

Sample Essay - Score of 6

Everyone goes through their lives seeing and experiencing different things. At times, these different situations may cause one to act differently than another would in the same situation. It can be readily stated that "Ease does not challenge us; adversity helps us discover who we are." Through literature, one can see how this statement proves to be true.

In the play, "The Enemy of the People", by Henrik Ibsen, the protagonist, Dr. Stockholm, faced adversity, and through that, was able to discover his true beliefs and who he was. Before Dr. Stockholm was put in a situation where he had to face adversity, he had lived his life with mild ease and regularity. He acted just like everyone else in the town he lived in. Years later, he discovered that the popular bath houses was infected with bacteria. Determined to spread his findings, Dr. Stockholm went to the newspaper and the local governing office to try and make his discovery known. However, both the paper and the government weren't as inspired to really let the public know about this serious problem due to the popularity of the bath houses. As a result, Dr. Stockholm was forced to face adversity and find a way to achieve his previously set goal. Through adversity, Stockholm was able to truly see how his personality was. He was able to understand his severe discontent with the government and society as a whole. In essence, Stockholm was able to discover his actual self. This, however, only happened when he was faced with a challenge.

The book, "Where the Heart is" by Billie Letts also used adversity to portray it's characters true being. The protagonist, Novalee Nation, was placed in a situation where she had to realize and conquer adversity. Novalee was a young girl of 17, who was pregnant. She had experienced extreme hardship her whole life in the trailer park environment that she had previously resided in. She also received lots of abuse from her boyfriend who impregnated her. In the story, he had left her stranded in a K-Mart all by herself, while she was pregnant. All alone, Novalee had to find a way to keep herself and her baby alive. Along the way, through adversity, Novalee found her true, kind self. She also made countless discoveries through meeting different people. Among those things was her true love for photography and literature, and most of all her yearning for love in her life.

In the face of adversity, we all act differently. We each have different ideas and methods that we are accustomed to use for different situations. By acting and making decisions on our own, as we are often times forced to do when given a challenge, we are able to find out who we truly are and what we truly believe in. The characters Dr. Stockholm and Novalee Nation are examples of that kind of people in literature. However, in literature and life, it is all the same. Ease does not challenge us; adversity helps us discover who we are.

Section 3

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by providing a noun, "Mother Teresa," that can be properly modified by the clause "While working . . . Calcutta."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) involves improper modification. The opening clause ("While working . . . Calcutta") cannot logically modify a time ("that was when . . .").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Useful Links:

SAT Online Practice Tests: <http://www.cracksat.net/tests/>

SAT Subjects Tests: <http://www.cracksat.net/sat2/>

SAT Downloads: <http://www.cracksat.net/sat-downloads/>

For more SAT information, please visit <http://www.cracksat.net>

SAT Downloads:

SAT real tests download:

<http://www.cracksat.net/sat-downloads/sat-real-tests.html>

SAT official guide tests download:

<http://www.cracksat.net/sat-downloads/sat-official-guide-tests.html>

SAT online course tests download:

<http://www.cracksat.net/sat-downloads/sat-online-course-tests.html>

SAT subject tests download:

<http://www.cracksat.net/sat-downloads/sat-subject-tests.html>

Choice (C) involves an error in modification. The opening clause ("While working . . . Calcutta") cannot logically modify a time ("then").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) includes a modification error. The opening clause ("While working . . . Calcutta") cannot logically modify "Mother Teresa's profound love."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) involves improper modification. The opening clause ("While working . . . Calcutta") cannot logically modify "a profound love."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by providing an infinitive ("to hold") to parallel the earlier infinitive "to return."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) includes excess words. The words "and they would hold " should simply be "to hold."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) results in an illogical statement. It does not make sense to suggest that by agreeing "to return to their districts," the legislators held a "series of town meetings."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) involves improper idioms. "Returning" is not something that the legislators would logically "agree with." They would agree "to return" instead. Furthermore, "for holding of" should be the more idiomatic "to hold."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) distorts the intended meaning of the sentence by suggesting that it was during their trip to their districts that the legislators agreed to "the holding of town meetings."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by providing a main verb ("used") to express a complete thought.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is a sentence fragment. There is no main verb (only the verbal "using") to complete the thought.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to complete the thought.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) results in an awkward construction that distorts the intended meaning of the sentence. The "medieval Chinese warriors" performed a single action (using kites to survey enemy troops), not a two-part action (using kites and surveying) as the sentence suggests.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) involves is an illogical statement. The phrase "used manned kites surveying enemy troops" suggests that the kites alone were surveying. To properly convey the idea that the kites were used to survey enemy troops, "in" should be added before "surveying."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by providing a singular verb, "was," to agree with the singular subject, "one."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) involves an error in subject-verb agreement. The plural verb "were" cannot agree with the singular subject "one."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) involves an error in agreement. The plural verb "were" does not agree with the singular "something."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) involves an error in subject-verb agreement. The plural verb "were" does not agree with its singular subject, "one."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) involves an inappropriate idiom that distorts the intended meaning of the sentence. It doesn't make sense to say that people thought of a breakfast food "as wrong."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by removing unnecessary words.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) includes excess words. The phrase "a lesser amount of work to do" could be reduced to the more precise "less work to do."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) makes no sense. It does not make sense to describe "work" as being "least among their colleagues."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) involves an error in verb form. The verb phrase "were having" should simply be "had."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is awkward and confusing. It does not make sense to characterize "the work they had to do" as "the least of their colleagues."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by properly conveying the intended comparison.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) involves an illogical comparison. "Film audiences in the 1950's" cannot logically be compared with "the 1960's and 1970's."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) results in an illogical comparison. It is not logical to compare "Film audiences . . ." with "the 1960's and 1970's."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is illogical. "Film audiences" cannot logically be compared with "films."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) involves improper diction. To correctly make the comparison, the words "with the" should be changed to "did."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. It avoids the errors of the other choices by properly comparing people ("American architects") with a person ("Frank Lloyd Wright").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) presents an illogical comparison. A thing ("inspiration") cannot logically be compared with a person ("Frank Lloyd Wright").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) results in an illogical comparison. A thing ("Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture") cannot logically be compared with people ("American architects").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) presents an illogical comparison. People ("American architects") cannot logically be compared with a thing ("designs").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) results in an illogical comparison. Things ("Frank Lloyd Wright's inspirations") cannot logically be compared with people ("American architects").

