

MCAT CARS 2 Homework

Passage 1 (Questions 1-6)

This social science passage is ripe with complex language that you probably have not been exposed to before. You likely never taken an economics class, but that is OK! A lot of information is repeated, like in many other passages that contain complex language, and many unfamiliar terms are defined for the reader. Make sure you focus on the big picture, instead of being uncomfortable with not understanding minute details. These types of passages typically invoke anxiety, and you should work to quell this anxiety by emphasizing focus to a cloaking, overall purpose.

Passage Outline

Paragraph 1: FIRE- move from productive to extractive economy

Paragraph 2: Former manufacturing giants now make more income through financing

Paragraph 3: Extractive economy creates a more complicated system where more people are involved; tab passed to consumer

Paragraph 4: Political system enables commodities to be further exploited

Paragraph 5: Need to combat corruption; polarity of wealth damaging

Goal: Argue against extractive economy

Question 1: C

This question deals with the opinion of the author. You should already have ideas swimming in their heads relevant to the goal of this passage, to argue against an extractive economy. Anything along these lines to this will be the correct answer.

(A): This answer is too extreme. The author states in paragraph 1 that *Western* countries are beginning to transform to extractive, and thus, in the author's opinion, destructive economies. However, the author mentions nothing of non-Western countries. Therefore, answer choice A cannot be correct.

(B): This is the opposite of what the author states. In paragraph 1, the author states that *goods and services* were created by Western countries in the past that *led to a net increase in economic value*. Also, in paragraph 3, the author alludes to an example of the economic value of a house decreasing, with an increased number of parties involved in its production and sale.

(C): This answer fits. The whole passage, the author has a negative tone towards anything related to an extractive economy. Landlords and bankers are part of an extractive economy, so should be viewed in a negative manner relevant to the author's opinion.

(D): This is the opposite of what the author thinks. Paragraphs 3-5 clearly demonstrate the author's opinion regarding this matter.

Question 2: A

This question deals with a specific justification for the *rentier* class for exploiting the economy through extractive means, as stated in paragraph 4. The author states that *Centuries of human economic enterprise have created an abundance of valuable commodities and, thus, from the standpoint of individuals who want more for themselves regardless of the cost to others, it makes more sense to exploit the wealth that already exists rather than take the risk of trying to create value anew*. This is clearly a justification for why the *rentier* class views it as rational to extract money from available resources, although the author clearly does not buy into this justification due to the impact it has on the economy as a whole.

(A): Perfect fit. No need to even read off the other answer choices.

(B): The author's central thesis is the goal of this passage: to argue against extractive economies. Although this statement is negative towards the *rentier* class' justification, it does not necessarily strengthen the point that extractive economies are a bad thing (it does not explain the cost to others, only that it is not considered by the *rentier* class). Therefore, answer choice B is incorrect.

(C): Again, like in answer choice B, the cost to others is not explained. Therefore, the author's central thesis is neither strengthened nor weakened. Choice C is incorrect.

(D): The question stem refers to a part of the passage that explains why it is easier to exploit existing wealth; thus, answer choice D is the opposite of what is being discussed, and is wrong.

Question 3: C

Once, again, this question refers to the goal of this passage. So far, there is no need to understand any of the minute details of this passage, only the overall purpose. The author is against extractive economies, and it is clearly introduced in the first paragraph, as well as discussed throughout the passage, that the *rentier* class contributes to the dominance of an extractive economy. Therefore, we will be looking for something that has to do with the *rentier* class being a group of elite business people that exploit current resources in order to garner a short-term profit for themselves without taking into account the long-term effect of their actions on the economy as a whole.

(A): *Rentiers* are focused on an *extractive* based society, not a productive based economy, as explicitly stated in paragraph 1. Answer choice A is incorrect.

(B): Although the author states in a negative manner that he does not agree with the regardless manner in which the *rentier* class conducts their business (paragraph 4), he does not explicitly state that they *specifically* exploit *lower class* production. No class members are discussed, and the reader is left to assume that the *rentier* class would exploit any class at any level, not just the lower class at the level of production. Therefore, choice C is incorrect.

