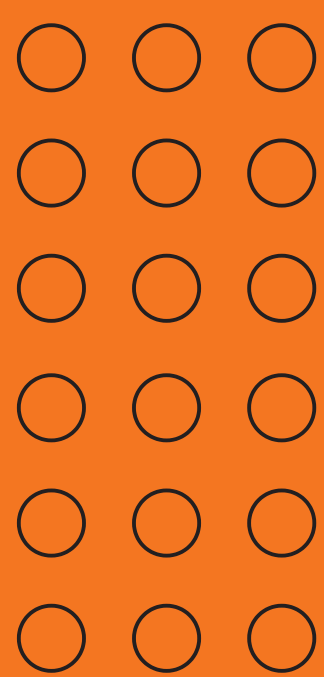


COMPANION WITH FAITH

READING GUIDE



WORDS IN CONTEXT

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Companion with Faith

Reading Guide

⑤ WORDS IN CONTEXT

On the Reading and Writing section of your SAT, some questions will ask you to select the most logical and precise word or phrase in a given context.

Words in context questions will look like this:

1

② In recommending Bao Phi's collection Sông I Sing, a librarian noted that pieces by the spoken-word poet don't lose their _____ nature when printed: the language has the same pleasant musical quality on the page as it does when performed by Phi. (+)

① Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- X A. jarring shocking ⊖
✓ B. scholarly X
⊖ C. melodic
D. personal X

How should we determine the most "precise" word?

A "precise" word is one that means exactly what it should in a given situation: it will fit its sentence perfectly and **reinforce the text's meaning**.

This last bit is crucial. We're not only looking for words that look beautiful or sound well. Instead, we must comprehend the text and choose the word whose meaning best supports the text's argument. This means that reading comprehension is just as crucial to answering questions about words in context as vocabulary knowledge.

To help us identify the best word in context, we should focus on two things: **context** and **connotation**.

Context

The scenario we're trying to match a word or phrase to is referred to as the context. We need to carefully examine the offered text in order to comprehend the context.

The definition of the word we're looking for will be given again in the text since we need to know what it means. As a result, many words-in-context questions' prompts adopt the same format:

Statement. Restatement.

The trick then is to match the word we're looking for with the equivalent idea in the other statement.

For example, let's look back at our example item prompt, determine the "statement" and the "restatement":

1

In recommending Bao Phi's collection *Sông I Sing*, a librarian noted that pieces by the spoken-word poet don't lose their _____ nature when printed: the language has the same pleasant musical quality on the page as it does when performed by Phi.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. jarring
- B. scholarly
- C. melodic
- D. personal

We have two matching statements here:

- ✓ The poems keep their _____ nature when printed.
- ✓ The poems have the same pleasant musical quality when "on the page".

Keep in mind how the first statement's blank lines up with the second statement's reference to a pleasant musical quality. The context tells us the word to pick: the word that most closely resembles the words "pleasant" and "musical."

Connotation

"Connotations" are the associations that we have with different words. One common example of connotation is whether a word feels positive or negative. Words can have similar meanings but vastly different connotations.

For example, the words "promising" and "ominous" both mean that something is predictive of the future. However, while "promising" has a strongly positive connotation, "ominous" has a strongly negative connotation. Therefore, these words can't logically be applied to the same context.

If you're stuck on a words in context question, try focusing on these connotations. Is the sentence positive? Then the word we choose should be positive too!

For example:

- ✓ The basketball star's **promising** play this season suggests a bright future.
- ✓ The dark, **ominous** clouds on the horizon suggest a storm is coming.

Based on context clues like "bright" and "storm", it's clear where the positive and negative words are most appropriate.

How should you handle questions involving words in context?

Consider using the following steps to answer a words in context question:

Step 1: *Summarize the text in your own words*

Don't just skim the text. After carefully reading it, try to express the main idea in your own words. This can be challenging because a crucial term is probably absent. Try to summarize each idea in the text into a straightforward bullet point if you're having trouble understanding it.

Keep in mind that words in context-based prompts often have a similar structure. They will state a claim, follow it up with more details, or restate it in new words.

