is used in the highlighted text?

- A. A resort hotel located in an area noted for its natural beauty
- B. A water-purifying plant that supplements natural processes with nontoxic chemicals
- C. A wildlife preserve that draws many international travelers
- D. A nonprofit firm that specializes in restoring previously damaged ecosystems
- E. A newsletter that keeps readers informed of ecological victories and setbacks

513. According to the passage, Daily sees monetization as an indication of which of the following?

- A. The centrality of economic interests to people's actions
- B. The reluctance of the critics of environmentalism to acknowledge the importance of conservation
- C. The inability of financial interests and ecological interests to reach a common ideological ground
- D. The inevitability of environmental degradation
- E. The inevitability of the growth of ecological services in the future

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514. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage concerning the environmentalists mentioned in the highlighted text?
- They are organized in opposition to the generation of income produced by the sale of ecological services.
 - They are fewer in number but better organized and better connected to the media than their opponents.
 - They have sometimes been charged with failing to use a particular strategy in their pursuit of conservational goals.
 - They have been in the forefront of publicizing the extent of worldwide environmental degradation.
 - They define environmental progress differently and more conservatively than do other organized groups of environmentalists.



Much research has been devoted to investigating what motivates consumers to try new products. Previous consumer research suggests that both the price of a new product and the way it is advertised affect consumers' perceptions of the product's performance risk (the possibility that the product will not function as consumers expect and/or will not provide the desired benefits). **Some of this research** has concluded that a relatively high price will reduce a consumer's perception of the performance risk associated with purchasing a particular product, while other **studies** have reported that price has little or no effect on perceived performance risk. These conflicting findings may simply be due to the nature product advertisements: a recent study indicates that the presentation of an advertised message has a marked effect on the relationship between price and perceived performance risk.

Researchers have identified consumers' perception of the credibility of the source of an advertised message—i.e., the manufacturer—as another factor affecting perceived performance risk: one study found that the greater the source credibility, the lower the consumer's perception of the risk of purchasing an advertised new product. However, **past research** suggests that the relationship between source credibility and perceived performance risk may be more complex: source credibility may interact with price in a subtle way to affect consumers' judgments of the performance risk associated with an advertised product.

515. According to the passage, the studies referred to in the highlighted text reported which of the following about the effect of price on consumers' perception of the performance risk associated with a new product?

- A. Although most consumers regard price as an important factor, their perception of the performance risk associated with a new product is ultimately determined by the manufacturer's reputation.
- B. Price interacts with the presentation of an advertised message to affect perceived performance risk.
- C. Price does not significantly affect consumers' perception of the performance risk associated with a new product.
- D. Consumers tend to regard price as more important than the manufacturer's credibility when they are buying from that manufacturer for the first time.
- E. Consumers are generally less concerned about a new product's performance risk when that product is relatively expensive.

The cl "past research" mentioned in the highlighted text suggests which of the following about perceived performance risk?

- A. The more expensive a new product is, the more likely consumers may be to credit advertised claims about that product.
- B. The more familiar consumers are with a particular manufacturer, the more willing they may be to assume some risk in the purchase of a new product being advertised by that manufacturer.
- C. Consumers' perception of the performance risk associated with a new product being advertised may be influenced by an interplay between the product's price and the manufacturer's credibility.
- D. Consumers may be more likely to believe that a product will function as it is advertised to do when they have bought products from a particular manufacturer before.
- E. The price of a particular advertised product may have less impact than the manufacturer's credibility on consumers' assessment of the performance risk associated with that product.

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517. The passage is primarily concerned with
- challenging the implications of previous research into why consumers try new products
 - suggesting new marketing strategies for attracting consumers to new products
 - reconciling two different views about the effect of price on consumers' willingness to try new products
 - describing a new approach to researching why consumers try new products
 - discussing certain findings regarding why consumers try new products
518. Which of the following, if true, would most tend to weaken the conclusions drawn from "some of this research" as mentioned in the highlighted text?
- In a subsequent study, consumers who were asked to evaluate new products with relatively low prices had the same perception of the products' performance risk as did consumers who were shown the same products priced more expensively.
 - In a subsequent study, the quality of the advertising for the products that consumers perceived as having a lower performance risk was relatively high, while the quality of the advertising for the products that consumers perceived as having a higher performance risk was relatively poor.
 - In a subsequent study, the products that consumers perceived as having a lower performance risk were priced higher than the highest priced products in the previous research.
 - None of the consumers involved in this research had ever before bought products from the manufacturers involved in the research.
 - Researchers found that the higher the source credibility for a product, the more consumers were willing to pay for it.

Historians remain divided over the role of banks in facilitating economic growth in the United States in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Some **scholars** contend that banks played a minor role in the nation's growing economy. Financial institutions, they argue, appeared only after the economy had begun to develop, and once organized, followed conservative lending practices, providing aid to established commercial enterprises but shunning those, such as manufacturing and transportation projects, that were more uncertain and capital-intensive (i.e., requiring greater expenditures in the form of capital than in labor).

A growing number of historians argue, in contrast, that banks were crucial in transforming the early national economy. When state legislatures began granting more bank charters in the 1790s and early 1800s, the supply of credit rose accordingly. Unlike the **earliest banks**, which had primarily provided short-term loans to well-connected merchants, the banks of the early nineteenth century issued credit widely. As Paul Gilje asserts, the expansion and democratization of credit in the early nineteenth century became the driving force of the American economy, as banks began furnishing large amounts of capital to transportation and industrial enterprises. The exception, such historians argue, was in the South; here, the overwhelmingly agrarian nature of the economy generated outright opposition to banks, which were seen as monopolistic institutions controlled by an elite group of planters.

519. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. compare the economic role played by southern banks with the economic role played by banks in the rest of the United States during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries
- B. reevaluate a conventional interpretation of the role played by banks in the American economy during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries
- C. present different interpretations of the role played by banks in the American economy during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries
- D. analyze how the increasing number of banks in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries affected the American economy
- E. examine how scholarly opinion regarding the role played by banks in the American economy during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries has changed over time

520. The passage suggests that the scholars mentioned in the highlighted text would argue that the reason banks tended not to fund manufacturing and transportation projects in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was that

- A. these projects, being well established and well capitalized, did not need substantial long-term financing from banks
- B. these projects entailed a level of risk that was too great for banks' conservative lending practices
- C. banks preferred to invest in other, more speculative projects that offered the potential for higher returns
- D. bank managers believed that these projects would be unlikely to contribute significantly to economic growth in the new country
- E. bank managers believed funding these projects would result in credit being extended to too many borrowers

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521. The passage suggests that Paul Gilje would be most likely to agree with which of the following claims about the lending practices of the “earliest banks”?
- A. These lending practices were unlikely to generate substantial profits for banks.
 - B. These lending practices only benefited a narrow sector of the economy.
 - C. The restrictive nature of these lending practices generated significant opposition outside of the South.
 - D. The restrictive nature of these lending practices forced state legislatures to begin granting more bank charters by the early nineteenth century.
 - E. These lending practices were likely to be criticized by economic elites as being overly restrictive
522. The passage suggests that the opposition to banks in the South in the early nineteenth century stemmed in part from the perception that banks
- A. did not benefit more than a small minority of the people
 - B. did not support the interests of elite planters
 - C. were too closely tied to transportation and industrial interests
 - D. were unwilling to issue the long-term loans required by agrarian interests
 - E. were too willing to lend credit widely
523. Which of the following statements best describes the function of the last sentence of the passage?
- A. It provides evidence tending to undermine the viewpoint of the scholars.
 - B. It resolves a conflict over the role of banks summarized in the first paragraph.
 - C. It clarifies some of the reasons state legislatures began granting more bank charters.
 - D. It qualifies a claim made earlier in the passage about the impact of banks on the American economy in the early nineteenth century.
 - E. It supports a claim made earlier in the passage about how the expansion of credit affected the economy.

In recent years, Western business managers have been heeding the exhortations of business journalists and academics to move their companies toward long-term, collaborative “strategic partnerships” with their external business partners (e.g., suppliers). The experts’ **advice** comes as a natural reaction to numerous studies conducted during the past decade that compared Japanese production and supply practices with those of the rest of the world. The link between the success of a certain well-known Japanese automaker and its effective management of its suppliers, for example, has led to an unquestioning belief within Western management circles in the value of strategic partnerships. Indeed, in the automobile sector all three United States manufacturers and most of their European competitors have launched programs to reduce their total number of suppliers and move toward having strategic partnerships with a few.

However, new research concerning supplier relationships in various industries demonstrates that the widespread assumption of Western managers and business consultants that Japanese firms manage their suppliers primarily through strategic partnerships is unjustified. Not only do Japanese firms appear to conduct a far smaller proportion of their business through strategic partnerships than is commonly believed, but they also make extensive use of “market-exchange” relationships, in which either party can turn to the marketplace and shift to different business partners at will, a practice usually associated with Western manufacturers.

- 524. The passage is primarily concerned with**
- examining economic factors that may have contributed to the success of certain Japanese companies
 - discussing the relative merits of strategic partnerships as compared with those of market-exchange relationships
 - challenging the validity of a widely held assumption about how Japanese firms operate
 - explaining why Western companies have been slow to adopt a particular practice favored by Japanese companies
 - pointing out certain differences between Japanese and Western supplier relationships
- 525. According to the passage, the advice referred to in the highlighted text was a response to which of the following?**
- A recent decrease in the number of available suppliers within the United States automobile industry
 - A debate within Western management circles during the past decade regarding the value of strategic partnerships
 - The success of certain European automobile manufacturers that have adopted strategic partnerships
 - An increase in demand over the past decade for automobiles made by Western manufacturers
 - Research comparing Japanese business practices with those of other nations
- 526. The author mentions “the success of a certain well-known Japanese automaker” most probably in order to**
- demonstrate some of the possible reasons for the success of a certain business practice
 - cite a specific case that has convinced Western business experts of the value of a certain business practice
 - describe specific steps taken by Western automakers that have enabled them to compete more successfully in a global market
 - introduce a paradox about the effect of a certain business practice in Japan
 - indicate the need for Western managers to change their relationships with their external business partners

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However, **new research** concerning supplier relationships in various industries demonstrates that the widespread assumption of Western managers and business consultants that Japanese firms manage their suppliers primarily through strategic partnerships is unjustified. Not only do Japanese firms appear to conduct a far smaller proportion of their business through strategic partnerships than is commonly believed, but they also make extensive use of “market-exchange” relationships, in which either party can turn to the marketplace and shift to different business partners at will, a practice usually associated with Western manufacturers.

527. Which of the following is cited in the passage as evidence supporting the author’s claim about what the new research referred to in the highlighted text demonstrates?
- The belief within Western management circles regarding the extent to which Japanese firms rely on strategic partnerships
 - The surprising number of European and United States businesses that have strategic partnerships with their suppliers
 - The response of Western automobile manufacturers to the advice that they adopt strategic partnerships with their suppliers
 - The prevalence of “market-exchange” relationships between Japanese firms and their suppliers
 - The success of a particular Japanese automobile manufacturer that favors strategic partnerships with its suppliers



In an effort to explain why business acquisitions often fail, scholars have begun to focus on the role of top executives of acquired companies. Acquired companies that retain their top executives tend to have more successful outcomes than those that do not. Furthermore, existing **research** suggests that retaining the highest-level top executives, such as the CEO (chief executive officer) and COO (chief operating officer), is related more positively to post-acquisition success than retaining lower-ranked top executives. However, this explanation, while insightful, suffers from two limitations. First, the focus on positional rank does not recognize the variation in length of service that may exist in top executive posts across companies, nor does it address which particular top executives (with respect to length of service) should be retained to achieve a successful acquisition outcome. Second, the relationship between retained top executives and acquisition outcomes offered by existing research is subject to opposing theoretical explanations related to length of service. The resource-based view (RBV) suggests that keeping acquired company top executives with longer organizational tenure would lead to more successful outcomes, as those executives have idiosyncratic and nontransferable knowledge of the acquired company that would be valuable for the effective implementation of the acquisition. The opposing position, offered by the upper echelons perspective (UEP), suggests that retaining top executives having short organizational tenure would lead to more successful outcomes, as they would have the adaptability to manage most effectively during the uncertainty of the acquisition process.

Responding to these limitations, Bergh conducted a study of executive retention and acquisition outcome that focused on the organizational tenure of retained company top executives in 104 acquisitions, followed over 5 years. Bergh considered the acquisition successful if the acquired company was retained and unsuccessful if it was divested. Bergh's findings support the RBV position. Apparently, the benefits of long organizational tenure lead to more successful outcomes than the benefits of short organizational tenure. While longer tenured top executives may have trouble adapting to change, it appears that their perspectives and knowledge bases offer unique value after the acquisition. Although from the UEP position it seems sensible to retain less tenured executives and allow more tenured ones to leave, such a strategy appears to lower the probability of acquisition success.

528. According to the passage, the research mentioned in the highlighted text suggests which of the following about lower-ranked top executives and post-acquisition success?
- A. Given that these executives are unlikely to contribute to post-acquisition success, little effort should be spent trying to retain them.
 - B. The shorter their length of service, the less likely it is that these executives will play a significant role in post-acquisition success.
 - C. These executives are less important to post-acquisition success than are more highly ranked top executives.
 - D. If they have long tenures, these executives may prove to be as important to post-acquisition success as are more highly ranked top executives.
 - E. Post-acquisition success is unlikely if these executives are retained.
529. The resource-based view, as described in the passage, is based on which of the following ideas?
- A. The managerial skills of top executives become strongest after the first five years of their tenure.
 - B. Company-specific knowledge is an important factor in the success of an acquisition process.
 - C. The amount of nontransferable knowledge possessed by long-tenured top executives tends to be underestimated.
 - D. Effective implementation of an acquisition depends primarily on the ability of executives to adapt to change.
 - E. Short-tenured executives are likely to impede the implementation of a successful acquisition strategy.

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530. The passage suggests that Bergh and a proponent of the upper echelon's perspective would be most likely to disagree over which of the following?
- A. Whether there is a positive correlation between short organizational tenure and managerial adaptability
 - B. Whether there is a positive correlation between long organizational tenure and the acquisition of idiosyncratic and nontransferable knowledge
 - C. Whether adaptability is a useful trait for an executive who is managing an acquisition process
 - D. Whether retaining less-tenured top executives of an acquired company is an optimal strategy for achieving post-acquisition success
 - E. Whether retaining highest-level top executives of acquired companies is more important than retaining lower-ranked top executives

531. According to the passage, prior to Bergh's study, research on the role of top executives of acquired companies in business acquisition success was limited in which of the following ways?

- A. It did not address how the organizational tenure of top executives affects post-acquisition success.
- B. It did not address why some companies have longer-tenured CEOs than others.
- C. It did not consider strategies for retaining long-tenured top executives of acquired companies.
- D. It failed to differentiate between the contribution of highest-level top executives to post-acquisition success and that of lower-ranked top executives.
- E. It underestimated the potential contribution that lower-level top executives can make to post-acquisition success.

When Jamaican-born social activist Marcus Garvey came to the United States in 1916, he arrived at precisely the right historical moment. What made the moment right was the return of African American soldiers from the First World War in 1918, which created an ideal constituency for someone with Garvey's message of unity, pride, and improved conditions for African American communities.

Hoping to participate in the traditional American ethos of individual success, many African American people entered the armed forces with enthusiasm, only to find themselves segregated from white troops and subjected to numerous indignities. They returned to a United States that was as segregated as it had been before the war. Considering similar experiences, anthropologist Anthony F. C. Wallace has argued that when a perceptible gap arises between a culture's expectations and the reality of that culture, the resulting tension can inspire a revitalization movement: an organized, conscious effort to construct a culture that fulfills long-standing expectations.

Some scholars have argued that Garvey created the consciousness from which he built, in the 1920s, the largest revitalization movement in African American history. But such an argument only tends to obscure the consciousness of identity, strength, and sense of history that already existed in the African American community. Garvey did not create this consciousness; rather, he gave this consciousness its political expression.

532. According to the passage, which of the following contributed to Marcus Garvey's success?
- He introduced cultural and historical consciousness to the African American community.
 - He believed enthusiastically in the traditional American success ethos.
 - His audience had already formed a consciousness that made it receptive to his message.
 - His message appealed to critics of African American support for United States military involvement in the First World War.
 - He supported the movement to protest segregation that had emerged prior to his arrival in the United States.
533. The passage suggests that many African American people responded to their experiences in the armed forces in which of the following ways?
- They maintained as civilians their enthusiastic allegiance to the armed forces.
 - They questioned United States involvement in the First World War.
 - They joined political organizations to protest the segregation of African American troops and the indignities they suffered in the military.
 - They became aware of the gap between their expectations and the realities of American culture.
 - They repudiated Garvey's message of pride and unity.

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534. It can be inferred from the passage that the "scholars" mentioned in the highlighted text believe which of the following to be true?

- A. Revitalization resulted from the political activism of returning African American soldiers following the First World War.
- B. Marcus Garvey had to change a number of prevailing attitudes in order for his mass movement to find a foothold in the United States.
- C. The prevailing sensibility of the African American community provided the foundation of Marcus Garvey's political appeal.
- D. Marcus Garvey hoped to revitalize consciousness of cultural and historical identity in the African American community.
- E. The goal of the mass movement that Marcus Garvey helped bring into being was to build on the pride and unity among African Americans.

535. According to the passage, many African American people joined the armed forces during the First World War for which of the following reasons?

- A. They wished to escape worsening economic conditions in African American communities.
- B. They expected to fulfill ideals of personal attainment.
- C. They sought to express their loyalty to the United States.
- D. They hoped that joining the military would help advance the cause of desegregation.
- E. They saw military service as an opportunity to fulfill Marcus Garvey's political vision.

Arboria is floundering in the global marketplace, incurring devastating losses in market position and profits. The problem is not Arboria's products, but Arboria's trade policy. Arboria faces the prospect of continuing economic loss until Arborian business and political leaders recognize the fundamental differences between Arborian and foreign economic systems. Today the key trade issue is not free trade versus protectionism but diminishing trade versus expanding trade.

Arboria is operating with an obsolete trade policy, an artifact of the mid-1940s when Arboria and Whorland dominated the global economy, tariffs were the principal obstacle to trade, and Arborian supremacy was uncontested in virtually all industries. In the intervening decades, economic circumstances have shifted radically. Arborian trade policy has not.

Today, Arboria's trade policy seems paralyzed by the relentless conflict between proponents of "free" and "fair" trade. The free traders argue that Arborian markets should be open, and the movement of goods and services across national borders unrestrained. The fair traders assert that access to Arborian markets should be restricted until Arborian businesses are granted equal access to foreign markets. They contend that free trade is impossible while other nations erect barriers to Arborian exports.

Both are correct: fair trade requires equal access and equal access leads to free trade. But both sides base their positions on the same two outdated premises:

1. Global commerce is conducted under the terms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and dominated by Arboria and similar economic systems abroad.
2. Multilateral negotiations are the most effective way to resolve pressing trade issues.

Both assumptions are wrong. The 40-year-old GATT now covers less than 7 percent of global commerce. World trade is no longer dominated by the free-trade economies; nearly 75 percent is conducted by economic systems operating with principles at odds with those of Arboria. Forging a multilateral trade policy consensus among so many diverse economic systems has become virtually impossible. And while multilateral talks drag on, Arboria misses opportunities for trade expansion.

536. Which of the following best states the difference between free trade and fair trade, as explained in the passage?
- A. Free trade requires no trade tariffs whatsoever, whereas fair trade assumes multilateral agreement on tariffs for goods of equal worth.
 - B. Free trade is based on the unrestricted movement of goods across all national boundaries, whereas fair trade is based on a nation's restriction of commerce with each nation that erects trade barriers to the first nation's exports.
 - C. The trade policies of countries like Arboria are based on the principles of free trade, whereas the trade policies of other types of world economies are based on fair trade.
 - D. Free-trade nations negotiate individual trade agreements with each of their trading partners, whereas fair-trade nations conduct multilateral trade negotiations.
 - E. Free trade assumes a constant level of global commerce, whereas fair trade promotes a steady expansion of international trade.

537. It can be inferred that the author of the passage would most likely agree with which of the following statements about multilateral trade negotiations?
- A. They are the most effective way to resolve trade problems.
 - B. They are most effective in dealing with fair-trade issues between nations.
 - C. They have only recently begun to make an impact on world trade.
 - D. Arborian reliance on multilateral trade negotiations, while appropriate in the past, is inadequate for today's global marketplace.
 - E. The principles of multilateral trade negotiations are incompatible with current Arborian foreign trade policy.

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538. Which of the following statements best summarizes the author's opinion of "free traders" and "fair traders"?
- A. The free and the fair traders' continuing debate provides a healthy and effective forum for examining Arborian trade policy.
 - B. The proponents of fair trade are essentially correct, while those who advocate free trade are not.
 - C. The proponents of free trade are better able to deal with current economic problems than are the fair traders.
 - D. Neither the free nor the fair traders can come up with a workable trade policy because neither takes multilateral negotiations into account.
 - E. The proponents of both free and fair trade have based their positions on out-of-date premises that do not reflect current economic conditions.
539. The author mentions all of the following as characteristic of world trade in the mid-1940s EXCEPT:
- A. Arboria played a major role in the global marketplace.
 - B. Whorland played a major role in the global marketplace.
 - C. Tariffs were the main obstacle to trade.
 - D. Fair-trade economies dominated international trade.
 - E. Arborian manufacturers were unsurpassed in most industries.
540. In presenting the argument in the passage, the author uses all of the following EXCEPT:
- A. statistical information about global commerce
 - B. definitions of terms concerning world trade
 - C. generalizations about Arboria's economic system
 - D. historical background of Arborian trade policy
 - E. an example of an economic system whose principles differ from those of Arboria

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541. The author asserts which of the following about Arboria's trade policy?

- A. A dramatic revision of Arboria's trade policy will be necessary unless Arborian manufacturers improve the quality of their goods.
- B. The most crucial issue facing Arborian trade policymakers is that of free trade versus protectionism.
- C. Arboria's current trade policy was essentially developed during the 1940s and has changed little since that time.
- D. Arboria's trade policy is widely emulated throughout the world, to the extent that most international commerce is modeled on Arboria's principles.
- E. Arboria's trade policy has evolved gradually over the last eighty years, constantly readjusting itself in response to shifts in global commerce.

542. The passage is primarily concerned with

- A. illustrating the erosion of Arboria's position in the world marketplace
- B. examining the differences between "free" and "fair" traders
- C. advocating a reassessment of Arboria's trade policy
- D. criticizing the terms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
- E. comparing the different economic circumstances of Arboria's trade partners

543. The author implies that the main obstacle to a truly effective Arborian trade policy is the

- A. weak position that Arboria currently holds in the global marketplace
- B. inability of Arborian leaders to recognize that foreign economic systems are based on principles fundamentally different from their own
- C. dominance of the supporters of free trade in the conflict between free-trade and fair-trade advocates
- D. apparent inability of Arborian industries to produce goods that are competitive in the world market
- E. protectionism that characterizes the foreign trade policies of so many of Arboria's trade partners

In *Winters v. United States* (1908), the Supreme Court held that the right to use waters flowing through or adjacent to the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation was reserved to American Indians by the treaty establishing the reservation. Although this treaty did not mention water rights, the Court ruled that the federal government, when it created the reservation, intended to deal fairly with American Indians by reserving for them the waters without which their lands would have been useless. Later decisions, citing *Winters*, established that courts can find federal rights to reserve water for particular purposes if

1. the land in question lies within an enclave under exclusive federal jurisdiction;
2. the land has been formally withdrawn from federal public lands—i.e., withdrawn from the stock of federal lands available for private use under federal land use laws—and set aside or reserved; and
3. the circumstances reveal the government intended to reserve water as well as land when establishing the reservation.

Some American Indian tribes have also established water rights through the courts based on their traditional diversion and use of certain waters prior to the United States' acquisition of sovereignty. For example, the Rio Grande pueblos already existed when the United States acquired sovereignty over New Mexico in 1848. Although they at that time became part of the United States, the pueblo lands never formally constituted a part of federal public lands; in any event, no treaty, statute, or executive order has ever designated or withdrawn the pueblos from public lands as American Indian reservations. This fact, however, has not barred application of the *Winters* doctrine. What constitutes an American Indian reservation is a question of practice, not of legal definition, and the pueblos have always been treated as reservations by the United States. This pragmatic approach is buttressed by *Arizona v. California* (1963), wherein the Supreme Court indicated that the manner in which any type of federal reservation is created does not affect the application to it of the *Winters* doctrine. Therefore, the reserved water rights of Pueblo Indians have priority over other citizens' water rights as of 1848, the year in which pueblos must be considered to have become reservations.

544. According to the passage, which of the following was true of the treaty establishing the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation?
- A. It was challenged in the Supreme Court a number of times.
 - B. It was rescinded by the federal government, an action that gave rise to the *Winters* case.
 - C. It cited American Indians' traditional use of the land's resources.
 - D. It failed to mention water rights to be enjoyed by the reservation's inhabitants.
 - E. It was modified by the Supreme Court in *Arizona v. California*.

545. The passage suggests that, if the three criteria were the only criteria for establishing a reservation's water rights, which of the following would be true?
- A. The water rights of the inhabitants of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation would not take precedence over those of other citizens.
 - B. Reservations established before 1848 would be judged to have no water rights.
 - C. There would be no legal basis for the water rights of the Rio Grande pueblos.
 - D. Reservations other than American Indian reservations could not be created with reserved water rights.
 - E. Treaties establishing reservations would have to mention water rights explicitly in order to reserve water for a particular purpose.

In *Winters v. United States* (1908), the Supreme Court held that the right to use waters flowing through or adjacent to the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation was reserved to American Indians by the treaty establishing the reservation. Although this treaty did not mention water rights, the Court ruled that the federal government, when it created the reservation, intended to deal fairly with American Indians by reserving for them the waters without which their lands would have been useless. Later decisions, citing *Winters*, established that courts can find federal rights to reserve water for particular purposes if

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546. Which of the following most accurately summarizes the relationship between *Arizona v. California*, as that decision is described in the passage, and the three criteria discussed?
- A. *Arizona v. California* abolishes these criteria and establishes a competing set of criteria for applying the *Winters* doctrine.
 - B. *Arizona v. California* establishes that the *Winters* doctrine applies to a broader range of situations than those defined by these criteria.
 - C. *Arizona v. California* represents the sole example of an exception to the criteria as they were set forth in the *Winters* doctrine.
 - D. *Arizona v. California* does not refer to the *Winters* doctrine to justify water rights, whereas these criteria do rely on the *Winters* doctrine.
 - E. *Arizona v. California* applies the criteria derived from the *Winters* doctrine only to federal lands other than American Indian reservations.

547. The “pragmatic approach” mentioned in the highlighted text of the passage is best defined as one that
- A. grants recognition to reservations that were never formally established but that have traditionally been treated as such
 - B. determines the water rights of all citizens in a particular region by examining the actual history of water usage in that region
 - C. gives federal courts the right to reserve water along with land even when it is clear that the government originally intended to reserve only the land
 - D. bases the decision to recognize the legal rights of a group on the practical effect such a recognition is likely to have on other citizens
 - E. dictates that courts ignore precedents set by such cases as *Winters v. United States* in deciding what water rights belong to reserved land

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2. the land has been formally withdrawn from federal public lands—i.e., withdrawn from the stock of federal lands available for private use under federal land use laws—and set aside or reserved; and
3. the circumstances reveal the government intended to reserve water as well as land when establishing the reservation.

Some American Indian tribes have also established water rights through the courts based on their traditional diversion and use of certain waters prior to the United States' acquisition of sovereignty. For example, the Rio Grande pueblos already existed when the United States acquired sovereignty over New Mexico in 1848. Although they at that time became part of the United States, the pueblo lands never formally constituted a part of federal public lands; in any event, no treaty, statute, or executive order has ever designated or withdrawn the pueblos from public lands as American Indian reservations. This fact, however, has not barred application of the *Winters* doctrine. What constitutes an American Indian reservation is a question of practice, not of legal definition, and the pueblos have always been treated as reservations by the United States. This **pragmatic approach** is buttressed by *Arizona v. California* (1963), wherein the Supreme Court indicated that the manner in which any type of federal reservation is created does not affect the application to it of the *Winters* doctrine. Therefore, the reserved water rights of Pueblo Indians have priority over other citizens' water rights as of 1848, the year in which pueblos must be considered to have become reservations.

548. It can be inferred from the passage that the *Winters* doctrine has been used to establish which of the following?

- A. A rule that the government may reserve water only by explicit treaty or agreement
- B. A legal distinction between federal lands reserved for American Indians and federal lands reserved for other purposes
- C. Criteria governing when the federal government may set land aside for a particular purpose
- D. The special status of American Indian tribes' rights to reserved land
- E. The federal right to reserve water implicitly as well as explicitly under certain conditions

549. The author cites the fact that the Rio Grande pueblos were never formally withdrawn from public lands primarily in order to do which of the following?

- A. Suggest why it might have been argued that the *Winters* doctrine ought not to apply to pueblo lands
 - B. Imply that the United States never really acquired sovereignty over pueblo lands
 - C. Argue that the pueblo lands ought still to be considered part of federal public lands
- 99th PERFDEN Support the argument that the water rights of citizens other than American Indians are limited by the *Winters* doctrine
- E. Suggest that federal courts cannot claim jurisdiction over cases disputing the traditional diversion and use of water by Pueblo Indians

550. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. trace the development of laws establishing American Indian reservations
- B. explain the legal bases for the water rights of American Indian tribes
- C. question the legal criteria often used to determine the water rights of American Indian tribes
- D. discuss evidence establishing the earliest date at which the federal government recognized the water rights of American Indians
- E. point out a legal distinction between different types of American Indian reservations

In *Winters v. United States* (1908), the Supreme Court held that the right to use waters flowing through or adjacent to the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation was reserved to American Indians by the treaty establishing the reservation. Although this treaty did not mention water rights, the Court ruled that the federal government, when it created the reservation, intended to deal fairly with American Indians by reserving for them the waters without which their lands would have been useless. Later decisions, citing *Winters*, established that courts can find federal rights to reserve water for particular purposes if

1. the land in question lies within an enclave under exclusive federal jurisdiction;
2. the land has been formally withdrawn from federal public lands—i.e., withdrawn from the stock of federal lands available for private use under federal land use laws—and set aside or reserved; and
3. the circumstances reveal the government intended to reserve water as well as land when establishing the reservation.

Some American Indian tribes have also established water rights through the courts based on their traditional diversion and use of certain waters prior to the United States' acquisition of sovereignty. For example, the Rio Grande pueblos already existed when the United States acquired sovereignty over New Mexico in 1848. Although they at that time became part of the United States, the pueblo lands never formally constituted a part of federal public lands; in any event, no treaty, statute, or executive order has ever designated or withdrawn the pueblos from public lands as American Indian reservations. This fact, however, has not barred application of the *Winters* doctrine. What constitutes an American Indian reservation is a question of practice, not of legal definition, and the pueblos have always been treated as reservations by the United States. This pragmatic approach is buttressed by *Arizona v. California* (1963), wherein the Supreme Court indicated that the manner in which any type of federal reservation is created does not affect the application to it of the *Winters* doctrine. Therefore, the reserved water rights of Pueblo Indians have priority over other citizens' water rights as of 1848, the year in which pueblos must be considered to have become reservations.

551. The passage suggests that the legal rights of citizens other than American Indians to the use of water flowing into the Rio Grande pueblos are
- A. guaranteed by the precedent set in *Arizona v. California*
 - B. abolished by the *Winters* doctrine
 - C. deferred to the Pueblo Indians whenever treaties explicitly require this
 - D. guaranteed by federal land-use laws
 - E. limited by the prior claims of the Pueblo Indians



In corporate purchasing, competitive scrutiny is typically limited to suppliers of items that are directly related to end products. With “indirect” purchases (such as computers, advertising, and legal services), which are not directly related to production, corporations often favor “supplier partnerships” (arrangements in which the purchaser forgoes the right to pursue alternative suppliers), which can inappropriately shelter suppliers from rigorous competitive scrutiny that might afford the purchaser economic leverage. There are two independent variables—availability of alternatives and ease of changing suppliers—that companies should use to evaluate the feasibility of subjecting suppliers of indirect purchases to competitive scrutiny. This can create four possible situations.

In Type 1 situations, there are many alternatives and change is relatively easy. Open pursuit of alternatives—by frequent competitive bidding, if possible—will likely yield the best results. In Type 2 situations, where there are many alternatives but change is difficult—as for providers of employee health-care benefits—it is important to continuously test the market and use the results to secure concessions from existing suppliers. Alternatives provide a credible threat to suppliers, even if the ability to switch is constrained. In Type 3 situations, there are few alternatives, but the ability to switch without difficulty creates a threat that companies can use to negotiate concessions from existing suppliers. In Type 4 situations, where there are few alternatives and change is difficult, partnerships may be unavoidable.

552. Which of the following can be inferred about supplier partnerships, as they are described in the passage?
- They cannot be sustained unless the goods or services provided are available from a large number of suppliers.
 - They can result in purchasers paying more for goods and services than they would in a competitive-bidding situation.
 - They typically are instituted at the urging of the supplier rather than the purchaser.
 - They are not feasible when the goods or services provided are directly related to the purchasers' end products.
 - They are least appropriate when the purchasers' ability to change suppliers is limited.
553. Which of the following best describes the relation of the second paragraph to the first?
- The second paragraph offers proof of an assertion made in the first paragraph.
 - The second paragraph provides an explanation for the occurrence of a situation described in the first paragraph.
 - The second paragraph discusses the application of a strategy proposed in the first paragraph.
 - The second paragraph examines the scope of a problem presented in the first paragraph.
 - The second paragraph discusses the contradictions inherent in a relationship described in the first paragraph.