(C): This matches perfectly to our prediction.

(D): This is the opposite sentiment that the author expresses in the entirety of the passage. Answer choice D is wrong.

Question 4: C

The author discusses *real value* in the 3rd paragraph. He compares the real value of laborers and architects to landlords, stating that the people who create the house (laborers and architects) have more value than the people who sell/finance the house (landlords). In essence, he is stating that those who contribute to a productive economy have more real value than those that contribute to an extractive economy, again alluding to the goal of the passage. Our answer of someone having the least real value should be contribute to an extractive economy, not a productive economy.

(A): Investors that contribute money to scientists to *produce* a new hair-loss drug are contributing to the production of a new product. Therefore, answer choice A is incorrect. This can be a trap if you don't read all the way into the answer choice, since we are discussing an investor and throughout the passage investors are associated with an extractive economy. Make sure to take all aspects of the answer choice into consideration.

(B): The potter is *creating* a new product. Thus, answer choice B is incorrect.

(C): Investors that trade bitcoins contribute to an extractive economy. This fits our prediction.

(D): A musician is producing a new product, in the form of music. Therefore, answer choice D is incorrect.

Question 5: A

The author discusses Ford and General Motors in paragraph 2. He uses these companies in an example of how former manufacturing giants that contributed greatly to a productive economy now rely on extractive methods in order to gain capital. Thus, the author is supporting his argument that we are switching from a productive economy to an extractive economy.

(A): This fits our prediction perfectly.

(B): This is not the argument the author is supporting through this statement.

(C): This is not the argument the author is supporting through this statement.

(D): This is not the argument the author is supporting through this statement.

Question 6: C

In paragraph 4, the author states, *Centuries of human economic enterprise have created an abundance of valuable commodities and, thus, from the standpoint of individuals who want more for themselves regardless of the cost to others, it makes more sense to exploit the wealth that already exists rather than take the risk of trying to create value anew.* Thus, the answer should be along these lines.

(A): FUD. This is stated in paragraph 3, but is not the reason why, according to the author, our economy is changing from a productive to an extractive one. Don't be fooled by an answer choice containing complex language; break down the statement word by word, and use context clues in order to determine what is really being stated.

(B): FUD. This is stated in paragraph 2, but is not the reason why, according to the author, our economy is changing from a productive to an extractive one.

(C): This fits our prediction perfectly.

(D): FIRE is not an act proposed in the United States; it is a sector of an extractive economy (paragraph 1).

Passage 2 (Questions 1-6)

This is a fairly straightforward humanities passage. The first paragraph introduces what will be discussed in detail for the remainder of the passage. If you get the gist of paragraph 1, then it is easy to grasp the coming examples that are elaborated on.

Passage Outline

Paragraph 1: Artists' hard work often goes underappreciated, especially when creation is collaborative and visual is relatively less important

Paragraph 2: Theater example

Paragraph 3: Also scenic design in opera and dance

Paragraph 4: Intricacies of designer

Paragraph 5: Specialization is key; *The Tempest* example

Goal: Argue that visual representation of art is very important, even when it is not the main attraction of a piece.

Question 1: D

We want to think about the goal of the passage when we are reading off answer choices A-D (it is difficult to make an exact prediction for this question). What is the goal? Argue that visual representation of art is very important, even when it is not the main attraction of a piece. This should be rolling around in the back of your mind when you are answering this question, even if it does not match with an answer choice (it doesn't).

(A): This is the opposite of what the author introduces in paragraph 2. Therefore, answer choice A is wrong.

(B): The author describes in paragraph 5 how scene-builders avoid technical difficulties by making adjustments to their sets. Therefore, answer choice B is wrong. This is a logical statement, so you may have fallen into the trap of answering a question based on common sense. You must find evidence directly stated in the passage for your answer choice.

(C): Although *The Tempest* is discussed in paragraph 5, the author does not state his/her opinion on the quality of the play.

(D): Although this is somewhat of a minute detail, this answer choice is supported in paragraph 5. The author describes how some changes have to be made to sets in order to make the scene plausible. Therefore, answer choice D is correct.