Step 2: *Identify the key word, phrase, or idea*

You can find all the information you need in the text. The right response will support any argument the text is making. Frequently, the correct answer and one word or phrase in the text will have nearly identical meanings. Finding the appropriate context clues should make the next step simple.

Step 3: *Select the word that matches*

It's not the most exact word in context if it alters the meaning of the text or introduces a new idea or perspective. Only one of the options will emphasize and match the concept that the text is trying to convey. You can confidently choose that option!

Back to the question, We've never read Bao Phi's poetry, so how are we supposed to know what the poems are like? Well, luckily we don't have to.

If we look at the second part of the prompt text (the part after the colon), it tells us what Bao Phi's poems are like: they have a "pleasant musical quality". The most precise word in this context will emphasize the same positive association with music.

"Melodic" also means pleasant and musical, so it best emphasizes the point being made in context. **The answer is (C).**

Necessary Key Notes:

- **Charge it (+/-)**

Sometimes connotation alone is enough to answer a words in context question. Is the text expressing something positive? If so, we can eliminate any choices that are too negative or neutral.

Let's look back at our example question:

We can tell the text is trying to say something positive (+) about Bao Phi's poetry: it has a "pleasant musical quality".

Which of the choices is a positive word?

"Jarring" is a negative word. "Scholarly" and "personal" aren't negative, but they're not exactly positive either...

That leaves us with "melodic", which is positive and is the answer.

- **Avoid unknowns**

You might come across some unfamiliar terminology on test day. Many test takers make the error of choosing words in the selections that they don't know instead of ones that they know better and "feel right." Because they might "seem too easy," these students reason that the phrases they are more familiar with must be "traps." This tactic frequently fails.

To raise your chances of getting words in context questions correct, try this instead:

- ✓ Eliminate what you can from the words you do know
- ✓ Select an option from what remains.

Note: The only time you should select a word you don't know is if you can confidently eliminate all of the other choices.

CLASSWORK

WORDS IN CONTEXT QUESTIONNAIRE

1

The following text is from Booth Tarkington's 1921 novel *Alice Adams*.

Mrs. Adams had always been fond of vases, she said, and every year her husband's Christmas present to her was a vase of one sort or another—whatever the clerk showed him, marked at about twelve or fourteen dollars.

As used in the text, what does the word "marked" most nearly mean?

- A. Stained
- B. Staged
- C. Watched
- ☒ D. Priced

2

The following text is adapted from Zora Neale Hurston's 1921 short story "John Redding Goes to Sea." John wants to travel far beyond the village where he lives near his mother, Matty.

[John] had on several occasions attempted to reconcile his mother to the notion, but found it a difficult task. Matty always took refuge in self-pity and tears. Her son's desires were incomprehensible to her, that was all.

As used in the text, what does the phrase "reconcile his mother to" most nearly mean?

- ☒ A. Get his mother to accept
- B. Get his mother to apologize for
- C. Get his mother to match
- D. Get his mother to reunite with

Additional Notes

CLASSWORK

3

Mineralogical differences are detectable in samples collected from two locations on the near-Earth asteroid Ryugu, but such differences may not indicate substantial compositional variations in the asteroid.

Cosmochemist Kazuhide Nagashima and colleagues note that at the small scale of the samples, the distribution of minerals is unlikely to be _____.

①

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ☒ A. redundant *no longer useful*
- ☒ B. neglected *lacking care / abandoned*
- ☒ C. uniform *one / same*
- ☐ D. ongoing *still in progress*

4

Visual artist Gabriela Alemán states that the bold colors of comics, pop art, and Latinx culture have always fascinated her. This passion for the rich history and colors of her Latinx community translates into the _____ artworks she produces.

①

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ☒ A. unknown *slow to show emotion*
- ☒ B. reserved *certain / decided*
- ☒ C. definite *colorful*
- ☒ D. vivid *+*

Additional Notes

CLASSWORK

5

Economist Marco Castillo and colleagues showed that nuisance costs—the time and effort people must spend to make donations—reduce charitable giving. Charities can mitigate this effect by compensating donors for nuisance costs, but those costs, though variable, are largely _____ donation size, so charities that compensate donors will likely favor attracting a few large donors over many small donors.