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the errors of the original by properly comparing "poetry" to "fiction" and "drama" and by correctly completing the correlative construction "either . . . or."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) involves an illogical comparison. Something that occurs "in poetry" cannot logically be compared to "fiction or drama."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) results in an illogical comparison. "Fiction" cannot logically be compared with something that happens "in poetry."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) involves an improper idiom. What comes after each part of the correlative construction "either . . . or" is not parallel as it should be. "Either" is followed by the preposition "in," while "or" is followed by the noun "drama."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) involves an improper idiom. What comes after each part of the correlative construction "either . . . or" must be parallel, but it is not. "Either" is followed by the noun "fiction," while "or" is followed by the preposition "in."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by removing excess words.

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) involves wordiness. The phrase "is the reason why" adds nothing to the sentence and so should be removed.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) involves an improper idiom. "The reason for why" should be "the reason that."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is awkward and wordy. The phrase "As a result of economic hardship causing" should be reduced to the more precise and idiomatic "because economic hardship has been the cause of."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is awkward and wordy. The phrase "The fact that" should simply be "because," and the words "is why" should be deleted and replaced with a comma.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. It avoids the errors of the other choices by clearly indicating what happened and when.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is awkward and imprecise. Without repeating the subject by using the pronoun "they," the sentence does not make clear what was "not showing any signs of disease."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) involves improper coordination. Two complete thoughts ("In Germany, . . . earlier" and "no outward signs . . . however") are joined with only a comma.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is vague. It is not clear what the phrase "without any signs of disease" is meant to refer to.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is awkward and imprecise. It is not clear what the phrase "not having shown any signs" is meant to refer to.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by reducing excess words ("since such is the case") to an appropriate idiom ("and so").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) displays wordiness. The phrase "since such is the case" can be reduced to the more precise and idiomatic "and so."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) exhibits unclear pronoun reference. It is not clear to what the relative pronoun "that" is meant to refer.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) involves improper coordination. Two complete thoughts ("In the wild . . . Zaire River" and "no more than . . . result") are joined with only a comma.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) involves improper coordination. Two complete thoughts ("In the wild . . . Zaire River" and "the number . . . reason") are joined with only a comma.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: Although born in the Midwest, Langston Hughes lived most of his adult life in Harlem, in New York City, where, like other writers in the 1930's, he wrote some of his finest works.

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

The error in this sentence occurs at (C), where an improper verb form is used. The past perfect tense of the verb phrase "had wrote" is inconsistent with the simple past tense of the other verbs in the sentence. Also, the past participle of "write" is "written," not "wrote."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The subordinating conjunction "where" correctly introduces the dependent adjective clause that modifies the proper noun "Harlem."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

There is no error at (B). The preposition "like" is appropriate to introduce the adjective prepositional phrase that modifies the proper noun "Langston Hughes."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The superlative adjective "finest" is used correctly to indicate comparison of more than two things (all of Hughes' works).

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: In constant demand as a speaker, Ms. Chernock has never been busier than she is now.

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

The error in this sentence occurs at (C), where a double comparative is used. The adverb "more" is not needed to modify the already comparative adjective "busier."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The noun "demand" is appropriately used as the object of the preposition "in," and the preposition "as" correctly introduces the adjective phrase that modifies the noun "demand."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

There is no error at (B). The singular verb "has" agrees with its singular subject "Ms. Chernock," the present perfect tense of the verb phrase appropriately indicates an action completed before the action of the dependent clause, and the adverb "never" is idiomatic.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The singular verb "is" agrees with its singular subject "she," and the adverb "now" correctly modifies "is."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: During the night, there are usually two German shepherds at the warehouse to guard against robbery attempts.

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

The error in this sentence occurs at (B), where there is subject-verb disagreement. In this inverted sentence, the singular verb "is" does not agree with the plural subject "German shepherds."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The preposition "During" properly introduces the adverbial prepositional phrase.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The infinitive phrase "to guard" properly introduces the adverbial clause, and the preposition "against" is the idiomatic preposition to follow the word "guard."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The noun "attempts" correctly functions as the object of the preposition "against."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: Candy manufacturers applauded the discovery by researchers that students who smell chocolate while studying and again while taking a test are able to recall more material than students not exposed to the odor of chocolate.