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554. It can be inferred that the author of the passage would be most likely to make which of the following recommendations to a company purchasing health care benefits for its employees?

- A. Devise strategies for circumventing the obstacles to replacing the current provider of health care benefits.
- B. Obtain health care benefits from a provider that also provides other indirect products and services.
- C. Obtain bids from other providers of health care benefits in order to be in a position to negotiate a better deal with the current provider.
- D. Switch providers of health care benefits whenever a different provider offers a more competitive price.
- E. Acknowledge the difficulties involved in replacing the current provider of health care benefits and offer to form a partnership with the provider.

555. Which of the following is one difference between Type 2 situations and Type 4 situations, as they are described in the passage?

- A. The number of alternative suppliers available to the purchaser
- B. The most effective approach for the purchaser to use in obtaining competitive bids from potential suppliers
- C. The degree of difficulty the purchaser encounters when changing suppliers
- D. The frequency with which each type of situation occurs in a typical business environment
- E. The likelihood that any given purchase will be an indirect purchase

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556. According to the passage, which of the following factors distinguishes an indirect purchase from other purchases?
- The ability of the purchasing company to subject potential suppliers of the purchased item to competitive scrutiny
 - The number of suppliers of the purchased item available to the purchasing company
 - The methods of negotiation that are available to the purchasing company
 - The relationship of the purchased item to the purchasing company's end product
 - The degree of importance of the purchased item in the purchasing company's business operations



Carotenoids, a family of natural pigments, form an important part of the colorful signals used by many animals. Animals acquire carotenoids either directly (from the plants and algae that produce them) or indirectly (by eating insects) and store them in a variety of tissues. Studies of several animal species have shown that when choosing mates, females prefer males with brighter carotenoid-based coloration. Owens and Olson hypothesize that the presence of carotenoids, as signaled by coloration, would be meaningful in the context of mate selection if carotenoids were either rare or required for health. The **conventional view** is that carotenoids are meaningful because they are rare: healthier males can forage for more of the pigments than can their inferior counterparts. Although this may be true, there is growing evidence that carotenoids are meaningful also because they are required: they are used by the immune system and for detoxification processes that are important for maintaining health. It may be that males can use scarce carotenoids either for immune defense and detoxification or for attracting females. Males that are more susceptible to disease and parasites will have to use their carotenoids to boost their immune systems, whereas males that are genetically resistant will use fewer carotenoids for fighting disease and will advertise this by using the pigments for flashy display instead.

557. According to the “conventional view” referred to in the highlighted text, brighter carotenoid-based coloration in certain species suggests that an individual
- lives in a habitat rich in carotenoid-bearing plants and insects
 - has efficient detoxification processes
 - has a superior immune system
 - possesses superior foraging capacity
 - is currently capable of reproducing
558. The idea that carotenoid-based coloration is significant partly because carotenoids are required for health suggests that a lack of bright coloration in a male is most likely to indicate which of the following?
- Inefficient detoxification processes
 - Immunity to parasite infestation
 - Low genetic resistance to disease
 - Lack of interest in mating
 - Lack of carotenoid-storing tissues
559. ^{99th PERCENTILE}
TOP ONE PERCENTILE
559. The passage suggests that relatively bright carotenoid-based coloration is a signal of which of the following characteristics in males of certain animal species?
- Readiness for mating behavior
 - Ability to fight
 - Particular feeding preferences
 - Recovery from parasite infestation
 - Fitness as a mate
560. The passage implies which of the following about the insects from which animals acquire carotenoids?
- They do not produce carotenoids themselves.
 - They use carotenoids primarily for coloration.
 - They maintain constant levels of carotenoids in their tissues.
 - They are unable to use carotenoids to boost their immune system.
 - They are available in greater abundance than are carotenoid-bearing plants.

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561. Information in the passage suggests that which of the following is true of carotenoids that a male animal uses for detoxification processes?
- A. They were not acquired directly from plants and algae.
 - B. They cannot be replenished through foraging.
 - C. They cannot be used simultaneously to brighten coloration.
 - D. They do not affect the animal's susceptibility to parasites.
 - E. They increase the chances that the animal will be selected as a mate.



Linda Kerber argued in the mid-1980s that after the American Revolution (1775–1783), an ideology of “republican motherhood” resulted in a surge of educational opportunities for women in the United States. Kerber maintained that the leaders of the new nation wanted women to be educated in order to raise politically virtuous sons. A virtuous citizenry was considered essential to the success of the country’s republican form of government; virtue was to be instilled not only by churches and schools, but by families, where the mother’s role was crucial. Thus, according to Kerber, motherhood became pivotal to the fate of the republic, providing justification for an unprecedented attention to female education.

Introduction of the “republican motherhood” thesis dramatically changed historiography. Prior to Kerber’s work, educational historians barely mentioned women and girls; Thomas Woody’s 1929 work is the notable exception. Examining newspaper advertisements for academies, Woody found that educational opportunities increased for both girls and boys around 1750.⁹⁹ Pointing to “An Essay on Woman” (1753) as reflecting a shift in view, Woody also claimed that practical education for females had many advocates before the Revolution. Woody’s evidence challenges the notion that the Revolution changed attitudes regarding female education, although it may have accelerated earlier trends. Historians’ reliance on Kerber’s “republican motherhood” thesis may have obscured the presence of these trends, making it difficult to determine to what extent the Revolution really changed women’s lives.

562. According to the passage, Kerber maintained that which of the following led to an increase in educational opportunities for women in the United States after the American Revolution?

- A. An unprecedeted demand by women for greater educational opportunities in the decades following the Revolution
- B. A new political ideology calling for equality of opportunity between women and men in all aspects of life
- C. A belief that the American educational system could be reformed only if women participated more fully in that system
- D. A belief that women needed to be educated if they were to contribute to the success of the nation's new form of government
- E. A recognition that women needed to be educated if they were to take an active role in the nation's schools and churches

563. According to the passage, within the field of educational history, Thomas Woody's 1929 work was

- A. innovative because it relied on newspaper advertisements as evidence
- B. exceptional in that it concentrated on the period before the American Revolution
- C. unusual in that it focused on educational attitudes rather than on educational practices
- D. controversial in its claims regarding educational opportunities for boys
- E. atypical in that it examined the education of girls

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564. The passage suggests that Woody would have agreed with which of the following claims regarding “An Essay on Woman”?

- A. It expressed attitudes concerning women's education that were reflected in new educational opportunities for women after 1750.
- B. It persuaded educators to offer greater educational opportunities to women in the 1750s.
- C. It articulated ideas about women's education that would not be realized until after the American Revolution.
- D. It offered one of the most original arguments in favor of women's education in the United States in the eighteenth century.
- E. It presented views about women's education that were still controversial in Woody's own time.

565. The passage suggests that, with regard to the history of women's education in the United States, Kerber's work differs from Woody's primarily concerning which of the following?

- The extent to which women were interested in pursuing educational opportunities in the eighteenth century
- B. The extent of the support for educational opportunities for girls prior to the American Revolution
- C. The extent of public resistance to educational opportunities for women after the American Revolution
- D. Whether attitudes toward women's educational opportunities changed during the eighteenth century
- E. Whether women needed to be educated in order to contribute to the success of a republican form of government

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566. According to the passage, Kerber argued that political leaders thought that the form of government adopted by the United States after the American Revolution depended on which of the following for its success?

- A. Women assuming the sole responsibility for instilling political virtue in children
- B. Girls becoming the primary focus of a reformed educational system that emphasized political virtue
- C. The family serving as one of the primary means by which children were imbued with political virtue
- D. The family assuming many of the functions previously performed by schools and churches
- E. Men and women assuming equal responsibility for the management of schools, churches, and the family



In the Sonoran Desert of northwestern Mexico and southern Arizona, the flowers of several species of columnar cacti—cardon, saguaro, and organ pipe—were once exclusively pollinated at night by nectar-feeding bats, as their close relatives in arid tropical regions of southern Mexico still are. In these tropical regions, diurnal (daytime) visitors to columnar cactus flowers are ineffective pollinators because, by sunrise, the flowers' stigmas become unreceptive or the flowers close. Yet the flowers of the Sonoran Desert cacti have evolved to remain open after sunrise, allowing pollination by such diurnal visitors as bees and birds. Why have these cacti expanded their range of pollinators by remaining open and receptive in daylight?

This development at the northernmost range of columnar cacti may be due to a yearly variation in the abundance—and hence the reliability—of migratory nectar-feeding bats. Pollinators can be unreliable for several reasons. They can be dietary generalists whose fidelity to a particular species depends on the availability of alternative food sources. Or, they can be dietary specialists, but their abundance may vary widely from year to year, resulting in variable pollination of their preferred food species. Finally, they may be dietary specialists, but their abundance may be chronically low relative to the availability of flowers.

Recent data reveals that during spring in the Sonoran Desert, the nectar-feeding bats are specialists feeding on cardon, saguaro, and organ-pipe flowers. However, whereas cactus-flower abundance tends to be high during spring, bat population densities tend to be low except near maternity roosts. Moreover, in spring, diurnal cactus-pollinating birds are significantly more abundant in this region than are the nocturnal bats. Thus, with bats being unreliable cactus-flower pollinators, and daytime pollinators more abundant and therefore more reliable, selection favors the cactus flowers with traits that increase their range of pollinators. While data suggest that population densities of nectar-feeding bats are also low in tropical areas of southern Mexico, where bats are the exclusive pollinators of many species of columnar cacti, cactus-flower density and bat population density appear to be much more evenly balanced there: compared with the Sonoran Desert's cardon and saguaro, columnar cacti in southern Mexico produce far fewer flowers per night. Accordingly, despite their low population density, bats are able to pollinate nearly 100 percent of the available flowers.

567. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- compare the adaptive responses of several species of columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert with those in the arid tropical regions of southern Mexico
 - discuss some of the possible causes of the relatively low abundance of migratory nectar-feeding bats in the Sonoran Desert
 - provide a possible explanation for a particular evolutionary change in certain species of columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert
 - present recent findings that challenge a particular theory as to why several species of columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert have expanded their range of pollinators
 - compare the effectiveness of nocturnal and diurnal pollination for several different species of columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert
568. According to the passage, which of the following types of nectar-feeding pollinators is likely to be an unreliable pollinator of a particular cactus flower?
- A dietary specialist whose abundance is typically high in relation to that of the flower
 - A dietary specialist whose abundance is at times significantly lower than that of the flower
 - A dietary generalist for whom that flower's nectar is not a preferred food but is the most consistently available food
 - A dietary generalist for whom that flower's nectar is slightly preferred to other available foods
 - A dietary generalist that evolved from a species of dietary specialists
569. According to the passage, present-day columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert differ from their close relatives in southern Mexico in that the Sonoran cacti
- have flowers that remain open after sunset
 - are pollinated primarily by dietary specialists
 - can be pollinated by nectar-feeding bats
 - have stigmas that are unreceptive to pollination at night
 - are sometimes pollinated by diurnal pollinators

Manufacturers have to do more than build large manufacturing plants to realize economies of scale. It is true that as the capacity of a manufacturing operation rises, costs per unit of output fall as plant size approaches “minimum efficient scale,” where the cost per unit of output reaches a minimum, determined roughly by the state of existing technology and size of the potential market. However, minimum efficient scale cannot be fully realized unless a steady “throughput” (the flow of materials through a plant) is attained. The throughput needed to maintain the optimal scale of production requires careful coordination not only of the flow of goods through the production process, but also of the flow of input from suppliers and the flow of output to wholesalers and final consumers. If throughput falls below a critical point, unit costs rise sharply and profits disappear. A manufacturer's fixed costs and “sunk costs” (original capital investment in the physical plant) do not decrease when production declines due to inadequate supplies of raw materials, problems on the factory floor, or inefficient sales networks. Consequently, potential economies of scale are based on the physical and engineering characteristics of the production facilities—that is, on tangible capital—but realized economies of scale are operational and organizational, and depend on knowledge, skills, experience, and teamwork—that is, on organized human capabilities, or intangible capital.

The importance of investing in intangible capital becomes obvious when one looks at what happens in new capital-intensive manufacturing industries. Such industries are quickly dominated, not by the first firms to acquire technologically sophisticated plants of theoretically optimal size, but rather by the first to exploit the full potential of such plants. Once some firms achieve this, a market becomes extremely hard to enter. Challengers must construct comparable plants and do so after the first movers have already worked out problems with suppliers or with new production processes. Challengers must create distribution networks and marketing systems in markets where first movers have all the contacts and know-how. And challengers must recruit management teams to compete with those that have already mastered these functional and strategic activities.

570. The passage suggests that in order for a manufacturer in a capital-intensive industry to have a decisive advantage over competitors making similar products, the manufacturer must
- A. be the first in the industry to build production facilities of theoretically optimal size
 - B. make every effort to keep fixed and sunk costs as low as possible
 - C. be one of the first to operate its manufacturing plants at minimum efficient scale
 - D. produce goods of higher quality than those produced by direct competitors
 - E. stockpile raw materials at production sites in order to ensure a steady flow of such materials
571. The passage suggests that which of the following is true of a manufacturer's fixed and sunk costs?
- A. The extent to which they are determined by market conditions for the goods being manufactured is frequently underestimated.
 - B. If they are kept as low as possible, the manufacturer is very likely to realize significant profits.
 - C. They are the primary factor that determines whether a manufacturer will realize economies of scale.
 - D. They should be on a par with the fixed and sunk costs of the manufacturer's competitors.
 - E. They are not affected by fluctuations in a manufacturing plant's throughput.
572. In the context of the passage as a whole, the second paragraph serves primarily to
- A. provide an example to support the argument presented in the first paragraph
 - B. evaluate various strategies discussed in the first paragraph
 - C. introduce evidence that undermines the argument presented in the first paragraph
 - D. anticipate possible objections to the argument presented in the first paragraph
 - E. demonstrate the potential dangers of a commonly used strategy

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573. The passage LEAST supports the inference that a manufacturer's throughput could be adversely affected by

- A. a mistake in judgment regarding the selection of a wholesaler
- B. a breakdown in the factory's machinery
- C. a labor dispute on the factory floor
- D. an increase in the cost per unit of output
- E. a drop in the efficiency of the sales network

574. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. point out the importance of intangible capital for realizing economies of scale in manufacturing
- B. show that manufacturers frequently gain a competitive advantage from investment in large manufacturing facilities
- C. argue that large manufacturing facilities often fail because of inadequate investment in both tangible and intangible capital
- D. suggest that most new industries are likely to be dominated by firms that build large manufacturing plants early
- E. explain why large manufacturing plants usually do not help manufacturers achieve economies of scale

A small number of the forest species of lepidoptera (moths and butterflies, which exist as caterpillars during most of their life cycle) exhibit regularly recurring patterns of population growth and decline—such fluctuations in population are known as population cycles. Although many different variables influence population levels, a regular pattern such as a population cycle seems to imply a dominant, driving force. Identification of that driving force, however, has proved surprisingly elusive despite considerable research. The common approach of studying causes of population cycles by measuring the mortality caused by different agents, such as predatory birds or parasites, has been unproductive in the case of lepidoptera. Moreover, population ecologists' attempts to alter cycles by changing the caterpillars' habitat and by reducing caterpillar populations have not succeeded. In short, the evidence implies that these insect populations, if not self-regulating, may at least be regulated by an agent more intimately connected with the insect than are predatory birds or parasites.

Recent work suggests that this agent may be a virus. For many years, viral disease had been reported in declining populations of caterpillars, but population ecologists had usually considered viral disease to have contributed to the decline once it was underway rather than to have initiated it. The recent work has been made possible by new techniques of molecular biology that allow viral DNA to be detected at low concentrations in the environment. Nuclear polyhedrosis viruses are hypothesized to be the driving force behind population cycles in lepidoptera in part because the viruses themselves follow an infectious cycle in which, if protected from direct sunlight, they may remain virulent for many years in the environment, embedded in durable crystals of polyhedrin protein. Once ingested by a caterpillar, the crystals dissolve, releasing the virus to infect the insect's cells. Late in the course of the infection, millions of new virus particles are formed and enclosed in polyhedrin crystals. These crystals reenter the environment after the insect dies and decomposes, thus becoming available to infect other caterpillars.

One of the attractions of this hypothesis is its broad applicability. Remarkably, despite significant differences in habitat and behavior, many species of lepidoptera have population cycles of similar length, between eight and eleven years. Nuclear polyhedrosis viral infection is one factor these disparate species share.

575. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- describe the development of new techniques that may help to determine the driving force behind population cycles in lepidoptera
 - present evidence that refutes a particular theory about the driving force behind population cycles in lepidoptera
 - present a hypothesis about the driving force behind population cycles in lepidoptera
 - describe the fluctuating patterns of population cycles in lepidoptera
 - question the idea that a single driving force is behind population cycles in lepidoptera
576. It can be inferred from the passage that the mortality caused by agents such as predatory birds or parasites was measured in an attempt to
- develop an explanation for the existence of lepidoptera population cycles
 - identify behavioral factors in lepidoptera that affect survival rates
 - identify possible methods for controlling lepidoptera population growth
 - provide evidence that lepidoptera populations are self-regulating
 - determine the life stages of lepidoptera at which mortality rates are highest
577. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's conclusion in the last sentence of the first paragraph?
- New research reveals that the number of species of birds and parasites that prey on lepidoptera has dropped significantly in recent years.
 - New experiments in which the habitats of lepidoptera are altered in previously untried ways result in the shortening of lepidoptera population cycles.
 - Recent experiments have revealed that the nuclear polyhedrosis virus is present in a number of predators and parasites of lepidoptera.
 - Differences among the habitats of lepidoptera species make it difficult to assess the effects of weather on lepidoptera population cycles.
 - Viral disease is typically observed in a large proportion of the lepidoptera population.

A small number of the forest species of lepidoptera (moths and butterflies, which exist as caterpillars during most of their life cycle) exhibit regularly recurring patterns of population growth and decline—such fluctuations in population are known as population cycles. Although many different variables influence population levels, a regular pattern such as a population cycle seems to imply a dominant, driving force. Identification of that driving force, however, has proved surprisingly elusive despite considerable research. The common approach of studying causes of population cycles by measuring the mortality caused by different agents, such as predatory birds or parasites, has been unproductive in the case of lepidoptera. Moreover, population ecologists' attempts to alter cycles by changing the caterpillars' habitat and by reducing caterpillar populations have not succeeded. In short, the evidence implies that these insect populations, if not self-regulating, may at least be regulated by an agent more intimately connected with the insect than are predatory birds or parasites.

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578. According to the passage, before the discovery of new techniques for detecting viral DNA, population ecologists believed that viral diseases

- A. were not widely prevalent among insect populations generally
- B. affected only the caterpillar life stage of lepidoptera
- C. were the driving force behind lepidoptera population cycles
- D. attacked already declining caterpillar populations
- E. infected birds and parasites that prey on various species of lepidoptera

579. According to the passage, nuclear polyhedrosis viruses can remain virulent in the environment only when

- A. the polyhedrin protein crystals dissolve
- B. caterpillar populations are in decline
- C. they are present in large numbers
- D. their concentration in a particular area remains low
- E. they are sheltered from direct sunlight

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580. It can be inferred from the passage that while inside its polyhedrin protein crystals, the nuclear polyhedrosis virus

- A. is exposed to direct sunlight
- B. is attractive to predators
- C. cannot infect caterpillars' cells
- D. cannot be ingested by caterpillars
- E. cannot be detected by new techniques of molecular biology

Resin is a plant secretion that hardens when exposed to air; fossilized resin is called amber. Although Pliny in the first century recognized that amber was produced from “marrow discharged by trees,” amber has been widely misunderstood to be a semiprecious gem and has even been described in mineralogy textbooks. Confusion also persists surrounding the term “resin,” which was defined before rigorous chemical analyses were available. Resin is often confused with gum, a substance produced in plants in response to **bacterial infections**, and with sap, an aqueous solution transported through certain plant tissues. Resin differs from both gum and sap in that scientists have not determined a physiological function for resin.

In the 1950s, entomologists posited that resin may function to repel or attract insects. Fraenkel conjectured that plants initially produced resin in nonspecific chemical responses to insect attack and that, over time, plants evolved that produced resin with specific repellent effects. But some insect species, he noted, might overcome the repellent effects, actually becoming attracted to the resin. This might induce the insects to feed on those plants or aid them in securing a breeding site. Later researchers suggested that resin mediates the complex interdependence, or “coevolution,” of plants and insects over time. Such ideas led to the development of the specialized discipline of chemical ecology, which is concerned with the role of plant chemicals in interactions with other organisms and with the evolution and ecology of plant antiherbivore chemistry (plants’ chemical defenses against attack by herbivores such as insects).

581. According to the passage, which of the following is true of plant antiherbivore chemistry?
- Changes in a plant's antiherbivore chemistry may affect insect feeding behavior.
 - A plant's repellent effects often involve interactions between gum and resin.
 - A plant's antiherbivore responses assist in combating bacterial infections.
 - Plant antiherbivore chemistry plays only a minor role in the coevolution of plants and insects.
 - Researchers first studied repellent effects in plants beginning in the 1950s.
582. Of the following topics, which would be most likely to be studied within the discipline of chemical ecology as it is described in the passage?
- Seeds that become attached to certain insects, which in turn carry away the seeds and aid in the reproductive cycle of the plant species in question
 - An insect species that feeds on weeds detrimental to crop health and yield, and how these insects might aid in agricultural production
 - The effects of deforestation on the life cycles of subtropical carnivorous plants and the insect species on which the plants feed
 - The growth patterns of a particular species of plant that has proved remarkably resistant to herbicides
 - Insects that develop a tolerance for feeding on a plant that had previously been toxic to them, and the resultant changes within that plant species
583. The author refers to “bacterial infections” most likely in order to
- describe the physiological function that gum performs in plants
 - demonstrate that sap is not the only substance that is transported through a plant's tissues
 - explain how modern chemical analysis has been used to clarify the function of resin
 - show that gum cannot serve as an effective defense against herbivores
 - give an example of how confusion has arisen with regard to the nature of resin

Resin is a plant secretion that hardens when exposed to air; fossilized resin is called amber. Although Pliny in the first century recognized that amber was produced from “marrow discharged by trees,” amber has been widely misunderstood to be a semiprecious gem and has even been described in mineralogy textbooks. Confusion also persists surrounding the term “resin,” which was defined before rigorous chemical analyses were available. Resin is often confused with gum, a substance produced in plants in response to bacterial infections, and with sap, an aqueous solution transported through certain plant tissues. Resin differs from both gum and sap in that scientists have not determined a physiological function for resin.

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584. The author of the passage refers to Pliny most probably in order to
- give an example of how the nature of amber has been misunderstood in the past
 - show that confusion about amber has long been more pervasive than confusion about resin
 - make note of the first known reference to amber as a semiprecious gem
 - point out an exception to a generalization about the history of people's understanding of amber
 - demonstrate that Pliny believed amber to be a mineral



During the 1980s, many economic historians studying Latin America focused on the impact of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Most of these historians argued that although the Depression began earlier in Latin America than in the United States, it was less severe in Latin America and did not significantly impede industrial growth there. The historians' argument was grounded in national government records concerning tax revenues and exports and in government-sponsored industrial censuses, from which historians have drawn conclusions about total manufacturing output and profit levels across Latin America. However, economic statistics published by Latin American governments in the early twentieth century are neither reliable nor consistent; this is especially true of manufacturing data, which were gathered from factory owners for taxation purposes and which therefore may well be distorted. Moreover, one cannot assume a direct correlation between the output level and the profit level of a given industry as these variables often move in opposite directions. Finally, national and regional economies are composed of individual firms and industries, and relying on general, sweeping economic indicators may mask substantial variations among these different enterprises. For example, recent analyses of previously unexamined data on textile manufacturing in Brazil and Mexico suggest that the Great Depression had a more severe impact on this Latin American industry than scholars had recognized.

585. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- compare the impact of the Great Depression on Latin America with its impact on the United States
 - criticize a school of economic historians for failing to analyze the Great Depression in Latin America within a global context
 - illustrate the risks inherent in comparing different types of economic enterprises to explain economic phenomena
 - call into question certain scholars' views concerning the severity of the Great Depression in Latin America
 - demonstrate that the Great Depression had a more severe impact on industry in Latin America than in certain other regions
586. Which of the following conclusions about the Great Depression is best supported by the passage?
- It did not impede Latin American industrial growth as much as historians had previously thought.
 - It had a more severe impact on the Brazilian and the Mexican textile industries than it had on Latin America as a region.
 - It affected the Latin American textile industry more severely than it did any other industry in Latin America.
 - The overall impact on Latin American industrial growth should be reevaluated by economic historians.
 - Its impact on Latin America should not be compared with its impact on the United States.

During the 1980s, many economic historians studying Latin America focused on the impact of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Most of these historians argued that although the Depression began earlier in Latin America than in the United States, it was less severe in Latin America and did not significantly impede industrial growth there. The historians' argument was grounded in national government records concerning tax revenues and exports and in government-sponsored industrial censuses, from which historians have drawn conclusions about total manufacturing output and profit levels across Latin America. However, economic statistics published by Latin American governments in the early twentieth century are neither reliable nor consistent; this is especially true of manufacturing data, which were gathered from factory owners for taxation purposes and which therefore may well be distorted. Moreover, one cannot assume a direct correlation between the output level and the profit level of a given industry as these variables often move in opposite directions. Finally, national and regional economies are composed of individual firms and industries, and **relying on general, sweeping economic indicators may mask substantial variations among these different enterprises.** For example, recent analyses of previously unexamined data on textile manufacturing in Brazil and Mexico suggest that the Great Depression had a more severe impact on this Latin American industry than scholars had recognized.

587. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's assertion regarding economic indicators in the highlighted text?
- A. During an economic depression, European textile manufacturers' profits rise while their industrial output remains steady.
 - B. During a national economic recession, United States microchips manufacturers' profits rise sharply while United States steel manufacturers' profits plunge.
 - C. During the years following a severe economic depression, textile manufacturers' output levels and profit levels increase in Brazil and Mexico but not in the rest of Latin America.
 - D. Although Japanese industry, as a whole, recovers after an economic recession, it does not regain its previously high levels of production.
 - E. While European industrial output increases in the years following an economic depression, total output remains below that of Japan or the United States.



Among the myths taken as fact by the environmental managers of most corporations is the belief that environmental regulations affect all competitors in a given industry uniformly. In reality, regulatory costs—and therefore compliance—fall unevenly, economically disadvantaging some companies and benefiting others. For example, a plant situated near a number of larger noncompliant competitors is less likely to attract the attention of local regulators than is an isolated plant, and less attention means lower costs.

Additionally, large plants can spread compliance costs such as waste treatment across a larger revenue base; on the other hand, some smaller plants may not even be subject to certain provisions such as permit or reporting requirements by virtue of their size. Finally, older production technologies often continue to generate toxic wastes that were not regulated when the technology was first adopted. New regulations have imposed extensive compliance costs on companies still using older industrial coal-fired burners that generate high sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide outputs, for example, whereas new facilities generally avoid processes that would create such waste products. By realizing that they have discretion and that not all industries are affected equally by environmental regulation, environmental managers can help their companies to achieve a competitive edge by anticipating regulatory pressure and exploring all possibilities for addressing how changing regulations will affect their companies specifically.

- 588 It can be inferred from the passage that a large plant might have to spend more than a similar but smaller plant on environmental compliance because the larger plant is
- more likely to attract attention from local regulators
 - less likely to be exempt from permit and reporting requirements
 - less likely to have regulatory costs passed on to it by companies that supply its raw materials
 - more likely to employ older production technologies
 - more likely to generate wastes that are more environmentally damaging than those generated by smaller plants
- 589 According to the passage, which of the following statements about sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide outputs is true?
- Older production technologies cannot be adapted so as to reduce production of these outputs as waste products.
 - Under the most recent environmental regulations, industrial plants are no longer permitted to produce these outputs.
 - Although these outputs are environmentally hazardous, some plants still generate them as waste products despite the high compliance costs they impose.
 - Many older plants have developed innovative technological processes that reduce the amounts of these outputs generated as waste products.
 - Since the production processes that generate these outputs are less costly than alternative processes, these less expensive processes are sometimes adopted despite their acknowledged environmental hazards.

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590. Which of the following best describes the relationship of the first sentence of the second paragraph to the passage as a whole?
- It presents a hypothesis that is disproved later in the passage.
 - It highlights an opposition between two ideas mentioned in the passage.
 - It provides examples to support a claim made earlier in the passage.
 - It exemplifies a misconception mentioned earlier in the passage.
 - It draws an analogy between two situations described in the passage.
591. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- address a widespread environmental management problem and suggest possible solutions
 - illustrate varying levels of compliance with environmental regulation among different corporations
 - describe the various alternatives to traditional methods of environmental management
 - advocate increased corporate compliance with environmental regulation
 - correct a common misconception about the impact of environmental regulations

Two works published in 1984 demonstrate contrasting approaches to writing the history of United States women. Buel and Buel's biography of Mary Fish (1736–1818) makes little effort to place her story in the context of recent historiography on women. Lebsock, meanwhile, attempts not only to write the history of women in one southern community, but also to redirect two decades of historiographical debate as to whether women gained or lost status in the nineteenth century as compared with the eighteenth century. Although both books offer the reader the opportunity to assess this controversy regarding women's status, only Lebsock's deals with it directly. She examines several different aspects of women's status, helping to refine and resolve the issues. She concludes that while women gained autonomy in some areas, especially in the private sphere, they lost it in many aspects of the economic sphere. More importantly, she shows that the debate itself depends on frame of reference: in many respects, women lost power in relation to men, for example, as certain jobs (delivering babies, supervising schools) were taken over by men. Yet women also gained power in comparison with their previous status, owning a higher proportion of real estate, for example. In contrast, Buel and Buel's biography provides ample raw material for (30) questioning the myth, fostered by some historians, of a colonial golden age in the eighteenth century but does not give the reader much guidance in analyzing the controversy over women's status.

592. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- examine two sides of a historiographical debate
 - call into question an author's approach to a historiographical debate
 - examine one author's approach to a historiographical debate
 - discuss two authors' works in relationship to a historiographical debate
 - explain the prevalent perspective on a historiographical debate
593. The author of the passage mentions the supervision of schools primarily in order to
- remind readers of the role education played in the cultural changes of the nineteenth century in the United States
 - suggest an area in which nineteenth-century American women were relatively free to exercise power
 - provide an example of an occupation for which accurate data about women's participation are difficult to obtain
 - speculate about which occupations were considered suitable for United States women of the nineteenth century
 - illustrate how the answers to questions about women's status depend on particular contexts
594. With which of the following characterizations of Lebsock's contribution to the controversy concerning women's status in the nineteenth-century United States would the author of the passage be most likely to agree?
- Lebsock has studied women from a formerly neglected region and time period.
 - Lebsock has demonstrated the importance of frame of reference in answering questions about women's status.
 - Lebsock has addressed the controversy by using women's current status as a frame of reference.
 - Lebsock has analyzed statistics about occupations and property that were previously ignored.
 - Lebsock has applied recent historiographical methods to the biography of a nineteenth-century woman.

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595. According to the passage, Lebsock's work differs from Buel and Buel's work in that Lebsock's work
- uses a large number of primary sources
 - ignores issues of women's legal status
 - refuses to take a position on women's status in the eighteenth century
 - addresses larger historiographical issues
 - fails to provide sufficient material to support its claims
596. The passage suggests that Lebsock believes that compared to nineteenth-century American women, eighteenth-century American women were
- in many respects less powerful in relation to men
 - more likely to own real estate
 - generally more economically independent
 - more independent in conducting their private lives
 - less likely to work as school superintendents
597. The passage suggests that Buel and Buel's biography of Mary Fish provides evidence for which of the following views of women's history?
- Women have lost power in relation to men since the colonial era.
 - Women of the colonial era were not as likely to be concerned with their status as were women in the nineteenth century.
 - The colonial era was not as favorable for women as some historians have believed.
 - Women had more economic autonomy in the colonial era than in the nineteenth century.
 - Women's occupations were generally more respected in the colonial era than in the nineteenth century.

Acting on the recommendation of a British government committee investigating the high incidence in white lead factories of illness among employees, most of whom were women, the Home Secretary proposed in 1895 that Parliament enact legislation that would prohibit women from holding most jobs in white lead factories. Although the Women's Industrial Defence Committee (WIDC), formed in 1892 in response to earlier legislative attempts to restrict women's labor, did not discount the white lead trade's potential health dangers, it opposed the proposal, viewing it as yet another instance of limiting women's work opportunities.

Also opposing the proposal was the Society for Promoting the Employment of Women (SPEW), which attempted to challenge it by investigating the causes of illness in white lead factories. **SPEW contended, and WIDC concurred, that controllable conditions in such factories were responsible for the development of lead poisoning.** SPEW provided convincing evidence that lead poisoning could be avoided if workers were careful and clean and if already extant workplace safety regulations were stringently enforced. However, the Women's Trade Union League (WTUL), which had ceased in the late 1880s to oppose restrictions on women's labor, supported the eventually enacted proposal, in part because safety regulations were generally not being enforced in white lead factories, where there were no unions (and little prospect of any) to pressure employers to comply with safety regulations.

598. The passage suggests that WIDC differed from WTUL in which of the following ways?
- WIDC believed that the existing safety regulations were adequate to protect women's health, whereas WTUL believed that such regulations needed to be strengthened.
 - WIDC believed that unions could not succeed in pressuring employers to comply with such regulations, whereas WTUL believed that unions could succeed in doing so.
 - WIDC believed that lead poisoning in white lead factories could be avoided by controlling conditions there, whereas WTUL believed that lead poisoning in such factories could not be avoided no matter how stringently safety regulations were enforced.
 - At the time that the legislation concerning white lead factories was proposed, WIDC was primarily concerned with addressing health conditions in white lead factories, whereas WTUL was concerned with improving working conditions in all types of factories.
 - At the time that WIDC was opposing legislative attempts to restrict women's labor, WTUL had already ceased to do so.