②

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ☒ A. predictive of
- ☒ B. subsumed in
- ☒ C. independent of
- ☐ D. supplemental to

predict
included in
not linked to
addition to

reduce
make up for

6

Business researcher Melanie Brucks and colleagues found that remote video conference meetings may be less conducive to brainstorming than in-person meetings are. The researchers suspect that video meeting participants are focused on staring at the speaker on the screen and don't allow their eyes or mind to wander as much, which may ultimately _____ creativity.

②

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ☒ A. recommend
- ☒ B. criticize
- ☒ C. construct
- ☒ D. impede

praise
make up
prevent / delay / hinder

helpful to
good for
finally

Additional Notes

CLASSWORK

7

② Biologist Jane Edgeloe and colleagues have located what is believed to be the largest individual plant in the world in the Shark Bay area of Australia. The plant is a type of seagrass called *Posidonia australis*, and it _____ approximately 200 square kilometers.

① Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ③
- A. acknowledges *recognizes / admits*
 - B. produces *make / causes / present*
 - ☒ C. spans *extends / encompasses*
 - D. advances *moves forward*

8

Stephen Hannock's luminous landscape paintings are appealing to viewers but have elicited little commentary from contemporary critics, a phenomenon that may be due to the very fact that the paintings seem so _____. Many critics focus their attention on art that is cryptic or overtly challenging.

① Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- adj*
- ☒ A. innovative *new / obtained*
 - ☒ B. accessible *easy to understand*
 - ☒ C. profound *very deep & insightful*
 - ☒ D. subversive *disruptive & revolutionary*

Additional Notes

CLASSWORK

9

The following text is adapted from Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1837 story "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment." The main character, a physician, is experimenting with rehydrating a dried flower.

At first [the rose] lay lightly on the surface of the fluid, appearing to imbibe none of its moisture. Soon, however, a singular change began to be visible. The crushed and dried petals stirred and assumed a deepening tinge of crimson, as if the flower were reviving from a deathlike slumber.

As used in the text, what does the phrase "a singular" most nearly mean?

- A. A lonely
- B. A disagreeable
- C. An acceptable
- ☒ D. An extraordinary

restore to life

10

US traffic signals didn't always contain the familiar three lights (red, yellow, and green). Traffic lights only _____ red and green lights until the three-light traffic signal was developed in 1923.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. avoided
- ☒ B. featured
- C. appreciated
- D. disregarded

had a prominent aspect/attribute

Additional Notes

CLASSWORK

11

Former astronaut Ellen Ochoa says that although she doesn't have a definite idea of when it might happen, she _____ that humans will someday need to be able to live in other environments than those found on Earth. This conjecture informs her interest in future research missions to the moon.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. demands
- ☒ B. speculates
- C. doubts
- D. establishes

guess / surmise / speculation

insist / requires

put forward an idea without evidence

question / disbelieves

Proves with evidence

12

Beginning in the 1950s, Navajo Nation legislator Annie Dodge Wauneka continuously worked to promote public health; this _____ effort involved traveling throughout the vast Navajo homeland and writing a medical dictionary for speakers of Diné bizaad, the Navajo language.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. impartial
- B. offhand
- ☒ C. persistent
- D. mandatory

not partial / not biased

Careless / indifferent

existing continuously

required / necessary

hint
context
clues

Additional Notes

CLASSWORK

13

Following the principles of community-based participatory research, tribal nations and research institutions are equal partners in health studies conducted on reservations. A collaboration between the Crow Tribe and Montana State University _____ this model: tribal citizens worked alongside scientists to design the methodology and continue to assist in data collection.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. circumvents
- B. eclipses
- C. fabricates
- ☒ D. exemplifies

avoids
overshadows
greater
demonstrates

14

The parasitic dodder plant increases its reproductive success by flowering at the same time as the host plant it has latched onto. In 2020, Jianqiang Wu and his colleagues determined that the tiny dodder achieves this _____ with its host by absorbing and utilizing a protein the host produces when it is about to flower.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ☒ A. synchronization
- B. hibernation
- C. prediction
- D. moderation

fastened
happening at the same time
state of being inactive
acting in advance
being less extreme

Additional Notes

CLASSWORK

15

2

Given that the conditions in binary star systems should make planetary formation nearly impossible, it's not surprising that the existence of planets in such systems has lacked _____ explanation. Roman Rafikov and Kedron Silsbee shed light on the subject when they used modeling to determine a complex set of factors that could support planets' development.