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

The error in this sentence occurs at (B), where an improper pronoun is used to refer to people. The relative pronoun "which" is used instead of the pronoun "who" that is needed.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The noun "discovery" correctly functions as the direct object of the verb "applauded," and the preposition "by" is the idiomatic preposition to follow the word "discovery."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The adverb "again" appropriately modifies the adverbial phrase "while taking," which, in turn, modifies the verb "smell."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The plural verb "are" agrees with its plural subject "students," and the adjective "able" properly functions as a subject complement modifying "students."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence:

Explanation for Correct Answer E : There is no error in this sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The indefinite pronoun "One" correctly functions as the singular subject of the sentence, and the helping verb "can" agrees with its singular subject.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

There is no error at (B). The negative adverb "hardly" appropriately modifies the verb phrase "can ... determine."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The subordinating conjunction "which" correctly introduces the dependent noun clause that functions as the direct object of the verb phrase "can hardly determine," and the singular verb "contributes" agrees with its subject "which."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The comparative adverb "more" is correctly used to compare two things, "skill" and "practice."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence:

Explanation for Correct Answer E : There is no error in this sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The noun "refugees" appropriately functions as the direct object of the verb phrase "had not expected," and the preposition "from" correctly introduces the adjective prepositional phrase that modifies "refugees."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

There is no error at (B). The infinitive "to be" is the idiomatic verbal form to follow "expected."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The conjunction "as" is appropriately used in the comparative construction "as ... as," and the plural pronoun "those" is parallel with the plural noun "refugees," to which it is compared.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The past perfect tense of the verb phrase "had seen" is consistent with the past perfect tense of the verb of the main clause.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: Although naturalists have identified six hundred different forms of the corion snail, there are actually no more than two true species within this genus.

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

The error in this sentence occurs at (B), where the singular verb "is" does not agree with its plural subject, "species."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The subordinating conjunction "Although" appropriately introduces the adverbial dependent clause.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The words "no," "more," and "than" combine to form an appropriate idiom.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The preposition "within" correctly introduces the adverbial phrase that modifies the verb of the independent clause.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: The department of transportation has introduced pictorial traffic signs because drivers can react to them more quickly than to verbal ones.

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

The error in this sentence occurs at (B), where a singular pronoun, "this," is used instead of the plural pronoun "them" to refer to the plural noun "signs."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The singular verb phrase "has introduced" agrees with its singular subject, "department."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The comparative adverbial phrase "more quickly" is appropriate to compare one type of traffic sign to another.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The prepositional phrase "to verbal ones" is parallel with what should be the preceding prepositional phrase "to them," and the plural pronoun "ones" correctly refers to the plural noun "signs" to which it refers.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: She claimed that the "representational" actor tries to imitate a character's behavior, whereas the "presentational" actor attempts to reveal human behavior through self-understanding.

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

The error in this sentence occurs at (A), where the present progressive tense of the verb "is having" is improperly used, resulting in a lack of parallelism with the present-tense verb in the subordinate clause, "attempts."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

There is no error at (B). The subordinating conjunction "whereas" appropriately introduces the dependent adverbial clause and indicates a contrast with the preceding dependent noun clause introduced by "that."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The infinitive verbal form "to reveal" is idiomatic and appropriately functions as the object of the verb "attempts."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

There is no error at (D). The prepositional phrase introduced by "through" correctly functions as an adverb that modifies "attempts."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: Many nations, and the United Nations itself, have issued stamps that commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the UN charter.

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

The error in this sentence occurs at (B), where the singular verb phrase "has issued" does not agree with the compound subject "many nations and the United Nations."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The reflexive pronoun "itself" properly refers to the singular proper noun "United Nations" (which is a single organization).

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The relative pronoun "that" appropriately introduces the dependent adjective clause that modifies the noun "stamps," and the plural verb "commemorate" agrees with its plural subject "stamps."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The prepositional phrase introduced by "of" functions correctly as an adjective modifying the noun "anniversary," and the words "signing" and "of" combine to form an appropriate idiom.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: The tribal council's program familiarized young people with Cherokee history, taught them tribal traditions, and gave them the opportunity to learn skills used by ancient artists.

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

The error in this sentence occurs at (C), where an independent clause breaks the parallelism of the two preceding verb phrases ("familiarized...history" and "taught...traditions").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The preposition "with" after the verb "familiarized" is idiomatic.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

There is no error at (B). The past tense of the verb "taught" is consistent with the past tense of the other verbs in the sentence, and the plural pronoun "them" correctly refers to the plural noun "people."

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The noun "opportunity" properly functions as the direct object of the verb, and the preposition "to," after the word "opportunity," is idiomatic.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: Observation of diverse animal species shows that the most successful in the struggle for survival are those which are most adaptable to changes in their world.

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

The error in this sentence occurs at (A), where the plural verb "show" does not agree with the singular subject "Observation."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

There is no error at (B). The superlative adjective phrase "most successful" is appropriate for comparing all of the animal species in the world.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The indefinite pronoun "those" appropriately functions as the subject complement of the verb "are."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The adjective "adaptable" appropriately functions as the subject complement of the verb "are," and the preposition "to" after the word "adaptable" is idiomatic.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: Far from having been a diehard conservative, Hoover was, some scholars now contend, the leading progressive of his day.

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

The error in this sentence occurs at (A), where the use of the adverb "away" is not idiomatic. The idiomatic phrase for this sentence is "Far from."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

There is no error at (B). The proper noun "Hoover" correctly functions as the subject of the main clause, and the singular verb "was" agrees with its singular subject, "Hoover."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The adverb "now" appropriately modifies the plural verb "contend," which agrees with its plural subject "scholars."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The preposition "of" properly introduces the adjective phrase that modifies the noun "progressive," and the singular pronoun "his" agrees with the singular noun "Hoover," to which it refers.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: For the past hundred years or more, Yellowstone National Park has been a kind of sociological laboratory in which North Americans have been exploring the meaning of the national-park concept.