599. Which of the following, if true, would most clearly support the contention attributed to SPEW in the highlighted text?
- Those white lead factories that most strongly enforced regulations concerning worker safety and hygiene had the lowest incidences of lead poisoning among employees.
 - The incidence of lead poisoning was much higher among women who worked in white lead factories than among women who worked in other types of factories.
 - There were many household sources of lead that could have contributed to the incidence of lead poisoning among women who also worked outside the home in the late nineteenth century.
 - White lead factories were more stringent than were certain other types of factories in their enforcement of workplace safety regulations.
 - Even brief exposure to the conditions typically found in white lead factories could cause lead poisoning among factory workers.

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600. The passage is primarily concerned with
- A. presenting various groups' views of the motives of those proposing certain legislation
 - B. contrasting the reasoning of various groups concerning their positions on certain proposed legislation
 - C. tracing the process whereby certain proposed legislation was eventually enacted
 - D. assessing the success of tactics adopted by various groups with respect to certain proposed legislation
 - E. evaluating the arguments of various groups concerning certain proposed legislation



It is an odd but indisputable fact that the **seventeenth-century English women** who are generally regarded as among the forerunners of modern feminism are almost all identified with the Royalist side in the conflict between Royalists and Parliamentarians known as the English Civil Wars. Since Royalist ideology is often associated with the radical patriarchalism of seventeenth-century political theorist **Robert Filmer**—a patriarchalism that equates family and kingdom and asserts the divinely ordained absolute power of the king and, by analogy, of the male head of the household—historians have been understandably puzzled by the fact that Royalist women wrote the earliest extended criticisms of the absolute subordination of women in marriage and the earliest systematic assertions of women's rational and moral equality with men. Some historians have questioned the facile equation of Royalist ideology with Filmerian patriarchy; and indeed, there may have been no consistent differences between Royalists and Parliamentarians on issues of family organization and women's political rights, but in that case one would expect early feminists to be equally divided between the two sides.

Catherine Gallagher argues that Royalism engendered feminism because the ideology of absolute monarchy provided a transition to an ideology of the absolute self. She cites the example of the notoriously eccentric author Margaret Cavendish (1626–1673), duchess of Newcastle. Cavendish claimed to be as ambitious as any woman could be, but knowing that as a woman she was excluded from the pursuit of power in the real world, she resolved to be mistress of her own world, the “immortal world” that any person can create within her own mind—and, as a writer, on paper. In proclaiming what she called her “singularity,” Cavendish insisted that she was a self-sufficient being within her mental empire, the center of her own subjective universe rather than a satellite orbiting a dominant male planet. In justifying this absolute singularity, Cavendish repeatedly invoked the model of the absolute monarch, a figure that became a metaphor for the self-enclosed, autonomous nature of the individual person. Cavendish's successors among early feminists retained her notion of woman's sovereign self, but they also sought to break free from the complete political and social isolation that her absolute singularity entailed.

601. The author of the passage refers to Robert Filmer primarily in order to
- A. show that Royalist ideology was somewhat more radical than most historians appear to realize
 - B. qualify the claim that patriarchy formed the basis of Royalist ideology
 - C. question the view that most early feminists were associated with the Royalist faction
 - D. highlight an apparent tension between Royalist ideology and the ideas of early feminists
 - E. argue that Royalists held conflicting opinions on issues of family organization and women's political rights
602. The passage suggests which of the following about the seventeenth-century English women mentioned in the first sentence of the passage?
- A. Their status as forerunners of modern feminism is not entirely justified.
 - B. They did not openly challenge the radical patriarchy of Royalist Filmerian ideology.
 - C. Cavendish was the first among these women to criticize women's subordination in marriage and assert women's equality with men.
 - D. Their views on family organization and women's political rights were diametrically opposed to those of both Royalist and Parliamentarian ideology.
 - E. Historians would be less puzzled if more of them were identified with the Parliamentarian side in the English Civil Wars.
603. The passage suggests that Margaret Cavendish's decision to become an author was motivated, at least in part, by a desire to
- A. justify her support for the Royalist cause
 - B. encourage her readers to work toward eradicating Filmerian patriarchy
 - C. persuade other women to break free from their political and social isolation
 - D. analyze the causes for women's exclusion from the pursuit of power
 - E. create a world over which she could exercise total control

It is an odd but indisputable fact that the seventeenth-century English women who are generally regarded as among the forerunners of modern feminism are almost all identified with the Royalist side in the conflict between Royalists and Parliamentarians known as the English Civil Wars. Since Royalist ideology is often associated with the radical patriarchalism of seventeenth-century political theorist Robert Filmer—a patriarchalism that equates family and kingdom and asserts the divinely ordained absolute power of the king and, by analogy, of the male head of the household—historians have been understandably puzzled by the fact that Royalist women wrote the earliest extended criticisms of the absolute subordination of women in marriage and the earliest systematic assertions of women's rational and moral equality with men. Some historians have questioned the facile equation of Royalist ideology with Filmerian patriarchalism; and indeed, there may have been no consistent differences between Royalists and Parliamentarians on issues of family organization and women's political rights, but in that case one would expect early feminists to be equally divided between the two sides.

Catherine Gallagher argues that Royalism engendered feminism because the ideology of absolute monarchy provided a transition to an ideology of the absolute self. She cites the example of the notoriously eccentric author Margaret Cavendish (1626–1673), duchess of Newcastle. Cavendish claimed to be as ambitious as any woman could be, but knowing that as a woman she was excluded from the pursuit of power in the real world, she resolved to be mistress of her own world, the “immortal world” that any person can create within her own mind—and, as a writer, on paper. In proclaiming what she called her “singularity,” Cavendish insisted that she was a self-sufficient being within her mental empire, the center of her own subjective universe rather than a **satellite orbiting a dominant male planet**. In justifying this absolute singularity, Cavendish repeatedly invoked the model of the absolute monarch, a figure that became a metaphor for the self-enclosed, autonomous nature of the individual person. Cavendish's successors among early feminists retained her notion of woman's sovereign self, but they also sought to break free from the complete political and social isolation that her absolute singularity entailed.

604. The phrase “a satellite orbiting a dominant male planet” refers most directly to
- Cavendish's concept that each woman is a sovereign self
 - the complete political and social isolation of absolute singularity
 - the immaterial world that a writer can create on paper
 - the absolute subordination of women in a patriarchal society
 - the metaphorical figure of the absolute monarch

605. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- trace the historical roots of a modern sociopolitical movement
 - present one scholar's explanation for a puzzling historical phenomenon
 - contrast two interpretations of the ideological origins of a political conflict
 - establish a link between the ideology of an influential political theorist and that of a notoriously eccentric writer
 - call attention to some points of agreement between opposing sides in an ideological debate

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606. Which of the following, if true, would most clearly undermine Gallagher's explanation of the link between Royalism and feminism?

- Because of their privileged backgrounds, Royalist women were generally better educated than were their Parliamentarian counterparts.
- Filmer himself had read some of Cavendish's early writings and was highly critical of her ideas.
- Cavendish's views were highly individual and were not shared by the other Royalist women who wrote early feminist works.
- The Royalist and Parliamentarian ideologies were largely in agreement on issues of family organization and women's political rights.
- The Royalist side included a sizable minority faction that was opposed to the more radical tendencies of Filmerian patriarchalism.

Frazier and Mosteller assert that medical research could be improved by a move toward larger, simpler clinical trials of medical treatments. Currently, researchers collect far more background information on patients than is strictly required for their trials—substantially more than hospitals collect—thereby escalating costs of data collection, storage, and analysis. Although limiting information collection could increase the risk that researchers will overlook facts relevant to a study, Frazier and Mosteller contend that such risk, never entirely eliminable from research, would still be small in most studies. Only in research on entirely new treatments are new and unexpected variables likely to arise.

Frazier and Mosteller propose not only that researchers limit data collection on individual patients but also that researchers enroll more patients in clinical trials, thereby obtaining a more representative sample of the total population with the disease under study. **Often researchers restrict study participation to patients who have no ailments besides those being studied.** A treatment judged successful under these ideal conditions can then be evaluated under normal conditions. Broadening the range of trial participants, Frazier and Mosteller suggest, would enable researchers to evaluate a treatment's efficacy for diverse patients under various conditions and to evaluate its effectiveness for different patient subgroups. For example, the value of a treatment for a progressive disease may vary according to a patient's stage of disease. Patients' ages may also affect a treatment's efficacy.

607. The passage is primarily concerned with
- identifying two practices in medical research that may affect the accuracy of clinical trials
 - describing aspects of medical research that tend to drive up costs
 - evaluating an analysis of certain shortcomings of current medical research practices
 - describing proposed changes to the ways in which clinical trials are conducted
 - explaining how medical researchers have traditionally conducted clinical trials and how such trials are likely to change
608. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about a study of the category of patients referred to in the highlighted text?
- Its findings might have limited applicability.
 - It would be prohibitively expensive in its attempt to create ideal conditions.
 - It would be the best way to sample the total population of potential patients.
 - It would allow researchers to limit information collection without increasing the risk that important variables could be overlooked.
 - Its findings would be more accurate if it concerned treatments for a progressive disease than if it concerned treatments for a nonprogressive disease.
609. It can be inferred from the passage that a study limited to patients like those mentioned in the highlighted text would have which of the following advantages over the kind of study proposed by Frazier and Mosteller?
- It would yield more data and its findings would be more accurate.
 - It would cost less in the long term, though it would be more expensive in its initial stages.
 - It would limit the number of variables researchers would need to consider when evaluating the treatment under study.
 - It would help researchers to identify subgroups of patients with secondary conditions that might also be treatable.
 - It would enable researchers to assess the value of an experimental treatment for the average patient.

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610. The author mentions patients' ages in the highlighted text primarily in order to
- identify the most critical variable differentiating subgroups of patients
 - cast doubt on the advisability of implementing Frazier and Mosteller's proposals about medical research
 - indicate why progressive diseases may require different treatments at different stages
 - illustrate a point about the value of enrolling a wide range of patients in clinical trials
 - substantiate an argument about the problems inherent in enrolling large numbers of patients in clinical trials
611. According to the passage, which of the following describes a result of the way in which researchers generally conduct clinical trials?
- They expend resources on the storage of information likely to be irrelevant to the study they are conducting.
 - They sometimes compromise the accuracy of their findings by collecting and analyzing more information than is strictly required for their trials.
 - They avoid the risk of overlooking variables that might affect their findings, even though doing so raises their research costs.
 - Because they attempt to analyze too much information, they overlook facts that could emerge as relevant to their studies.
 - In order to approximate the conditions typical of medical treatment, they base their methods of information collection on those used by hospitals.

There are recent reports of apparently drastic declines in amphibian populations and of extinctions of a number of the world's endangered amphibian species. These declines, if real, may be signs of a general trend toward extinction, and many **environmentalists** have claimed that immediate environmental action is necessary to remedy this "amphibian crisis," which, in their view, is an indicator of general and catastrophic environmental degradation due to human activity.

To evaluate these claims, it is useful to make a preliminary distinction that is far too often ignored. A declining population should not be confused with an endangered one. An endangered population is always rare, almost always small, and, by definition, under constant threat of extinction even without a proximate cause in human activities. Its disappearance, however unfortunate, should come as no great surprise. Moreover, chance events—which may indicate nothing about the direction of trends in population size—may lead to its extinction. The probability of extinction due to such random factors depends on the population size and is independent of the prevailing direction of change in that size.

For biologists, population declines are potentially more worrisome than extinctions. Persistent declines, especially in large populations, indicate a changed ecological context. Even here, distinctions must again be made among declines that are only apparent (in the sense that they are part of habitual cycles or of normal fluctuations), declines that take a population to some lower but still acceptable level, and those that threaten extinction (e.g., by taking the number of individuals below the minimum viable population). Anecdotal reports of population decreases cannot distinguish among these possibilities, and some amphibian populations have shown strong fluctuations in the past.

It is indisputably true that there is simply not enough long-term scientific data on amphibian populations to enable researchers to identify real declines in amphibian populations. Many fairly common amphibian species declared all but extinct after severe declines in the 1950s and 1960s have subsequently recovered, and so might the apparently declining populations that have generated the current appearance of an amphibian crisis. Unfortunately, long-term data will not soon be forthcoming, and postponing environmental action while we wait for it may doom species and whole ecosystems to extinction.

612. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- assess the validity of a certain view
 - distinguish between two phenomena
 - identify the causes of a problem
 - describe a disturbing trend
 - allay concern about a particular phenomenon
613. It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes which of the following to be true of the environmentalists mentioned in the highlighted text?
- They have wrongly chosen to focus on anecdotal reports rather than on the long-term data that are currently available concerning amphibians.
 - Their recommendations are flawed because their research focuses too narrowly on a single category of animal species.
 - Their certainty that population declines in general are caused by environmental degradation is not warranted.
 - They have drawn premature conclusions concerning a crisis in amphibian populations from recent reports of declines.
 - They have overestimated the effects of chance events on trends in amphibian populations.

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- It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes which of the following to be true of the amphibian extinctions that have recently been reported?
- They have resulted primarily from human activities causing environmental degradation.
 - They could probably have been prevented if timely action had been taken to protect the habitats of amphibian species.
 - They should not come as a surprise, because amphibian populations generally have been declining for a number of years.
 - They have probably been caused by a combination of chance events.
 - They do not clearly constitute evidence of general environmental degradation.

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615. According to the passage, each of the following is true of endangered amphibian species EXCEPT:

- A. They are among the rarest kinds of amphibians.
- B. They generally have populations that are small in size.
- C. They are in constant danger of extinction.
- D. Those with decreasing populations are the most likely candidates for immediate extinction.
- E. They are in danger of extinction due to events that sometimes have nothing to do with human activities.

616. Which of the following most accurately describes the organization of the passage?

- A. A question is raised, a distinction regarding it is made, and the question is answered.
- B. An interpretation is presented, its soundness is examined, and a warning is given.
- C. A situation is described, its consequences are analyzed, and a prediction is made.
- D. Two interpretations of a phenomenon are described, and one of them is rejected as invalid.
- E. Two methods for analyzing a phenomenon are compared, and further study of the phenomenon is recommended.

617. Which of the following best describes the function of the sentence in the highlighted text?

- A. To give an example of a particular kind of study
- B. To cast doubt on an assertion made in the previous sentence
- C. To raise an objection to a view presented in the first paragraph
- D. To provide support for a view presented in the first paragraph
- E. To introduce an idea that will be countered in the following paragraph

While the most abundant and dominant species within a particular ecosystem is often crucial in perpetuating the ecosystem, a “keystone” species, here defined as one whose effects are much larger than would be predicted from its abundance, can also play a vital role. But because complex species interactions may be involved, identifying a keystone species by removing the species and observing changes in the ecosystem is problematic. It might seem that certain traits would clearly define a species as a keystone species; for example, *Pisaster ochraceus* is often a keystone predator because it consumes and suppresses mussel populations, which in the absence of this starfish can be a dominant species. But such predation on a dominant or potentially dominant species occurs in systems that do as well as in systems that do not have species that play keystone roles. Moreover, whereas *P. ochraceus* occupies an unambiguous keystone role on wave-exposed rocky headlands, in more wave-sheltered habitats the impact of *P. ochraceus* predation is weak or nonexistent, and at certain sites sand burial is responsible for eliminating mussels. Keystone status appears to depend on context, whether of particular geography or of such factors as community diversity (for example, a reduction in species diversity may thrust more of the remaining species into keystone roles) and length of species interaction (since newly arrived species in particular may dramatically affect ecosystems).

618. The passage mentions which of the following as a factor that affects the role of *P. ochraceus* as a keystone species within different habitats?
- The degree to which the habitat is sheltered from waves
 - The degree to which other animals within a habitat prey on mussels
 - The fact that mussel populations are often not dominant within some habitats occupied by *P. ochraceus*
 - The size of the *P. ochraceus* population within the habitat
 - The fact that there is great species diversity within some habitats occupied by *P. ochraceus*
619. Which of the following hypothetical experiments most clearly exemplifies the method of identifying species' roles that the author considers problematic?
- A population of seals in an Arctic habitat is counted in order to determine whether it is the dominant species in that ecosystem.
 - A species of fish that is a keystone species in one marine ecosystem is introduced into another marine ecosystem to see whether the species will come to occupy a keystone role.
 - In order to determine whether a species of monkey is a keystone species within a particular ecosystem, the monkeys are removed from that ecosystem and the ecosystem is then studied.
 - Different mountain ecosystems are compared to determine how geography affects a particular species' ability to dominate its ecosystem.
 - In a grassland experiencing a changing climate, patterns of species extinction are traced in order to evaluate the effect of climate changes on keystone species in that grassland.

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620. Which of the following, if true, would most clearly support the argument about keystone status advanced in the last sentence of the passage?
- A species of bat is primarily responsible for keeping insect populations within an ecosystem low, and the size of the insect population in turn affects bird species within that ecosystem.
 - A species of iguana occupies a keystone role on certain tropical islands, but does not play that role on adjacent tropical islands that are inhabited by a greater number of animal species.
 - Close observation of a savannah ecosystem reveals that more species occupy keystone roles within that ecosystem than biologists had previously believed.
 - As a keystone species of bee becomes more abundant, it has a larger effect on the ecosystem it inhabits.
 - A species of moth that occupies a keystone role in a prairie habitat develops coloration patterns that camouflage it from potential predators.
621. The passage suggests which of the following about the identification of a species as a keystone species?
- Such an identification depends primarily on the species' relationship to the dominant species.
 - Such an identification can best be made by removing the species from a particular ecosystem and observing changes that occur in the ecosystem.
 - Such an identification is likely to be less reliable as an ecosystem becomes less diverse.
 - Such an identification seems to depend on various factors within the ecosystem.
 - Such an identification can best be made by observing predation behavior.

Conodonts, the spiky phosphatic remains (bones and teeth composed of calcium phosphate) of tiny marine animals that probably appeared about 520 million years ago, were once among the most controversial of fossils. Both the nature of the organism to which the remains belonged and the function of the remains were unknown. However, since the 1981 discovery of fossils preserving not just the phosphatic elements but also other remains of the tiny soft-bodied animals (also called conodonts) that bore them, scientists' reconstructions of the animals' anatomy have had important implications for hypotheses concerning the development of the vertebrate skeleton.

The vertebrate skeleton had traditionally been regarded as a defensive development, champions of this view postulating that it was only with the much later evolution of jaws that vertebrates became predators. The first vertebrates, which were soft-bodied, would have been easy prey for numerous invertebrate carnivores, especially if these early vertebrates were sedentary suspension feeders. Thus, traditionalists argued, these animals developed coverings of bony scales or plates, and teeth were secondary features, adapted from the protective bony scales. Indeed, external skeletons of this type are common among the well-known fossils of ostracoderms, jawless vertebrates that existed from approximately 500 to 400 million years ago. However, other paleontologists argued that many of the definitive characteristics of vertebrates, such as paired eyes and muscular and skeletal adaptations for active life, would not have evolved unless the first vertebrates were predatory. Teeth were more primitive than external armor according to this view, and the earliest vertebrates were predators.

The stiffening notochord along the back of the body, V-shaped muscle blocks along the sides, and posterior tail fins help to identify conodonts as among the most primitive of vertebrates. The lack of any mineralized structures apart from the elements in the mouth indicates that conodonts were more primitive than the armored jawless fishes such as the ostracoderms. It now appears that the hard parts that first evolved in the mouth of an animal improved its efficiency as a predator, and that aggression rather than protection was the driving force behind the origin of the vertebrate skeleton.

622. According to the passage, the anatomical evidence provided by the preserved soft bodies of conodonts led scientists to conclude that
- conodonts had actually been invertebrate carnivores
 - conodonts' teeth were adapted from protective bony scales
 - conodonts were primitive vertebrate suspension feeders
 - primitive vertebrates with teeth appeared earlier than armored vertebrates
 - scientists' original observations concerning the phosphatic remains of conodonts were essentially correct
623. The second paragraph in the passage serves primarily to
- outline the significance of the 1981 discovery of conodont remains to the debate concerning the development of the vertebrate skeleton
 - contrast the traditional view of the development of the vertebrate skeleton with a view derived from the 1981 discovery of conodont remains
 - contrast the characteristics of the ostracoderms with the characteristics of earlier soft-bodied vertebrates
 - explain the importance of the development of teeth among the earliest vertebrate predators
 - present the two sides of the debate concerning the development of the vertebrate skeleton
624. It can be inferred that on the basis of the 1981 discovery of conodont remains, paleontologists could draw which of the following conclusions?
- The earliest vertebrates were sedentary suspension feeders.
 - Ostracoderms were not the earliest vertebrates.
 - Defensive armor preceded jaws among vertebrates.
 - Paired eyes and adaptations for activity are definitive characteristics of vertebrates.
 - Conodonts were unlikely to have been predators.

Jon Clark's study of the effect of the modernization of a telephone exchange on exchange maintenance work and workers is a solid contribution to a debate that encompasses two lively issues in the history and sociology of technology: technological determinism and social constructivism.

Clark makes the point that the characteristics of a technology have a decisive influence on job skills and work organization. Put more strongly, technology can be a primary determinant of social and managerial organization. Clark believes this possibility has been obscured by the recent sociological fashion, exemplified by Braverman's analysis, that emphasizes the way machinery reflects social choices. For Braverman, the shape of a technological system is subordinate to the manager's desire to wrest control of the labor process from the workers. Technological change is construed as the outcome of negotiations among interested parties who seek to incorporate their own interests into the design and configuration of the machinery. This position represents the new mainstream called social constructivism.

The constructivists gain acceptance by misrepresenting technological determinism: technological determinists are supposed to believe, for example, that machinery imposes appropriate forms of order on society. The alternative to constructivism, in other words, is to view technology as existing outside society, capable of directly influencing skills and work organization.

Clark refutes the extremes of the constructivists by both theoretical and empirical arguments. Theoretically he defines "technology" in terms of relationships between social and technical variables. Attempts to reduce the meaning of technology to cold, hard metal are bound to fail, for machinery is just scrap unless it is organized functionally and supported by appropriate systems of operation and maintenance. At the empirical level Clark shows how a change at the telephone exchange from maintenance-intensive electromechanical switches to semi-electronic switching systems altered work tasks, skills, training opportunities administration, and organization of workers. Some changes Clark attributes to the particular way management and labor unions negotiated the introduction of the technology, whereas others are seen as arising from the capabilities and nature of the technology itself. Thus Clark helps answer the question: "When is social choice decisive and when are the concrete characteristics of technology more important?"

625. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- A. advocate a more positive attitude toward technological change
 - B. discuss the implications for employees of the modernization of a telephone exchange
 - C. consider a successful challenge to the constructivist view of technological change
 - D. challenge the position of advocates of technological determinism
 - E. suggest that the social causes of technological change should be studied in real situations

626. Which of the following statements about the modernization of the telephone exchange is supported by information in the passage?
- A. The new technology reduced the role of managers in labor negotiations.
 - B. The modernization was implemented without the consent of the employees directly affected by it.
 - C. The modernization had an impact that went significantly beyond maintenance routines.
 - D. Some of the maintenance workers felt victimized by the new technology.
 - E. The modernization gave credence to the view of advocates of social constructivism.

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Which of the following most accurately describes Clark's opinion of Braverman's position?

- A. He respects its wide-ranging popularity.
- B. He disapproves of its misplaced emphasis on the influence of managers.
- C. He admires the consideration it gives to the attitudes of the workers affected.
- D. He is concerned about its potential to impede the implementation of new technologies.
- E. He is sympathetic to its concern about the impact of modern technology on workers.

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628. The information in the passage suggests that which of the following statements from hypothetical sociological studies of change in industry most clearly exemplifies the social constructivists' version of technological determinism?

- A. It is the available technology that determines workers' skills, rather than workers' skills influencing the application of technology.
- B. All progress in industrial technology grows out of a continuing negotiation between technological possibility and human need.
- C. Some organizational change is caused by people; some is caused by computer chips.
- D. Most major technological advances in industry have been generated through research and development.
- E. Some industrial technology eliminates jobs, but educated workers can create whole new skills areas by the adaptation of the technology.

629. The information in the passage suggests that Clark believes that which of the following would be true if social constructivism had not gained widespread acceptance?

- A. Businesses would be more likely to modernize without considering the social consequences of their actions.
- B. There would be greater understanding of the role played by technology in producing social change.
- C. Businesses would be less likely to understand the attitudes of employees affected by modernization.
- D. Modernization would have occurred at a slower rate.
- E. Technology would have played a greater part in determining the role of business in society.

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630. According to the passage, constructivists employed which of the following to promote their argument?
- A. Empirical studies of business situations involving technological change
 - B. Citation of managers supportive of their position
 - C. Construction of hypothetical situations that support their view
 - D. Contrasts of their view with a misstatement of an opposing view
 - E. Descriptions of the breadth of impact of technological change
631. The author of the passage uses the expression "are supposed to" primarily in order to
- A. suggest that a contention made by constructivists regarding determinists is inaccurate
 - B. define the generally accepted position of determinists regarding the implementation of technology
 - C. engage in speculation about the motivation of determinists
 - D. lend support to a comment critical of the position of determinists
 - E. contrast the historical position of determinists with their position regarding the exchange modernization
632. Which of the following statements about Clark's study of the telephone exchange can be inferred from information in the passage?
- A. Clark's reason for undertaking the study was to undermine Braverman's analysis of the function of technology.
 - B. Clark's study suggests that the implementation of technology should be discussed in the context of conflict between labor and management.
 - C. Clark examined the impact of changes in the technology of switching at the exchange in terms of overall operations and organization.
 - D. Clark concluded that the implementation of new switching technology was equally beneficial to management and labor.
 - E. Clark's analysis of the change in switching systems applies only narrowly to the situation at the particular exchange that he studied.

Because the framers of the United States Constitution (written in 1787) believed that protecting property rights relating to inventions would encourage the new nation's economic growth, they gave Congress—the national legislature—a constitutional mandate to grant patents for inventions. The resulting patent system has served as a model for those in other nations. Recently, however, **scholars** have questioned whether the American system helped achieve the framers' goals. These scholars have contended that from 1794 to roughly 1830, American inventors were unable to enforce property rights because judges were "antipatent" and routinely invalidated patents for arbitrary reasons. This argument is based partly on examination of court decisions in cases where patent holders ("patentees") brought suit alleging infringement of their patent rights. In the 1820s, for instance, 75 percent of verdicts were decided against the patentee. The proportion of verdicts for the patentee began to increase in the 1830s, suggesting to these scholars that judicial attitudes toward patent rights began shifting then.

Not all patent disputes in the early nineteenth century were litigated, however, and litigated cases were not drawn randomly from the population of disputes. Therefore, the rate of verdicts in favor of patentees cannot be used by itself to gauge changes in judicial attitudes or enforceability of patent rights. If early judicial decisions were prejudiced against patentees, one might expect that subsequent courts—allegedly more supportive of patent rights—would reject the former legal precedents. But pre-1830 cases have been cited as frequently as later decisions, and they continue to be cited today, suggesting that the early decisions, many of which clearly declared that patent rights were a just recompense for inventive ingenuity, provided a lasting foundation for patent law. The proportion of judicial decisions in favor of patentees began to increase during the 1830s because of a change in the underlying population of cases brought to trial. This change was partly due to an 1836 revision to the patent system: an examination procedure, still in use today, was instituted in which each application is scrutinized for its adherence to patent law. Previously, patents were automatically granted upon payment of a \$30 fee.

633. The passage implies that which of the following was a reason that the proportion of verdicts in favor of patentees began to increase in the 1830s?
- A. Patent applications approved after 1836 were more likely to adhere closely to patent law.
 - B. Patent laws enacted during the 1830s better defined patent rights.
 - C. Judges became less prejudiced against patentees during the 1830s.
 - D. After 1836, litigated cases became less representative of the population of patent disputes.
 - E. The proportion of patent disputes brought to trial began to increase after 1836.
634. The passage implies that the scholars mentioned in the highlighted text would agree with which of the following criticisms of the American patent system before 1830?
- A. Its definition of property rights relating to inventions was too vague to be useful.
 - B. Its criteria for the granting of patents were not clear.
 - C. It made it excessively difficult for inventors to receive patents.
 - D. It led to excessive numbers of patent-infringement suits.
 - E. It failed to encourage national economic growth.
635. It can be inferred from the passage that the frequency with which pre-1830 cases have been cited in court decisions is an indication that
- A. judicial support for patent rights was strongest in the period before 1830
 - B. judicial support for patent rights did not increase after 1830
 - C. courts have returned to judicial standards that prevailed before 1830
 - D. verdicts favoring patentees in patent-infringement suits did not increase after 1830
 - E. judicial bias against patentees persisted after 1830

Because the framers of the United States Constitution (written in 1787) believed that protecting property rights relating to inventions would encourage the new nation's economic growth, they gave Congress—the national legislature—a constitutional mandate to grant patents for inventions. The resulting patent system has served as a model for those in other nations. Recently, however, scholars have questioned whether the American system helped achieve the framers' goals. These scholars have contended that from 1794 to roughly 1830, American inventors were unable to enforce property rights because judges were "antipatent" and routinely invalidated patents for arbitrary reasons. This **argument** is based partly on examination of court decisions in cases where patent holders ("patentees") brought suit alleging infringement of their patent rights. In the 1820s, for instance, 75 percent of verdicts were decided against the patentee. The proportion of verdicts for the patentee began to increase in the 1830s, suggesting to these **scholars** that judicial attitudes toward patent rights began shifting then.

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636. It can be inferred from the passage that the author and the scholars referred to in the highlighted text disagree about which of the following aspects of the patents defended in patent-infringement suits before 1830?

- A. Whether the patents were granted for inventions that were genuinely useful
- B. Whether the patents were actually relevant to the growth of the United States economy
- C. Whether the patents were particularly likely to be annulled by judges
- D. Whether the patents were routinely invalidated for reasons that were arbitrary
- E. Whether the patents were vindicated at a significantly lower rate than patents in later suits

637. The author of the passage cites which of the following as evidence challenging the argument referred to in the highlighted text?

- A. The proportion of cases that were decided against patentees in the 1820s
- B. The total number of patent disputes that were litigated from 1794 to 1830
- C. The fact that later courts drew upon the legal precedents set in pre-1830 patent cases
- D. The fact that the proportion of judicial decisions in favor of patentees began to increase during the 1830s
- E. The constitutional rationale for the 1836 revision of the patent system

Jacob Burckhardt's view that Renaissance European women "stood on a footing of perfect equality" with Renaissance men has been repeatedly cited by feminist scholars as a prelude to their presentation of rich historical evidence of women's inequality. In striking contrast to Burckhardt, Joan Kelly in her famous 1977 essay, "Did Women Have a Renaissance?" argued that the Renaissance was a period of economic and social decline for women relative both to Renaissance men and to medieval women. Recently, however, a significant trend among feminist **scholars** has entailed a rejection of both Kelly's dark vision of the Renaissance and Burckhardt's rosy one. Many recent works by these scholars stress the ways in which differences among Renaissance women—especially in terms of social status and religion—work to complicate the kinds of generalizations both Burckhardt and Kelly made on the basis of their observations about upper-class Italian women.

The trend is also evident, however, in works focusing on those middle- and upper-class European women whose ability to write gives them disproportionate representation in the historical record. Such women were, simply by virtue of their literacy, members of a tiny minority of the population, so it is risky to take their descriptions of their experiences as typical of "female experience" in any general sense. Tina Krontiris, for example, in her fascinating study of six Renaissance women writers, does tend at times to conflate "women" and "women writers," assuming that women's gender, irrespective of other social differences, including literacy, allows us to view women as a homogeneous social group and make that group an object of analysis. Nonetheless, Krontiris makes a significant contribution to the field and is representative of those authors who offer what might be called a cautiously optimistic assessment of Renaissance women's achievements, although she also stresses the social obstacles Renaissance women faced when they sought to raise their "oppositional voices." Krontiris is concerned to show women intentionally negotiating some power for themselves (at least in the realm of public discourse) against potentially constraining ideologies, but in her sober and thoughtful concluding remarks, she suggests that such verbal opposition to cultural stereotypes was highly circumscribed; women seldom attacked the basic assumptions in the ideologies that oppressed them.

638. The author of the passage discusses Krontiris primarily to provide an example of a writer who
- A. is highly critical of the writings of certain Renaissance women
 - B. supports Kelly's view of women's status during the Renaissance
 - C. has misinterpreted the works of certain Renaissance women
 - D. has rejected the views of both Burckhardt and Kelly
 - E. has studied Renaissance women in a wide variety of social and religious contexts
639. According to the passage, Krontiris's work differs from that of the scholars mentioned in the highlighted text in which of the following ways?
- A. Krontiris's work stresses the achievements of Renaissance women rather than the obstacles to their success.
 - B. Krontiris's work is based on a reinterpretation of the work of earlier scholars.
 - C. Krontiris's views are at odds with those of both Kelly and Burkhardt.
 - D. Krontiris's work focuses on the place of women in Renaissance society.
 - E. Krontiris's views are based exclusively on the study of a privileged group of women.
640. According to the passage, feminist scholars cite Burckhardt's view of Renaissance women primarily for which of the following reasons?
- A. Burckhardt's view forms the basis for most arguments refuting Kelly's point of view.
 - B. Burckhardt's view has been discredited by Kelly.
 - C. Burckhardt's view is one that many feminist scholars wish to refute.
 - D. Burckhardt's work provides rich historical evidence of inequality between Renaissance women and men.
 - E. Burckhardt's work includes historical research supporting the arguments of the feminist scholars.