1

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. a discernible
- ☒ B. a straightforward
- ☒ C. an inconclusive
- D. an unbiased

Capable of being perceived
direct & uncomplicated
unbelievable

16

Seminole/Muscogee director Sterlin Harjo _____ television's tendency to situate Native characters in the distant past: this rejection is evident in his series Reservation Dogs, which revolves around teenagers who dress in contemporary styles and whose dialogue is laced with current slang.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ☒ A. repudiates
- ☒ B. proclaims
- ☒ C. foretells
- D. recants

reject / refuses
declares a firm
predicts
withdrew a previously held
belief

Additional Notes

CLASSWORK

17

2 For painter Jacob Lawrence, being _____ was an important part of the artistic process. Because he paid close attention to all the details of his Harlem neighborhood, Lawrence's artwork captured nuances in the beauty and vitality of the Black experience during the Harlem Renaissance and the Great Migration.

1 Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. skeptical
- ☒ B. observant
- C. critical
- D. confident

doubtful / perceptive
watchful
criticize harshly
self-assured

18

Mônica Lopes-Ferreira and others at Brazil's Butantan Institute are studying the freshwater stingray species *Potamotrygon rex* to determine whether biological characteristics such as the rays' age and sex have _____ effect on the toxicity of their venom—that is, to see if differences in these traits are associated with considerable variations in venom potency.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. a disconcerting
- B. an acceptable
- C. an imperceptible
- ☒ D. a substantial

disturbing x
satisfactory x
unnoticeable x
noteworthy / sizable

Additional Notes

CLASSWORK

19

Researchers have struggled to pinpoint specific causes for hiccups, which happen when a person's diaphragm contracts _____. However, neuroscientist Kimberley Whitehead has found that these uncontrollable contractions may play an important role in helping infants regulate their breathing.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ☒ A. involuntarily
- B. beneficially
- C. strenuously
- D. smoothly

without control
with great effort
evenly / continuously

20

② Critics have asserted that fine art and fashion rarely _____ in a world where artists create timeless works for exhibition and designers periodically produce new styles for the public to buy. Luiseño/ Shoshone-Bannock beadwork artist and designer Jamie Okuma challenges this view: her work can be seen in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and purchased through her online boutique.

① Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. prevail
- B. succumb
- C. diverge
- ☒ D. intersect

to be widespread
surrender
disagree / move in different directions
connect / overlap

Additional Notes

CLASSWORK

21

Scholarly discussions of gender in Shakespeare's comedies often celebrate the rebellion of the playwright's characters against the rigid expectations _____ by Elizabethan society. Most of the comedies end in marriage, with characters returning to their socially dictated gender roles after previously defying them, but there are some notable exceptions.

openly resist / refuse to obey

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. interjected
- B. committed
- C. illustrated
- D. prescribed

suddenly inserted between other things
dedicated
showed
laid down as rules

22

In studying the use of external stimuli to reduce the itching sensation caused by an allergic histamine response, Louise Ward and colleagues found that while harmless applications of vibration or warming can provide a temporary distraction, such _____ stimuli actually offer less relief than a stimulus that seems less benign, like a mild electric shock.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. deceptive
- B. innocuous
- C. novel
- D. impractical

misleading
unharmful / mild
new
not suitable for use

Additional Notes

HOMEWORK

23

The province of Xoconochco was situated on the Pacific coast, hundreds of kilometers southeast of Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec Empire.