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

The error in this sentence occurs at (B), where the past tense of the verb "was" is inconsistent with the present perfect progressive tense of the verb phrase "have been exploring."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The preposition "For" appropriately introduces an adverbial phrase that modifies the verb of the main clause.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The preposition "in" is an appropriate idiom to connect the noun "laboratory" to the adjective clause that describes "laboratory," and "which" is the correct relative pronoun to introduce that clause.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The noun phrase "the meaning" appropriately functions as the direct object of the verb phrase "have been exploring," and the preposition "of" after the word "meaning" is idiomatic.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: Alerted by the nervousness and evasiveness of the witness, the jurors were quick to perceive that his statements were inconsistent with those he had made earlier.

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

The error in this sentence occurs at (C), where the preposition "to" after the word "inconsistent" is not idiomatic. "With" is needed instead.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The past participle "Alerted" appropriately modifies the noun "jurors," and the preposition "by" combines with "Alerted" to form an appropriate idiom.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

There is no error at (B). The infinitive "to perceive" correctly functions as an adverb modifying the adjective "quick."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The plural pronoun "those" correctly functions as the object of the preposition and appropriately refers to the plural noun "statements."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: In many respects Anna Karenina and Emma Bovary are very similar characters, but Bovary has more spirit and determination.

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

The error in this sentence occurs at (D), where the superlative adjective "most" is used instead of the comparative adjective "more" that is needed when comparing only two entities.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The prepositional phrase "In ... respects" is idiomatic, and the plural adjective "many" appropriately modifies the plural noun "respects."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

There is no error at (B). The coordinating conjunction "but" connects two independent clauses and appropriately indicates a contrast between them.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The singular verb "has" agrees with its singular subject "Bovary" (the second instance).

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence: Between the sales manager and me existed an easy, cooperative working relationship; neither of us hesitated to discuss problems.

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

The error in this sentence occurs at (A), where an incorrect pronoun case is used. The nominative case of the first-person pronoun "I" is used where the objective case "me" is needed.

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

There is no error at (B). The verb "existed" can be singular or plural and agrees with its singular subject, "relationship." The past tense is consistent with the past tense of the verb in the other independent clause.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The indefinite article "an" and the adjective "easy" both appropriately modify the noun "relationship."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The indefinite singular pronoun "neither," which refers to the two singular nouns in the preceding clause, "manager" and "me," is an appropriate subject for the second clause. The pronoun "us" is in the objective case and correctly functions as the object of the preposition "of."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Corrected Sentence:

Explanation for Correct Answer E : There is no error in this sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

There is no error at (A). The preposition "As" appropriately introduces the adjective prepositional phrase that modifies the subject of the sentence, "Thomas à Becket."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

There is no error at (B). The noun phrase "an independence" correctly functions as the direct object of the verb "assumed."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

There is no error at (C). The use of the preposition "to" after the word "intolerable" is idiomatic.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

There is no error at (D). The past perfect tense of the verb phrase "had ... been" correctly indicates an action that was completed before the action of the two preceding past-tense verbs, and the adverb "long" and the verb "been" combine to form an appropriate idiom.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. The sentence has a clear subject and verb, "she attended," and it properly organizes the rest of the information with the word "where."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is unsatisfactory because "[a]ttending Stanford University" and "where she met...and became...in geology" are both dependent clauses.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory because it has no subject; the sentence consists of two dependent clauses.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is unsatisfactory because it is imprecise: the resulting sentence does not clarify the relationship between the Hoovers and Stanford University.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory because it joins two independent thoughts with only a comma.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. The word "that" properly connects the modifying clause "that would...ship" to the independent clause "In the process...crib," resulting in a clear and correct sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is unsatisfactory because it is illogical: it says that the purpose of Hoover designing the crib was for it to remain stable, not for her sons to have a place to sleep.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is unsatisfactory because the stability of the crib was the key feature of its design; the two parts of the sentence should not be separated by "and."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory because the word "nevertheless" implies a contrast between the two clauses that does not exist in the sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory because it unnecessarily repeats the word "designed."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. The writer's intention is to praise Hoover, and the second paragraph is essentially a list of her accomplishments, so it makes sense in the paragraph's concluding sentence for the writer to reiterate that these details show what a "remarkable woman" Hoover was.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is unsatisfactory because it makes an illogical link with the preceding sentence: it makes no sense to state that Hoover designed a crib "because as a child she had learned several languages."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is unsatisfactory because it inappropriately switches verb tenses ("she was also learning and published").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory because it is unclear what time the phrase "[b]y this time" is referring to.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory because "[n]evertheless" implies a contrast between the achievement of designing a crib and the achievements of learning languages and publishing scholarly papers that is not supported by the passage.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. Changing "being" to "was" transforms the clause "Lou Hoover...versatile person" into the independent clause the sentence needs, and makes verb tenses consistent throughout the sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is unsatisfactory because it fails to address the fact that the original sentence consists of two dependent clauses.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory because the replacement of "she" with "Lou Hoover" creates a grammatically incorrect sentence that seems to compare Lou Hoover to herself.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is unsatisfactory because the deletion of "she was" does not change the fact that the sentence lacks an independent clause.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory because, while "had been" is an adequate substitution to make in the second clause, the sentence still consists of two dependent clauses.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Choice (B) is correct. The sentence is properly linked with the preceding sentences through the phrase "[i]n addition," and the relationship between the two clauses is accurately indicated with the word "when."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is unsatisfactory because entertaining Jessie DePriest was the act that broke the racial barrier; the two parts of the sentence should not be separated by "and" as if they describe separate events.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory because it reflects an unnecessary shift in tenses from the rest of the passage.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is unsatisfactory because the information in sentence 14 is not a consequence of the information in sentence 13.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory because it is illogical; this structure would only make sense if the clauses were reversed ("By entertaining Jessie DePriest...she became the first person to...").