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641. It can be inferred that both Burckhardt and Kelly have been criticized by the scholars mentioned in the highlighted text for which of the following?
- A. Assuming that women writers of the Renaissance are representative of Renaissance women in general
 - B. Drawing conclusions that are based on the study of an atypical group of women
 - C. Failing to describe clearly the relationship between social status and literacy among Renaissance women
 - D. Failing to acknowledge the role played by Renaissance women in opposing cultural stereotypes
 - E. Failing to acknowledge the ways in which social status affected the creative activities of Renaissance women
642. The author of the passage suggests that Krontiris incorrectly assumes that
- A. social differences among Renaissance women are less important than the fact that they were women
 - B. literacy among Renaissance women was more prevalent than most scholars today acknowledge
 - C. during the Renaissance, women were able to successfully oppose cultural stereotypes relating to gender
 - D. Renaissance women did not face many difficult social obstacles relating to their gender
 - E. in order to attain power, Renaissance women attacked basic assumptions in the ideologies that oppressed them

Jacob Burckhardt's view that Renaissance European women "stood on a footing of perfect equality" with Renaissance men has been repeatedly cited by feminist scholars as a prelude to their presentation of rich historical evidence of women's inequality. In striking contrast to Burckhardt, Joan Kelly in her famous 1977 essay, "Did Women Have a Renaissance?" argued that the Renaissance was a period of economic and social decline for women relative both to Renaissance men and to medieval women. Recently, however, a significant trend among feminist scholars has entailed a rejection of both Kelly's dark vision of the Renaissance and Burckhardt's rosy one. Many recent works by these scholars stress the ways in which differences among Renaissance women—especially in terms of social status and religion—work to complicate the kinds of generalizations both Burckhardt and Kelly made on the basis of their observations about upper-class Italian women.

The trend is also evident, however, in works focusing on those middle- and upper-class European women whose ability to write gives them disproportionate representation in the historical record. Such women were, simply by virtue of their literacy, members of a tiny minority of the population, so it is risky to take their descriptions of their experiences as typical of "female experience" in any general sense. Tina Krontiris, for example, in her fascinating study of six Renaissance women writers, does tend at times to conflate "women" and "women writers," assuming that women's gender, irrespective of other social differences, including literacy, allows us to view women as a homogeneous social group and make that group an object of analysis. Nonetheless, Krontiris makes a significant contribution to the field and is representative of those authors who offer what might be called a cautiously optimistic assessment of Renaissance women's achievements, although she also stresses the social obstacles Renaissance women faced when they sought to raise their "oppositional voices." Krontiris is concerned to show women intentionally negotiating some power for themselves (at least in the realm of public discourse) against potentially constraining ideologies, but in her sober and thoughtful concluding remarks, she suggests that such verbal opposition to cultural stereotypes was highly circumscribed; women seldom attacked the basic assumptions in the ideologies that oppressed them.

643. The last sentence in the passage serves primarily to
- A. suggest that Krontiris's work is not representative of recent trends among feminist scholars
 - B. undermine the argument that literate women of the Renaissance sought to oppose social constraints imposed on them
 - C. show a way in which Krontiris's work illustrates a "cautiously optimistic" assessment of Renaissance women's achievements
 - D. summarize Krontiris's view of the effect of literacy on the lives of upper- and middle-class Renaissance women
 - E. illustrate the way in which Krontiris's study differs from the studies done by Burckhardt and Kelly
644. The author of the passage implies that the women studied by Krontiris are unusual in which of the following ways?
- A. They faced obstacles less formidable than those faced by other Renaissance women.
 - B. They have been seen by historians as more interesting than other Renaissance women.
 - C. They were more concerned about recording history accurately than were other Renaissance women.
 - D. Their perceptions are more likely to be accessible to historians than are those of most other Renaissance women.
 - E. Their concerns are likely to be of greater interest to feminist scholars than are the ideas of most other Renaissance women.

When asteroids collide, some collisions cause an asteroid to spin faster; others slow it down. If asteroids are all monoliths—single rocks—undergoing random collisions, a graph of their rotation rates should show a bell-shaped distribution with statistical “tails” of very fast and very slow rotators. If asteroids are rubble piles, however, the tail representing the very fast rotators would be missing, because any loose aggregate spinning faster than once every few hours (depending on the asteroid's bulk density) would fly apart. Researchers have discovered that all but **five observed asteroids** obey a strict limit on rate of rotation. The exceptions are all smaller than 200 meters in diameter, with an abrupt cutoff for asteroids larger than that.

The evident **conclusion**—that asteroids larger than 200 meters across are multicomponent structures or rubble piles—agrees with recent computer modeling of collisions, which also finds a transition at that diameter. A collision can blast a large asteroid to bits, but after the collision those bits will usually move slower than their mutual escape velocity. Over several hours, gravity will reassemble all but the fastest pieces into a rubble pile. Because collisions among asteroids are relatively frequent, most large bodies have already suffered this fate. Conversely, most small asteroids should be monolithic, because impact fragments easily escape their feeble gravity.

645. The passage implies which of the following about the five asteroids mentioned in the highlighted text?

- A. Their rotation rates are approximately the same.
- B. They have undergone approximately the same number of collisions.
- C. They are monoliths.
- D. They are composed of fragments that have escaped the gravity of larger asteroids.
- E. They were detected only recently.

646. The discovery of which of the following would call into question the conclusion mentioned in the highlighted text?

- A. An asteroid 100 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once per week
- B. An asteroid 150 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of 20 times per hour
- C. An asteroid 250 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once per week
- D. An asteroid 500 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once per hour
- E. An asteroid 1,000 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once every 24 hours

647. According to the passage, which of the following is a prediction that is based on the strength of the gravitational attraction of small asteroids?

- A. Small asteroids will be few in number.
- B. Small asteroids will be monoliths.
- C. Small asteroids will collide with other asteroids very rarely.
- D. Most small asteroids will have very fast rotation rates.
- E. Almost no small asteroids will have very slow rotation rates.

When asteroids collide, some collisions cause an asteroid to spin faster; others slow it down. If asteroids are all monoliths—single rocks—undergoing random collisions, a graph of their rotation rates should show a bell-shaped distribution with statistical “tails” of very fast and very slow rotators. If asteroids are rubble piles, however, the tail representing the very fast rotators would be missing, because any loose aggregate spinning faster than once every few hours (depending on the asteroid's bulk density) would fly apart. Researchers have discovered that all but five observed asteroids obey a strict limit on rate of rotation. The exceptions are all smaller than 200 meters in diameter, with an abrupt cutoff for asteroids larger than that.

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648. The author of the passage mentions “escape velocity” in order to help explain which of the following?
- A. The tendency for asteroids to become smaller rather than larger over time
 - B. The speed with which impact fragments reassemble when they do not escape an asteroid's gravitational attraction after a collision
 - C. The frequency with which collisions among asteroids occur
 - D. The rotation rates of asteroids smaller than 200 meters in diameter
 - E. The tendency for large asteroids to persist after collisions



Most attempts by physicists to send particles faster than the speed of light involve a remarkable phenomenon called quantum tunneling, in which particles travel through solid barriers that appear to be impenetrable. If you throw a ball at a wall, you expect it to bounce back, not to pass straight through it. Yet subatomic particles perform the equivalent feat. Quantum theory says that there is a distinct, albeit small, probability that such a particle will tunnel its way through a barrier; the probability declines exponentially as the thickness of the barrier increases. Though the extreme rapidity of quantum tunneling was noted as early as 1932, not until 1955 was it hypothesized—by Wigner and Eisenbud—that tunneling particles sometimes travel faster than light. Their grounds were calculations that suggested that the time it takes a particle to tunnel through a barrier increases with the thickness of the barrier until tunneling time reaches a maximum; beyond that maximum, tunneling time stays the same regardless of barrier thickness. This would imply that once maximum tunneling time is reached, tunneling speed will increase without limit as barrier thickness increases. Several recent experiments have supported this hypothesis that tunneling particles sometimes reach superluminal speed. According to measurements performed by Raymond Chiao and colleagues, for example, photons can pass through an optical filter at 1.7 times the speed of light.

649. The author of the passage mentions calculations about tunneling time and barrier thickness in order to
- suggest that tunneling time is unrelated to barrier thickness
 - explain the evidence by which Wigner and Eisenbud discovered the phenomenon of tunneling
 - describe data recently challenged by Raymond Chiao and colleagues
 - question why particles engaged in quantum tunneling rarely achieve extremely high speeds
 - explain the basis for Wigner and Eisenbud's hypothesis
650. The passage implies that if tunneling time reached no maximum in increasing with barrier thickness, then
- tunneling speed would increase with barrier thickness
 - tunneling speed would decline with barrier thickness
 - tunneling speed would vary with barrier thickness
 - tunneling speed would not be expected to increase without limit
 - successful tunneling would occur even less frequently than it does
651. Which of the following statements about the earliest scientific investigators of quantum tunneling can be inferred from the passage?
- They found it difficult to increase barrier thickness continually.
 - They anticipated the later results of Chiao and his colleagues.
 - They did not suppose that tunneling particles could travel faster than light.
 - They were unable to observe instances of successful tunneling.
 - They made use of photons to study the phenomenon of tunneling.

Answer Key – All RC Passages from GMAT OG

(Primary Purpose questions detailed explanations in videos: RC Primary Purpose Marathon Part 1 to 5 | Text-based detailed solutions to all OG questions can be found in OG RC section: refer to OG folder)

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 503. D | 528. C |
| 504. D | 529. B |
| 505. B | 530. D |
| 506. B | 531. A |
| 507. C | 532. C |
| 508. C | 533. D |
| 509. A | 534. B |
| 510. C | 535. B |
| 511. D | 536. B |
| 512. C | 537. D |
| 513. A | 538. E |
| 514. C | 539. D |
| 515. C | 540. E |
| 516. C | 541. C |
| 517. E | 542. C |
| 518. A | 543. B |
| 519. C | 544. D |
| 520. B | 545. C |
| 521. B | 546. B |
| 522. A | 547. A |
| 523. D | 548. E |
| 524. C | 549. A |
| 525. E | 550. B |
| 526. B | 551. E |
| 527. D | 552. B |



- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 553. C | 581. A |
| 554. C | 582. E |
| 555. A | 583. A |
| 556. D | 584. D |
| 557. D | 585. D |
| 558. C | 586. D |
| 559. E | 587. B |
| 560. A | 588. B |
| 561. C | 589. C |
| 562. D | 590. C |
| 563. E | 591. E |
| 564. A | 592. D |
| 565. B | 593. E |
| 566. C | 594. B |
| 567. C | 595. D |
| 568. B | 596. C |
| 569. E | 597. C |
| 570. C | 598. E |
| 571. E | 599. A |
| 572. A | 600. B |
| 573. D | 601. D |
| 574. A | 602. E |
| 575. C | 603. E |
| 576. A | 604. D |
| 577. B | 605. B |
| 578. D | 606. C |
| 579. E | 607. D |
| 580. C | 608. A |



- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 609. C | 637. C |
| 610. D | 638. D |
| 611. A | 639. E |
| 612. A | 640. C |
| 613. D | 641. B |
| 614. E | 642. A |
| 615. D | 643. C |
| 616. B | 644. D |
| 617. C | 645. C |
| 618. A | 646. D |
| 619. C | 647. B |
| 620. B | 648. E |
| 621. D | 649. E |
| 622. D | 650. D |
| 623. E | 651. C |
| 624. B | |
| 625. C | |
| 626. C | |
| 627. B | |
| 628. A | |
| 629. B | |
| 630. D | |
| 631. A | |
| 632. C | |
| 633. A | |
| 634. E | |
| 635. B | |
| 636. D | |



THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE EVER WRITTEN ON GMAT READING COMPREHENSION

Expert solutions to selected queries asked by students



Passage (In their study of whether offering a guarantee of service quality will encourage...)

Q506.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

In the first paragraph, the author **discusses the mixed impact of a certain business practice**.

- Does offering a guarantee of service quality encourage customers to visit a particular restaurant?
- For higher-priced restaurants: yes (this has been cited through a secondary research paper)
- For lower-priced restaurants: not really

In the second paragraph, the author **provides an alternate reason for the business practice (this the author says of his own accord)**.

- Service guarantees motivate staff, employee roles within restaurants can be better structured, etc.

At the end of the day, every word written in the passage is written by the author and has been written with a primary purpose. Beyond that, an author may cite secondary sources, give personal opinion and so on - but they put pen to paper and wrote out the thing with an objective (which is the primary purpose). To that end, it is important to understand what the author is overall trying to say.

The study by Tucci and Talaga subsumed restaurants. That is clearly mentioned. We have nothing to indicate that the study also mentioned this about activities such as electrical work. In absence of such information, I would say this is something the author is saying. Anything in the first paragraph that has to do with service guarantees and restaurant performance can be assumed to be something Tucci and Talaga are saying.

Note – The passage talks about the restaurant industry, not just one restaurant. B is not a generalized answer choice.

(E) – The author is not talking about how providing / not providing service guarantees impacts restaurants and restaurant employee performance. Moreover, on verifying the answer choice, the word 'service' makes this option incorrect. Impact of guarantee on service is discussed in the last paragraph not for whole passage. The whole passage is about impact of guarantee on the restaurant industry.

Therefore, **Option (B)** is correct.

Q507.**Alternate sol:**

Remember that the question asks us to infer which statement "the author of the passage **would agree with**" -- not which statement is "true all the time" or in "all scenarios," as you state in your analysis.

(C) – To choose (C) as our answer, we only need to prove that **the author would agree** that a service guarantee would have less appeal in *this* scenario ("where customers are knowledgeable about a business's product or service"). We do not need to prove that (C) is accurate in "*all* scenarios."

Let's take a look at the piece in the passage most relevant to answer choice (C):

"Moreover, since customers understand **a restaurant's** product and know what to anticipate in terms of service, they are empowered to question its quality. This is not generally true in the case of skilled activities such as electrical work, where, consequently, a guarantee might have greater customer appeal."

In saying "**a restaurant**," the author implies that Tucci and Tagala's finding applies to **restaurants in general**, not just inexpensive restaurants. Customers generally know what to expect at a restaurant and can therefore question the quality of the product or service. This is contrasted to "skilled activities," about which a customer may not feel empowered to question quality. A guarantee of service would have more appeal in the second case than in the first.

The author's reason for bringing up **what customers understand** about a restaurant's product is not to contrast lower-priced and higher-priced restaurants. Rather, the author is making a broader suggestion about how customers behave when considering different types of products and skills. That's why we have good reason to believe the author would agree with choice (C).

Passage (One proposal for preserving rain forests is to promote the adoption of new...)

Note – Nonland wealth is wealth generated from other sources other than land like technology etc.

Passage (The argument for “monetizing”—or putting a monetary value on—ecosystem...)**Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)****Q511.**

This is an inference question in that you have to understand what the passage (in this case what Pearce) is implicitly saying. However, what Pearce is saying is straight up given in the passage, so we don't have to struggle too much at all.

The passage says the problem with conservation (i.e. conservation not happening) is that a monetary value is not placed on ecological services provided by natural assets / resources. It is explicitly clear to humans the commercial value of building a waterfront resort, but it is not always clear what economic value the forest that was cleared to build the resort held for us.

This is the reason conservation doesn't happen at the scale it should. Pearce is a proponent of this school of thought - **he believes if monetary value can be ascribed to ecological functions, better conservation will happen** (note that this bolded part is enough; we have already arrived at Option (D) as the answer). Then Pearce goes on to describe some specific examples of how economic / commercial value could actually be ascribed to ecological functions - don't know how to value a pristine forest? Think of the water purification it provides and the millions of dollars it will take to build such a system if the forest is cut down, that kind of thing.

Passage (Much research has been devoted to investigating what motivates consumers...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q517.

In this passage, the author introduces a topic of study and explores the research about that topic.

Paragraph 1: The author introduces a topic of research - what motivates consumers to try new products. He then describes two studies which conflict with one another regarding how price impacts consumers. He proposes an explanation for the conflict.

Paragraph 2: The author discusses research that shows the relationship between price and advertisements to be subtle and complex.

(A) – The author doesn't **challenge** any of the research. Instead, he/she just **presents** a bunch of different research findings. Eliminate.



(B) – From the passage..."However, **past research suggests** that the relationship between source credibility and perceived performance risk may be more complex" does not indicate **the author's opinion**. The words "**past research suggests**" tells us that this statement is the **opinion/outcome of research study**. Moreover, in Option (B) if we read beyond the first word 'suggesting', we see more mistakes. The author **doesn't actually suggest any new marketing strategies** in the passage. Hence, **Option (B) is incorrect**.

(C) – price is **ONE** of the factors that the author discusses, but he/she isn't **MORE** concerned about price than advertisements. He/she is interested in the effect of **BOTH** price and advertisements on consumer choice. So, it isn't quite right to say that the author is primarily concerned with price.

In addition, while the author does say that there is conflict between two studies of price, he/she doesn't put too much effort into reconciling those two views. At the end of the first paragraph, the author mentions one possible resolution -- but then he/she undermines that resolution by presenting a more subtle and complex picture in the second paragraph. Overall, the author is more interested in presenting a bunch of research, not in reconciling two different views.

(D) – The author doesn't describe a **NEW** approach to researching this topic. Instead, he/she discusses a bunch of research that **has already been done**.

(E) – Correct. The author discusses a bunch of different studies that explore this topic.

Also, note that the tone is not negative as there is no criticism or pessimism. SO, Option (E) is correct and (A) can be eliminated.

Passage (Historians remain divided over the role of banks in facilitating economic growth...)

Q520.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

(B) – The passage clearly says that the banks adopted '*conservative*' lending practices. The passage also says that the manufacturing and transportation were more uncertain/risky for the banks' liking. That is exactly what B is saying.

Also, the other options are so out of scope that only B could be the answer.

Alternate sol

Q522.

Even though "the banks of the early nineteenth century issued credit widely," this question refers to the *perception* of banks in the South.

In the South, banks "were *seen*" as monopolistic institutions controlled by an elite group of planters." So southerners *thought* that the banks were controlled by a small minority of people ("an elite group of planters"). If this perception were accurate, then the banks would likely only benefit that small minority. Thus, in the South, there existed the *perception* that banks only benefited a small minority of people.

Option (B) directly contradicts the *perception* in the South. Also, there is nothing in the passage to support Option (D). Hence, **Option (A) is the best answer.**

Passage (Historians remain divided over the role of banks in facilitating economic growth...)

Q523.

Alternate sol

(D) – The 'claim' referenced in this answer choice is that "the expansion and democratization of credit in the early nineteenth century became the driving force of the American economy."

The purpose of the second paragraph is to explain the historians' belief (or "claim") that banks were crucial in transforming the early national economy. This claim has a limitation, as explained in the last sentence of the passage, those same historians argued that, in the South, there was an exception to this general trend. So, the last sentence modifies and limits ("*qualifies*") the historians' claim that banks were crucial in transforming the early national economy, and the answer is (D).

The last sentence of the passage: "The exception, such historians argue, was in the South; here, the overwhelmingly agrarian nature of the economy generated outright opposition to banks, which were seen as monopolistic institutions controlled by an elite group of planters." By introducing this fact as "the exception," the author is telling us that he/she is making the claim less absolute. So, by examining an exception, the author is "qualifying" the claim.

(E) – Furthermore, the claim doesn't really talk about "how the expansion of credit affected the economy." It simply tells us who, according to the first group of historians, received aid from the banks.

The first group of historians argued that financial institutions provided aid to established commercial enterprises. This does not say that the banks themselves are "established" or "elite". Rather, it just says that the banks provided aid to established commercial enterprises. The last sentence, on the other hand, says that the banks were *controlled* by an elite group of planters. The last part talks about who was running the banks, not who was receiving aid from the banks.

Passage (When Jamaican-born social activist Marcus Garvey came to the United States...)

Q533.

Alternate sol

(C) – While the passage does mention segregation and other indignities as conditions that African American soldiers experienced, it suggests that these conditions may inspire a movement or consciousness. The passage does not state that such conditions led to joining political organizations to protest the conditions.

(D) – To respond to an experience just means to have a reaction to that experience. Imagine that you are walking down your street and fall into an open sinkhole. You might react to this scenario by *becoming more aware* of your surroundings when you walk down your street the next time.

So, the new awareness that many African Americans gained after serving in the Armed Forces IS a reaction, or response, to their experience.

The passage suggests that many African Americans became aware of the gap between their expectations and reality earlier in the second paragraph. It notes that they joined the armed forces with enthusiasm, but quickly found "themselves segregated from white troops and subjected to numerous indignities." In this instance, the passage suggests that many African Americans "became aware of the gap between their expectations and the realities of American culture."

For that reason, **Option (D)** is the best answer choice.

Passage (When Jamaican-born social activist Marcus Garvey came to the United States...)

Q533.

Alternate sol

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For that reason, **Option (D)** is the best answer choice.

Passage (In corporate purchasing, competitive scrutiny is typically limited to suppliers...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q553.

(C) – I have a production company X that manufactures cement. My 'direct' purchases can be things like blast furnace parts, mixers etc. When I have suppliers selling me these, I subject them to a lot of scrutiny. But I also need things like computers to run my business. When I purchase computers, as an example, I don't subject the supplier to the same level of scrutiny at all. In fact I forge partnerships that prevent me from switching to other suppliers of such 'indirect' products / services.

The first paragraph says essentially as a business, X is losing 'economic leverage' in doing so - i.e. my ability to be economically competitive, my ability to negotiate these purchases better etc. are all being affected because I cannot switch suppliers / I don't subject suppliers of indirect products to scrutiny. Then the author suggests a 'strategy' I can follow - use two variables to figure out if and how much I can subject such suppliers to scrutiny / if and how I can switch suppliers. The two variables are - (i) are other suppliers available? and (ii) is it easy for me to switch suppliers (answering questions such as 'is it cost-effective for me to switch suppliers'. The costs to switch are called, no surprises, switching costs).

Then the second paragraph goes into an explanation of how this 'strategy' can be executed. What the various situations are that can arise, and how to each a decision in each case. In other words, how to 'apply' such a 'strategy'

Passage (Carotenoids, a family of natural pigments, form an important part of the colorful signals...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q557.

The passage *clearly* (I mean I don't know how much clearer it can be) states that the *conventional* view is that carotenoids are valuable because they are rare. So their presence indicates that the organism bearing them has been able to forage in a superior manner to get them. This is what makes the presence of carotenoids attractive to the opposite gender in the mating process.

Again, this is the *conventional* view(precisely what the question is asking). Then the passage says that the conventional view notwithstanding, there is another view. Again, by definition, this view is *not* the conventional view. This view is that carotenoids are valuable also because they help immunity and detoxification processes. But the conventional view does not say any of this; it simply says carotenoids indicate higher foraging ability

Passage (Linda Kerber argued in the mid-1980s that after the American Revolution...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage – In the first paragraph (P1), the author **introduces Kerber's argument**



- Kerber thinks that the ideology of “republican motherhood” increased educational opportunities for women AFTER the American Revolution.
- She states that the goal of this education was to enable women to raise politically virtuous sons.

In the second paragraph, the author **presents evidence that challenges Kerber's work, then describes an issue caused by Kerber's influence**

- Woody found that educational opportunities for girls increased BEFORE the American Revolution, undermining Kerber's timeline
- The author argues that Kerber's work may have obscured historian's ability to determine the truth of the revolution's influence on women's education.

In an effort to explain why business acquisitions often fail, scholars have begun to focus on the role of top executives of acquired companies

Q562.

(C) – Everything about ‘Republican motherhood’ is about women and their involvement in the education system. Kerber believed republican motherhood opened up more opportunities in education to women.

Q563.

Elaborating on Options (B), (C), and (E):

The key is in this portion: "Prior to Kerber's work, educational historians barely mentioned women and girls; Thomas Woody's 1929 work is the notable exception."

The passage clearly states that educational historians existed even before the revolution. Historiography as a field existed too. Where Thomas Woody's work departed from the norm of educational historiography at that time was that it focussed on the education of women.

Thomas Woody was not exceptional in focusing on the pre-revolution period; he was exceptional in examining the education of girls. Most other educational historians of the time barely mentioned women and girls. This fits with **Option (E)**.

(B) – Woody's work was not an exception because of the *time period* on which it was focused. In other words, there may have been numerous works focused on that time period. What made Woody's exceptional was that it mentioned women and girls.

(C) – This would imply that most other educational historians focused on educational practices while Woody's work focused on education attitudes. This is not a difference described in the passage. Rather, as shown in the portion above, the difference was that Woody's work examined the education of girls and women.



Passage (Manufacturers have to do more than build large manufacturing plants to realize economies of scale...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q570.

(C) – The passage says minimum efficient scale (the scale of operations at which cost per unit reaches a minimum) is dependent not just in things like plant and technologies (tangible capital) but also on things like throughout (which depend on organizational abilities, abilities to set up contacts with suppliers and distributors in the market etc - intangible capital). This is true for all manufacturing situations.

The passage further says that in cases of manufacturing in new capital-intensive industries, first movers advantage is critical (again, operating at the highest economies of scale, i.e. minimum efficient scale is a requirement to sustain a competitive advantage for manufacturing operations in general; else someone else may come and reduce unit prices more thereby increasing profitability, everything else remaining constant). Combine these two and you have Option (C) almost word for word.

Passage (During the 1980s, many economic historians studying Latin America...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q586.

(D) – The author, after describing the conclusions of economic historians, says this:

"The historians' argument was grounded in national government records concerning tax revenues and exports and in government-sponsored industrial censuses, from which historians have drawn conclusions about total manufacturing output and profit levels across Latin America. However, economic statistics published by Latin American governments in the early twentieth century are neither reliable nor consistent..."

Then, the author goes on to detail how/why the evidence on which the historians' conclusions are based is flawed. He/she concludes the passage with the statement that "recent analyses of previously unexamined data on textile manufacturing in Brazil and Mexico suggest that the Great Depression had a more severe impact on this Latin American industry than scholars had recognised."

Although the author doesn't explicitly conclude that economic historians should re-evaluate the impact of the Great Depression on industrial growth in LA, he/she indicates that economic historians' conclusions are based on shaky evidence and that additional evidence points to alternative conclusions. This definitely **supports** the idea that the **historians' conclusions** need to be re-evaluated. The question merely asks for a conclusion **best supported** by the passage, and (D) is definitely supported. So, **Option (D)** is the correct answer.

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(C) – The passage does not significantly support this. The passage does not compare the effect of the Great Depression on the textile industry to its effect on other industries.

(D) – As presented in the passage, the passage author's critique of the historians' rationale for their claims provides significant support for the conclusion that their claims should be reevaluated.

Passage (Among the myths taken as fact by the environmental managers...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q591.

1. Option A is not correct as possible solutions (i.e. more than one solutions) is not given in the passage.
2. The lines "...managers can help..." is not a suggestion.

Consider the example: Jack can kill 6 people because he has a gun. This doesn't imply that he should kill. Therefore it's not a suggestion.

3. The passage is about the wrong belief that the managers hold and not about giving a suggestion/suggestions about why their companies don't have a competitive edge because of it.

Therefore, E is the correct answer choice.

Passage (Buel and Buel's biography of Mary Fish (1736–1818) makes little effort...)

Q592.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the passage - The author begins by talking about 2 different works and approaches of these two different works towards women history. While the author compares the two works, she does not explicitly supports or criticizes anyone. Nowhere has she said that the either works are bad or have shortcomings. All the points are fairly factual. Therefore, the tone of the passage is neutral. Not because there are +/- about both authors but because the author of the passage has no bias i.e., has nowhere taken sides. The last line of the passage clarifies much about this fact.

Q593.

Alternate sol

Let's look at the passage surrounding this.

"She [Lesbock] examines several different aspects of women's status, helping to refine and resolve the issues. She concludes that while women gained autonomy in some areas, especially in the private sphere, they lost it in many aspects of the economic sphere. More importantly, she shows that the debate itself depends on frame of reference: in many respects, women lost power in relation to men, for example, as certain jobs (delivering babies, supervising schools) were taken over by men."

Apparently at one time, schools were primarily the domain of women, and during the 19th century, that realm was taken over more and more by males, so women lost power in that particular arena.

The passage is about these two works, and how they reflect two different approaches to women's history. The passage is more about "*what's the best way to study women's history?*" then it is about real live women and their rights & struggles. This is a very academic passage: the author is more concerned with the writers and the academic debate than she is with the particulars of the historical periods mentioned. Even that sentence about schools begins with the clause: "More importantly, she shows that the debate itself depends on frame of reference." In other words, the entire question of how powerful women were in the 19th century depends on the perspective we adopt: more powerful in the homes? more powerful in the workplace? more powerful with respect to income? more powerful with respect to land ownership? In other words, if we adopt different criteria for defining what constitutes more or less powerful, then the answer to the power question will change. In other words, "the answers to questions about women's status depend on particular contexts."

Hence, Option (E) is the correct answer choice.

Q596.

Alternate sol:

In the passage, we get that, compared to eighteenth-century American women, nineteenth-century American women:

- gained autonomy in some areas, especially in the private sphere, [but] they lost it in many aspects of the economic sphere.
- lost power in relation to men, for example, as certain jobs (delivering babies, supervising schools) were taken over by men
- gained power in comparison with their previous status, owning a higher proportion of real estate, for example.

All of these have the structure: Starting from the eighteenth-century American women, how were things different for the nineteenth-century American women?

Then, the question turns things around: Starting from the nineteenth-century American women, how were things different for the eighteenth-century American women?

Everything quoted here has to be reversed: "more" becomes "less", "gain" becomes "loss", and vice versa.

(C) – The passage tells us, nineteenth-century American women "lost [autonomy] in many aspects of the economic sphere", so the nineteenth-century American women had less autonomy, less independence, than did the eighteenth-century American women. This means, the eighteenth-century American women were "generally more economically independent" than were the nineteenth-century American women. (C) is correct.

(D) – Similarly, the 19th century women had *more* personal autonomy, so the 18th century women must have had *less* personal autonomy. Hence, (D) is incorrect as it says the opposite of what the passage says.

(E) – The passage tells us, nineteenth-century American women *less* likely to work as school superintendents than were eighteenth-century American women. This means that eighteenth-century American women were **more** likely to work as school superintendents than were nineteenth-century American women. (E) is incorrect.

Q597.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Additional context on the question – Let's look at the last two lines from the passage:

"In contrast, Buel and Buel's biography provides ample raw material for questioning the myth, fostered by some historians, of a colonial golden age in the eighteenth century but does not give the reader much guidance in analyzing the controversy over women's status."

When a time period is described as "**Golden Age**", the era is thought to be "**very favorable**".

"**Fostered** by some historians" = **supported** by some historians

We can rephrase that last sentence as: "**Buel and Buel's biography provides a lot of raw material that goes against the myth, supported by some historians. The myth is that the colonial age in the 18th century was a very favorable time for women ...**"

Myth means that the **author doesn't agree with the views of those historians**. This is exactly what **Option (C)** states.

Passage (It is an odd but indisputable fact that the seventeenth-century English women...)

Q601.



Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

In the first paragraph (P1), the author introduces an odd fact, presents one explanation for this fact, and refutes this explanation:

- The "odd fact": the forerunners of modern feminism were Royalists, whose ideas were very patriarchal.
- The author presents and refutes one explanation for this fact.

In the second paragraph, the author presents and supports a scholar's explanation for the odd fact from P1:

- Catherine Gallagher uses the work of Margaret Cavendish to show how the ideology of the absolute monarch led to the ideology of the absolute self.

To solve the question using OCTAAVE – The entirety of the first paragraph goes in explaining that it is *so strange* that Filmerian Royalists, who were extremely patriarchal and who considered the man in a marriage to be the king of his kingdom, produced the earliest feminists, whose ideology is in direct opposition to the earlier one. Therefore, Robert Filmer is clearly mentioned to highlight this tension between the two ideologies (the earliest extended criticism of absolute subordination of women was done by Royalist women). The writings of these women go against Filmer's theory. Yet, the women themselves associate with the Royalists who are associated with Filmer's theory. Therefore, **Option (D)**. All other answer choices can be easily eliminated.

- (A) – Although the passage refers to Filmer's view as radical patriarchalism, it provides no evidence regarding any differences in the degrees to which historians consider that view, or Royalism in general, to be radical.
- (B) – Filmer's work supports the claim that patriarchalism was the basis of Royalist ideology; it does not qualify such a claim.
- (C) – That Filmer's approach was one of radical patriarchalism makes it surprising that early feminists were associated with the Royalist faction, but it does not provide any grounds for questioning whether they were so associated.
- (E) – The author refers to Filmer in order to suggest, initially, a uniformity among Royalists regarding family and women; it is only later in the passage that this view becomes more complicated.

Q602.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

(E) – The passage starts off by telling us that "Royalist ideology is often associated with the radical patriarchalism of... Robert Filmer". This sort of patriarchalism "asserts the divinely ordained absolute power of... the *male* head of the household." Therefore, historians were "understandably puzzled" by the fact that almost all of the English women regarded as the forerunners of modern feminism were *Royalists*.

Why would a group associated with radical patriarchalism--and absolute power of MEN--produce the forerunners of modern feminism? And, furthermore, why is it that ALMOST ALL of the early feminists came from a group associated with radical patriarchalism? Historians have been puzzled by this apparent discrepancy.

If more of those early feminist women had been Parliamentarian, we would NOT be able to say that "almost all" of the English women regarded as the forerunners of modern feminism were *Royalists*. In that case, the early feminist women would have been a mix of Royalists and Parliamentarians. That would weaken the apparent correlation between being among the forerunners of modern feminism and being a Royalist.

The historians might still be puzzled by the fact that there were Royalist feminists. But the more Parliamentarians women we have among the forerunners the LESS puzzled those historians would be. So Option (E) is perfectly logical.