Because Xoconochco's location within the empire was so _____, cacao and other trade goods produced there could reach the capital only after a long overland journey.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. unobtrusive

B. concealed

C. approximate

D. peripheral

24

As Mexico's first president from an Indigenous community, Benito Juarez became one of the most _____ figures in his country's history: among the many significant accomplishments of his long tenure in office (1858–1872), Juarez consolidated the authority of the national government and advanced the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. unpredictable

B. important

C. secretive

D. ordinary

Additional Notes

HOMEWORK

25

Due to their often strange images, highly experimental syntax, and opaque subject matter, many of John Ashbery's poems can be quite difficult to _____ and thus are the object of heated debate among scholars.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. delegate
- B. compose
- C. interpret
- D. renounce

26

The Cambrian explosion gets its name from the sudden appearance and rapid diversification of animal remains in the fossil record about 541 million years ago, during the Cambrian period. Some scientists argue that this _____ change in the fossil record might be because of a shift in many organisms to body types that were more likely to be preserved.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- X A. catastrophic
- X B. elusive
- X C. abrupt
- X D. imminent

Additional Notes

HOMEWORK

27

2 During a 2014 archaeological dig in Spain, Vicente Lull and his team uncovered the skeleton of a woman from El Algar, an Early Bronze Age society, buried with valuable objects signaling a high position of power. This finding may persuade researchers who have argued that Bronze Age societies were ruled by men to _____ that women may have also held leadership roles.

1 Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

3 X A. waive

B. concede

C. refute

D. require

28

2 Within baleen whale species, some individuals develop an accessory spleen—a seemingly functionless formation of splenic tissue outside the normal spleen. Given the formation's greater prevalence among whales known to make deeper dives, some researchers hypothesize that its role isn't _____; rather the accessory spleen may actively support diving mechanisms.

1 Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

X A. replicable

X B. predetermined

X C. operative

D. latent

Additional Notes

HOMEWORK

29

According to a US tax policy expert, state taxes are _____ other factors when considering an interstate move. Even significant differences in state taxation have almost no effect on most people's decisions, while differences in employment opportunities, housing availability, and climate are strong influences.

① Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ③ A. consistent with *marked by harmony*
B. representative of *example of*
✓ ② C. overshadowed by *concealed by - I seem less important*
D. irrelevant to *not connected with*

30

The author's claim about the relationship between Neanderthals and Homo sapiens is _____, as it fails to account for several recent archaeological discoveries. To be convincing, his argument would need to address recent finds of additional hominid fossils, such as the latest Denisovan specimens and Homo longi.

① Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ③ ✓ ② A. disorienting *Causing sb to lose their sense of direction*
B. tenuous *weak*
C. nuanced *characterized by complex qualities*
D. unoriginal

Additional Notes

HOMEWORK

31

② The Mule Bone, a 1930 play written by Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes, is perhaps the best-known of the few examples of _____ in literature. Most writers prefer working alone, and given that working together cost Hurston and Hughes their friendship, it is not hard to see why.

Corroborating
- support
- confirm

① Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ③
- A. characterization
 - B. interpretation
 - Ⓐ C. collaboration
 - D. commercialization

description of the distinctive features
explanation
cooperation alliance
Process of running sth for financial gain

32

② The process of mechanically recycling plastics is often considered _____ because of the environmental impact and the loss of material quality that often occurs. But chemist Takunda Chazovachii has helped develop a cleaner process of chemical recycling that converts superabsorbent polymers from diapers into a desirable reusable adhesive.

① Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ③
- + A. resilient
 - Ⓐ B. inadequate
 - + C. dynamic
 - + D. satisfactory

strong
not enough
energetic
acceptable
adj = insufficient

Additional Notes

HOMEWORK

Undermine = weaken / Underscore = emphasize

33

② Strong Interruptions in the supply chain for microchips used in personal electronics have challenged an economist's assertion that retailers can expect robust growth in sales of those devices in the coming months. The delays are unlikely to _____ her projection entirely but will almost certainly extend its time frame.

① Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. dispute

- B. withdraw

③ X+ C. underscore

Ⓐ D. invalidate

34

② For her 2021 art installation Anthem, Wu Tsang joined forces with singer and composer Beverly Glenn-Copeland to produce a piece that critics found truly _____: they praised Tsang for creatively transforming a museum rotunda into a dynamic exhibit by projecting filmed images of Glenn-Copeland onto a massive 84-foot curtain and filling the space with the sounds of his and other voices singing.

① Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. restrained

③ ✓ Ⓐ B. inventive

C. inexplicable

D. mystifying

Additional Notes

HOMEWORK

35

Some scientists have suggested that mammals in the Mesozoic era were not a very _____ group, but paleontologist Zhe-Xi Luo's research suggests that early mammals living in the shadow of dinosaurs weren't all ground-dwelling insectivores. Fossils of various plant-eating mammals have been found in China, including species like Vilevolodon diplomylos, which Luo says could glide like a flying squirrel.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. predatory *exploitive*
- B. obscure *Unknown*
- ✓ - C. ☒ diverse *Various many*
- D. localized *limited*

36

The spacecraft OSIRIS-REx briefly made contact with the asteroid 101955 Bennu in 2020. NASA scientist Daniella DellaGiustina reports that despite facing the unexpected obstacle of a surface mostly covered in boulders, OSIRIS-REx successfully _____ a sample of the surface, gathering pieces of it to bring back to Earth.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. attached *joined*
- ✓ - B. ☒ collected *gather*
- C. followed *Come after*
- D. replaced *take the place of*

Additional Notes

HOMEWORK

37

Research conducted by planetary scientist Katarina Miljkovic suggests that the Moon's surface may not accurately _____ early impact events. When the Moon was still forming, its surface was softer, and asteroid or meteoroid impacts would have left less of an impression; thus, evidence of early impacts may no longer be present.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

☒ A. reflect

B. receive

C. evaluate

D. mimic

show / make apparent
be given
assess
imitate

38

Handedness, a preferential use of either the right or left hand, typically is easy to observe in humans. Because this trait is present but less _____ in many other animals, animal-behavior researchers often employ tasks specially designed to reveal individual animals' preferences for a certain hand or paw.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

☒ A. recognizable

B. intriguing

C. significant

D. useful

perceptible = identifiable = apparent
fascinating
important
practical = functional

Additional Notes

HOMEWORK

39

It is by no means _____ to recognize the influence of Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch on Ali Banisadr's paintings; indeed, Banisadr himself cites Bosch as an inspiration. However, some scholars have suggested that the ancient Mesopotamian poem Epic of Gilgamesh may have had a far greater impact on Banisadr's work.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- + A. substantial *essential = fundamental*
- + B. satisfying *fulfilling*
- ✓ - ☒ C. unimportant *= lacking value = trivial*
- + D. appropriate *Suitable = proper = fitting*

40

The fashion resale market, in which consumers purchase secondhand clothing from stores and online sellers, generated nearly \$30 billion globally in 2019. Expecting to see continued growth, some analysts _____ that revenues will more than double by 2028.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. produced *constructed*
- B. denied *refuse = reject*
- C. worried
- ✓ - ☒ D. predicted *forecast = foretell = foresee*

Additional Notes

HOMEWORK

41

Artificially delivering biomolecules to plant cells is an important component of protecting plants from pathogens, but it is difficult to transmit biomolecules through the layers of the plant cell wall. Markita del Carpio Landry and her colleagues have shown that it may be possible to _____ this problem by transmitting molecules through carbon nanotubes, which can cross cell walls. ✓

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. conceptualize
- B. neglect
- C. illustrate
- ☒ D. overcome

form a concept
fail to look after
demonstrate

control = succeed in dealing with

42

Particle physicists like Ayana Holloway Arce and Aida El-Khadra spend much of their time _____ what is invisible to the naked eye: using sophisticated technology, they closely examine the behavior of subatomic particles, the smallest detectable parts of matter.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. selecting
- ☒ B. inspecting
- C. creating
- D. deciding

picking / choosing

examining

bringing into existence

determining / resolving

Additional Notes

EXTRA PRACTICE

43

Anthropologist Kristian J. Carlson and colleagues examined the fossilized clavicle and shoulder bones of a 3.6-million-year-old early hominin known as "Little Foot." They found that these bones were _____ the clavicle and shoulder bones of modern apes that are frequent climbers, such as gorillas and chimpanzees, suggesting that Little Foot had adapted to life in the trees.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. surpassed by
B. comparable to
C. independent of
D. obtained from

