Section II

Three Essay Questions

TIME: 2 HOURS AND 15 MINUTES

Write your essays on standard 8½” × 11” composition paper. At the exam you will be given a bound booklet containing 12 lined pages.

Essay Question 1

SUGGESTED TIME:
15 MINUTES FOR READING THE QUESTION AND SOURCES
40 MINUTES FOR WRITING AN ESSAY

Many people worldwide devote huge amounts of time, money, and energy opposing the use of animals in laboratory research. Many others take the view that animals should be used in research for the overall benefit of humankind.

Carefully read the following six sources, including the material that introduces each source. Then, in an essay that synthesizes at least three of the sources, take a position on the claim that animals should be used in research for the overall benefit of humankind.

Source A (AALAS)
Source B (PETA)
Source C (Pie graph)
Source D (Derbyshire)
Source E (Nuffield)
Source F (Haggarty)

Instructions:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that may establish a line of reasoning.
- Provide evidence from at least three of the provided sources to support the thesis. Indicate clearly the sources used through direct quotation, paraphrase, or summary. Sources may be cited as Source A, Source B, etc., or by using the descriptions in parentheses.
- Explain the relationship between the evidence and the thesis.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rhetorical situation.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating the argument.

Source A

"What Benefits Have Come from Medical Research Using Animals?" American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS), *www.foundation.aalas.org*

The following comes from the website of a foundation that provides funding to promote awareness of research in animal care and animal contributions to biomedical research, safety testing, and education.

. . . Today's children routinely receive a vaccine that provides a lifetime of protection against polio. Children are also immunized against typhus, diphtheria, whooping cough, smallpox, and tetanus. Untold millions of people around the world are healthy because of these vaccines made possible through animal research.

Diabetes is another example of the importance of biomedical research. Approximately 6.2% of the population (17 million people) has diabetes. Nearly 1 million new cases of diabetes are diagnosed every year, and based on death certificate data, diabetes contributed to 209,664 deaths in 1999 alone. Without insulin treatments to regulate blood sugar levels, many more

diabetics would die. Dogs were crucial to the research that identified the cause of diabetes, which led to the development of insulin. . . .

The importance of animal research to those suffering from heart and circulatory diseases cannot be overlooked. About 50 million Americans age six and older have high blood pressure, which can cause strokes, heart attacks, and heart disease. Research involving animals has helped identify the causes of high blood pressure and develop more effective drugs to control the problem. Other research has resulted in treatments for strokes and heart attacks that save thousands of lives and reduce recovery time. Dogs have been especially important to researchers who developed open-heart surgery, pacemakers, and heart transplants. These techniques have revolutionized therapy for people who have severe heart disease.

Source B

"Using Animals for Medical Testing Is Unethical and Unnecessary," *The Ethics of Medical Testing*, an online academic journal, 2012.

The following has been excerpted from an article prepared by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), the world's largest animal rights organization, with two million members and supporters.

Millions of animals suffer and die needlessly every year in the United States as they become subjects for medical testing and other horrible experiments. Although most people assume such activity is necessary to advance medical science, in reality it does very little to improve human health. The results of animal testing do not directly transfer to humans, and such results can be easily manipulated. . .

Diseases that are artificially induced in animals in a laboratory are never identical to those that occur naturally in humans. Because animal species differ from one another biologically in many significant ways, it becomes even more unlikely that animal experiments will yield results that will be

correctly interpreted and applied to the human condition in a meaningful way.

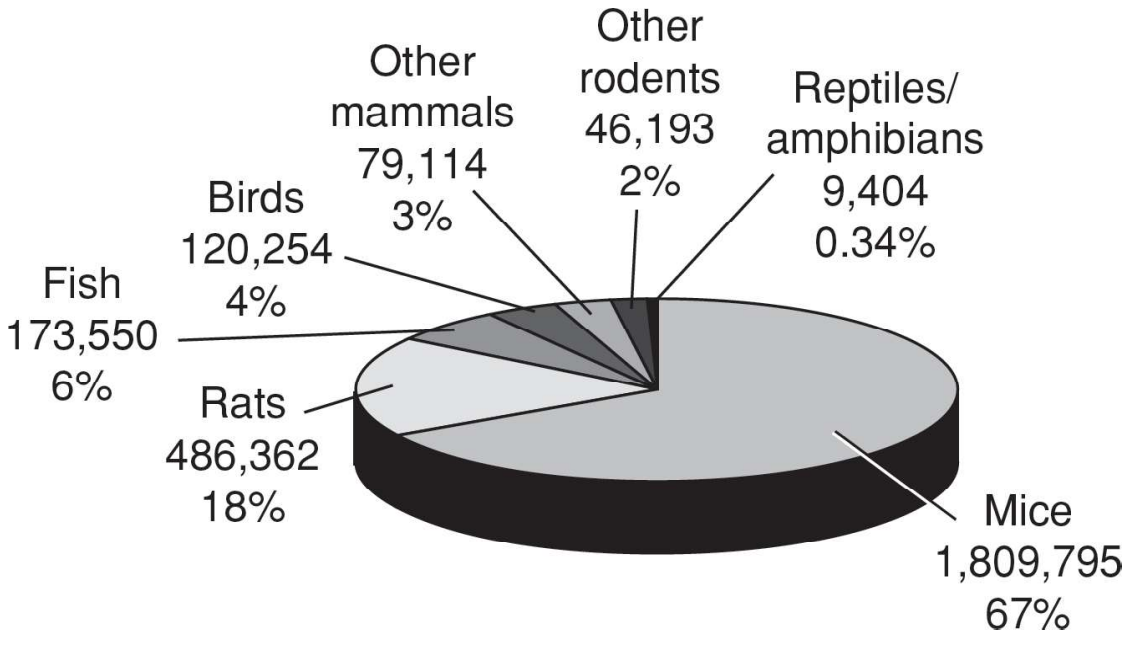
For example, according to former National Cancer Institute director Dr. Richard Klausner, “We have cured mice of cancer for decades, and it simply didn’t work in humans.” And although at least 85 HIV/AIDS vaccines have been successful in nonhuman primate studies, as of 2010, every one of nearly 200 preventive and therapeutic vaccine trials has failed to demonstrate benefit to humans.