So how do we explain the discrepancy? According to the author, the explanation lies in the fact that Royalists supported the idea of an absolute monarchy. The second paragraph explains why the idea of an absolute monarchy lends itself to feminist ideas.

(D) – The feminists view did not oppose the views of royalists and parliamentarians. The passage doesn't say anything like this. If they did oppose, then feminists shouldn't have taken the side of royalists as well. The passage says otherwise.

We're actually left not knowing (and not caring) how the Parliamentarians felt about family organization and women's political rights. All that matters is the idea of absolute monarchy, something supported by the Royalists, not the Parliamentarians. Maybe Royalists and Parliamentarians had similar views on family organization and women's political rights and maybe they didn't... the author doesn't actually resolve that question either way. We don't really know, so we can't choose (D).

Q606.

If you see the passage, historians have been puzzled as to how Royalist women (whose ideology should derive from Robert Filmer, and therefore the ideology would be extremely patriarchal) were the first to talk about feminism. There seems to be a dichotomy here. Then Gallagher explained a possible link between these two using the specific example of Cavendish. Cavendish essentially understood that politically she wouldn't have the same rights as men, and so she created an inward-looking and self-contained entity (herself and her own 'immaterial world' - her 'singularity') that she was the supreme person in. Gallagher says that the explanation for Royalist women becoming feminists was that Cavendish's successors 'extended' this idea of the sovereign self - they wanted this, but they also wanted more political and social acceptance of this autonomous self. So basically they wanted women who thought of themselves in such autonomous terms, to be more socially and politically accepted.

If Option (E) were to be true, it would actually strengthen how Gallagher is explaining Royalist women were also feminists. If this option were true, it would mean that a lot of such women (as described in the last part of the paragraph that I wrote above) existed. So the explanation she is giving would be provided more cache.

On the other hand, if Option (C) were true, *then* the explanation is weakened. If more such women did not exist, then how could what Gallagher is saying be true? How could Cavendish's individually held views propagate? They most likely couldn't have.



Passage (There are recent reports of apparently drastic declines in amphibian populations and of extinctions...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q613.

Because the question asks what can be inferred, we most likely won't find the answer explicitly mentioned in the passage. It will be something we have to implicitly understand, based on what the passage is telling us.

I would say the overall tone in the passage is one where the author is not fully sure if the environmentalists are right or not (about decline in amphibian populations taking them towards extinction, especially in the absence of good amount of scientific data about the same), but the author definitely has an opinion that we need to start protecting the environment (the opinion comes at the end).

Coming to this question, the author in general says that distinctions need to be made between endangered populations and declining ones. The author also says in general that anecdotal reports cannot make this distinction clear. The author does not specifically say that environmentalists refer to anecdotal reports (or are referring to the reports in this case), but that insinuation is definitely there. But you are also definitely right - what makes this option wrong is that long term data is not available, as has been made clear in the passage. So Option (A) can be eliminated.

The environmentalists are not really focussing only on amphibians; they are saying (mentioned in paragraph 1), that decline in amphibian species is a sign of broader environmental degradation caused by human activity (it is materializing through amphibian population declines in this case). So Option (B) can be eliminated.

The passage does tell us that while endangered populations are different from declining ones, the latter are usually a sign of changed ecological context (read: environmental degradation). What this means is that if environmentalists do say this (that declines are caused by environmental degradation), that position is warranted. So this option is not true.

Option (E) has simply been given to confuse you. Nothing of this sort is even mentioned in the passage. The author in general says that endangered populations may move towards extinctions due to chance events too. Environmentalists have said nothing specific about amphibians in this context - so they cannot over or underestimate anything.

Option (D) is correct by POE. As we have discussed, the author does imply anecdotal reports are playing a role in the environmentalists' position about amphibian populations. The tone of the author is cautious beyond that - they don't know for sure if the environmentalists are right or not, and so they want to evaluate the situation. They want to see whether populations rebound as they have done before too. So yes, the environmentalists' conclusions are premature.

Passage (There are recent reports of apparently drastic declines in amphibian populations...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q614.

To understand the correct answer – Here the first paragraph introduces the issue of amphibian extinction, and then picks up from third paragraph onwards.

The second paragraph actually talks of extinction and population decreases in general. As part of that, it is mentioned that extinction of the general endangered population (and not amphibians in particular) can happen due to purely chance events too.

The last line of the first paragraph (specific to amphibians) is written in a way that the author is setting up to counter it - that is to say the amphibian population is not being affected due to systematic degradation of the environment. This is what Option (E) says. The author also says in the last paragraph that there is no systematic proof that amphibians have even shown a decrease in population.

To solve the question by POE using OCTAAVE –

(A) – The way the first paragraph is set up, we know the author is getting ready to counter precisely this. This is the viewpoint of the environmentalists mentioned in the first paragraph, not of the author. The author agrees with the environmentalists that action should be taken, but does not commit to a specific viewpoint on why (or even whether) the declines occurred. Cannot be the answer, eliminated.

(B) – The passage says even completely random events that don't show time patterns can cause extinctions. Also, the lines "It is indisputably true that there is simply not enough long-term scientific data on amphibian populations to enable researchers to identify real declines in amphibian populations." shows that any action cannot be justified in light of this sentence. Cannot be the answer, eliminated.

(C) – The author does state that the extinction of an endangered species is not a surprise. However, the author does not apply this statement to amphibians, and in fact, the amphibian population decline is described as recent. Last paragraph says populations may not even have declined, eliminated.

(D) – The passage says this is true in general, not specifically for amphibians whereas the question asks specifically for amphibians (which the passage doesn't mention), eliminated.

Passage (Conodonts, the spiky phosphatic remains (bones and teeth composed of calcium phosphate)...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q624.

The first paragraph introduces the 1981 discovery of fossils preserving not just the phosphatic elements but also other remains of conodonts.

The second paragraph does not talk about the 1981 discovery at all. Nothing in this paragraph connects the traditional views with the 1981 discovery about conodonts. All it does is present two opposing traditional hypotheses about the vertebrate skeleton. The first hypothesis is that the vertebrate skeleton was developed for self-defense. The second is that the vertebrate skeleton was developed to prey. The author also gives evidence for each hypothesis. But the two hypotheses were before the 1981 discovery. Nothing about the second paragraph talks about the 1981 discovery and how it weighed on the paleontologists' opinions.

The third paragraph talks about the 1981 discovery, and says that the discovery supports the view that the vertebrate skeleton was developed for predation. (the second hypothesis)

So, if you look at question 3, D is wrong because it was not hypothesised based on the 1981 discovery. It was one of the traditional views before the discovery. Your answer here will come from the third paragraph

(B) – is clearly stated in the passage: “that conodonts were more primitive than the armored jawless fishes such as the ostracoderms.” The lack of any mineralized structures apart from the elements in the mouth indicates that conodonts were more primitive than the armored jawless fishes such as the ostracoderms.

(D) – mentions for activity and not active life.

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Human beings, born with a drive to explore and experiment, thrive on learning. Unfortunately, corporations are oriented predominantly toward controlling employees, not fostering their learning. Ironically, this orientation creates the very conditions that predestine employees to mediocre performances. Over time, superior performance requires superior learning, because long-term corporate survival depends on continually exploring new business and organizational opportunities that can create new sources of growth.

To survive in the future, corporations must become “learning organizations,” enterprises that are constantly able to adapt and expand their capabilities. To accomplish this, corporations must change how they view employees. The traditional view that a single charismatic leader should set the corporation’s direction and make key decisions is rooted in an individualistic worldview. In an increasingly interdependent world, such a view is no longer viable. In learning organizations, thinking and acting are integrated at all job levels. Corporate leadership is shared, and leaders become designers, teachers, and stewards, roles requiring new skills: the ability to build shared vision, to reveal and challenge prevailing mental models, and to foster broader, more integrated patterns of thinking. In short, leaders in learning organizations are responsible for building organizations in which employees are continually learning new skills and expanding their capabilities to shape their future.

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1. According to the passage, traditional corporate leaders differ from leaders in learning organizations in that the former
 - A. encourage employees to concentrate on developing a wide range of skills
 - B. enable employees to recognize and confront dominant corporate models and to develop alternative models
 - C. make important policy decisions alone and then require employees in the corporation to abide by those decisions
 - D. instill confidence in employees because of their willingness to make risky decisions and accept their consequences
 - E. are concerned with offering employees frequent advice and career guidance
 2. Which of the following best describes employee behavior encouraged within learning organizations, as such organizations are described in the passage?
 - A. Carefully defining one's job description and taking care to avoid deviations from it
 - B. Designing mentoring programs that train new employees to follow procedures that have been used for many years
 - C. Concentrating one's efforts on mastering one aspect of a complicated task
 - D. Studying an organizational problem, preparing a report, and submitting it to a corporate leader for approval
 - E. Analyzing a problem related to productivity, making a decision about a solution, and implementing that solution
 3. According to the author of the passage, corporate leaders of the future should do which of the following?
 - A. They should encourage employees to put long-term goals ahead of short-term profits.
 - B. They should exercise more control over employees in order to constrain production costs.
 - C. They should redefine incentives for employees' performance improvement.
 - D. They should provide employees with opportunities to gain new skills and expand their capabilities.
 - E. They should promote individual managers who are committed to established company policies.

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4. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- A. endorse a traditional corporate structure
 - B. introduce a new approach to corporate leadership and evaluate criticisms of it
 - C. explain competing theories about management practices and reconcile them
 - D. contrast two typical corporate organizational structures
 - E. propose an alternative to a common corporate approach



Structural unemployment—the unemployment that remains even at the peak of the economy's upswings—is caused by an imbalance between the types and locations of available employment on the one hand and the qualifications and locations of workers on the other hand. When such an imbalance exists, both labor shortages and unemployment may occur, despite a balance between supply and demand for labor in the economy as a whole.

Because technological change is likely to displace some workers, it is a major factor in producing structural unemployment. While technological advance almost invariably results in shifts in demands for different types of workers, it does not necessarily result in unemployment. Relatively small or gradual changes in demand are likely to cause little unemployment. In the individual firm or even in the labor market as a whole, normal attrition may be sufficient to reduce the size of the work force in the affected occupations. Relatively large or rapid changes, however, can cause serious problems. Workers may lose their jobs and find themselves without the skills necessary to obtain new jobs. Whether this displacement leads to structural unemployment depends on the amount of public and private sector resources devoted to retraining and placing those workers. Workers can be encouraged to move where there are jobs, to reeducate or retrain themselves, or to retire. In addition, other factors affecting structural unemployment, such as capital movement, can be controlled.

Increased structural unemployment, should it occur, makes it difficult for the economy to achieve desired low rates of unemployment along with low rates of inflation. If there is a growing pool of workers who lack the necessary skills for the available jobs, increases in total labor demand will rapidly generate shortages of qualified workers. As the wages of those workers are bid up, labor costs, and thus prices, rise. This phenomenon may be an important factor in the rising trend, observed for the past two decades, of unemployment combined with inflation. Government policy has placed a priority on reducing inflation, but these efforts have nevertheless caused unemployment to increase.

5. All of the following are mentioned as ways of controlling the magnitude of structural unemployment EXCEPT
 - A. using public funds to create jobs
 - B. teaching new skills to displaced workers
 - C. allowing displaced workers to retire
 - D. controlling the movement of capital
 - E. encouraging workers to move to where jobs are available
6. The passage suggests that a potential outcome of higher structural unemployment is
 - A. increased public spending for social services
 - B. placement of workers in jobs for which they are not qualified
 - C. higher wages for those workers who have skills that are in demand
 - D. an increase in the length of time jobs remain unfilled
 - E. a shift in the government's economic policy priorities
7. It can be inferred from the passage that even when there are unemployed workers, labor shortages are still likely to occur if
 - A. the inflation rate is unusually high
 - B. there is insufficient technological innovation
 - C. the level of structural unemployment is exceptionally low
 - D. the jobs available in certain places require skills that the labor force in those areas lacks
 - E. the workers in some industries are dissatisfied with the pay offered in those industries
8. The passage suggests that the phenomenon of combined unemployment and inflation is
 - A. a socioeconomic problem that can only be addressed by government intervention
 - B. a socioeconomic problem that can be characteristic of periods of structural unemployment
 - C. an economic problem that results from government intervention in management-labor relations
 - D. an economic problem that results from imperfect applications of technology
 - E. an economic problem that can be eliminated by relatively small changes in the labor force

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Because technological change is likely to displace some workers, it is a major factor in producing structural unemployment. While technological advance almost invariably results in shifts in demands for different types of workers, it does not necessarily result in unemployment. Relatively small or gradual changes in demand are likely to cause little unemployment. In the individual firm or even in the labor market as a whole, normal attrition may be sufficient to reduce the size of the work force in the affected occupations. Relatively large or rapid changes, however, can cause serious problems. Workers may lose their jobs and find themselves without the skills necessary to obtain new jobs. Whether this displacement leads to structural unemployment depends on the amount of public and private sector resources devoted to retraining and placing those workers. Workers can be encouraged to move where there are jobs, to reeducate or retrain themselves, or to retire. In addition, other factors affecting structural unemployment, such as capital movement, can be controlled.

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9. The passage is primarily concerned with
 - A. clarifying the definition of a concept
 - B. proposing a way to eliminate an undesirable condition
 - C. discussing the sources and consequences of a problem
 - D. suggesting ways to alleviate the effects of a particular social policy
 - E. evaluating the steps that have been taken to correct an imbalance

10. According to the passage, small downward shifts in the demand for labor will not usually cause unemployment because
 - A. such shifts are frequently accompanied by upswings in the economy
 - B. such shifts usually occur slowly
 - C. workers can be encouraged to move to where there are jobs
 - D. normal attrition is often sufficient to reduce the size of the work force
 - E. workers are usually flexible enough to learn new skills and switch to new jobs



In 1971 researchers hoping to predict earthquakes in the short term by identifying precursory phenomena (those that occur a few days before large quakes but not otherwise) turned their attention to changes in seismic waves that had been detected prior to earthquakes. An explanation for such changes was offered by “dilatancy theory,” based on a well-known phenomenon observed in rocks in the laboratory: as stress builds, microfractures in rock close, decreasing the rock’s volume. But as stress continues to increase, the rock begins to crack and expand in volume, allowing groundwater to seep in, weakening the rock. According to this theory, such effects could lead to several precursory phenomena in the field, including a change in the velocity of seismic waves, and an increase in small, nearby tremors.

Researchers initially reported success in identifying these possible precursors, but subsequent analyses of their data proved disheartening. Seismic waves with unusual velocities were recorded before some earthquakes, but while the historical record confirms that most large earthquakes are preceded by minor tremors, these foreshocks indicate nothing about the magnitude of an impending quake and are indistinguishable from other minor tremors that occur without large earthquakes.

In the 1980s, some researchers turned their efforts from short-term to long-term prediction. Noting that earthquakes tend to occur repeatedly in certain regions, Lindh and Baker attempted to identify patterns of recurrence, or earthquake cycles, on which to base predictions. In a study of earthquake-prone sites along the San Andreas Fault, they determined that quakes occurred at intervals of approximately 22 years near one site and concluded that there was a 95 percent probability of an earthquake in that area by 1992. The earthquake did not occur within the time frame predicted, however.

Evidence against the kind of regular earthquake cycles that Lindh and Baker tried to establish has come from a relatively new field, paleoseismology. Paleoseismologists have unearthed and dated geological features such as fault scarps that were caused by earthquakes thousands of years ago. They have determined that the average interval between ten earthquakes that took place at one site along the San Andreas Fault in the past two millennia was 132 years, but individual intervals ranged greatly, from 44 to 332 years.

11. **The passage is primarily concerned with**
 - A. explaining why one method of earthquake prediction has proven more practicable than an alternative method
 - B. suggesting that accurate earthquake forecasting must combine elements of long-term and short-term prediction
 - C. challenging the usefulness of dilatancy theory for explaining the occurrence of precursory phenomena
 - D. discussing the deficiency of two methods by which researchers have attempted to predict the occurrence of earthquakes
 - E. describing the development of methods for establishing patterns in the occurrence of past earthquakes

12. According to the passage, laboratory evidence concerning the effects of stress on rocks might help account for
 - A. differences in magnitude among earthquakes
 - B. certain phenomena that occur prior to earthquakes
 - C. variations in the intervals between earthquakes in a particular area
 - D. differences in the frequency with which earthquakes occur in various areas

- 99th PERCENT
TOP PERCENT
13. It can be inferred from the passage that one problem with using precursory phenomena to predict earthquakes is that minor tremors
 - A. typically occur some distance from the sites of the large earthquakes that follow them
 - B. are directly linked to the mechanisms that cause earthquakes
 - C. are difficult to distinguish from major tremors
 - D. have proven difficult to measure accurately
 - E. are not always followed by large earthquakes

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14. According to the passage, some researchers based their research about long-term earthquake prediction on which of the following facts?
- A. The historical record confirms that most earthquakes have been preceded by minor tremors.
 - B. The average interval between earthquakes in one region of the San Andreas Fault is 132 years.
 - C. Some regions tend to be the site of numerous earthquakes over the course of many years.
 - D. Changes in the volume of rock can occur as a result of building stress and can lead to the weakening of rock.
 - E. Paleoseismologists have been able to unearth and date geological features caused by past earthquakes.
15. The passage suggests which of the following about the paleoseismologists' findings described in the last two sentences of the passage?
- A. They suggest that the frequency with which earthquakes occurred at a particular site decreased significantly over the past two millennia.
 - B. They suggest that paleoseismologists may someday be able to make reasonably accurate long-term earthquake predictions.
 - C. They suggest that researchers may someday be able to determine which past occurrences of minor tremors were actually followed by large earthquakes.
 - D. They suggest that the recurrence of earthquakes in earthquake-prone sites is too irregular to serve as a basis for earthquake prediction.
 - E. They indicate that researchers attempting to develop long-term methods of earthquake prediction have overlooked important evidence concerning the causes of earthquakes.

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16. The author implies which of the following about the ability of the researchers mentioned in the highlighted text to predict earthquakes?
- A. They can identify when an earthquake is likely to occur but not how large it will be.
 - B. They can identify the regions where earthquakes are likely to occur but not when they will occur.
 - C. They are unable to determine either the time or the place that earthquakes are likely to occur.
 - D. They are likely to be more accurate at short-term earthquake prediction than at long-term earthquake prediction.
 - E. They can determine the regions where earthquakes have occurred in the past but not the regions where they are likely to occur in the future.



A key decision required of advertising managers is whether a “hard-sell” or “soft-sell” strategy is appropriate for a specific target market. The hard-sell approach involves the use of direct, forceful claims regarding the benefits of the advertised brand over competitors’ offerings. In contrast, the soft-sell approach involves the use of advertising claims that imply superiority more subtly.

One positive aspect of the hard-sell approach is its use of very simple and straightforward product claims presented as explicit conclusions, with little room for confusion regarding the advertiser’s message. However, some consumers may resent being told what to believe and some may distrust the message. Resentment and distrust often lead to counter-argumentation and to boomerang effects where consumers come to believe conclusions diametrically opposed to conclusions endorsed in advertising claims. By contrast, the risk of boomerang effects is greatly reduced with soft-sell approaches. One way to implement the soft-sell approach is to provide information that implies the main conclusions the advertiser wants the consumer to draw, but leave the conclusions themselves unstated. Because consumers are invited to make up their own minds, implicit conclusions reduce the risk of resentment, distrust, and counter-argumentation.

Recent research on consumer memory and judgment suggests another advantage of implicit conclusions. Beliefs or conclusions that are self-generated are more accessible from memory than beliefs from conclusions provided explicitly by other individuals, and thus have a greater impact on judgment and decision making. Moreover, self-generated beliefs are often perceived as more accurate and valid than the beliefs of others, because other individuals may be perceived as less knowledgeable, or may be perceived as manipulative or deliberately misleading.

Despite these advantages, implicit conclusions may not always be more effective than explicit conclusions. One risk is that some consumers may fail to draw their own conclusions and thus miss the point of the message. Inferential activity is likely only when consumers are motivated and able to engage in effortful cognitive processes. Another risk is that some consumers may draw conclusions other than the one intended. Even if inferential activity is likely there is no guarantee that consumers will follow the path provided by the advertiser. Finally, a third risk is that consumers may infer the intended conclusion but question the validity of their inference.

17. It can be inferred from the passage that one reason an advertiser might prefer a hard-sell approach to a soft-sell approach is that
- A. the risks of boomerang effects are minimized when the conclusions an advertiser wants the consumer to draw are themselves left unstated
 - B. counter-argumentation is likely from consumers who fail to draw their own conclusions regarding an advertising claim
 - C. inferential activity is likely to occur even if consumers perceive themselves to be more knowledgeable than the individuals presenting product claims
 - D. research on consumer memory suggests that the explicit conclusions provided by an advertiser using the hard-sell approach have a significant impact on decision making
 - E. the information presented by an advertiser using the soft-sell approach may imply different conclusions to different consumers
18. Each of the following is mentioned in the passage as a characteristic of the hard-sell approach EXCEPT:
- A. Its overall message is readily grasped.
 - B. It appeals to consumers' knowledge about the product.
 - C. It makes explicit claims that the advertised brand is superior to other brands.
 - D. It uses statements that are expressed very clearly.
 - E. It makes claims in the form of direct conclusions.
19. It can be inferred from the passage that advertisers could reduce one of the risks discussed in the last paragraph if they were able to provide
- A. motivation for consumers to think about the advertisement's message
 - B. information that implies the advertiser's intended conclusion but leaves that conclusion unstated
 - C. subtle evidence that the advertised product is superior to that of competitors
 - D. information comparing the advertised product with its competitors
 - E. opportunity for consumers to generate their own beliefs or conclusions

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20. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- A. point out the risks involved in the use of a particular advertising strategy
 - B. make a case for the superiority of one advertising strategy over another
 - C. illustrate the ways in which two advertising strategies may be implemented
 - D. present the advantages and disadvantages of two advertising strategies
 - E. contrast the types of target markets for which two advertising strategies are appropriate
21. Which of the following best describes the function of the sentence in the highlighted text in the context of the passage as a whole?
- A. It reiterates a distinction between two advertising strategies that is made in the first paragraph.
 - B. It explains how a particular strategy avoids a drawback described earlier in the paragraph.
 - C. It suggests that a risk described earlier in the paragraph is less serious than some researchers believe it to be.
 - D. It outlines why the strategy described in the previous sentence involves certain risks for an advertiser.
 - E. It introduces an argument that will be refuted in the following paragraph.
22. It can be inferred from the passage that one situation in which the boomerang effect often occurs is when consumers
- A. have been exposed to forceful claims that are diametrically opposed to those in an advertiser’s message
 - B. have previous self-generated beliefs or conclusions that are readily accessible from memory
 - C. are subjected to advertising messages that are targeted at specific markets to which those consumers do not belong
 - D. are confused regarding the point of the advertiser’s message
 - E. come to view the advertiser’s message with suspicion

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23. It can be inferred from the passage that the research mentioned in the highlighted text supports which of the following statements?
- A. Implicit conclusions are more likely to capture accurately the point of the advertiser’s message than are explicit conclusions.
 - B. Counter-argumentation is less likely to occur if an individual’s beliefs or conclusions are readily accessible from memory.
 - C. The hard-sell approach results in conclusions that are more difficult for the consumer to recall than are conclusions resulting from the soft-sell approach.
 - D. When the beliefs of others are presented as definite and forceful claims, they are perceived to be as accurate as self-generated beliefs.
 - E. Despite the advantages of implicit conclusions, the hard-sell approach involves fewer risks for the advertiser than does the soft-sell approach.



Suppose we were in a spaceship in free fall, where objects are weightless, and wanted to know a small solid object's mass. We could not simply balance that object against another of known weight, as we would on Earth. The unknown mass could be determined, however, by placing the object on a spring scale and swinging the scale in a circle at the end of a string. The scale would measure the **tension in the string**, which would depend on both the speed of revolution and the mass of the object. The tension would be greater, the greater the mass or the greater the speed of revolution. From the measured tension and speed of whirling, we could determine the object's mass.

Astronomers use an analogous procedure to "weigh" double-star systems. The speed with which the two stars in a double-star system circle one another depends on the gravitational force between them, which holds the system together. This attractive force, analogous to the tension in the string, is proportional to the stars' combined mass, according to Newton's law of gravitation. By observing the time required for the stars to circle each other (the period) and measuring the distance between them, we can deduce the restraining force, and hence the masses.

24. It can be inferred from the passage that the two procedures described in the passage have which of the following in common?
- They have been applied in practice.
 - They rely on the use of a device that measures tension.
 - Their purpose is to determine an unknown mass.
 - They can only be applied to small solid objects.
 - They involve attraction between objects of similar mass.
25. According to the passage, the tension in the string mentioned is analogous to which of the following aspects of a double-star system?
- The speed with which one star orbits the other
 - The gravitational attraction between the stars
 - The amount of time it takes for the stars to circle one another
 - The distance between the two stars
 - The combined mass of the two stars
26. Which of the following best describes the relationship between the first and the second paragraph of the passage?
- The first paragraph provides an illustration useful for understanding a procedure described in the second paragraph.
 - The first paragraph describes a hypothetical situation whose plausibility is tested in the second paragraph.
 - The first paragraph evaluates the usefulness of a procedure whose application is described further in the second paragraph.
 - The second paragraph provides evidence to support a claim made in the first paragraph.
 - The second paragraph analyzes the practical implications of a methodology proposed in the first paragraph.

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27. The author of the passage mentions observations regarding the period of a double-star system as being useful for determining
- the distance between the two stars in the system
 - the time it takes for each star to rotate on its axis
 - the size of the orbit the system's two stars occupy
 - the degree of gravitational attraction between the system's stars
 - the speed at which the star system moves through space
28. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- analyze a natural phenomenon in terms of its behavior under special conditions
 - describe the steps by which a scientific measurement is carried out
 - point out the conditions under which a scientific procedure is most useful
 - contrast two different uses of a methodological approach in science
 - explain a method by which scientists determine an unknown quantity

Most pre-1990 literature on businesses' use of information technology (IT)—defined as any form of computer-based information system—focused on spectacular IT successes and reflected a general optimism concerning IT's potential as a resource for creating competitive advantage. But toward the end of the 1980s, some economists spoke of a “productivity paradox”: despite huge IT investments, most notably in the service sectors, productivity stagnated. In the retail industry, for example, in which IT had been widely adopted during the 1980s, productivity (average output per hour) rose at an average annual rate of 1.1 percent between 1973 and 1989, compared with 2.4 percent in the preceding 25-year period. Proponents of IT argued that it takes both time and a critical mass of investment for IT to yield benefits, and some suggested that growth figures for the 1990s proved these benefits were finally being realized. They also argued that measures of productivity ignore what would have happened without investments in IT—productivity gains might have been even lower. There were even claims that IT had improved the performance of the service sector significantly, although macroeconomic measures of productivity did not reflect the improvement.

But some observers questioned why, if IT had conferred economic value, it did not produce direct competitive advantages for individual firms. Resource-based theory offers an answer, asserting that, in general, firms gain competitive advantages by accumulating resources that are economically valuable, relatively scarce, and not easily replicated. According to a recent study of retail firms, which confirmed that IT has become pervasive and relatively easy to acquire, IT by itself appeared to have conferred little advantage. In fact, though little evidence of any direct effect was found, the frequent negative correlations between IT and performance suggested that IT had probably weakened some firms' competitive positions. However, firms' human resources, in and of themselves, did explain improved performance, and some firms gained IT-related advantages by merging IT with complementary resources, particularly human resources. The findings support the notion, founded in resource-based theory, that competitive advantages do not arise from easily replicated resources, no matter how impressive or economically valuable they may be, but from complex, intangible resources.

29. The passage is primarily concerned with
- describing a resource and indicating various methods used to study it
 - presenting a theory and offering an opposing point of view
 - providing an explanation for unexpected findings
 - demonstrating why a particular theory is unfounded
 - resolving a disagreement regarding the uses of a technology
30. The author of the passage discusses productivity in the retail industry in the first paragraph primarily in order to
- suggest a way in which IT can be used to create a competitive advantage
 - provide an illustration of the “productivity paradox”
 - emphasize the practical value of the introduction of IT
 - cite an industry in which productivity did not stagnate during the 1980s
 - counter the argument that IT could potentially create competitive advantage
31. The passage suggests that proponents of resource-based theory would be likely to explain IT's inability to produce direct competitive advantages for individual firms by pointing out that
- IT is not a resource that is difficult to obtain
 - IT is not an economically valuable resource
 - IT is a complex, intangible resource
 - economic progress has resulted from IT only in the service sector
 - changes brought about by IT cannot be detected by macroeconomic measures
32. Which of the following best describes the content of the first paragraph?
- It presents two explanations for the success of IT.
 - It provides evidence that decreases in productivity will continue.
 - It presents reasons for a decline in productivity.
 - It demonstrates the effect IT has had on productivity.
 - It contrasts views concerning the degree of IT's success.

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33. The passage suggests that the recent study of retail firms discussed in the second paragraph supports which of the following conclusions regarding a firm's competitive advantage?
- Human resources alone are more likely to contribute to competitive advantage than is IT alone.
 - Human resources combined with IT are more likely than human resources alone to have a negative effect on competitive advantage.
 - Human resources combined with IT often have a negative effect on competitive advantage.
 - IT by itself is much more likely to have a positive effect than a negative effect on competitive advantage.
 - The positive effect of IT on competitive advantage increases with time.
34. According to the passage, most pre-1990 literature on businesses' use of IT included which of the following?
- Recommendations regarding effective ways to use IT to gain competitive advantage
 - Explanations of the advantages and disadvantages of adopting IT
 - Information about ways in which IT combined with human resources could be used to increase competitive advantage
 - A warning regarding the negative effect on competitive advantage that would occur if IT were not adopted
 - A belief in the likelihood of increased competitive advantage for firms using IT

Most pre-1990 literature on businesses' use of information technology (IT)—defined as any form of computer-based information system—focused on spectacular IT successes and reflected a general optimism concerning IT's potential as a resource for creating competitive advantage. But toward the end of the 1980s, some economists spoke of a “**productivity paradox**”: despite huge IT investments, most notably in the service sectors, productivity stagnated. In the retail industry, for example, in which IT had been widely adopted during the 1980s, productivity (average output per hour) rose at an average annual rate of 1.1 percent between 1973 and 1989, compared with 2.4 percent in the preceding 25-year period. Proponents of IT argued that it takes both time and a critical mass of investment for IT to yield benefits, and some suggested that growth figures for the 1990s proved these benefits were finally being realized. They also argued that measures of productivity ignore what would have happened without investments in IT—productivity gains might have been even lower. There were even claims that IT had improved the performance of the service sector significantly, although macroeconomic measures of productivity did not reflect the improvement.

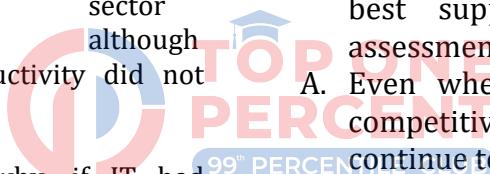
But some observers questioned why, if IT had conferred economic value, it did not produce direct competitive advantages for individual firms. Resource-based theory offers an answer, asserting that, in general, firms gain competitive advantages by accumulating resources that are economically valuable, relatively scarce, and not easily replicated. According to a recent study of retail firms, which confirmed that IT has become pervasive and relatively easy to acquire, IT by itself appeared to have conferred little advantage. In fact, though little evidence of any direct effect was found, the frequent negative correlations between IT and performance suggested that IT had probably weakened some firms' competitive positions. However, firms' human resources, in and of themselves, did explain improved performance, and some firms gained IT-related advantages by merging IT with complementary resources, particularly human resources. The findings support the notion, founded in resource-based theory, that competitive advantages do not arise from easily replicated resources, no matter how impressive or economically valuable they may be, but from complex, intangible resources.

35. The author of the passage implies that toward the end of the 1980s, some economists described which of the following as a “productivity paradox”?

- A. Investments in IT would not result in increases in productivity until the 1990s.
- B. Investments in IT did not lead to expected gains in productivity.
- C. Productivity in the retail industry rose less rapidly than did productivity in other industries.
- D. The gains in productivity due to the introduction of IT were not reflected in macroeconomic measures of productivity.
- E. Most gains in productivity occurred in the service sector and were therefore particularly difficult to measure.

36. According to the passage, the recent study of retail firms discussed in the second paragraph best supports which of the following assessments of IT's potential?

- A. Even when IT gives a firm a temporary competitive advantage, that firm is unlikely to continue to achieve productivity gains.
- B. The competitive advantages conferred by a firm's introduction of IT are outweighed by IT's development costs.
- C. A firm's introduction of IT is less likely to limit its ability to achieve productivity gains than to enhance that ability.
- D. Although IT by itself is unlikely to give a firm a competitive advantage, IT combined with other resources may do so.
- E. Although IT by itself is unlikely to give a firm a competitive advantage, a firm that does not employ IT cannot achieve a competitive advantage.



The dry mountain ranges of the western United States contain rocks dating back 440 to 510 million years, to the Ordovician period, and teeming with evidence of tropical marine life. This rock record provides clues about one of the most significant radiations (periods when existing life-forms gave rise to variations that would eventually evolve into entirely new species) in the history of marine invertebrates. During this radiation the number of marine biological families increased greatly, and these families included species that would dominate the marine ecosystems of the area for the next 215 million years. Although the radiation spanned tens of millions of years, major changes in many species occurred during a geologically short time span within the radiation and, furthermore, appear to have occurred worldwide, suggesting that external events were major factors in the radiation. In fact, there is evidence of major ecological and geological changes during this period: the sea level dropped drastically and mountain ranges were formed. In this instance, rather than leading to large-scale extinctions, these kinds of environmental changes may have resulted in an enriched pattern of habitats and nutrients, which in turn gave rise to the Ordovician radiation. However, the actual relationship between these environmental factors and the diversification of life-forms is not yet fully understood.