exceeded / better than
similar to
free from
got lacquered from

44

Rydra Wong, the protagonist of Samuel R. Delany's 1966 novel Babel-17, is a poet, an occupation which, in Delany's work, is not _____: nearly a dozen of the characters that populate his novels are poets or writers.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. infallible
B. atypical
C. lucrative
D. tedious

free from error
not common
profitable
boring / tiresome

Additional Notes

EXTRA PRACTICE

45

For a 2020 exhibition, photographer and neurobiologist Okunola Jeyifous _____ a series of new images based on a series of alphabet posters from the 1970s known as the “Black ABCs,” which featured Black children from Chicago. Jeyifous photographed the now-adult models and layered the photos over magnified images of the models’ cells, resulting in what he called “micro and macro portraiture.”

① Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- x A. validated *demonstrated / Proved*
- ☒ B. created *Produced*
- C. challenged *dared / disputed*
- D. restored *replaced / put back*

46

In addition to being an accomplished psychologist himself, Francis Cecil Sumner was a _____ increasing the opportunity for Black students to study psychology, helping to found the psychology department at Howard University, a historically Black university, in 1930. ↗

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ☒ A. proponent of *advocate*
- B. supplement to *additional to*
- C. beneficiary of *driving advantage*
- D. distraction for *interruption*

Additional Notes

EXTRA PRACTICE

47

Whether the reign of a French monarch such as Hugh Capet or Henry I was historically consequential or relatively uneventful, its trajectory was shaped by questions of legitimacy and therefore cannot be understood without a corollary understanding of the factors that allowed the monarch to _____ his right to hold the throne.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. reciprocate
- B. annotate
- C. buttress
- D. disengage

important uninteresting
Course Path
do the same (in return)
add notes
defend / strengthen
leave / remove

48

In the early 1800s, the Cherokee scholar Sequoyah created the first script, or writing system, for an Indigenous language in the United States. Because it represented the sounds of spoken Cherokee so accurately, his script was easy to learn and thus quickly achieved _____ use: by 1830, over 90 percent of the Cherokee people could read and write it.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. widespread
- B. careful
- C. unintended
- D. infrequent

Common / Universal
alert
not planned
rare / uncommon

Additional Notes

EXTRA PRACTICE

49

When Mexican-American archaeologist Zelia Maria Magdalena Nuttall published her 1886 research paper on sculptures found at the ancient Indigenous city of Teotihuacan in present-day Mexico, other researchers readily _____ her work as ground breaking; this recognition stemmed from her convincing demonstration that the sculptures were much older than had previously been thought.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

✓ ☒ A. acknowledged

B. ensured

C. denied

D. underestimated

50

Like other tribal nations, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is self-governing; its National Council generates laws regulating aspects of community life such as land use and healthcare, while the principal chief and cabinet officials _____ those laws by devising policies and administering services in accordance with them.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

☒ A. implement

B. presume

C. improvise

D. mimic

Additional Notes

EXTRA PRACTICE

51

In the Indigenous intercropping system known as the Three Sisters, maize, squash, and beans form an _____ web of relations: maize provides the structure on which the bean vines grow; the squash vines cover the soil, discouraging competition from weeds; and the beans aid their two “sisters” by enriching the soil with essential nitrogen.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. indecipherable
- B. ornamental
- C. obscure
- ☒ D. intricate

unreadable
decorative
unclear
complex

52

The artisans of the Igun Eronmwon guild in Benin City, Nigeria, typically _____ the bronze- and brass-casting techniques that have been passed down through their families since the thirteenth century, but they don't strictly observe every tradition; for example, guild members now use air-conditioning motors instead of handheld bellows to help heat their forges.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. experiment with
- ☒ B. adhere to
- C. improve on
- D. grapple with

test
stick to
make better
engage in a fight without weapons

Additional Notes

EXTRA PRACTICE

53

Some economic historians _____ that late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century households in the United States experienced an economy of scale when it came to food purchases—they assumed that large households spent less on food per person than did small households. Economist Trevon Logan showed, however, that a close look at the available data disproves this supposition.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ☒ A. surmised *guessed*
- B. contrived *created*
- C. questioned *interrogated*
- D. regretted *felt sad*