Question 2: A

Where does the author introduce the topic of theater? In paragraph 2! And what does the author do in paragraph 2? He employs the goal of the passage in order to defend theater's visual appeal. Now, let's make a match!

(A): Boom. Match. No need to read off the other answer choices.

(B): Too extreme. The author never states that it is the *most* important aspect, only that it is an *integral* aspect. If two answer choices are similar, and there is a more extreme one, the extreme one should, most often, be eliminated, because if the extreme answer is true, then the less extreme answer choice is likely true as well.

(C): Too extreme. The author says collaborative art is underrated, not the *best* visual art.

(D): Too extreme. The author gives an example in paragraph 2 of how a scene designer can look different than one might think, but he/she does not make the assertion that *all* set designers do not look the part.

Question 3: D

This question is hard to make a prediction for, so we should keep the goal of the passage in mind when reading off the answer choices.

(A): Too extreme. The author does note in paragraph 5 that engineers, carpenters, and technicians are all part of a play, and connotes that they are often overlooked, but he/she never makes the assertion that they are the *most important* staff on a theater production.

(B): Opposite. In paragraph 5, the author deliberately states that there are others involved in creation of the set, other than the set designer.

(C): Too extreme. In paragraph 5, the author describes the importance of the set designer, but nowhere does he/she state that the set designer is the *most important* staff on a theater production.

(D): Even though this answer is extreme, the author states that only those involved in the scene shop (i.e. engineer, carpenter) produce the scene of a set. Therefore, uncharacteristically, this extreme answer is correct.

Question 4: B

The author alludes to the evolving potential of set design at the end of paragraph 5, stating that, *Compromises on the initial design may, of course, have to be made, but they are normally handled in consultation with the director and the designers, and*

especially in today's big-budget Broadway productions, such scope adjustments are cut to an absolute minimum. The key in this quote is *especially in today's big-budget Broadway productions*, which denotes that scene design presently makes less compromises than in years past because of larger budgets. Let's match.

(A): The author never says that the scenes of the past were not built by engineers and technicians, only that they are involved with set design (paragraph 5).

(B): This fits, albeit in different words than our prediction.

(C): This is the opposite of what the author asserts.

(D): This is the opposite of what the author asserts.

Question 5: C

In making our prediction, let's think about the overlying message that the author makes about those who work on set design. Paragraph 3 introduces the idea that set designers are underappreciated, and in the following paragraphs elaborates on this claim. Let's keep this in mind while we match.

(A): Opposite; the author praises set designers' artistic design in paragraphs 3-5.

(B): Too extreme; the author says this is the *popular perception* in paragraph 1, but says nowhere in the passage that *no one appreciates their work*.

(C): Perfect; not too extreme (like answer choice B), and embodies the author's overlying argument.

(D): While the author says that only some people do appreciate their work (paragraph 1), he/she never makes the assertion that *there are currently no avenues for them to be recognized*.

Question 6: C

Where do we see dance and opera mentioned? In paragraph 3 (briefly), in order to group them together with theater in the performing arts. Let's match.

(A): Opposite; groups them with theater in order to emphasize the intricacies of the design by the set designers.

(B): Opposite; the author compares the three equally.

(C): Match.

(D): The author never asserts that sets are the main reason people attend; if anything, he/she hints the opposite, since in paragraph 1 it is stated, *This sentiment becomes progressively stronger as the creation in question becomes more collaborative, and as the final visual product is less of the audience's primary engagement with the work as a whole*.

Passage 3 (Questions 1-6)

This is a straightforward humanities passage. That is very well organized, and easy to follow. When there are obvious topical paragraphs, it is not necessary to read through the entire paragraph; it is better, rather, to understand what is being explained (i.e. hard/soft science fiction), and then go back and read more in depth about a certain topic if need be.

Passage Outline

Paragraph 1: Science fiction literature

Paragraph 2: Speculative fiction; SF relies on tech, politics, sociology, science

Paragraph 3: Hard SF

Paragraph 4: Soft SF

Paragraph 5: Hard/soft SF on continuum

Goal: Describe and differentiate science fiction literature (+ tone)

Question 1: C

The author speaks of the science fiction genre in high regard throughout the entire passage. Thus, something positive that has to do with science fiction literature is reasonable to expect for the correct answer. The author does not make an argument for or against anything, so we should not compare science fiction to any other genre, nor any one subgenre of science fiction to each other, in terms of quality.