37. The passage is primarily concerned with
- evaluating the evidence of a major geologic period and determining its duration
 - describing an evolutionary phenomenon and speculating about its cause
 - explaining the mechanisms through which marine life-forms evolved during a particular period
 - analyzing the impact on later life-forms of an important evolutionary development
 - contrasting a period of evolutionary change with other such periods
38. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage regarding the geologic changes that occurred during the Ordovician period?
- They were more drastic than those associated with other radiations.
 - They may have created conditions favorable to the evolution of many new life-forms.
 - They may have caused the extinction of many of the marine species living in shallow waters.
 - They may have been a factor in the development of new species adapted to living both on land and in water.
 - They hastened the formation of the extensive dry regions found in the western United States.
39. Which of the following best describes the function of the last sentence of the passage?
- It points out that the events described in the passage may be atypical.
 - It alludes to the fact that there is disagreement in the scientific community over the importance of the Ordovician radiation.
 - It concludes that the evidence presented in the passage is insufficient to support the proposed hypothesis because it comes from a limited geographic area.
 - It warns the reader against seeing a connection between the biological and geologic changes described in the passage.
 - It alerts the reader that current knowledge cannot completely explain the relationship suggested by the evidence presented in the passage.

Seventeenth-century philosopher John Locke stated that as much as 99 percent of the value of any useful product can be attributed to “the effects of labor.” For Locke’s intellectual heirs it was only a short step to the “labor theory of value,” whose formulators held that 100 percent of the value of any product is generated by labor (the human work needed to produce goods) and that therefore the employer who appropriates any part of the product’s value as profit is practicing theft.

Although human effort is required to produce goods for the consumer market, effort is also invested in making capital goods (tools, machines, etc.), which are used to facilitate the production of consumer goods. In modern economies about one-third of the total output of consumer goods is attributable to the use of capital goods. Approximately two-thirds of the income derived from this total output is paid out to workers as wages and salaries, the remaining third serving as compensation to the owners of the capital goods. Moreover, part of this remaining third is received by workers who are shareholders, pension beneficiaries, and the like. The labor theory of value systematically disregards the productive contribution of capital goods—a failing for which Locke must bear part of the blame.

40. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with
- criticizing Locke’s economic theories
 - discounting the contribution of labor in a modern economy
 - questioning the validity of the labor theory of value
 - arguing for a more equitable distribution of business profits
 - contending that employers are overcompensated for capital goods
41. According to the author of the passage, which of the following is true of the distribution of the income derived from the total output of consumer goods in a modern economy?
- Workers receive a share of this income that is significantly smaller than the value of their labor as a contribution to total output.
 - Owners of capital goods receive a share of this income that is significantly greater than the contribution to total output attributable to the use of capital goods.
 - Owners of capital goods receive a share of this income that is no greater than the proportion of total output attributable to the use of capital goods.
 - Owners of capital goods are not fully compensated for their investment because they pay out most of their share of this income to workers as wages and benefits.
 - Workers receive a share of this income that is greater than the value of their labor because the labor theory of value overestimates their contribution to total output.

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42. Which of the following statements, if true, would most effectively counter the author’s criticism of Locke at the end of the passage?
- Locke was unfamiliar with the labor theory of value as it was formulated by his intellectual heirs.
 - In Locke’s day, there was no possibility of ordinary workers becoming shareholders or pension beneficiaries.
 - During Locke’s lifetime, capital goods did not make a significant productive contribution to the economy.
 - The precise statistical calculation of the productive contributions of labor and capital goods is not possible without computers.
 - The terms “capital goods” and “consumer goods” were coined by modern economists and do not appear in Locke’s writings.
43. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?
- The author explores the origins of a theory and explains why the theory never gained widespread acceptance.
 - The author introduces the premise of a theory, evaluates the premise by relating it to objective reality, then proposes a modification of the theory.
 - After quoting a well-known authority, the author describes the evolution of a theory, then traces its modern form back to the original quotation.
 - After citing a precursor of a theory, the author outlines and refutes the theory, then links its flaw to the precursor.
 - After tracing the roots of a theory, the author attempts to undermine the theory by discrediting its originator.

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44. Which of the following arguments would a proponent of the labor theory of value, as it is presented in the first paragraph, be most likely to use in response to the highlighted text?

- A. The productive contributions of workers and capital goods cannot be compared because the productive life span of capital goods is longer than that of workers.
- B. The author’s analysis of the distribution of income is misleading because only a small percentage of workers are also shareholders.
- C. Capital goods are valuable only insofar as they contribute directly to the production of consumer goods.
- D. The productive contribution of capital goods must be discounted because capital goods require maintenance.
- E. The productive contribution of capital goods must be attributed to labor because capital goods are themselves products of labor.

45. The author of the passage implies which of the following regarding the formulators of the labor theory of value?

- A. They came from a working-class background.
- B. Their views were too radical to have popular appeal.
- C. At least one of them was a close contemporary of Locke.
- D. They were familiar with Locke’s views on the relationship between labor and the value of products.
- E. They underestimated the importance of consumer goods in a modern economy.

Exactly when in the early modern era Native Americans began exchanging animal furs with Europeans for European-made goods is uncertain. What is fairly certain, even though they left no written evidence of having done so, is that the first Europeans to conduct such trade during the modern period were fishing crews working the waters around Newfoundland. Archaeologists had noticed that sixteenth-century Native American sites were strewn with iron bolts and metal pins. Only later, upon reading Nicolas Denys's 1672 account of seventeenth-century European settlements in North America, did archaeologists realize that sixteenth-century European fishing crews had dismantled and exchanged parts of their ships for furs.

By the time Europeans sailing the Atlantic coast of North America first documented the fur trade, it was apparently well underway. The first to record such trade—the captain of a Portuguese vessel sailing from Newfoundland in 1501—observed that a Native American aboard the ship wore Venetian silver earrings. Another early chronicler noted in 1524 that Native Americans living along the coast of what is now New England had become selective about European trade goods: they accepted only knives, fishhooks, and sharp metal. By the time Cartier sailed the Saint Lawrence River ten years later, Native Americans had traded with Europeans for more than thirty years, perhaps half a century.

46. The author of the passage draws conclusions about the fur trade in North America from all of the following sources EXCEPT
- Cartier's accounts of trading with Native Americans
 - a seventeenth-century account of European settlements
 - a sixteenth-century account written by a sailing vessel captain
 - archaeological observations of sixteenth-century Native American sites
 - a sixteenth-century account of Native Americans in what is now New England
47. The passage suggests that which of the following is partially responsible for the difficulty in establishing the precise date when the fur trade in North America began?
- A lack of written accounts before that of Nicolas Denys in 1672
 - A lack of written documentation before 1501
 - Ambiguities in the evidence from Native American sources
 - Uncertainty about Native American trade networks
 - Uncertainty about the origin of artifacts supposedly traded by European fishing crews for furs

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48. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the author's assertion in the first sentence of the second paragraph?

- A. When Europeans retraced Cartier's voyage in the first years of the seventeenth century, they frequently traded with Native Americans.
- B. Furs from beavers, which were plentiful in North America but nearly extinct in Europe, became extremely fashionable in Europe in the final decades of the sixteenth century.
- C. Firing arms were rarely found on sixteenth-century Native American sites or on European lists of trading goods since such arms required frequent maintenance and repair.
- D. Europeans and Native Americans had established trade protocols, such as body language assuring one another of their peaceful intentions, that antedate the earliest records of trade.
- E. During the first quarter of the sixteenth century, an Italian explorer recorded seeing many Native Americans with what appeared to be copper beads, though they may have been made of indigenous copper.

49. Which of the following best describes the primary function of the highlighted text?

- A. It offers a reconsideration of a claim made in the preceding sentence.
- B. It reveals how archaeologists arrived at an interpretation of the evidence mentioned in the preceding sentence.
- C. It shows how scholars misinterpreted the significance of certain evidence mentioned in the preceding sentence.
- D. It identifies one of the first significant accounts of seventeenth-century European settlements in North America.
- E. It explains why Denys's account of seventeenth-century European settlements is thought to be significant.

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50. It can be inferred from the passage that the author would agree with which of the following statements about the fur trade between Native Americans and Europeans in the early modern era?
- This trade may have begun as early as the 1480s.
 - This trade probably did not continue much beyond the 1530s.
 - This trade was most likely at its peak in the mid-1520s.
 - This trade probably did not begin prior to 1500.
 - There is no written evidence of this trade prior to the seventeenth century.
51. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about the Native Americans mentioned in the highlighted text?
- They had little use for decorative objects such as earrings.
 - They became increasingly dependent on fishing between 1501 and 1524.
 - By 1524, only certain groups of Europeans were willing to trade with them.
 - The selectivity of their trading choices made it difficult for them to engage in widespread trade with Europeans.
 - The selectivity of their trading choices indicates that they had been trading with Europeans for a significant period of time prior to 1524.
52. The passage supports which of the following statements about sixteenth-century European fishing crews working the waters off Newfoundland?
- They wrote no accounts of their fishing voyages.
 - They primarily sailed under the flag of Portugal.
 - They exchanged ship parts with Native Americans for furs.
 - They commonly traded jewelry with Native Americans for furs.
 - They carried surplus metal implements to trade with Native Americans for furs.

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53. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about evidence pertaining to the fur trade between Native Americans and Europeans in the early modern era?
- A lack of written evidence has made it difficult to establish which Europeans first participated in this trade.
 - In general, the physical evidence pertaining to this trade has been more useful than the written evidence has been.
 - There is more written evidence pertaining to this trade from the early part of the sixteenth century than from later in that century.
 - The earliest written evidence pertaining to this trade dates from a time when the trade was already well established.
 - Some important pieces of evidence pertaining to this trade, such as Denys's 1672 account, were long overlooked by archaeologists.
54. The passage suggests which of the following about the sixteenth-century Native Americans who traded with Europeans on the coast of what is now called New England?
- By 1524 they had become accustomed to exchanging goods with Europeans.
 - They were unfamiliar with metals before encountering Europeans.
 - They had no practical uses for European goods other than metals and metal implements.
 - By 1524 they had become disdainful of European traders because such traders had treated them unfairly in the past.
 - By 1524 they demanded only the most prized European goods because they had come to realize how valuable furs were on European markets.

Determining whether a given population of animals constitutes a distinct species can be difficult because no single accepted definition of the term exists. One approach, called the biological species concept, bases the definition on reproductive compatibility. According to this view, a species is a group of animals that can mate with one another to produce fertile offspring but cannot mate successfully with members of a different group. Yet this idea can be too restrictive. First, mating between groups labeled as different species (hybridization), as often occurs in the canine family, is quite common in nature. Second, sometimes the differences between two populations might not prevent them from interbreeding, even though they are dissimilar in traits unrelated to reproduction; some biologists question whether such disparate groups should be considered a single species. A third problem with the biological species concept is that investigators cannot always determine whether two **groups that live in different places** are capable of interbreeding.

When the biological species concept is difficult to apply, some investigators use phenotype, an organism's observable characteristics, instead. Two groups that have evolved separately are likely to display measurable differences in many of their traits, such as skull size or width of teeth. If the distribution of measurements from one group does not overlap with those of another, the two groups might reasonably be considered distinct species.

55. The passage is primarily concerned with
- describing the development of the biological species concept
 - responding to a critique of reproductive compatibility as a criterion for defining a species
 - considering two different approaches to identifying biological species
 - pointing out the advantage of one method of distinguishing related species
 - identifying an obstacle to the classification of biological species
56. The author of the passage mentions “groups that live in different places” most probably in order to
- point out a theoretical inconsistency in the biological species concept
 - offer evidence in support of the biological species concept
 - identify an obstacle to the application of the biological species concept
 - note an instance in which phenotype classification is customarily used
 - describe an alternative to the biological species concept
57. With which of the following statements regarding the classification of individual species would the author most likely agree?
- Phenotype comparison may help to classify species when application of the biological species concept proves inconclusive.
 - Because no standard definition exists for what constitutes a species, the classification of animal populations is inevitably an arbitrary process.
 - The criteria used by biologists to classify species have not been based on adequate research.
 - The existence of hybrids in wild animal species is the chief factor casting doubt on the usefulness of research into reproductive compatibility as a way of classifying species.
 - Phenotype overlap should be used as the basic criterion for standardizing species classification.

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58. Which of the following best describes the function of the highlighted text?
- It elaborates the definition of the biological species concept given in a previous sentence.
 - It develops a point about the biological species concept made in the previous sentence.
 - It states the author's central point about the biological species concept.
 - It identifies a central assumption underlying the biological species concept.
 - It demonstrates why the biological species concept is invalid.



Researchers studying how genes control animal behavior have had to deal with many uncertainties. In the first place, most behaviors are governed by more than one gene, and until recently geneticists had no method for identifying the multiple genes involved. In addition, even when a single gene is found to control a behavior, researchers in different fields do not necessarily agree that it is a “behavioral gene.” Neuroscientists, whose interest in genetic research is to understand the nervous system (which generates behavior), define the term broadly. But ethologists—specialists in animal behavior—are interested in evolution, so they define the term narrowly. They insist that mutations in a behavioral gene must alter a specific normal behavior and not merely make the organism ill, so that the genetically induced behavioral change will provide variation that natural selection can act upon, possibly leading to the evolution of a new species. For example, in the fruit fly, researchers have identified the gene Shaker, mutations in which cause flies to shake violently under anesthesia. Since shaking is not healthy, ethologists do not consider Shaker a behavioral gene. In contrast, ethologists do consider the gene period (per), which controls the fruit fly's circadian (24-hour) rhythm, a behavioral gene because flies with mutated per genes are healthy; they simply have different rhythms.

59. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- summarize findings in an area of research
 - discuss different perspectives on a scientific question
 - outline the major questions in a scientific discipline
 - illustrate the usefulness of investigating a research topic
 - reconcile differences between two definitions of a term
60. The passage suggests that neuroscientists would most likely consider Shaker to be which of the following?
- An example of a behavioral gene
 - One of multiple genes that control a single behavior
 - A gene that, when mutated, causes an alteration in a specific normal behavior without making the organism ill
 - A gene of interest to ethologists but of no interest to neuroscientists
 - A poor source of information about the nervous system
61. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following, if true, would be most likely to influence ethologists' opinions about whether a particular gene in a species is a behavioral gene?
- The gene is found only in that species.
 - The gene is extremely difficult to identify.
 - The only effect of mutations in the gene is to make the organism ill.
 - Neuroscientists consider the gene to be a behavioral gene.
 - Geneticists consider the gene to be a behavioral gene.

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 nonterritorial 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.

62. The author indicates that tamarin territories are
- surprisingly large
 - poorly situated
 - unusually abundant in food resources
 - incapable of supporting large troops of tamarins
 - larger in Peru than in other parts of South America
63. The author mentions the spatial requirements of the gray squirrel in order to
- explain why they are so common
 - demonstrate the consequences of their nonterritoriality
 - emphasize the unusual territorial requirements of the tamarin
 - provide an example of a major difference between squirrels and monkeys
 - provide an example of an animal with requirements similar to those of the tamarin
64. The author regards the differences between the diets of the tamarins and several larger species as
- generally explicable in terms of territory size
 - apparently too small to explain the rarity of tamarins
 - wholly predictable on the basis of differences in body size
 - a result of the rigid territoriality of tamarins
 - a significant factor in determining behavioral differences
65. Which of the following would most probably be regarded by the author as anomalous?
- A large primate species that eats mostly plants
 - A species of small mammals that is fiercely territorial
 - Two species of small primates that share the same territories
 - A species of small birds that is more abundant than many species of larger birds
 - A species of small rodents that requires more living space per individual than most species of larger rodents

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 nonterritorial 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.

66. The author most probably regards the tamarins studied in Manu National Park as
- an endangered species
 - typical tamarins
 - unusually docile
 - the most unusual primates anywhere
 - too small a sample to be significant
67. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as a species whose groups display territoriality?
- Gibbons
 - Siamangs
 - Titi monkeys
 - Squirrel monkeys
 - Night monkeys
68. The primary concern of the passage is to
- recommend a policy
 - evaluate a theory
 - describe an unusual condition
 - explain the development of a hypothesis
 - support one of several competing hypotheses



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.

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.

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.

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.

69. It can be inferred from the passage that opponents of labor concessions would most likely describe many plant-relocation decisions made by United States companies as

- A. capricious
- B. self-serving
- C. naive
- D. impulsive
- E. illogical

70. It can be inferred from the passage that, until recently, which of the following has been true of United States industry in the twentieth century?

- A. Unions have consistently participated in major corporate policy decisions.
- B. Maintaining adequate quality control in manufacturing processes has been a principal problem.
- C. Union workers have been paid relatively high wages.
- D. Two-tier wage systems have been the norm.
- E. Goods produced have been priced beyond the means of most workers.

71. The passage provides information to answer which of the following questions?

- A. What has caused unions to consider wage restraints and reduced benefits?
- B. Why do analysts study United States labor-management relations?
- C. How do job-security guarantees operate?
- D. Are investment and pricing strategies effective in combating imports?
- E. Do quality circles improve product performance and value?

72. The passage is primarily concerned with the

- A. reasons for adversarialism between labor and management
- 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

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73. The sentence "If proposals for pay cuts . . . unskilled laborers" serves primarily to
- disprove a theory
 - clarify an ambiguity
 - reconcile opposing views
 - present a hypothesis
 - contradict accepted data
74. It can be inferred from the passage that opponents of labor concessions believe that if concession bargaining continues, then
- plants will close instead of relocating
 - young workers will need continued job retraining
 - professional workers will outnumber marginal workers
 - wealthy investors will invest in Third World countries instead of the United States
 - the social structure of the United States will be negatively affected
75. According to the author, "Sophisticated proponents" of concessions do which of the following?
- Support the traditional adversarialism characteristic of labor-management relations.
 - Emphasize the benefits unions can gain by granting concessions.
 - Focus on thorough analyses of current economic conditions.
 - Present management's reasons for demanding concessions.
 - Explain domestic economic developments in terms of worldwide trends.

Historians who study European women of the Renaissance try to measure “independence,” “options,” and other indicators of the degree to which the expression of women’s individuality was either permitted or suppressed. Influenced by Western individualism, these historians define a peculiar form of personhood: an innately bounded unit, autonomous and standing apart from both nature and society. An anthropologist, however, would contend that a person can be conceived in ways other than as an “individual.” In many societies a person’s identity is not intrinsically unique and self-contained but instead is defined within a complex web of social relationships.

In her study of the fifteenth-century Florentine widow Alessandra Strozzi, a historian who specializes in European women of the Renaissance attributes individual intention and authorship of actions to her subject. This historian assumes that Alessandra had goals and interests different from those of her sons, yet much of the historian’s own research reveals that Alessandra acted primarily as a champion of her sons’ interests, taking their goals as her own. Thus Alessandra conforms more closely to the anthropologist’s notion that personal motivation is embedded in a social context. Indeed, one could argue that Alessandra did not distinguish her personhood from that of her sons. In Renaissance Europe the boundaries of the conceptual self were not always firm and closed and did not necessarily coincide with the boundaries of the bodily self.

76. According to the passage, much of the research on Alessandra Strozzi done by the historian mentioned in the second paragraph supports which of the following conclusions?

- A. Alessandra used her position as her sons' sole guardian to further interests different from those of her sons.
- B. Alessandra unwillingly sacrificed her own interests in favor of those of her sons.
- C. Alessandra's actions indicate that her motivations and intentions were those of an independent individual.
- D. Alessandra's social context encouraged her to take independent action.
- E. Alessandra regarded her sons' goals and interests as her own.

77. In the first paragraph, the author of the passage mentions a contention that would be made by an anthropologist most likely in order to

- A. present a theory that will be undermined in the discussion of a historian's study later in the passage
- B. offer a perspective on the concept of personhood that can usefully be applied to the study of women in Renaissance Europe
- C. undermine the view that the individuality of European women of the Renaissance was largely suppressed
- D. argue that anthropologists have applied the Western concept of individualism in their research
- E. lay the groundwork for the conclusion that Alessandra's is a unique case among European women of the Renaissance whose lives have been studied by historians

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78. The passage suggests that the historians referred to in line 1 make which of the following assumptions about Renaissance Europe?

- A. That anthropologists overestimate the importance of the individual in Renaissance European society
- B. That in Renaissance Europe, women were typically allowed to express their individuality
- C. That European women of the Renaissance had the possibility of acting independently of the social context in which they lived
- D. That studying an individual such as Alessandra is the best way to draw general conclusions about the lives of women in Renaissance Europe
- E. That people in Renaissance Europe had greater personal autonomy than people do currently

79. It can be inferred that the author of the passage believes which of the following about the study of Alessandra Strozzi done by the historian mentioned in the second paragraph?

- A. Alessandra was atypical of her time and was therefore an inappropriate choice for the subject of the historian’s research.
- B. In order to bolster her thesis, the historian adopted the anthropological perspective on personhood.
- C. The historian argues that the boundaries of the conceptual self were not always firm and closed in Renaissance Europe.
- D. In her study, the historian reverts to a traditional approach that is out of step with the work of other historians of Renaissance Europe.
- E. The interpretation of Alessandra’s actions that the historian puts forward is not supported by much of the historian’s research.

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80. The passage suggests that the historian mentioned in the second paragraph would be most likely to agree with which of the following assertions regarding Alessandra Strozzi?
- Alessandra was able to act more independently than most women of her time because she was a widow.
 - Alessandra was aware that her personal motivation was embedded in a social context.
 - Alessandra had goals and interests similar to those of many other widows in her society.
 - Alessandra is an example of a Renaissance woman who expressed her individuality through independent action.
 - Alessandra was exceptional because she was able to effect changes in the social constraints placed upon women in her society.



In addition to conventional galaxies, the universe contains very dim galaxies that until recently went unnoticed by astronomers. Possibly as numerous as conventional galaxies, these galaxies have the same general shape and even the same approximate number of stars as a common type of conventional galaxy, the spiral, but tend to be much larger. Because these galaxies' mass is spread out over larger areas, they have far fewer stars per unit volume than do conventional galaxies. Apparently these low-surface-brightness galaxies, as they are called, take much longer than conventional galaxies to condense their primordial gas and convert it to stars—that is, they evolve much more slowly.

These galaxies may constitute an answer to the long-standing puzzle of the missing baryonic mass in the universe. Baryons—subatomic particles that are generally protons or neutrons—are the source of stellar, and therefore galactic, luminosity, and so their numbers can be estimated based on how luminous galaxies are. However, the amount of helium in the universe, as measured by spectroscopy, suggests that there are far more baryons in the universe than estimates based on galactic luminosity indicate. Astronomers have long speculated that the missing baryonic mass might eventually be discovered in intergalactic space or as some large population of galaxies that are difficult to detect.

81. According to the passage, conventional spiral galaxies differ from low-surface-brightness galaxies in which of the following ways?
- They have fewer stars than do low-surface-brightness galaxies.
 - They evolve more quickly than low-surface-brightness galaxies.
 - They are more diffuse than low-surface-brightness galaxies.
 - They contain less helium than do low-surface-brightness galaxies.
 - They are larger than low-surface-brightness galaxies.
82. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is an accurate physical description of typical low-surface-brightness galaxies?
- They are large spiral galaxies containing fewer stars than conventional galaxies.
 - They are compact but very dim spiral galaxies.
 - They are diffuse spiral galaxies that occupy a large volume of space.
 - They are small, young spiral galaxies that contain a high proportion of primordial gas.
 - They are large, dense spirals with low luminosity.
83. It can be inferred from the passage that the “long-standing puzzle” refers to which of the following?
- The difference between the rate at which conventional galaxies evolve and the rate at which low-surface-brightness galaxies evolve
 - The discrepancy between estimates of total baryonic mass derived from measuring helium and estimates based on measuring galactic luminosity
 - The inconsistency between the observed amount of helium in the universe and the number of stars in typical low-surface-brightness galaxies
 - Uncertainties regarding what proportion of baryonic mass is contained in intergalactic space and what proportion in conventional galaxies
 - Difficulties involved in detecting very distant galaxies and in investigating their luminosity

In addition to conventional galaxies, the universe contains very dim galaxies that until recently went unnoticed by astronomers. Possibly as numerous as conventional galaxies, these galaxies have the same general shape and even the same approximate number of stars as a common type of conventional galaxy, the spiral, but tend to be much larger. Because these galaxies' mass is spread out over larger areas, they have far fewer stars per unit volume than do conventional galaxies. Apparently these low-surface-brightness galaxies, as they are called, take much longer than conventional galaxies to condense their primordial gas and convert it to stars—that is, they evolve much more slowly.

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84. The author implies that low-surface-brightness galaxies could constitute an answer to the puzzle discussed in the second paragraph primarily because

- A. they contain baryonic mass that was not taken into account by researchers using galactic luminosity to estimate the number of baryons in the universe
- B. they, like conventional galaxies that contain many baryons, have evolved from massive, primordial gas clouds
- C. they may contain relatively more helium, and hence more baryons, than do galaxies whose helium content has been studied using spectroscopy
- D. they have recently been discovered to contain more baryonic mass than scientists had thought when low-surface-brightness galaxies were first observed
- E. they contain stars that are significantly more luminous than would have been predicted on the basis of initial studies of luminosity in low-surface-brightness galaxies

85. The author mentions the fact that baryons are the source of stars' luminosity primarily in order to explain

- A. how astronomers determine that some galaxies contain fewer stars per unit volume than do others
- B. how astronomers are able to calculate the total luminosity of a galaxy
- C. why astronomers can use galactic luminosity to estimate baryonic mass
- D. why astronomers' estimates of baryonic mass based on galactic luminosity are more reliable than those based on spectroscopic studies of helium
- E. how astronomers know bright galaxies contain more baryons than do dim galaxies

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86. The author of the passage would be most likely to disagree with which of the following statements?
- A. Low-surface-brightness galaxies are more difficult to detect than are conventional galaxies.
 - B. Low-surface-brightness galaxies are often spiral in shape.
 - C. Astronomers have advanced plausible ideas about where missing baryonic mass might be found.
 - D. Astronomers have devised a useful way of estimating the total baryonic mass in the universe.
 - E. Astronomers have discovered a substantial amount of baryonic mass in intergalactic space.
87. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- A. describe a phenomenon and consider its scientific significance
 - B. contrast two phenomena and discuss a puzzling difference between them
 - C. identify a newly discovered phenomenon and explain its origins
 - D. compare two classes of objects and discuss the physical properties of each
 - E. discuss a discovery and point out its inconsistency with existing theory

The fact that superior service can generate a competitive advantage for a company does not mean that every attempt at improving service will create such an advantage. Investments in service, like those in production and distribution, must be balanced against other types of investments on the basis of direct, tangible benefits such as cost reduction and increased revenues. If a company is already effectively on a par with its competitors because it provides service that avoids a damaging reputation and keeps customers from leaving at an unacceptable rate, then investment in higher service levels may be wasted, since service is a deciding factor for customers only in extreme situations.

This truth was not apparent to managers of one regional bank, which failed to improve its competitive position despite its investment in reducing the time a customer had to wait for a teller. The bank managers did not recognize the level of customer inertia in the consumer banking industry that arises from the inconvenience of switching banks. Nor did they analyze their service improvement to determine whether it would attract new customers by producing a new standard of service that would excite customers or by proving difficult for competitors to copy. The only merit of the improvement was that it could easily be described to customers.

88. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- contrast possible outcomes of a type of business investment
 - suggest more careful evaluation of a type of business investment
 - illustrate various ways in which a type of business investment could fail to enhance revenues
 - trace the general problems of a company to a certain type of business investment
 - criticize the way in which managers tend to analyze the costs and benefits of business investments
89. According to the passage, investments in service are comparable to investments in production and distribution in terms of the
- tangibility of the benefits that they tend to confer
 - increased revenues that they ultimately produce
 - basis on which they need to be weighed
 - insufficient analysis that managers devote to them
 - degree of competitive advantage that they are likely to provide
90. The passage suggests which of the following about service provided by the regional bank prior to its investment in enhancing that service?
- It enabled the bank to retain customers at an acceptable rate.
 - It threatened to weaken the bank's competitive position with respect to other regional banks.
 - It had already been improved after having caused damage to the bank's reputation in the past.
 - It was slightly superior to that of the bank's regional competitors.
 - It needed to be improved to attain parity with the service provided by competing banks.

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91. The passage suggests that bank managers failed to consider whether or not the service improvement mentioned in the highlighted text
- was too complicated to be easily described to prospective customers
 - made a measurable change in the experiences of customers in the bank's offices
 - could be sustained if the number of customers increased significantly
 - was an innovation that competing banks could have imitated
 - was adequate to bring the bank's general level of service to a level that was comparable with that of its competitors
92. The discussion of the regional bank in the second paragraph serves which of the following functions within the passage as a whole?
- It describes an exceptional case in which investment in service actually failed to produce a competitive advantage.
 - It illustrates the pitfalls of choosing to invest in service at a time when investment is needed more urgently in another area.
 - It demonstrates the kind of analysis that managers apply when they choose one kind of service investment over another.
 - It supports the argument that investments in certain aspects of service are more advantageous than investments in other aspects of service.
 - It provides an example of the point about investment in service made in the first paragraph.
93. The author uses the word "only" in the highlighted text most likely in order to
- highlight the oddity of the service improvement
 - emphasize the relatively low value of the investment in service improvement
 - distinguish the primary attribute of the service improvement from secondary attributes
 - single out a certain merit of the service improvement from other merits
 - point out the limited duration of the actual service improvement

Antonia Castañeda has utilized scholarship from women's studies and Mexican-American history to examine nineteenth-century literary portrayals of Mexican women. As Castañeda notes, scholars of women's history observe that in the United States, male novelists of the period—during which, according to these scholars, women's traditional economic role in home-based agriculture was threatened by the transition to a factory-based industrial economy—define women solely in their domestic roles of wife and mother. Castañeda finds that during the same period that saw non-Hispanic women being economically displaced by industrialization, Hispanic law in territorial California protected the economic position of “Californianas” (the Mexican women of the territory) by ensuring them property rights and inheritance rights equal to those of males.

For Castañeda, the laws explain a stereotypical plot created primarily by male, non-Hispanic novelists: the story of an ambitious non-Hispanic merchant or trader desirous of marrying an elite Californiana. These novels' favorable portrayal of such women is noteworthy, since Mexican-American historians have concluded that unflattering literary depictions of Mexicans were vital in rallying the United States public's support for the Mexican-American War (1846–1848). The importance of economic alliances forged through marriages with Californianas explains this **apparent contradiction**. Because of their real-life economic significance, the Californianas were portrayed more favorably than were others of the same nationality.

94. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- trace historical influences on the depiction of Mexican Americans in the nineteenth century
 - explain how research in history has been affected by scholarship in women's studies
 - describe the historical origins of a literary stereotype
 - discuss ways in which minority writers have sought to critique a dominant culture through their writing
 - evaluate both sides in a scholarly debate about a prominent literary stereotype
95. The “apparent contradiction” mentioned refers to the discrepancy between the
- legal status of Mexican women in territorial California and their status in the United States
 - unflattering depiction of Mexicans in novels and the actual public sentiment about the Mexican-American War
 - existence of many marriages between Californianas and non-Hispanic merchants and the strictures against them expressed in novels
 - literary depiction of elite Californianas and the literary depiction of other Mexican individuals
 - novelistic portrayals of elite Californianas' privileged lives and the actual circumstances of those lives

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96. Which of the following could best serve as an example of the kind of fictional plot discussed by Antonia Castañeda?
- A land speculator of English ancestry weds the daughter of a Mexican vineyard owner after the speculator has migrated to California to seek his fortune.
 - A Californian woman of Hispanic ancestry finds that her agricultural livelihood is threatened when her husband is forced to seek work in a textile mill.
 - A Mexican rancher who loses his land as a result of the Mexican-American War migrates to the northern United States and marries an immigrant schoolteacher.
 - A wealthy Californiana whose father has bequeathed her all his property contends with avaricious relatives for her inheritance.
 - A poor married couple emigrate from French Canada and gradually become wealthy as merchants in territorial California.



Antonia Castañeda has utilized scholarship from women's studies and Mexican-American history to examine nineteenth-century literary portrayals of Mexican women. As Castañeda notes, scholars of women's history observe that in the United States, male novelists of the period—during which, according to these scholars, women's traditional economic role in home-based agriculture was threatened by the transition to a factory-based industrial economy—define women solely in their domestic roles of wife and mother. Castañeda finds that during the same period that saw non-Hispanic women being economically displaced by industrialization, Hispanic law in territorial California protected the economic position of “Californianas” (the Mexican women of the territory) by ensuring them property rights and inheritance rights equal to those of males.

For Castañeda, the laws explain a **stereotypical plot** created primarily by male, non-Hispanic novelists: the story of an ambitious non-Hispanic merchant or trader desirous of marrying an elite Californiana. These novels' favorable portrayal of such women is noteworthy, since Mexican-American historians have concluded that unflattering literary depictions of Mexicans were vital in rallying the United States public's support for the Mexican-American War (1846–1848). The importance of economic alliances forged through marriages with Californianas explains this apparent contradiction. Because of their real-life economic significance, the Californianas were portrayed more favorably than were others of the same nationality.

97. Which of the following, if true, would provide the most support for Castañeda's explanation of the “stereotypical plot” mentioned in the highlighted text?
- Non-Hispanic traders found business more profitable in California while it was a territory than when it became a state.
 - Very few marriages between Hispanic women and non-Hispanic men in nineteenth-century territorial California have actually been documented.
 - Records from the nineteenth century indicate that some large and valuable properties were owned by elite Californianas in their own right.
 - Unmarried non-Hispanic women in the nineteenth-century United States were sometimes able to control property in their own right.
 - Most of the property in nineteenth-century territorial California was controlled by Hispanic men.