54

The work of Kiowa painter T.C. Cannon derives its power in part from the tension among his _____ influences: classic European portraiture, with its realistic treatment of faces; the American pop art movement, with its vivid colors; and flatstyle, the intertribal painting style that rejects the effect of depth typically achieved through shading and perspective.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. complementary *harmonious*
- B. unknown *unrevealed*
- ☒ C. disparate *different*
- D. interchangeable *similar / alike*

Additional Notes

EXTRA PRACTICE

55

New and interesting research conducted by Suleiman A. Al-Sweedan and Moath Alhaj is inspired by their observation that though there have been many studies of the effect of high altitude on blood chemistry, there is a _____ studies of the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level, such as the California towns of Salton City and Seeley.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ☒ A. quarrel about *argument / fight*
☐ B. paucity of *Scarcity*
☐ C. profusion of *abundance / a mass*
☐ D. verisimilitude in *appearance of truth*

56

According to botanists, a viburnum plant experiencing insect damage may develop erineum—a discolored, felty growth—on its leaf blades. A _____ viburnum plant, on the other hand, will have leaves with smooth surfaces and uniformly green coloration.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ☐ A. struggling *grappled / fight*
☐ B. beneficial *advantageous*
☐ C. simple *plain*
☒ D. healthy *not diseased*

Additional Notes

EXTRA PRACTICE

57

Nigerian American author Teju Cole's _____ his two passions— photography and the written word—culminates in his 2017 book, *Blind Spot*, which evocatively combines his original photographs from his travels with his poetic prose.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. indifference to
- ☒ B. enthusiasm for
- C. concern about
- D. surprise at

lack of concern or sympathy
eagerness / keenness
wary

58

Novelist N. K. Jemisin declines to _____ the conventions of the science fiction genre in which she writes, and she has suggested that her readers appreciate her work precisely because of this willingness to thwart expectations and avoid formulaic plots and themes.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. question
- B. react to
- C. perceive
- ☒ D. conform to

ask about
act in response
discern / recognize
obey / abide by / comply with

Additional Notes

EXTRA PRACTICE

59

In Nature Poem (2017), Kumeyaay poet Tommy Pico portrays his _____ the natural world by honoring the centrality of nature within his tribe's traditional beliefs while simultaneously expressing his distaste for being in wilderness settings himself.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. responsiveness to
- ☒ B. ambivalence toward
- C. renunciation of
- D. mastery over

reacting quickly
uncertainty
giving up
control over

60

The following text is from F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel *The Great Gatsby*.

[Jay Gatsby] was balancing himself on the dashboard of his car with that resourcefulness of movement that is so peculiarly American—that comes, I suppose, with the absence of lifting work in youth and, even more, with the formless grace of our nervous, sporadic games. This quality was continually breaking through his punctilious manner in the shape of restlessness.

As used in the text, what does the word "quality" most nearly mean?

- ☒ A. Characteristic
- B. Standard
- C. Prestige
- D. Accomplishment

Additional Notes

EXTRA PRACTICE

61

Some foraging models predict that the distance bees travel when foraging will decline as floral density increases, but biologists Shalene Jha and Claire Kremen showed that bees' behavior is inconsistent with this prediction if flowers in dense patches are ____: bees will forage beyond patches of low species richness to acquire multiple resource types.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. depleted
- ☒ B. homogeneous
- C. immature
- D. dispersed.

62

Osage Nation citizen Randy Tinker-Smith produced and directed the ballet Wahzhazhe, which vividly chronicles Osage history and culture. Telling Osage stories through ballet is ____ choice because two of the foremost ballet dancers of the twentieth century were Osage: sisters Maria and Marjorie Tallchief.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. an unpredictable
- B. an arbitrary
- C. a determined
- ☒ D. a suitable

Additional Notes