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. Every sentence of the passage (except for the first two) praises Hoover as an exceptionally gifted and active woman, so a concluding sentence summarizing Hoover's life in a positive way is appropriate and expected.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is unsatisfactory because the passage does not discuss Hoover as "gracious" or "polished"; the focus of the passage is on Hoover's adventures and accomplishments.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory because the first mention of Hoover's personal papers should not come in the last sentence of a passage about her life.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is unsatisfactory because it is not "obvious" that little is known about Hoover's early life. It is logical to assume that the writer knows a great deal about Hoover's early life, but the passage focuses on her accomplishments as an adult.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory because it makes no sense to say that historians are the only people who know the year and town of Hoover's birth. All readers of the passage now know this information.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. "Drenched" means soaked. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Initially only the carpeting outside the restroom was drenched by water from the burst pipe; eventually the entire hallway flooded." A burst pipe would spill water onto the carpet, thereby drenching it.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Diverted" means turned aside. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Initially only the carpeting outside the restroom was diverted by water from the burst pipe; eventually the entire hallway flooded." A carpet does not typically move and thus is not likely to be turned aside by water from a broken pipe.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Confined" means restricted or closed in. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Initially only the carpeting outside the restroom was confined by water from the burst pipe; eventually the entire hallway flooded." Water cannot generally restrict or close in something solid, such as a carpet.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Scuttled" means caused to sink. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Initially only the carpeting outside the restroom was scuttled by water from the burst pipe; eventually the entire hallway flooded." In order to be scuttled, an object must first be floating, usually by design. So boats can be scuttled, but carpeting, which is not designed or intended to float, cannot.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Cleansed" means cleaned. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Initially only the carpeting outside the restroom was cleansed by water from the burst pipe; eventually the entire hallway flooded." Water gushing from a burst pipe would not be said to clean the carpeting. Carpets are usually ruined when they get wet from burst pipes.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. "Maintain" in this context means to keep up the level of, and "vulnerable" means open to attack. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Communal nests have advantages and disadvantages for animals like voles and mice: they enable the animals to maintain body heat, but leave them more vulnerable to discovery by predators." The colon indicates that the missing terms will describe both an advantage and a disadvantage of communal nests. Such an environment would certainly help animals to "maintain body heat," but it is not surprising that a group of rodents is more likely to attract predators, making them "vulnerable" to attack.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Insure" means to take necessary measures and precautions. "Inclined" can mean predisposed, or susceptible. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Communal nests have advantages and disadvantages for animals like voles and mice: they enable the animals to insure body heat, but leave them more inclined to discovery by predators." Such nests might increase the likelihood of an attack, but it makes little sense to say that body heat may be "insured."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Squander" means to waste, and "liable" in this context means likely. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Communal nests have advantages and disadvantages for animals like voles and mice: they enable the animals to squander body heat, but leave them more liable to discovery by predators." Conserving heat is an important element of survival for small animals, so it makes little sense to claim that communal nests "enable," or allow, these creatures to waste body heat. Furthermore, the sentence structure indicates that the first missing term will describe an advantage of communal nests, not a disadvantage.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Stimulate" in this context means to increase, and "resistant" means able to avoid. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Communal nests have advantages and disadvantages for animals like voles and mice: they enable the animals to stimulate body heat, but leave them more resistant to discovery by predators." The structure of the sentence indicates that the second missing term will describe a disadvantage of communal nests, but something that makes animals more "resistant" to predators is obviously advantageous.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Retain" means to keep, and "immune" means protected against. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Communal nests have advantages and disadvantages for animals like voles and mice: they enable the animals to retain body heat, but leave them more immune to discovery by predators." The second missing term should relate to a disadvantage of communal nests, but an environment that makes animals "immune to," or protected from, predators is certainly an advantage.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. "Curiosity" means a desire to find out. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "He displayed a nearly pathological curiosity, insisting on knowing every detail of his friends' lives." The participial phrase "insisting on knowing every detail of his friends' lives" following the comma signals that the phrase will explain the claim that precedes it. "Pathological" means unhealthy, and a person who insists on knowing every detail of his friends' lives would be displaying an unhealthy curiosity.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Orderliness" means a tendency to keep things in order. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "He displayed a nearly pathological orderliness, insisting on knowing every detail of his friends' lives." The phrase following the comma is positioned in the sentence as if it were an explanation of what is meant by "nearly pathological orderliness." That expectation, however, is not met, since insisting on knowing every detail of the lives of one's friends is not orderliness.