Source C

“Numbers of Animals Used in Research in the United Kingdom,” Home Office (2004), *Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals*, Great Britain, 2003.

The pie graph below comes from a British government agency.

Figure 1. Number of animals used in research in the UK



Source: Home Office (2004), *Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals*, Great Britain 2003, (London; HMSO)

Source D

Stuart Derbyshire, Ph.D., "Animal Experimentation," Speech at Edinburgh Book Festival, August 19, 2002.

Below are excerpts from a talk given at a book festival by a faculty member in the School of Psychology, University of Birmingham.

. . . Ongoing research with a wide variety of animals includes investigations of AIDS, cancer, heart disease, cystic fibrosis, and muscular dystrophy. The development of artificial arteries, the possibility of reversing spinal cord injury, and the aging process are all being investigated using animal models. The best hopes to cure malaria, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, epilepsy, clinical obesity, infertility, and a variety of birth defects all rely on current animal experiments.

Without doubt there are many experiments that will fail or lead to no useful therapy—such is the nature of all science. But to suggest that scientists are pointlessly pursuing experiments and models that do not work is just wrong-headed. The process of peer review and grant allocation certainly has its problems, but it is not that bad! If there were good alternatives to animals that worked better or as well, for less money and hassle, scientists would use them. We can be stubborn but we are not totally bananas.

. . . Tom Regan and Richard Ryder argue that animals are like us, that they share with us the capacity for seeing, hearing, believing, remembering, and anticipating and for experiencing pleasure and pain. They suggest that animals are "subjects of a being."

But, in every important sense, they are flat out wrong. Animals and humans do not think alike, feel alike, or experience alike. Humans and animals are not on the same scale.

Source E

"The Ethics of Research Involving Animals: A Guide to the Report," Nuffield Council on Bioethics, May 25, 2005.

The following is excerpted from a report issued by a foundation that studies and reports on ethical issues involving biological and medical research.

The question of defining the moral status of humans and animals often arises in the debate on research involving animals. Are humans morally more important than all animals? Is there a sliding scale with humans at the top and the simplest animals at the bottom? Or are humans and animals morally equal?

We suggest that the proper moral treatment of a being depends on the characteristics it possesses, rather than simply on the species to which it belongs. We identify five morally relevant features:

- Sentience (the capacity to feel pleasure and pain)
- Higher cognitive capacities (for example, the ability to use language and learn complicated tasks, such as making and using tools)
- The capacity to flourish (the ability to satisfy species-specific needs)
- Sociability (being a member of a community)
- Possession of a life (attributing value to life itself)

What weight should be given to each of the morally relevant features in considering whether or not research is acceptable? Are there factors to be weighed against human benefit? Should they be understood as absolute constraints? For example, should any use of animals that are capable of

suffering be prohibited, or only the use of those that have higher cognitive capacities?

Many people seem to support a "hybrid" approach. This involves a combination of laying down definite limits for what should and should not happen (for example: "animals with higher cognitive capacities such as chimpanzees should never be used in research") and weighing up the costs and benefits of a particular action (for example, "research that causes minimum pain to a mouse is acceptable if it helps to ascertain the safety of an important and frequently used chemical").

Source F

Clare Haggarty, "Animals in Scientific Research: The Ethical Argument," National Anti-Vivisection Society, *www.navs.org*

The following comes from the website of an organization devoted to protecting animals and their rights.

The worst atrocity we inflict upon animals condemned to scientific research may be the act of removing them from the natural habitat, or breeding them in captivity, and then placing them in the artificial environment of a laboratory cage, where they have no hope of having the kind of life nature intended for them.

In the end, we as a society have a choice. Do we treat our fellow creatures with cruelty and callousness? Or with compassion, respect and justice? As humans, we have the freedom to make that choice. With this freedom comes the moral obligation to make responsible decisions.

Animals have no such choice. Because they cannot say no, they are completely vulnerable to whatever the researcher has in store for them, no matter how much pain and suffering is involved. Animals are unable to understand or claim their right to be alive, to be free from pain and suffering, and fulfill their biological potential. Therefore, it is up to humans

to recognize and protect those rights for them, just as we are morally obligated to protect infants, the developmentally disabled, and the mentally ill.

It has been said that the moral progress of our society can be measured by the way it treats animals. Animal experimentation—an institutionalized form of exploitation—stands in the way of moral progress. Now is the time to extend our sphere of ethical concern to all creatures.