This passage is excerpted from material published in 1997.

Scientists have been puzzled by the seeming disparity between models of global warming based on greenhouse gas emissions and actual climatological data. In short, the world is not warming up as much as these models have predicted. In the early 1990s, Pat Michaels sought to explain this **disparity**, suggesting that sulfate emissions in industrial areas had a cooling effect, thus temporarily retarding global warming. Michaels later came to doubt this idea, however, pointing out that since most sulfate is emitted in the Northern Hemisphere, its cooling influence should be largely limited to that hemisphere. Yet, since 1987, warming in the Southern Hemisphere, which had been relatively intense, has virtually ceased, while warming in the north has accelerated. Thus, Michaels not only doubted the idea of sulfate cooling, but came to feel that global warming models themselves may be flawed.

Ben Santer disagrees. Santer contends that, in general, global warming occurs more slowly in the south because this hemisphere is dominated by oceans, which warm more slowly than the landmasses that dominate the Northern Hemisphere. But, according to Santer, the situation remains complicated by sulfate cooling, which peaked in the north in the mid-twentieth century. It drastically slowed warming in the Northern Hemisphere, and warming in the Southern Hemisphere raced ahead. Since 1987, Santer argues, the greenhouse effect has reasserted itself, and the north has taken the lead. Thus, Santer disputes Michaels's claim that model predictions and observed data differ fundamentally.

98. The passage suggests that, in the early 1990s, Michaels would have been most likely to agree with which of the following statements about the disparity mentioned in the highlighted text?
- This disparity is relatively less extreme in the Northern Hemisphere because of sulfate cooling.
 - This disparity is only a short-term phenomenon brought about by sulfate cooling.
 - This disparity is most significant in those parts of the world dominated by oceans.
 - The extent of this disparity is being masked by the temporary effect of sulfate cooling.
 - The disparity confirms that current models of global warming are correct.
99. According to the passage, Santer asserts which of the following about global warming?
- It will become a more serious problem in the Southern Hemisphere than in the Northern Hemisphere in spite of the cooling influence of oceans in the south.
 - It is unlikely to be a serious problem in the future because of the pervasive effect of sulfate cooling.
 - It will proceed at the same general rate in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres once the temporary influence of sulfate cooling comes to an end.
 - Until the late 1980s, it was moderated in the Northern Hemisphere by the effect of sulfate cooling.
 - Largely because of the cooling influence of oceans, it has had no discernible impact on the Southern Hemisphere.
100. The passage suggests that Santer and Michaels would be most likely to DISAGREE over which of the following issues?
- Whether climatological data invalidates global warming models
 - Whether warming in the Northern Hemisphere has intensified since 1987
 - Whether disparities between global warming models and climatological data can be detected
 - Whether landmasses warm more rapidly than oceans
 - Whether oceans have a significant effect on global climate patterns

Micro-wear patterns found on the teeth of long-extinct specimens of the primate species australopithecine may provide evidence about their diets. For example, on the basis of tooth micro-wear patterns, Walker dismisses Jolly's hypothesis that australopithecines ate hard seeds. He also disputes Szalay's suggestion that the heavy enamel of australopithecine teeth is an adaptation to bone crunching, since both seed cracking and bone crunching produce distinctive micro-wear characteristics on teeth. His conclusion that australopithecines were frugivores (fruit eaters) is based upon his observation that the tooth micro-wear characteristics of east African australopithecine specimens are indistinguishable from those of chimpanzees and orangutans, which are commonly assumed to be frugivorous primates.

However, research on the diets of contemporary primates suggests that micro-wear studies may have limited utility in determining the foods that are actually eaten. For example, insect eating, which can cause distinct micro-wear patterns, would not cause much tooth abrasion in modern baboons, who eat only soft-bodied insects rather than hard-bodied insects. In addition, the diets of current omnivorous primates vary considerably depending on the environments that different groups within a primate species inhabit; if australopithecines were omnivores too, we might expect to find considerable population variation in their tooth micro-wear patterns. Thus, Walker's description of possible australopithecine diets may need to be expanded to include a much more diverse diet.

- TOP
PERCENT**
- 99th PERCENTILE CLUB
101. According to the passage, Walker and Szalay disagree on which of the following points?
 - A. The structure and composition of australopithecine teeth
 - B. The kinds of conclusions that can be drawn from the micro-wear patterns on australopithecine teeth
 - C. The idea that fruit was a part of the australopithecine diet
 - D. The extent to which seed cracking and bone crunching produce similar micro-wear patterns on teeth
 - E. The function of the heavy enamel on australopithecine teeth 102. The passage suggests that Walker's research indicated which of the following about australopithecine teeth?
 - A. They had micro-wear characteristics indicating that fruit constituted only a small part of their diet.
 - B. They lacked micro-wear characteristics associated with seed eating and bone crunching.
 - C. They had micro-wear characteristics that differed in certain ways from the micro-wear patterns of chimpanzees and orangutans.
 - D. They had micro-wear characteristics suggesting that the diet of australopithecines varied from one region to another.
 - E. They lacked the micro-wear characteristics distinctive of modern frugivores. 103. The passage suggests that which of the following would be true of studies of tooth micro-wear patterns conducted on modern baboons?
 - A. They would inaccurately suggest that some baboons eat more soft-bodied than hard-bodied insects.
 - B. They would suggest that insects constitute the largest part of some baboons' diets.
 - C. They would reveal that there are no significant differences in tooth micro-wear patterns among baboon populations.
 - D. They would inadequately reflect the extent to which some baboons consume certain types of insects.
 - E. They would indicate that baboons in certain regions eat only soft-bodied insects, whereas baboons in other regions eat hard-bodied insects.

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104. The passage suggests which of the following about the micro-wear patterns found on the teeth of omnivorous primates?

- A. The patterns provide information about what kinds of foods are not eaten by the particular species of primate, but not about the foods actually eaten.
- B. The patterns of various primate species living in the same environment resemble one another.
- C. The patterns may not provide information about the extent to which a particular species' diet includes seeds.
- D. The patterns provide more information about these primates' diet than do the tooth micro-wear patterns of primates who are frugivores.
- E. The patterns may differ among groups within a species depending on the environment within which a particular group lives.

105. It can be inferred from the passage that if studies of tooth micro-wear patterns were conducted on modern baboons, which of the following would most likely be true of the results obtained?

- A. There would be enough abrasion to allow a determination of whether baboons are frugivorous or insectivorous.
- B. The results would suggest that insects constitute the largest part of the baboons' diet.
- C. The results would reveal that there are no significant differences in tooth micro-wear patterns from one regional baboon population to another.
- D. The results would provide an accurate indication of the absence of some kinds of insects from the baboons' diet.
- E. The results would be unlikely to provide any indication of what inferences about the australopithecine diet can or cannot be drawn from micro-wear studies.

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106. It can be inferred from the passage that Walker's conclusion about the australopithecine diet would be called into question under which of the following circumstances?
- The tooth enamel of australopithecines is found to be much heavier than that of modern frugivorous primates.
 - The micro-wear patterns of australopithecine teeth from regions other than east Africa are analyzed.
 - Orangutans are found to have a much broader diet than is currently recognized.
 - The environment of east Africa at the time australopithecines lived there is found to have been far more varied than is currently thought.
 - The area in which the australopithecine specimens were found is discovered to have been very rich in soft-bodied insects during the period when australopithecines lived there.
107. The passage is primarily concerned with
- comparing two research methods for determining a species' dietary habits
 - describing and evaluating conjectures about a species' diet
 - contrasting several explanations for a species' dietary habits
 - discussing a new approach and advocating its use in particular situations
 - arguing that a particular research methodology does not contribute useful data
108. The author of the passage mentions the diets of baboons and other living primates most likely in order to
- provide evidence that refutes Walker's conclusions about the foods making up the diets of australopithecines
 - suggest that studies of tooth micro-wear patterns are primarily useful for determining the diets of living primates
 - suggest that australopithecines were probably omnivores rather than frugivores
 - illustrate some of the limitations of using tooth micro-wear patterns to draw definitive conclusions about a group's diet
 - suggest that tooth micro-wear patterns are caused by persistent, as opposed to occasional, consumption of particular foods

In current historiography, the picture of a consistent, unequivocal decline in women's status with the advent of capitalism and industrialization is giving way to an analysis that not only emphasizes both change (whether improvement or decline) and continuity but also accounts for geographical and occupational variation. The history of women's work in English farmhouse cheese making between 1800 and 1930 is a case in point. In her influential *Women Workers and the Industrial Revolution* (1930), Pinchbeck argued that the agricultural revolution of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, with its attendant specialization and enlarged scale of operation, curtailed women's participation in the business of cheese production. Earlier, she maintained, women had concerned themselves with feeding cows, rearing calves, and even selling the cheese in local markets and fairs. Pinchbeck thought that the advent of specialization meant that women's work in cheese dairying was reduced simply to processing the milk. "Dairymen" (a new social category) raised and fed cows and sold the cheese through factors, who were also men. With this narrowing of the scope of work, Pinchbeck believed, women lost business ability, independence, and initiative.

Though Pinchbeck portrayed precapitalist, preindustrial conditions as superior to what followed, recent scholarship has seriously questioned the notion of a golden age for women in precapitalist society. For example, scholars note that women's control seldom extended to the disposal of the proceeds of their work. In the case of cheese, the rise of factors may have compromised women's ability to market cheese at fairs. But merely selling the cheese did not necessarily imply access to the money: Davidoff cites the case of an Essex man who appropriated all but a fraction of the money from his wife's cheese sales.

By focusing on somewhat peripheral operations, moreover, Pinchbeck missed a substantial element of continuity in women's participation: throughout the period women did the central work of actually making cheese. Their persistence in English cheese dairying contrasts with women's early disappearance from arable agriculture in southeast England and from American cheese dairying. Comparing these three divergent developments yields some reasons for the differences among them. English cheese-making women worked in a setting in which cultural values, agricultural conditions, and the nature of their work combined to support their continued participation. In the other cases, one or more of these elements was lacking.

109. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- present recently discovered evidence that supports a conventional interpretation of a historical period
 - describe how reinterpretations of available evidence have reinvigorated a once-discredited scholarly position
 - explain why some historians have tended to emphasize change rather than continuity in discussing a particular period
 - explore how changes in a particular occupation serve to counter the prevailing view of a historical period
 - examine a particular area of historical research in order to exemplify a general scholarly trend
110. Regarding English local markets and fairs, which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
- Both before and after the agricultural revolution, the sellers of agricultural products at these venues were men.
 - Knowing who the active sellers were at these venues may not give a reliable indication of who controlled the revenue from the sales.
 - There were no parallel institutions at which American cheese makers could sell their own products.
 - Prior to the agricultural revolution, the sellers of agricultural products at these venues were generally the producers themselves.
 - Prior to the agricultural revolution, women sold not only cheese but also products of arable agriculture at these venues.
111. The passage describes the work of Pinchbeck primarily in order to
- demonstrate that some of the conclusions reached by recent historians were anticipated in earlier scholarship
 - provide an instance of the viewpoint that, according to the passage's author, is being superseded
 - illustrate the ways in which recent historians have built on the work of their predecessors
 - provide a point of reference for subsequent scholarship on women's work during the agricultural revolution
 - show the effect that the specialization introduced in the agricultural and industrial revolutions had on women's work

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112. It can be inferred from the passage that women did work in
- American cheesemaking at some point prior to industrialization
 - arable agriculture in northern England both before and after the agricultural revolution
 - arable agriculture in southeast England after the agricultural revolution, in those locales in which cultural values supported their participation
 - the sale of cheese at local markets in England even after the agricultural revolution
 - some areas of American cheese dairying after industrialization



Answer Key - All RC Passages from GMAT Official Guide Verbal Review

(Primary Purpose questions detailed explanations in videos: RC Primary Purpose Marathon Part 1 to 5 |
Text-based solutions to all OG questions can be found in VR RC section: refer to OG folder)

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 20. D |
| 2. E | 21. B |
| 3. D | 22. E |
| 4. E | 23. C |
| 5. A | 24. C |
| 6. C | 25. B |
| 7. D | 26. A |
| 8. B | 27. D |
| 9. C | 28. E |
| 10. D | 29. C |
| 11. D | 30. B |
| 12. B | 31. A |
| 13. E | 32. E |
| 14. C | 33. A |
| 15. D | 34. E |
| 16. C | 35. B |
| 17. E | 36. D |
| 18. B | 37. B |
| 19. A | 38. B |



- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 39. E | 62. A |
| 40. C | 63. C |
| 41. C | 64. B |
| 42. C | 65. E |
| 43. D | 66. B |
| 44. E | 67. D |
| 45. D | 68. C |
| 46. A | 69. B |
| 47. B | 70. C |
| 48. D | 71. A |
| 49. B | 72. C |
| 50. A | 73. D |
| 51. E | 74. E |
| 52. C | 75. B |
| 53. D | 76. E |
| 54. A | 77. B |
| 55. C | 78. C |
| 56. C | 79. E |
| 57. A | 80. D |
| 58. B | 81. B |
| 59. B | 82. C |
| 60. A | 83. B |
| 61. C | 84. A |



- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 85. C | 108. D |
| 86. E | 109. E |
| 87. A | 110. B |
| 88. B | 111. B |
| 89. C | 112. A |
| 90. A | |
| 91. D | |
| 92. E | |
| 93. B | |
| 94. C | |
| 95. D | |
| 96. A | |
| 97. C | |
| 98. B | |
| 99. D | |
| 100. A | |
| 101. E | |
| 102. B | |
| 103. D | |
| 104. E | |
| 105. D | |
| 106. C | |
| 107. B | |



THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE EVER WRITTEN ON GMAT READING COMPREHENSION

Expert solutions to selected queries asked by students



Passage (In 1971 researchers hoping to predict earthquakes in the short term...)

Alternate sol:

Q16.

(A) – Imagine that the researchers recorded 100 large earthquakes of various magnitudes during their study and that nearly all of those large earthquakes were preceded by minor tremors. This might lead us to expect any minor tremor to be followed by a large earthquake, even though we might not know exactly how large that "large" earthquake will be. Thus, Option (A) may seem correct.

Now consider the final fact given in lines: "these foreshocks... are indistinguishable from other minor tremors that occur without large earthquakes." If instead the passage stated, "these foreshocks are indistinguishable from other minor tremors that occur before *small* earthquakes", THEN Option (A) would be defensible... this would imply that after a minor tremor we can expect an earthquake, though we have no idea how small or large it will be.

But the passage states that the tremors are "indistinguishable from other minor tremors that occur *without* large earthquakes." Therefore, the passage implies that a minor tremor could be followed by a large earthquake, a small earthquake, or *no earthquake at all*; for example, the researchers may have recorded HUNDREDS of minor tremors that were NOT followed by an earthquake.

This explanation is supported by the first sentence starting in lines: "Researchers initially reported success in identifying these possible precursors, but subsequent analyses of their data proved disheartening." In other words, the researchers were initially successful in identifying earthquake precursors; subsequent analyses proved disheartening, implying that the researchers were not successful in identifying precursors that would predict earthquakes.

Passage (A key decision required of advertising managers is whether a "hard-sell" ...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q23.

Elaborating on Options (A), (B), and (C) below:

(A) – It's important to consider the precise language on Option (A) when determining whether we can eliminate it on this question. So, the question becomes whether the research referenced in the highlighted text suggests that implicit conclusions are more likely to be ACCURATE and conform to the advertiser's message. To say that implicit conclusions "have a greater impact on judgment and decision making" does not suggest those conclusions are ACCURATE. In this line, the author is making a point about the effect that research indicates implicit conclusions are likely to have, not the accuracy of those conclusions. We can eliminate Option (A).

One final note on (A): Although the questions asks specifically about research mentioned in the highlighted text, the author suggests that implicit conclusions may be inaccurate later in the passage. In the final paragraph, he states that implicit conclusions risk consumers "missing the point of the message" or "drawing conclusions other than the one intended." While the question does not ask about this portion of the passage specifically, these comments from the author should serve as additional red flags when considering (A).

(B) – Notice that Option (B) says 'readily accessible' from memory and not 'more accessible'. There is nothing in the passage to indicate to us that hard sell explicit conclusions are not readily accessible (they may be, it's just that soft sell implicit ones are even more readily / easily accessible). So, we cannot conclude that no readily-accessible-from-memory conclusions cause counter argumentation.

(C) – The passage says hard sell advertisements draw explicit conclusions, whereas soft sell ones draw implicit ones. The passage also says hard sell advertisements may cause counter-argumentation. Note that the highlighted research does not say this. The highlighted research says implicit conclusions are more readily accessible from memory (and also says implicit conclusions are more trustworthy for consumers). Then we can word for word infer what Option (C) says from the highlighted research.

Passage (Seventeenth-century philosopher John Locke stated that as much as 99 percent...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q45.

(E) – The formulators of the labor theory of value, did not underestimate the importance of consumer goods in a modern economy. They disregarded the productive contribution of capital goods. Option E is completely irrelevant and cannot be verified from the passage. The author suggests that the productive contributions of capital goods should NOT be counted as labor contributions. However, proponents of the labor theory of value would argue that the productive contributions of capital goods SHOULD be counted as labor contributions, i.e., any productive contribution of capital goods should be attributed to the *labor* that was needed to produce those capital goods

99th PERCENTILE CLUB

Passage (Exactly when in the early modern era Native Americans began exchanging animal furs...)

Alternate sol:

Q54.

Let us examine what the relevant portion of the passage says about this topic. In the lines: "Another early chronicler noted in 1524 that Native Americans living along the coast of what is now New England had become selective about European trade goods: they accepted only knives, fishhooks, and sharp metal."

From this, all we can gather is that the Native Americans were selective about what European goods they were willing to accept. We do not know what the criteria for such selectiveness was - we cannot, for instance, assume that only goods which cost the most were accepted. While it is logical to assume that they would only accept the most valuable goods, we do not know what the Native Americans found value in, and hence, considered valuable.

(A) – This is easily verifiable from the lines above.

(C) – They had **no practical uses for European goods other than** metals and metal implements. It is a stretch to say they had no practical uses for other items. Maybe the metals were more in demand for Native Americans instead of others. We don't know about practical uses for other European goods.

(E) - As this states, "they demanded only the most prized European goods", it leaves a lot of ambiguity. "Prized" by whom, for example? Or, what is the measure of being "prized"?

Hence, Option (A) is correct.

Passage (Determining whether a given population of animals constitutes a distinct species...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q55.

1. One method of defining species is based on reproduction (biological species). This definition says members of a species will mate among themselves to produce fertile offspring, but will not mate with members of another species. There are however a few problems with this:

- (a) Different groups labelled as species may mate together
- (b) Different groups may mate together but otherwise may be so different that they cannot be called species
- (c) Scientists don't know for sure whether groups that live apart geographically *can* mate together; so they don't know if the groups *can* be a part of the same species

Also note here that none of the above is the central point of the author when it comes to the biological species concept; these are all things the author says about the biological species concept

2. The other method that can be used is that of using phenotype. If observable characteristics of groups do not overlap in measurement, then the groups will be considered to be from distinct species

99th PERCENTILE CLUB

(A) Even though there are three problems mentioned with method (1) above, overall it may be considered that there is one roadblock - that biological species as a concept cannot be used for this purpose

HOWEVER,

(B) More importantly, if you read the summarized meaning above, you will see that finding faults with the biological species definition is not the primary purpose, even though that takes up most of the geographic real estate of the passage. The main purpose is to outline two different methods to define / identify species. So Option (E) is eliminated.

Q58.

As mentioned above, there is no *central point* of the author when it comes to the biological species concept / process. The author simply lists out three problems with the process.

Passage (Researchers studying how genes control animal behavior have had to deal with...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q60.

(C) - The passage mentions that shaker causes the fruit flies to shake violently under anesthesia which is unhealthy. So it's causing the organism to be ill so Option C says just the opposite.

That leaves us with Option (A) and Option (B). If you read the passage carefully, there is nothing that helps us verify that the shaker gene is one of the many that contributes to a behaviour. The passage only says that shaker, when mutated, causes the organism to shake violently under anaesthesia (creates an abnormal behaviour / makes the organism sick). So ethologists won't define the gene as behavioural based on their narrow definition, but by elimination of Option (B), we know that neuroscientists will, according to their broad definition of what a behavioural gene is.

Passage (Historians who study European women of the Renaissance try to measure...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q80.

First, let's be clear on the question. We are looking for the choice that best matches what the historian believes (according to the passage). We're not looking for a statement that Alessandra herself would believe. We're also not looking for a statement that the author would believe.

The historians who study Renaissance Europe women were influenced by western sense of individualism wherein they ascribe personhood to being a self-contained independent unit. With this view in mind, they try to find out how much independence, expression of individuality etc were permitted to women in Renaissance Europe.

The historian who studied Alessandra is also influenced by the same (as the passage generalizes for all such historians). She attributes individual intention and authorship of actions to Alessandra (the paragraph mentions this) when that view was not necessarily reflective of Alessandra's own motivations and social context.

99th PERCENTILE CLUB

Use OCTAAVE to eliminate all the other answer choices and you are left with **Option (D)**.

- (A) – There is nothing mentioned about how independently other women acted.
- (B) – An interdependent intra-societal existence is likely the viewpoint of anthropologists, and even then, there is nothing in the passage to indicate Alessandra was aware of this for herself. The historian never suggested that Alessandra *was aware* of this phenomenon. If anything, the author suggests that Alessandra didn't show any awareness of this, because Alessandra herself didn't distinguish her personhood from that of her sons.
- (C) – The passage never makes this comparison and never comments on whether/how the historian would have made this comparison.
- (D) – This matches what we know about the historian, who "attributes individual intention and authorship of actions to her subject. The historian assumes that Alessandra had goals and interest different from those of her sons." These statements tell us that the historian views her subjects, including Alessandra, as autonomous individuals. Also note how this fits right into the overall structure of this passage. The purpose of the second paragraph is to provide an example of the bigger point that the author makes in the first paragraph. So, the author is bringing up this historian because the historian is part of a bigger group of Renaissance historians who define "personhood" in terms of an individualistic identity. All of this shows that the historian would likely agree with this choice.
- (E) – The passage doesn't mention anything about Alessandra or her actions being an exception. Nothing is talked about the norm, just that Alessandra behaved in a certain way.

Passage (Scientists have been puzzled by the seeming disparity between models of global warming...)

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Q98.

(B) – Michaels claimed in the early 1990s that the disparity was temporary (short-term), and that it occurred due to the cooling effect of sulfate emissions.

"Only short-term" phenomenon means "not a long term "phenomenon, which is proved (disparity was temporary).

(D) – In the first paragraph, the author **introduces a disparity and one explanation for that disparity**.

The disparity is: the world isn't warming up as much as global warming models predicted.

This option states that 'The extent of this disparity is being **masked** by the temporary effect of sulfate cooling'. However, sulphate cooling is **not masking the disparity**, it is actually **causing the disparity**.

(E) – In the early 1990s, Michaels thought that sulphate cooling might EXPLAIN the disparity between the models and the actual climatological data. This explanation doesn't make the disparity go away. The models do not match the data, so the models are not accurate (hence, there is a disparity). In other words, because there is a disparity between the models and the actual data, the models must not be correct, and Option (E) must be eliminated.

THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE EVER WRITTEN ON GMAT READING COMPREHENSION

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Anthropologists once thought that the ancestors of modern humans began to walk upright because it freed their hands to use stone tools, which they had begun to make as the species evolved a brain of increased size and mental capacity. But discoveries of the three-million-year-old fossilized remains of our hominid ancestor *Australopithecus* have yielded substantial anatomical evidence that upright walking appeared prior to the dramatic enlargement of the brain and the development of stone tools.

Walking on two legs in an upright posture (bipedal locomotion) is a less efficient proposition than walking on all fours (quadrupedal locomotion) because several muscle groups that the quadruped uses for propulsion must instead be adapted to provide the biped with stability and control. The shape and configuration of various bones must likewise be modified to allow the muscles to perform these functions in upright walking. Reconstruction of the pelvis (hipbones) and femur (thighbone) of "Lucy," a three-million-year-old skeleton that is the most complete fossilized skeleton from the Australopithecine era, has shown that they are much more like the corresponding bones of the modern human than like those of the most closely related living primate, the quadrupedal chimpanzee. Lucy's wide, shallow pelvis is actually better suited to bipedal walking than is the rounder, bowl-like pelvis of the modern human, which evolved to form the larger birth canal needed to accommodate the head of a large-brained human infant. By contrast, the head of Lucy's baby could have been no larger than that of a baby chimpanzee.

If the small-brained australopithecines were not toolmakers, what evolutionary advantage did they gain by walking upright? One **theory** is that bipedality evolved in conjunction with the nuclear family: monogamous parents cooperating to care for their offspring. Walking upright permitted the father to use his hands to gather food and carry it to his mate from a distance, allowing the mother to devote more time and energy to nurturing and protecting their children. According to this view, the transition to bipedal walking may have occurred as long as ten million years ago, at the time of the earliest hominids, making it a crucial initiating event in human evolution.

- 1. The primary purpose of the passage is to**
 - A. present an interpretation of the chronological relationship between bipedal locomotion and certain other key aspects of human evolution
 - B. compare the evolutionary advantages and disadvantages of bipedal locomotion to those of quadrupedal locomotion
 - C. argue that the transition to a nuclear family structure was a more crucial step in human evolution than was the development of stone tools
 - D. analyze anatomical evidence of bipedal locomotion to show that the large brain of modern humans developed at a later stage of evolution than was previously believed
 - E. use examples of muscle and bone structure to illustrate the evolutionary differences between modern humans, australopithecines, and chimpanzees

- 2. The passage suggests that proponents of the theory mentioned in the highlighted text assume that which of the following steps in human evolution occurred most recently?**
 - A. Development of a nuclear family structure
 - B. Transition from walking on all fours to walking upright
 - C. Dramatic enlargement of the brain
 - D. Use of the hands to gather and carry food
 - E. Modification of propulsive muscles to provide stability and control in locomotion

- 3. According to the passage, the hominid australopithecine most closely resembled a modern human with respect to which of the following characteristics?**
 - A. Brain size
 - B. Tool-making ability
 - C. Shape of the pelvis
 - D. Method of locomotion
 - E. Preference for certain foods

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4. The passage suggests that, in comparison with the hominid australopithecines, modern humans are
 - A. less well adapted to large-group cooperation
 - B. less well adapted to walking upright
 - C. more agile in running and climbing
 - D. more well suited to a nuclear family structure
 - E. more well suited to cooperative caring for their offspring

5. The theory mentioned in the highlighted text suggests that which of the following was true for the hominid ancestors of modern humans before they made the transition to walking upright?
 - A. Their brains were smaller than the brains of present-day chimpanzees.
 - B. They competed rather than cooperated in searching for food.
 - C. Their mating patterns and family structure were closer to those of present-day chimpanzees than to those of modern humans.
 - D. Males played a more significant role in child rearing than they played after the transition to walking upright.
 - E. Females' ability to nurture and protect their offspring was limited by the need to find food for themselves.

Recent feminist scholarship concerning the United States in the 1920s challenges earlier interpretations that assessed the 1920s in terms of the unkept “**promises**” of the women’s suffrage movement. This **new scholarship** disputes the long-held view that because a women’s voting bloc did not materialize after women gained the right to vote in 1920, suffrage failed to produce long-term political gains for women. These feminist scholars also challenge the old view that pronounced suffrage a failure for not delivering on the promise that the women’s vote would bring about moral, corruption-free governance. Asked whether women’s suffrage was a failure, these scholars cite the words of turn-of-the-century social reformer Jane Addams, “Why don’t you ask if suffrage in general is failing?”

In some ways, however, these **scholars** still present the 1920s as a period of decline. After suffrage, they argue, the feminist movement lost its cohesiveness, and gender consciousness waned. After the mid-1920s, few successes could be claimed by feminist reformers: little could be seen in the way of legislative victories.

During this decade, however, there was intense activism aimed at achieving increased autonomy for women, broadening the spheres within which they lived their daily lives. Women’s organizations worked to establish opportunities for women: they strove to secure for women the full entitlements of citizenship, including the right to hold office and the right to serve on juries.

- 6. The passage is primarily concerned with**
- A. providing evidence indicating that feminist reformers of the 1920s failed to reach some of their goals
 - B. presenting scholarship that contrasts suffragist “promises” with the historical realities of the 1920s
 - C. discussing recent scholarship concerning the achievements of women’s suffrage during the 1920s and presenting an alternative view of those achievements
 - D. outlining recent findings concerning events leading to suffrage for women in the 1920s and presenting a challenge to those findings
 - E. providing support for a traditional view of the success of feminist attempts to increase gender consciousness among women during the 1920s
- 7. It can be inferred that the author of the passage disagrees with the “new scholarship” mentioned in the highlighted text regarding the**
- A. degree to which the “promises” of the suffrage movement remained unkept
 - B. degree to which suffrage for women improved the morality of governance
 - C. degree to which the 1920s represented a period of decline for the feminist movement
 - D. degree of legislative success achieved by feminist reformers during the 1920s
 - E. accuracy of the view that a women’s voting bloc did not materialize once suffrage was achieved
- 8. The purpose of the second paragraph of the passage is to**
- A. suggest a reason why suffragist “promises” were not kept
 - B. contrast suffragist “promises” with the reality of the 1920s
 - C. deplore the lack of successful feminist reform in the 1920s
 - D. explain a view held by feminist scholars
 - E. answer the question asked by Jane Addams

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9. It can be inferred from the passage that recent scholars cite the words of Jane Addams primarily in order to

- A. suggest that women's achievement of suffrage brought about changes in government that were not taken into account by early interpretations
- B. point out contradictions inherent in the goals of the women's suffrage movement
- C. show why a women's voting bloc was not formed when women won the right to vote
- D. emphasize the place of social reform movements in the struggle for suffrage for women
- E. suggest that the old view of women's suffrage was inappropriate

10. It can be inferred that the analyses of the author of the passage and the scholars mentioned in the highlighted text differ with regard to which of the following?

- A. The criteria they use to evaluate the success of the feminist movement during the 1920s
- B. Their interpretations of the “promises” of the suffragist movement
- C. The suggestions they make for achieving feminist goals
- D. Their definitions of what constitutes a legislative victory
- E. Their estimations of the obstacles preventing women's having achieved a voting bloc in the 1920s

11. The “new scholarship” mentioned in the first paragraph suggests which of the following concerning the “promises” mentioned in the highlighted text?

- A. Failure to keep these promises is not a measure of the success of the suffrage movement.
- B. Failure to keep these promises caused the feminist movement to lose cohesiveness during the 1920s.
- C. Failure to keep these promises led recent feminist scholars to reevaluate the success of the suffrage movement.
- D. These promises included securing for women the right to hold office and the right to serve on juries.
- E. These promises were of little importance in winning suffrage for women.

This passage is excerpted from material published in 1997.

Is there a massive black hole at the center of our galaxy, the Milky Way? The evidence is inconclusive. Just as the Sun's mass can be determined, given knowledge of other variables, by the velocity at which its planets orbit, the mass at the center of the Milky Way can be revealed by the velocities of stars and gas orbiting the galactic center. This **dynamical evidence**, based on recently confirmed assumptions about the stars' velocities, argues for an extremely compact object with a mass two to three million times the mass of our Sun. Although according to current theory this makes the mass at the center of the galaxy too dense to be anything but a black hole, the relative lack of energy radiating from the galactic center presents a **serious problem**. A black hole's gravity attracts surrounding matter, which swirls around the black hole, emitting some energy as it is engulfed. Scientists believe that the amount of energy that escapes the black hole should be about 10 percent of the matter's rest energy (the energy equivalent of its mass according to the equation $E=mc^2$). But when the energy coming from the galactic center is compared to widely held predictions based on how much matter should be falling into a theoretical central black hole, there is a discrepancy by a factor of a few thousand.

- 12. The primary purpose of the passage is to**
- present several theories that could account for a particular phenomenon
 - argue that a certain question needs to be reframed in light of new evidence
 - resolve an apparent inconsistency between two lines of evidence
 - explain why a certain issue remains unresolved
 - present evidence that calls into question certain assumptions of a current theory
- 13. According to the passage, the dynamical evidence referred to in the highlighted text supports which of the following?**
- Recent assumptions about the velocities of stars
 - Widely held predictions about the amount of matter a black hole will engulf
 - The existence of an extremely dense object at the center of the Milky Way
 - The contention that too much energy is coming from the mass at the Milky Way's galactic center for that mass to be a black hole
 - The conclusion that a compact object of two to three million times the mass of our Sun is too dense to be anything but a black hole
- 14. The "serious problem" referred to in the highlighted text could be solved if which of the following were true?**
- Current assumptions about how much matter a black hole would engulf proved to be several thousand times too high.
 - Current assumptions about how much matter a black hole would engulf proved to be a few thousand times too low.
 - The object at the center of the Milky Way turned out to be far denser than it is currently estimated to be.
 - The object at the center of the Milky Way turned out to be far more massive than it is currently estimated to be.
 - Matter being engulfed by a black hole radiated far more energy than is currently assumed.

This passage is excerpted from material published in 1997.

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15. The “widely held predictions” mentioned in the highlighted text are predictions about the

- A. compactness of objects whose mass is millions of times the mass of our Sun
- B. velocities of stars orbiting the galactic center
- C. amount of matter swirling around the object at the center of the Milky Way
- D. amount of matter falling into a theoretical central black hole
- E. amount of energy that should be coming from a black hole at the center of the Milky Way



Despite their many differences of temperament and of literary perspective, Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, and Whitman shared certain beliefs. Common to all these writers is their humanistic perspective. Its basic premises are that humans are the spiritual center of the universe and that in them alone is the clue to nature, history, and ultimately the cosmos. Without denying outright the existence of a deity, this perspective explains humans and the world in terms of humanity.