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Credulity" means a tendency to believe too readily. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "He displayed a nearly pathological credulity, insisting on knowing every detail of his friends' lives." The word "credulity" means a tendency to believe almost anything other people say; it has nothing to do with asking for information. However, the position of the phrase "insisting on knowing every detail of his friends' lives" in the sentence implies that it is meant to serve as a definition or explanation of the statement preceding the comma.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Shyness" means avoiding contact with others. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "He displayed a nearly pathological shyness, insisting on knowing every detail of his friends' lives." The participial phrase beginning with "insisting" is positioned after the main clause of the sentence in a way that implies that it should provide a helpful explanation for the statement about shyness, which it does not.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Morbidity" in this context means a preoccupation with ideas of disease or death. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "He displayed a nearly pathological morbidity, insisting on knowing every detail of his friends' lives." Despite the implication made by the placement in the sentence of the participial phrase beginning with "insisting," that phrase does not help to explain what is meant by "a nearly pathological morbidity."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. "Eradicate" means to eliminate, and "flourish" means to grow vigorously or thrive. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Despite global efforts to eradicate malaria, this mosquito-borne disease continues to flourish: the World Health Organization estimates that it still affects up to 500 million people a year." The word "despite" in the first clause of the sentence sets up a contrast between "global efforts" associated with malaria and the disease's current status. It makes perfect sense to contrast the global efforts to "eradicate," or eliminate, malaria with the fact that the disease is still flourishing. Furthermore, the idea that malaria "continues to flourish" is supported by the phrase following the colon, which indicates that a large number of people are still affected by the disease.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Cure" in this context means to heal, and "flag" means to grow weak. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Despite global efforts to cure malaria, this mosquito-borne disease continues to flag: the World Health Organization estimates that it still affects up to 500 million people a year." The word "despite" in the first clause of the sentence sets up a contrast between "global efforts" associated with malaria and the disease's current status. One would say that malaria "continues to flag" because of efforts to cure it, not despite them. Furthermore, a disease that "still affects up to 500 million people" would not be described as "flagging."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Foster" means to promote or encourage, and "thrive" means to live vigorously. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Despite global efforts to foster malaria, this mosquito-borne disease continues to thrive: the World Health Organization estimates that

it still affects up to 500 million people a year." Global efforts are typically focused on destroying or curing diseases rather than on fostering them. In addition, the expectation set up by the word "despite" is not met: the meaning of the first clause is consistent with, and does not contrast sharply with, that of the second clause. The normal expectation is that things that are fostered will thrive.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Combat" means to fight against, and "abate" means to lessen. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Despite global efforts to combat malaria, this mosquito-borne disease continues to abate: the World Health Organization estimates that it still affects up to 500 million people a year." The clause that begins with "despite" should contrast in meaning with the clause that follows it. However, efforts to combat malaria would normally result in an "abatement," or lessening, of the disease, so the expectation set up by "despite" is not met.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Scrutinize" means to examine closely, and "prosper" means to live well. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Despite global efforts to scrutinize malaria, this mosquito-borne disease continues to prosper: the World Health Organization estimates that it still affects up to 500 million people a year." Scrutinizing, or closely examining, a disease will not in itself halt the spread of a disease. Therefore, it is not surprising that the efforts to scrutinize malaria did not prevent the disease from prospering. However, the word "despite" in the first clause of the sentence implies that such a surprising contrast will be described.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. "Innocuous" means harmless. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Although condemned by the review panel, to film critic Pauline Kael the movie seemed entirely innocuous and unlikely to offend." The word "although" beginning the first clause in the sentence indicates that the second clause will provide a statement that contrasts strongly with the assertion made in the first clause. Because the review panel's condemnation of the movie is contrasted with critic Kael's belief that the movie is harmless, "innocuous" makes sense here.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Impressionable" means likely to be deeply affected or influenced by. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Although condemned by the review panel, to film critic Pauline Kael the movie seemed entirely impressionable and unlikely to offend." The word "impressionable" applies to people, not things. So the movie, although it can make an impression on people, cannot be said to be impressionable.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Unsuitable" means inappropriate or unfit. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Although condemned by the review panel, to film critic Pauline Kael the movie seemed entirely unsuitable and unlikely to offend." A clause beginning with "although" indicates that its meaning will contrast with the main clause of the sentence; that does not happen here because the condemnation by the review panel is compatible with, not in opposition to, Kael's impression that the movie is unsuitable.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Insensitive" means lacking appropriate consideration for others' feelings. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Although condemned by the review panel, to film critic Pauline Kael the movie seemed entirely insensitive and unlikely to offend." A film that is "insensitive" is very likely to offend, so the sentence does not make sense with that term.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Unapproachable" means very difficult to access. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Although condemned by the review panel, to film critic Pauline Kael the movie seemed entirely unapproachable and unlikely to offend." A clause beginning with a word like "although" sets up the expectation in the reader's mind that its meaning will contrast with the main clause of the sentence. Being unapproachable, however, does not contrast with the sorts of qualities that would cause a review board to condemn a movie.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. "Indomitable" means not easily defeated. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "The reviewer characterized Madonna Swan-Abdalla's autobiography as a portrait of an indomitable person, one who prevailed against great odds." An "indomitable person" is one who "prevails," or succeeds, against great odds. Because of the structure of the sentence, the reader expects such a definition or explanation to follow the comma.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Empathetic" means identifying emotionally with other people. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "The reviewer characterized Madonna Swan-Abdalla's autobiography as a portrait of an empathetic person, one who prevailed against great odds." Because "one" clearly refers back to "empathetic person," the structure of the sentence implies that the phrase following the comma will provide an appropriate definition or explanation of "an empathetic person," and the phrase beginning with "one" does not do this.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Expeditious" means efficient and speedy. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "The reviewer characterized Madonna Swan-Abdalla's autobiography as a portrait of an expeditious person, one who prevailed against great odds." An "expeditious person" might get things done well and fast under normal circumstances but might not necessarily be up to the task of "prevailing," or winning, against great odds. The position of the phrase after the comma in the sentence leads experienced readers to expect that the phrase will provide a helpful definition or explanation of "an expeditious person," which does not happen here.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Idiosyncratic" means unique or strange. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "The reviewer characterized Madonna Swan-Abdalla's autobiography as a portrait of an idiosyncratic person, one who prevailed against great odds." An "idiosyncratic person" cannot be defined as one who prevails against great odds. The structure of the sentence leads the reader to expect that the phrase following the comma will either define or help explain what is meant by "an idiosyncratic person," which does not happen here.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Astute" means shrewd or clever. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "The reviewer characterized Madonna Swan-Abdalla's autobiography as a portrait of an astute person, one who prevailed against great odds." A shrewd or clever person might not necessarily be capable of prevailing against great odds. This does not meet the expectation set up by the structure of the sentence that the phrase "an astute person" will be defined or explained by the phrase that follows the comma.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. "Insolvent" means bankrupt, and "fraudulent" means dishonest. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Although it stayed in business for several months, the company was actually insolvent and met its financial obligations only by engaging in fraudulent activities." The word "although" indicates that the first clause will provide information that contrasts strongly with the second clause. This is the case here because it is somewhat surprising that a company that is bankrupt could remain in business for several months. The second clause provides one way, a dishonest one, that explains how a bankrupt company might manage to meet its financial obligations.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Prudent" means cautious, and "speculative" in this context means risky. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Although it stayed in business for several months, the company was actually prudent and met its financial obligations only by engaging in speculative activities." A company that is "prudent," or cautious, does not engage in risky deals.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Autonomous" means self-regulating, and "subordinate" means in a lower position. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Although it stayed in business for several months, the company was actually autonomous and met its financial obligations only by engaging in subordinate activities." There is no striking contrast between an "autonomous," or self-regulating, business and one that can stay in business for several months. The word "although," however, leads readers to expect that the meaning of the first clause will clearly contrast with that of the second clause.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Bankrupt" means unable to pay debts, and "charitable" means giving to those in need. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Although it stayed in business for several months, the company was actually bankrupt and met its financial obligations only by engaging in charitable activities." It does not make sense to say that giving to charities would help a bankrupt company pay its debts.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Stable" means firm or solid, and "manipulative" means handling shrewdly or unfairly. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Although it stayed in business for several months, the company was actually stable and met its financial obligations only by engaging in manipulative activities." A clause that begins with "although" should introduce a statement that is surprising or unexpected with respect to the meaning of the main clause of the sentence. However, there is nothing surprising about a stable company that remains in business.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. "Hubris" means exaggerated pride or confidence. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* centers on a scientist's hubris, the overweening pride that makes him believe he can usurp nature." The phrase following the comma in the sentence serves as a definition or explanation of the phrase that precedes the comma. "Hubris" is accurately described as a quality that would lead a scientist to believe that he can "usurp," or take over, powers belonging to nature.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Obstinacy" means stubbornness. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* centers on a scientist's obstinacy, the overweening pride that makes him believe he can usurp nature." The structure of the sentence suggests that the missing word will be synonymous with the phrase "overweening pride." Stubbornness might lead a scientist to try to accomplish a seemingly impossible task, but stubbornness is not the same thing as pride.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Impetuosity" means impulsiveness or acting without thinking. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* centers on a scientist's impetuosity, the overweening pride that makes him believe he can usurp nature." "Impetuosity" is not pride. The structure of the sentence, however, leads the reader to expect that a definition or explanation of "impetuosity" will follow the comma.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Valor" means courage or fearlessness. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* centers on a scientist's valor, the overweening pride that makes him believe he can usurp nature." The structure of the sentence suggests that the missing word will be synonymous with the phrase "overweening pride." A scientist trying to "usurp," or take over, nature's powers would need courage, but courage and pride are not synonyms.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Callousness" in this context means insensitivity. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* centers on a scientist's callousness, the overweening pride that makes him believe he can usurp nature." "Callousness," or insensitivity, is not pride. Readers would expect an explanation of "callousness" to follow the comma in the sentence, however.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. The author of Passage 2 speaks specifically of Clemens and claims that, "[t]he bankruptcy of Samuel Clemens, the death of his daughter, and the chronic illness of his wife are agonizing as personal history" (lines 14-16). The author of Passage 1 talks about Clemens and Adams together when referring to "personal tragedies" (lines 3-4) such as "the deaths of loved ones, the