(A): As stated before, the author does not have a preference towards either subgenre of science fiction stated.

(B): As stated before, the author does not have a preference towards either subgenre of science fiction stated.

(C): This fits!

(D): The author clearly states in paragraphs 3-5 that there *are* two different types of science fiction: hard science fiction and soft science fiction.

Question 2: B

The author categorizes these works as *soft* science fiction, which is discussed in paragraph 4. The specific example of *Brave New World* is given as well. Although the author states that soft science fiction is not as true to science as hard science fiction, he still respects and admires it in its own regard. Thus, we should look for something positive, although not comparative to hard science fiction (remember, the author does not state a preference for either type of science fiction).

(A): Opposite; the author respects and admires soft science fiction.

(B): Bingo!

(C): The author states that, *Science fiction relies on extrapolating current technology to determine the future course of human development*. Nowhere does he/she say that science fiction predicts the future evolution of technology.

(D): This is completely out of scope. Way too negative, and it doesn't even make logical sense.

[Question 3: A

The author makes the assertion throughout the passage that science fiction is a rich literary genre, that has a continuum of subgenres, with hard science fiction in its purest form being at one pole and soft science fiction in its purest form being at the other pole. Now, let's match our answer to something along those lines.

(A): True. Paragraph 5 discusses the continuum we stated previously. Done!

(B): There is no timeline in the evolution of the science fiction writer given by the author. Out of scope.

(C): OOS. The acronym PhD is not even used in this passage.

(D): The author enjoys the political aspects of soft science fiction, as discussed in paragraphs 2 and 4.

Question 4: B

The author discusses this issue in paragraph 4. The exact quote is, *Fantastical mechanisms and technology are more widespread and accepted as the rigors of hard science fiction are given to the inclusion of things like faster-than-light travel to enable the story to proceed, albeit sometimes illogically*. He is discussing this in reference to some soft science fiction pieces, that contain nonsensical possibilities. Thus, our answer should be along those lines.

(A): Opposite. This would be something, possibly, in soft science fiction, not hard science fiction.

(B): This answer fits, even though it is stated a bit differently.

(C): This is way too extreme; it is never ascertained that other books do not contain elements of soft science fiction, such as faster than light travel.

(D): This is out of scope, and not close to relevant to what is being discussed in this part of paragraph 4.

Question 5: D

We are lucky on this one, as we are given the paragraph in which to find the term we are seeking the definition of. The statement in the passage that contains this word is, *The two major divisions, hard and soft, mainly are derived from the scientific rigor behind the innovations discussed in the work*. Thus, scientific rigor in this passage means something along the lines of the science in literature maintaining present capabilities.

(A): Way OOS. This is not even discussed in the passage.

(B): Way OOS again. This is not even discussed in the passage.

(C): This does not match our prediction, cannot account for the term *scientific rigor* in this passage.

(D): Perfect Match (nearly)!

Question 6: B

Where is speculative fiction discussed? In paragraph 2! It is mentioned in order to present the umbrella term that science fiction is placed under (categorically), as well as differentiate science fiction from other genres of speculative fiction.

(A): No hierarchy or ranking of fictional forms is discussed. OOS.

(B): Boom. Different language, but same idea.

(C): There is no talk of critics being critical of science fiction writers, nor are critics even discussed in the entirety of the passage. Way OOS.

(D): Once again, OOS. The origins of science fiction are not even discussed in this passage.

Passage 4 (Questions 1-7)

Like the first passage, this humanities passage relies on complex language that, in its entirety, need not be understood. Repetition is common, and many terms are defined. As with the first passage, emphasize looking at the *big picture* for this passage, especially the differences between the simple principle (named several different other things in this passage as well, which may be confusing) and Murphy's perspective.