This common perspective is almost always universalized. It emphasizes the human as universal, freed from the accidents of time, space, birth, and talent. Thus, for Emerson, the "American Scholar" turns out to be simply "Man Thinking," while, for Whitman, the "Song of Myself" merges imperceptibly into a song of all the "children of Adam," where "every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you."

Also common to all five writers is the belief that self-realization depends on the harmonious reconciliation of two universal psychological tendencies: first, the self-asserting impulse of the individual to be responsible only to himself or herself, and second, the self-transcending impulse of the individual to know and become one with that world. These conflicting impulses can be seen in the democratic ethic. Democracy advocates individualism, the preservation of the individual's freedom and self-expression. But the democratic self is torn between the duty to self, which is implied by the concept of liberty, and the duty to society, which is implied by the concepts of equality and fraternity.

A third assumption common to the five writers is that intuition and imagination offer a surer road to truth than does abstract logic or scientific method. It is illustrated by their emphasis upon introspection—their belief that the clue to external nature is to be found in the inner world of individual psychology—and by their interpretation of experience as, in essence, symbolic. Both these stresses presume an organic relationship between the self and the cosmos of which only intuition and imagination can properly take account. These writers' faith in the imagination and in themselves led them to conceive of the writer as a seer.

16. The author's discussion of Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, and Whitman is primarily concerned with explaining

- A. some of their beliefs about the difficulties involved in self-realization
- B. some of their beliefs concerning the world and the place that humanity occupies in the universal order
- C. some of their beliefs concerning the relationship between humanism and democracy
- D. the way some of their beliefs are shaped by differences in temperament and literary outlook
- E. the effects of some of their beliefs on their writings

17. According to the passage, the five writers object to the scientific method primarily because they think it

- A. is not the best way to obtain an understanding of the relationship between the individual and the cosmos
- B. is so specialized that it leads to an understanding of separate parts of the universe but not of the relationships among those parts
- C. cannot provide an adequate explanation of intuition and imagination
- D. misleads people into believing they have an understanding of truth, when they do not
- E. prevents people from recognizing the symbolic nature of experience

18. The author quotes Whitman primarily in order to

- A. show that the poet does not agree with Emerson
- B. indicate the way the poet uses the humanist ideal to praise himself
- C. suggest that the poet adapts the basic premises of humanism to his own individual outlook on the world
- D. illustrate a way the poet expresses the relationship of the individual to the humanistic universe
- E. demonstrate that the poet is concerned with the well-being of all humans

Despite their many differences of temperament and of literary perspective, Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, and Whitman shared certain beliefs. Common to all these writers is their humanistic perspective. Its basic premises are that humans are the spiritual center of the universe and that in them alone is the clue to nature, history, and ultimately the cosmos. Without denying outright the existence of a deity, this perspective explains humans and the world in terms of humanity.

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19. It can be inferred that intuition is important to the five writers primarily because it provides them with

- A. information useful for understanding abstract logic and scientific method
- B. the discipline needed in the search for truth
- C. inspiration for their best writing
- D. clues to the interpretation of symbolic experience
- E. the means of resolving conflicts between the self and the world

20. The author discusses "the democratic ethic" in order to

- A. explain the relationship between external experience and inner imagination
- B. support the notion that the self contains two conflicting and irreconcilable factions
- C. illustrate the relationship between the self's desire to be individual and its desire to merge with all other selves
- D. elaborate on the concept that the self constantly desires to realize its potential
- E. give an example of the idea that, in order to be happy, the self must reconcile its desires with external reality

21. It can be inferred that the idea of "an organic relationship between the self and the cosmos" is necessary to the thinking of the five writers because such a relationship

- A. enables them to assert the importance of the democratic ethic
- B. justifies their concept of the freedom of the individual
- C. sustains their faith in the existence of a deity
- D. is the foundation of their humanistic view of existence
- E. is the basis for their claim that the writer is a seer

22. The passage is most relevant to which of the following areas of study?

- A. Aesthetics and logic
- B. History and literature
- C. Theology and sociology
- D. Anthropology and political science
- E. Linguistics and art

The final quarter of the nineteenth century marked a turning point in the history of biology—biologists became less interested in applying an ideal of historical explanation deductively to organic function and more interested in discerning the causes of vital processes through experimental manipulation. But it is impossible to discuss the history of biology in the nineteenth century without emphasizing that those areas of biology most in the public eye had depended on historical explanation. Wherever it was applied, historical explanation was deemed causal explanation. The biologist-as-historian and the general historian of human events dealt with comparable phenomena and assumed necessarily a common mode of explanation.

Nineteenth-century biologists found a historical explanation of organic function attractive partly because their observation of the formation of a new cell from a preexisting cell seemed to confirm a historical explanation of cell generation. The same direct observation of continuous stages of development was also possible when they examined the complex sequence of events of embryogenesis. In both cases, the observer received a concrete impression that the daughter cell was brought into being, or caused, by the prior cell. The argument that these scientists employed confuses temporal succession and causal explanation, of course, but such confusion is the heart of most historical explanation.

Not surprisingly, the evolutionary biologists of the nineteenth century encountered a particularly troublesome problem in their attempts to document historical explanation convincingly: the factual record of the history of life on earth (e.g., that provided by fossils) was incomplete. The temporal continuity of living forms was convincing, but was an assumption that was difficult to uphold when one compared species or organisms forming any two stages of the evolutionary record. Nineteenth-century biologists recognized this problem and attempted to resolve it. Their solution today appears to be only verbal, but was then regarded as eminently causal. The fact of evolution demanded some connection between all reproducing individuals and the species that they compose, as well as between living species and their extinct ancestors. Their solution, the concept of heredity, seemed to fill in an admittedly deficient historical record and seemed to complete the argument for a historical explanation of evolutionary events.

23. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. compare the information about organic function made available by historical explanation with that made available by the experimental investigation of living organisms
- B. assess the influence that theories of history had on developments in the field of biology in the nineteenth century
- C. discuss the importance of historical explanation in the thinking of nineteenth century biologists
- D. contrast biologists' use of historical explanation during the early nineteenth century with its use during the final quarter of the nineteenth century
- E. evaluate the way in which the concept of heredity altered the use of historical explanation by nineteenth-century biologists

24. According to information presented in the passage, which of the following is a true statement about the methods of explanation used by biologists and historians in the nineteenth century?

- A. Neither biologists nor historians were able to develop methods of explanation that were accepted by the majority of their colleagues.
- B. The methods used by biologists to explain phenomena changed dramatically, whereas the methods used by historians to explain events did not change as noticeably.
- C. Biologists believed that they had refined the methods of explanation used by historians.
- D. Biologists' and historians' methods of explaining what they believed to be comparable phenomena were similar.
- E. Although biologists and historians adopted similar methods of explanation, the biologists were more apologetic about their use of these methods.

The final quarter of the nineteenth century marked a **turning point** in the history of biology—biologists became less interested in applying an ideal of historical explanation deductively to organic function and more interested in discerning the causes of vital processes through experimental manipulation. But it is impossible to discuss the history of biology in the nineteenth century without emphasizing that those areas of biology most in the public eye had depended on historical explanation. Wherever it was applied, historical explanation was deemed causal explanation. The biologist-as-historian and the general historian of human events dealt with comparable phenomena and assumed necessarily a common mode of explanation.

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25. Which of the following best summarizes the “turning point” mentioned in the highlighted text?

- A. The beginning of the conflict between proponents of the ideal of historical explanation and the proponents of experimentation
- B. The substitution of historical explanation for causal explanation
- C. The shift from interest in historical explanation to interest in experimentation
- D. The attention suddenly paid to problems of organic function
- E. The growth of public awareness of the controversies among biologists

26. The author implies that nineteenth-century biologists who studied embryogenesis believed that they

- A. had discovered physical evidence that supported their use of historical explanation
- B. were the first biologists to call for systematic experimentation on living organisms
- C. were able to use historical explanation more systematically than were biologists who did not study embryogenesis
- D. had inadvertently discovered an important part of the factual record of the history of living organisms on earth
- E. had avoided the logical fallacies that characterize the reasoning of most nineteenth-century biologists

27. The passage would be most likely to appear in which of the following?

- A. An essay investigating the methodology used by historians of human events
- B. A book outlining the history of biology in the nineteenth century
- C. A seminar paper on the development of embryogenesis as a field of study in nineteenth-century biology
- D. A review of a book whose topic is the discovery of fossils in the nineteenth century
- E. A lecture whose subject is the limitations of experimental investigation in modern biology

Critics maintain that the fiction of Herman Melville (1819–1891) has limitations, such as its lack of inventive plots after *Moby-Dick* (1851) and its occasionally inscrutable style. A more serious, yet problematic, charge is that Melville is a deficient writer because he is not a practitioner of the “art of fiction,” as critics have conceived of this art since the late nineteenth-century essays and novels of Henry James. Indeed, most twentieth-century commentators regard Melville not as a novelist but as a writer of romance, since they believe that Melville's fiction lacks the continuity that James viewed as essential to a novel: the continuity between what characters feel or think and what they do, and the continuity between characters' fates and their pasts or original social classes. Critics argue that only *Pierre* (1852), because of its subject and its characters, is close to being a novel in the Jamesian sense.

However, although Melville is not a Jamesian novelist, he is not therefore a deficient writer. A more reasonable position is that Melville is a different kind of writer, who held, and should be judged by, presuppositions about fiction that are quite different from James's. It is true that Melville wrote “romances”; however, these are not the escapist fictions this word often implies, but fictions that range freely among very unusual or intense human experiences. Melville portrayed such experiences because he believed that these experiences best enabled him to explore moral questions, an exploration he assumed was the ultimate purpose of fiction. He was content to sacrifice continuity or even credibility as long as he could establish a significant moral situation. Thus, Melville's romances do not give the reader a full understanding of the complete feelings and thoughts that motivate actions and events that shape fate. Rather, the romances leave unexplained the sequence of events and either simplify or obscure motives. Again, such simplifications and obscurities exist in order to give prominence to the depiction of sharply delineated moral values, values derived from a character's purely personal sense of honor, rather than, as in a Jamesian novel, from the conventions of society.

28. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. make a case for the importance of skillful psychological motivation in well-written novels and romances
- B. contrast the romantic and novelistic traditions and assert the aesthetic superiority of the romantic tradition
- C. survey some of the responses to Melville's fiction put forward by James and twentieth-century literary critics
- D. argue that the charges made against Melville's fiction by literary critics are suspect and misleading
- E. note several accusations made against Melville's fiction by literary critics and refute one of these accusations

29. The author draws which of the following conclusions about the fact that Melville's fiction often does not possess the qualities of a Jamesian novel?

- A. Literary critics should no longer use Jamesian standards to judge the value of novels.
- B. Literary critics who have praised Melville's fiction at the expense of James's fiction should consider themselves justified.
- C. Literary critics should no longer attempt to place writers, including Melville and James, in traditions or categories.
- D. Melville and James should be viewed as different sorts of writers and one should not be regarded as inherently superior to the other.
- E. Melville and James nevertheless share important similarities and these should not be overlooked or slighted when literary critics point out differences between the two writers.

30. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the passage?

- A. Melville's Unique Contribution to Romantic Fiction
- B. Melville's Growing Reputation Among Twentieth-Century Literary Critics
- C. Melville and the Jamesian Standards of Fiction: A Reexamination
- D. Romantic and Novelistic: The Shared Assumptions of Two Traditions
- E. The Art of Fiction: James's Influence on the Novelistic Tradition

Critics maintain that the fiction of Herman Melville (1819–1891) has limitations, such as its lack of inventive plots after *Moby-Dick* (1851) and its occasionally inscrutable style. A more serious, yet problematic, charge is that Melville is a deficient writer because he is not a practitioner of the “art of fiction,” as critics have conceived of this art since the late nineteenth-century essays and novels of Henry James. Indeed, most twentieth-century commentators regard Melville not as a novelist but as a writer of romance, since they believe that Melville's fiction lacks the continuity that James viewed as essential to a novel: the continuity between what characters feel or think and what they do, and the continuity between characters' fates and their pasts or original social classes. Critics argue that only *Pierre* (1852), because of its subject and its characters, is close to being a novel in the Jamesian sense.

However, although Melville is not a Jamesian novelist, he is not therefore a deficient writer. A more reasonable position is that Melville is a different kind of writer, who held, and should be judged by, presuppositions about fiction that are quite different from James's. **It is true that Melville wrote “romances”; however, these are not the escapist fictions this word often implies, but fictions that range freely among very unusual or intense human experiences. Melville portrayed such experiences because he believed that these experiences best enabled him to explore moral questions, an exploration he assumed was the ultimate purpose of fiction.** He was content to sacrifice continuity or even credibility as long as he could establish a significant moral situation. Thus, Melville's romances do not give the reader a full understanding of the complete feelings and thoughts that motivate actions and events that shape fate. Rather, the romances leave unexplained the sequence of events and either simplify or obscure motives. Again, such simplifications and obscurities exist in order to give prominence to the depiction of sharply delineated moral values, values derived from a character's purely personal sense of honor, rather than, as in a Jamesian novel, from the conventions of society.

31. The author probably mentions Melville's *Pierre* to

- A. refute those literary critics who have made generalizations about the quality of Melville's fiction
- B. argue that the portrayal of characters is one of Melville's more accomplished literary skills
- C. give an example of a novel that was thought by James to resemble his own fiction
- D. suggest that literary critics find few exceptions to what they believe is a characteristic of Melville's fiction
- E. reinforce the contention of literary critics

32. Which of the following statements best describes the author's method of argumentation in the highlighted text?

- A. The author describes an important standard of evaluation used by critics of Melville and then attacks that standard.
- B. The author admits a contention put forward by critics of Melville but then makes a countercharge against those critics.
- C. The author describes a charge advanced by critics of Melville and then points out a logical flaw in this charge.
- D. The author provides evidence that seems to support a position held by critics of Melville but then demonstrates that the evidence actually supports a diametrically opposed position.
- E. The author concedes an assertion made by critics of Melville but then mitigates the weight of the assertion by means of an explanation.

33. Which of the following can logically be inferred from the passage about the author's application of the term “romance” to Melville's work?

- A. The author uses the term in a broader way than did Melville himself.
- B. The author uses the term in a different way than do many literary critics.
- C. The author uses the term in a more systematic way than did James.
- D. The author's use of the term is the same as the term's usual meaning for twentieth-century commentators.
- E. The author's use of the term is less controversial than is the use of the term “novel” by many commentators.

Critics maintain that the fiction of Herman Melville (1819–1891) has limitations, such as its lack of inventive plots after *Moby-Dick* (1851) and its occasionally inscrutable style. A more serious, yet problematic, charge is that Melville is a deficient writer because he is not a practitioner of the “art of fiction,” as critics have conceived of this art since the late nineteenth-century essays and novels of Henry James. Indeed, most twentieth-century commentators regard Melville not as a novelist but as a writer of romance, since they believe that Melville's fiction lacks the continuity that James viewed as essential to a novel: the continuity between what characters feel or think and what they do, and the continuity between characters' fates and their pasts or original social classes. Critics argue that only *Pierre* (1852), because of its subject and its characters, is close to being a novel in the Jamesian sense.

However, although Melville is not a Jamesian novelist, he is not therefore a deficient writer. A more reasonable position is that Melville is a different kind of writer, who held, and should be judged by, presuppositions about fiction that are quite different from James's. It is true that Melville wrote “romances”; however, these are not the escapist fictions this word often implies, but fictions that range freely among very unusual or intense human experiences. Melville portrayed such experiences because he believed that these experiences best enabled him to explore moral questions, an exploration he assumed was the ultimate purpose of fiction. He was content to sacrifice continuity or even credibility as long as he could establish a significant moral situation. Thus, Melville's romances do not give the reader a full understanding of the complete feelings and thoughts that motivate actions and events that shape fate. Rather, the romances leave unexplained the sequence of events and either simplify or obscure motives. Again, such simplifications and obscurities exist in order to give prominence to the depiction of sharply delineated moral values, values derived from a character's purely personal sense of honor, rather than, as in a Jamesian novel, from the conventions of society.

34. Which of the following can most logically be inferred about the author's estimation of the romantic and novelistic traditions of fiction?

- A. The romantic tradition should be considered at least as valuable as the novelistic tradition in the examination of human experience.
- B. The romantic tradition should be considered the more vital tradition primarily because Melville is part of that tradition.
- C. The romantic tradition should be considered the superior tradition because it is so widespread.
- D. The romantic tradition has had as much success in pleasing literary critics as has the novelistic tradition.
- E. The romantic and novelistic traditions have always made important contributions to literature, but their most important contributions have been in the twentieth century.

35. The author of the passage would be most likely to agree that a writer's fiction should be evaluated by which of the following criteria?

- A. How consistently that fiction establishes credibility with the reader
- B. How skillfully that fiction supersedes the presuppositions or conventions of a tradition
- C. How completely that fiction satisfies the standards of judgment held by most literary critics
- D. How well that fiction fulfills the premises about fiction maintained by the writer of the fiction
- E. How well that fiction exhibits a continuity of subject and style over the course of the writer's career

Behind every book review there are two key figures: a book review editor and a reviewer. Editors decide whether a book is reviewed in their publication, when the review appears, how long it is, and who writes the review.

When many periodicals feature the same books, this does not prove that the editors of different periodicals have not made individual decisions. Before publication, editors receive news releases and printer's proofs of certain books, signifying that the publishers will make special efforts to promote these books. They will be heavily advertised and probably be among the books that most bookstores order in quantity. Not having such books reviewed might give the impression that the editor was caught napping, whereas too many reviews of books that readers will have trouble finding in stores would be inappropriate. Editors can risk having a few of the less popular titles reviewed, but they must consider what will be newsworthy, advertised, and written about elsewhere.

If these were the only factors influencing editors, few books that stand little chance of selling well would ever be reviewed. But editors feel some concern about what might endure, and therefore listen to literary experts. A generation ago, a newspaper used a brilliant system of choosing which books to feature. The book review editor sent out a greater number of books than reviews he actually intended to publish. If a review was unenthusiastic, he reasoned that the book was not important enough to be discussed immediately, and if good reviews of enough other books came in, the unenthusiastic review might never be printed. The **unenthusiastic reviewers** were paid promptly anyway, but they learned that if they wanted their material to be printed, it was advisable to be kind.

Most editors print favorable and unfavorable reviews; however, the content of the review may be influenced by the editor. Some editors would actually feel that they had failed in their responsibility if they gave books by authors they admired to hostile critics or books by authors they disapproved of to critics who might favor them. Editors usually can predict who would

review a book enthusiastically and who would tear it to shreds.

36. According to the passage, book review editors pay attention to all of the following in deciding which books should be reviewed in their publications EXCEPT

- A. news releases from publishers
- B. sales figures compiled by bookstores
- C. the opinions of literary experts
- D. the probability that the books will be extensively advertised
- E. the likelihood that the books will be reviewed in other publications

37. The main idea of the second paragraph is that

- A. decisions made by book review editors are influenced by the business of selling books
- B. book review editors must be familiar with all aspects of the book trade
- C. advertising is the most important factor influencing book sales
- D. book reviews usually have no influence on what books are ordered in quantity by stores
- E. publishers deliberately try to influence the decisions of book review editors

38. According to the passage, a major concern of the unenthusiastic book reviewers in the highlighted text was to

- A. ensure prompt payment for their work
- B. influence public opinion of books
- C. confirm the opinions of other reviewers
- D. promote new books by their favorite authors
- E. have their reviews published in the newspaper

39. The passage provides information to answer which of the following questions?

- A. Would most book review editors prefer to have books reviewed without regard to the probable commercial success of the books?
- B. Are publishers' efforts to persuade bookstores to order certain books generally effective?
- C. On what basis do literary experts decide that a book is or is not important?
- D. What criteria are used to determine the length of a particular book review?
- E. Have book review practices in general changed significantly since a generation ago?

Behind every book review there are two key figures: a book review editor and a reviewer. Editors decide whether a book is reviewed in their publication, when the review appears, how long it is, and who writes the review.

When many periodicals feature the same books, this does not prove that the editors of different periodicals have not made individual decisions. Before publication, editors receive news releases and printer's proofs of certain books, signifying that the publishers will make special efforts to promote these books. They will be heavily advertised and probably be among the books that most bookstores order in quantity. Not having such books reviewed might give the impression that the editor was caught napping, whereas too many reviews of books that readers will have trouble finding in stores would be inappropriate. Editors can risk having a few of the less popular titles reviewed, but they must consider what will be newsworthy, advertised, and written about elsewhere.

If these were the only factors influencing editors, few books that stand little chance of selling well would ever be reviewed. But editors feel some concern about what might endure, and therefore listen to literary experts. A generation ago, a newspaper used a **brilliant** system of choosing which books to feature. The **book review editor** sent out a greater number of books than reviews he actually intended to publish. If a review was unenthusiastic, he reasoned that the book was not important enough to be discussed immediately, and if good reviews of enough other books came in, the unenthusiastic review might never be printed. The unenthusiastic reviewers were paid promptly anyway, but they learned that if they wanted their material to be printed, it was advisable to be kind.

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review a book enthusiastically and who would tear it to shreds.

40. The passage suggests which of the following about book review readers?

- A. They pay careful attention to reviewers' biases as they read reviews.
- B. They disapprove of book review editors who try to influence what their reviewers write.
- C. They use book reviews in order to gauge whether a book is likely to endure.
- D. They expect to see timely reviews of widely publicized books in the periodicals they read.
- E. They are usually willing to search in several stores for a highly recommended book that is hard to find.

41. Which of the following words, if substituted for "brilliant" in the highlighted text, would LEAST change the meaning of the sentence?

- A. showy
- B. articulate
- C. literate
- D. stingy
- E. absurd

42. Which of the following is an assumption made by the book review editor referred to in the highlighted text?

- A. A book of great worth will receive only good reviews.
- B. An important book will endure despite possible bad reviews.
- C. Reviewers might hide their true opinions in order to have their reviews published.
- D. Book review editors should select reviewers whose opinions can be guessed in advance.
- E. Book review editors have an obligation to print extensive reviews of apparently important books.

43. It can be inferred that, as a prospective book buyer, the author of the passage would generally respond to highly enthusiastic reviews of new books with

- A. resignation
- B. amusement
- C. condemnation
- D. skepticism
- E. disinterest

There are two theories that have been used to explain ancient and modern tragedy. Neither quite explains the complexity of the tragic process or the tragic hero, but each explains important elements of tragedy, and, because their conclusions are contradictory, they **represent extreme views**. The first theory states that all tragedy exhibits the workings of external fate. Of course, the overwhelming majority of tragedies do leave us with a sense of the supremacy of impersonal power and of the limitation of human effort. But this theory of tragedy is an oversimplification, primarily because it confuses the tragic condition with the tragic process: the theory does not acknowledge that fate, in a tragedy, normally becomes external to the hero only after the tragic process has been set in motion. Fate, as conceived in ancient Greek tragedy, is the internal balancing condition of life. It appears as external only after it has been violated, just as justice is an internal quality of an honest person, but the external antagonist of the criminal. Secondarily, this theory of tragedy does not distinguish tragedy from irony. Irony does not need an exceptional central figure: as a rule, the more ignoble the hero the sharper the irony, when irony alone is the objective. It is heroism that creates the splendor and exhilaration that is unique to tragedy. The tragic hero normally has an extraordinary, often a nearly divine, destiny almost within grasp, and the glory of that original destiny never quite fades out of the tragedy.

The second theory of tragedy states that the act that sets the tragic process in motion must be primarily a violation of moral law, whether human or divine; in short, that the tragic hero must have a flaw that has an essential connection with sin. Again, it is true that the great majority of tragic heroes do possess hubris, or a proud and passionate mind that seems to make the hero's downfall morally explicable. But such hubris is only the precipitating agent of catastrophe, just as in comedy the cause of the happy ending is usually some act of humility, often performed by a noble character who is meanly disguised.

- 44. The primary purpose of the passage is to**
- compare and criticize two theories of tragedy
 - develop a new theory of tragedy
 - summarize the thematic content of tragedy
 - reject one theory of tragedy and offer another theory in its place
 - distinguish between tragedy and irony
- 45. The author states that the theories discussed in the passage "represent extreme views" because their conclusions are**
- unpopular
 - complex
 - paradoxical
 - contradictory
 - imaginative
- 46. The author objects to the theory that all tragedy exhibits the workings of external fate primarily because**
- fate in tragedies is not as important a cause of action as is the violation of a moral law
 - fate in tragedies does not appear to be something that is external to the tragic hero until after the tragic process has begun
 - the theory is based solely on an understanding of ancient Greek tragedy
 - the theory does not seem to be a plausible explanation of tragedy's ability to exhilarate an audience
 - the theory does not seem applicable to the large number of tragedies in which the hero overcomes fate
- 47. Which of the following comparisons of the tragic with the ironic hero is best supported by information contained in the passage?**
- A tragic hero's fate is an external condition, but an ironic hero's fate is an internal one.
 - A tragic hero must be controlled by fate, but an ironic hero cannot be.
 - A tragic hero's moral flaw surprises the audience, but an ironic hero's sin does not.
 - A tragic hero and an ironic hero cannot both be virtuous figures in the same tragedy.
 - A tragic hero is usually extraordinary, but an ironic hero may be cowardly or even villainous.

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48. The author contrasts an honest person and a criminal primarily to

- A. prove that fate cannot be external to the tragic hero
- B. establish a criterion that allows a distinction to be made between irony and tragedy
- C. develop the distinction between the tragic condition and the tragic process
- D. introduce the concept of sin as the cause of tragic action
- E. argue that the theme of omnipotent external fate is shared by comedy and tragedy

49. The author suggests that the tragic hero's "original destiny never quite fades out of the tragedy" primarily to

- A. qualify the assertion that the theory of tragedy as a display of external fate is inconsistent
- B. introduce the discussion of the theory that tragedy is the consequence of individual sin
- C. refute the theory that the tragic process is more important than the tragic condition
- D. support the claim that heroism creates the splendor and exhilaration of tragedy
- E. distinguish between fate as conceived in ancient Greek tragedy and fate in more recent tragedy

50. In the author's opinion, an act of humility in comedy is most analogous to

- A. a catastrophe in tragedy
- B. an ironic action in tragedy
- C. a tragic hero's pride and passion
- D. a tragic hero's aversion to sin
- E. a tragic hero's pursuit of an unusual destiny

Answer Key - All RC Passages from GMAT Official Advanced Questions

(Primary Purpose questions detailed explanations in videos: RC Primary Purpose Marathon Part 1 to 5 | Text-based solutions to all OG questions can be found in GMAT Advanced RC section: refer to OG folder)

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 20. C |
| 2. C | 21. D |
| 3. D | 22. B |
| 4. B | 23. C |
| 5. E | 24. D |
| 6. C | 25. C |
| 7. C | 26. A |
| 8. D | 27. B |
| 9. E | 28. E |
| 10. A | 29. D |
| 11. A | 30. C |
| 12. D | 31. D |
| 13. C | 32. E |
| 14. A | 33. B |
| 15. E | 34. A |
| 16. B | 35. D |
| 17. A | 36. B |
| 18. D | 37. A |
| 19. D | 38. E |



39. B

40. D

41. E

42. A

43. D

44. A

45. D

46. B

47. E

48. C

49. D

50. C



THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE EVER WRITTEN ON GMAT READING COMPREHENSION

Expert solutions to selected queries asked by students



Passage (Anthropologists once thought that the ancestors of modern humans began...)

Q1.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

Primary Purpose - First of all, the part in option A about chronological relationship:

In the passage the author talks about what happened first large brain or bipedal walking, then he also presents a theory about monogamous relations and bipedal walking. The author also talks about bipedal walking bone structure of Lucy and compares it with that of current chimpanzees and humans. All these relations that the author talks about are chronological relations of bipedal walking with respect to large brain or monogamous relations.

Secondly, there is actually no challenge here if you see closely the author is not saying that some anthropologists still believe and then challenging them. The author is simply stating a fact there that earlier there was this belief but now there is a new discovery. This is totally a fact and the passage tone is therefore neutral. The opinion does come from contradiction location but not always and infact the opinion is inferred from these contradiction locations rather than a word to word copy of the contradiction sentences.

Option D is definitely incorrect because there is no challenge in the passage about the timeline of brain enlargement.



Passage (Behind every book review there are two key...)**Q39.****Alternate sol:**

The question implies that four of the answer choices will be questions that we cannot answer based on the passage. Certain among these choices are easily eliminated: the question regarding literary experts' evaluation and the question regarding criteria for length of reviews.

The question of whether book review practices in general have changed over the last generation is also fairly easily eliminated: the information about such practices a generation ago only concerns the system used by one review editor in one newspaper.

Thus, we can narrow down our answer candidates to the following: the question about how expected commercial success relates to review editors' preferences, and the question about whether book publishers' outreach efforts for certain books succeed in persuading bookstores to order large quantities of those books. Which one of these two questions does the passage help answer?

(A) – The passage provides neither a definitive “yes” nor a definitive “no” answer to this question, at least as concerns “most” book editors. The second paragraph of the passage indicates that expectations regarding the books that bookstores will order in quantity does figure prominently in decision making regarding publication of reviews. However, this does not necessarily indicate what most editors would prefer. It is possible, if not likely, that book review editors differ widely in their preferences. This does not of course answer whether book review editors listen to their personal preferences when making decisions about publication of book reviews. Ultimately, we do not have the information to address either this question or its nuances.

(B) – The passage tells us that the books that publishers heavily advertise will probably be among the books that most bookstores order in quantity. The part of the passage: “Before publication, editors receive news releases and printer's proofs of certain books, signifying that the publishers will make special efforts to promote these books. They will be heavily advertised and probably be among the books that most bookstores order in quantity.” tells us that publishers' efforts to persuade bookstores to order certain books **are generally effective**. This provides a “yes” answer to the question.

Therefore, Option (B) is correct.

(C) – The passage provides no information regarding how literary experts decide whether a book is “important.” Note that the passage specifically discusses book review editors. It is unclear whether this is the same thing as “literary expert,” but we are given no reason to think so.

(D) – The passage provides no information regarding how the length of a book review is determined.

(E) – The passage indicates that a generation ago, a review editor for a newspaper had a brilliant system of publishing only the reviews that were enthusiastic about particular books. However, the passage does not indicate that this was common editorial practice at the time. Rather, the passage tells us that most editors currently publish both positive and negative reviews. Nothing in the passage indicates that this practice was different a generation ago.

Q40.

Alternate sol:

(D) – Look at the lines:

"Not having such books reviewed might give the impression that the editor was caught napping..."

This sentence refers back to the **heavily advertised** books mentioned in the previous sentence and suggests that readers of these periodicals will think the editor has made a mistake by not including a review of a widely publicized book in their periodical.

There's also further information in the passage:

"Editors can risk having a few of the less popular titles reviewed, but they must consider what will be newsworthy, advertised, and written about elsewhere."

While editors can have some less popular titles reviewed, this part of the passage tells us they must consider what is **advertised**. This suggests that there is some pressure on editors to include reviews of books that are widely publicized in their periodicals. Also, editors must consider what is **written about elsewhere**, suggesting an editor must consider publishing timely reviews of books to prevent them from looking out of step with other periodicals that publish book reviews.

Between these two sentences, we can conclude that readers of these periodicals expect to see timely reviews of widely publicized books in the periodicals they read, giving us enough information to choose **Option (D)** as our final answer.

(E) – The word "usually" is not completely justified. The passage nowhere suggests that most book review readers will search in several stores for a highly recommended book. The passage refers to books that readers will have trouble finding in stores; however, this is more plausibly read as **readers of books** rather than **readers of book reviews**. Furthermore, it does not suggest that most readers—or most readers of book reviews—will go to several stores to search for a book.

Q41.

Alternate sol:

We must pick the word we could substitute for brilliant in the sentence without significantly changing the meaning of the sentence.

Note that neither articulate nor literate would be an apt modifier of the word system. Stingy indicates a financial use of the system, which seems inappropriate.

Eliminating these options leaves only showy and absurd as candidates. Given these choices, it is fairly clear that brilliant is meant ironically. We are told that the unenthusiastic reviewers quickly learned that if they wanted their material to be printed, it was advisable to be kind.

- (A) – Nothing in the passage conveys that the system, ironically designated brilliant, was showy, that is, eye-catching.
- (B) – Articulate could describe fluent or coherent speech, description, or writing, but it does not appropriately modify the noun system in this context.
- (C) – The adjective literate does not appropriately modify system; furthermore, it fails to convey a clear meaning that would match the ironic meaning of the modifier brilliant.
- (D) – The system does not seem to have a monetary purpose, so stingy would not fit. Note that the final sentence of the paragraph suggests that the system self-selects for books that are likely to be successful, potentially at the expense of writers who write “unenthusiastic reviews.” Nevertheless, the passage notes that the unpublished writers would still be paid, so their risk lies in not having their work read rather than in not being paid for their work.
- (E) – Correct. Among the answer choices, absurd best captures the ironic use of brilliant and preserves the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

The correct answer is **Option (E)**.

Q42.

Top 1% expert replies to student queries (can skip)

This is essentially a CR question. Some amount of information has been provided to us, and we have to understand what is an assumption on which the conclusion in the argument depends.

What is the conclusion the editor in question reached? He decided that if a review is enthusiastic means the book is not important enough to be covered (at least at that point of time). If we need to find what is assumed to reach this conclusion (and only one option can be correct, i.e. the assumption), that means if we negate, remove the assumption, the conclusion / argument itself will cease to stand / be very weakened.

If we negate Option (A), it states that a book of high worth / importance may not receive mostly favourable reviews, i.e. a book of high importance may receive bad / unenthusiastic reviews. This is completely opposite to the conclusion the editor had reached (his conclusion ceases to exist). So, **Option (A)** is an assumption the editor made and is the correct answer.