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

humiliation of family bankruptcies" (lines 5-6). Both authors agree that Clemens endured painful personal loss.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 is clear about Clemens' deep despair over "growing political discords, moral conflicts, and economic problems" (lines 9-10), in other words, despair over matters outside his personal life. The author of Passage 2, however, does not comment on Clemens' views of society and humanity. Passage 2 focuses on the question of whether, and how, Clemens' personal disasters were transformed into written works of art.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. Although Passage 2 refers to literary critics (lines 17-19), neither passage contains any information about whether Clemens was affected by literary critics.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. Passage 1 discusses Clemens and Adams together when it refers to "personal tragedies" (lines 3-4) that they endured. The author of Passage 1 very probably believes that the hardships endured by one were much like those endured by the other. However, the author of Passage 2 does not mention Adams. So there is no indication that the author of Passage 2 believes that Adams endured hardships like those Clemens endured.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 says that "the writings of Adams and Clemens reveal that the despair is in a slow process of incubation from their earliest work" (lines 6-8). Although the author of Passage 1 seems to believe that Clemens "revealed pessimism in his earliest writings," the author of Passage 2 does not comment on indications of pessimism in Clemens' work. Thus it is not appropriate to claim that "[b]oth authors agree" on whether Clemens' earliest writings revealed pessimism.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. By using the metaphor of "incubation" (line 8) and eventual "hatch[ing]" (line 9) to talk about Adams' and Clemens' growing despair, the author of Passage 1 suggests gradual development. According to the argument in Passage 1, slowly growing despair is a factor over the entire span of both Clemens' and Adams' creative careers.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The biological processes of "incubation" (line 8) and "hatch[ing]" (line 9) suggest a slow, steady progression that does not seem to be strongly associated with literary creativity. In addition, although "literary creativity" is an attribute of the two writers being examined, it is not an attribute of the way their despair evolved.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The phrase "timeless artistry" suggests something that is very rare and truly exceptional. There is nothing rare or exceptional about an egg, its incubation and, finally, the hatching of a baby bird.