Passage Outline

Paragraph 1: Simple principle- no plausible

Paragraph 2: Some reject SP objection; Murphy doesn't

Paragraph 3: Murphy- beliefs → morals

Paragraph 4: Example supporting paragraph 3

Paragraph 5: Basic right and wrong; reason resolves conflicts

Paragraph 6: Murphy disadvantages

Paragraph 7: Murphy's more practical & just as valid as first principle

Goal: Discuss advantages and disadvantages to Murphy's perspective

Question 1: B

Where is reason in reference to Murphy's perspective mentioned? In paragraph 5! It states that, *Murphy starts with this base sense of right and wrong, but recognizes that it*

needs to be supplemented by reason where our intuitions are confused or conflicting. Thus, reason is used when people's beliefs conflict. Let's match.

(A): There is no mention of any one group's beliefs superseding one another; OOS.

(B): Perfect match.

(C): As introduced in paragraph 3, Murphy states that an individual derives their *morals from their beliefs*. Thus, the belief would override the ethical principle. This does not fall in line with answer choice C.

(D): FUD. This is a disadvantage of Murphy's perspective discussed in paragraph 6.

Question 2: C

The Constitution is mentioned in paragraph 5 in order to make an analogy regarding how Murphy is looking for *an interpretation of our convictions*, as how *certain scholars try to find the best interpretation of our Constitution*.

(A): OOS. Doesn't make sense.

(B): Nope, just part of a detail of the passage.

(C): Bingo!

(D): OOS. Doesn't make sense.

Question 3: B

Where is this discussed in the passage? In paragraph 6, where the disadvantages to Murphy's approach are discussed. Looking back at paragraph 6, this is indeed a disadvantage to Murphy's perspective, and so our answer should match as such.

(A): Opposite. This is Murphy's approach.

(B): Match!

(C): This actually weakens Murphy's belief, it doesn't support it.

(D): This presents a disadvantage of Murphy's belief, so if anything it would strengthen the first principle.

Question 4: C

When assessing this type of question, one must keep the goal of the passage in mind. The goal of this passage is to discuss advantages and disadvantages to Murphy's perspective. Let's match.

(A): This passage is mainly concerned with Murphy's principle, not the simple principle.

(B): This passage is more narrowly focused on Murphy's principle.

(C): Since *Demands of Morality* is the name of Murphy's book, this fits, albeit not word for word.

(D): Murphy's beliefs do not entail *everything going wrong*.

Question 5: A

We are lucky on this one, as we are given the paragraph in which to find the term we are seeking the definition of. The statement in the passage that contains this word is, *Murphy argues from our considered judgments rather than to them. For example, Murphy cites our “simple but firmly held” beliefs as supporting the potency of the over-demandingness objection, and nowhere in the work can one find a source of moral values divorced from human preferences.* Thus, *human preferences* can be defined as something that is inborn, and cannot be separated from a person. Let's match.

(A): First choice works! Hooray!

(B): Way OOS. Not what is being discussed here.

(C): OOS. Not what is being discussed here. Plus, Murphy more holds the notion of absolute beliefs, not absolute principles.

(D): Way OOS. Not what is being discussed here.

Question 6: C

We are lucky on this one, as we are given the paragraph in which to find the term we are seeking the definition of. The statement in the passage that contains this word is, *From an analytic perspective, the potential extreme demands of morality are not a “problem.” A theory of morality is no less valid simply because it asks great sacrifices.* Thus, *analytic perspective* most closely refers to some perspective that gives way to the simple principle. Let's match.

(A): The author does not state which perspective he favors.

(B): This is the opposite of the viewpoint of *Demands of Morality*.

(C): Perfect. The simple principle is in direct opposition to *Demands of Morality*.

(D): OOS. Murphy's critics are not discussed in this passage. Only the author's perceived disadvantages to Murphy's approach are discussed, and they are not being discussed here.

Question 7: B

We are going to have to read through these one by one. The simple principle states that beliefs come from morals, that its drawbacks need not be problematic (although Murphy sees them as such), and is less practical but just as valid as Murphy's perspective. Let's find the odd man out.

(A): This is true (paragraph 2)

(B): Opposite; this is Murphy's philosophy (paragraph 3). Match!

(C): This is true (paragraph 1)

(D): This is true (paragraph 2)