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Reluctant acknowledgment" suggests that something was originally unacknowledged, but gradually came to be accepted. The passage does state that "the despair is in a slow process of incubation" (lines 7-8); however, there is no sense that the writers' despair was originally unacknowledged.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The metaphor of incubation and hatching actually could be taken to suggest a "culminating achievement," especially if the emphasis is placed on the hatching. However, the situation that the metaphor is meant to shed light on is the writers' growing despair. There is nothing about this situation that resembles a culminating achievement.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. What the author of Passage 1 refers to as "contributory causes" in line 6 are personal tragedies that Clemens (as well as Adams) suffered. The author of Passage 2 mentions three such tragedies in Clemens' life: "the bankruptcy of Samuel Clemens, the death of his daughter, and the chronic illness of his wife" (lines 14-15). Referring to these tragedies, Passage 2 says that late in his career Clemens was able to "fuse and transform them into a culminating work of art" (line 23).

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The "contributory causes" (line 6) mentioned in Passage 1 refer to the unhappy personal experiences that, according to the author of Passage 2, significantly influenced Clemens' literary output. The author of Passage 2 calls Clemens' book *The Mysterious Stranger* "a culminating work" (line 23) and claims that it represents Clemens' successful effort to transform his agonizing personal experiences into art.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The personal experiences that the author of Passage 1 calls "contributory causes" (line 6) of Clemens' despair are the same experiences that Clemens, according to Passage 2, struggles to transform into art from 1895 onward. Clemens was born in 1835, so these experiences affect him as a creative artist late rather than early in his career.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The personal experiences that the author of Passage 1 calls "contributory causes" (line 6) were obviously very important to Clemens. In fact, the author of Passage 2 calls these experiences "vitally important" (line 22) to Clemens. The author of Passage 2 does not, however, contrast the importance of these personal experiences with the importance of political, moral, and economic factors.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 describes Clemens' personal disasters as "contributory causes" (line 6). The author of Passage 2 presents these "contributory causes" as being of considerable interest to critics (particularly in the way that they contribute to the development of a work of art). Critics are particularly interested in exploring Clemens' personal tragedies because it is one of the rare

cases in which they can watch his attempts and final success in transforming his experiences into a work of art.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. The author of Passage 1 is interested in accounting for the growing mood of despair in the works of Adams and Clemens. The author's conclusion is that, "It is not a despair of personal bereavement but of country—and ultimately of humanity—that manifests itself in their works" (lines 11-13). According to the author, this despair of country was brought on by "growing political discords, moral conflicts, and economic problems" (lines 9-10). So in the case of both Adams and Clemens, the author of Passage 1 suggests that it was not personal history, but public events, that asserted the strongest influence on their writings.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 points to a connection between the lives of Adams and Clemens; both "gradually approached, during their careers, a mood of total despair" (lines 2-3). However, the author of Passage 1 does not suggest that this knowledge is essential to readers of either writer.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. According to the author of Passage 1, Clemens and Adams traveled similar paths to total despair, for similar reasons. The passage does not compare and contrast the difficulties the two writers faced. In particular, it does not address the issue of which of the two had the more distressing personal difficulties.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 mentions "[p]ersonal tragedies" in lines 3-4. These are presumably the same misfortunes the author of Passage 2 describes as "agonizing as personal history" (line 15). Further, the author of Passage 1 suggests that these "[p]ersonal tragedies" (lines 3-4) have been used to explain the two writers' states of despair. Although the author of Passage 1 suggests that it is despair of country, rather than "despair of personal bereavement" that manifests itself in both writers' works, there is no indication that the author of Passage 1 would regard the "personal history" (line 16, Passage 2) as "inconsistent with the tone and character" of Clemens' work.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 does not describe Clemens as a "unique American writer." In fact, in the aspects of their lives that Passage 1 focuses on, Clemens is clearly not unique, because the development of his despair and the explanation for it are no different from what they are for Adams.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. The passage begins with an account of the author's personal struggle to adjust to the temporary immobilization of his right arm following surgery. The passage then opens out to broad

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

reflections on the nature of the brain and its ability to adapt, which leads the author to promote a "view of the brain as dynamic and active" (lines 56-57).

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The author does not present any scientific evidence that might refute a particular view. The author claims to have observed "radical adaptations" (line 56) that lead him to put forward an alternative view, but he does not say what those radical adaptations are and how exactly they support his view.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The passage does not contain any amusing anecdotes. One reference that can be described as anecdotal is the author saying that "in the first week I injured every finger on my left hand" (lines 19-20), but this is not meant to be amusing. Neither are the anecdotes "countered by profound insight"; rather, they illustrate the author's main point that the brain is remarkably able to adapt to changing conditions.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The paragraphs that follow the author's observations regarding his personal story of recovery are not in the least detached. In fact, the general viewpoint that the author develops here is repeatedly grounded in the author's own experience. For example, the author says, "This other side of development or disease is something I see, potentially, in almost every patient" (lines 54-56), or "This sense of the brain's remarkable plasticity . . . has come to dominate my own perception of my patients and their lives" (lines 68-72).

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. A "case study" is an intensive analysis of an individual case. A scientific hypothesis is a precisely formulated, testable claim expressing an inference from observed data. The passage does not offer an intensive analysis of the author's recovery, only a loose collection of suggestive observations. It also does not state a scientific hypothesis.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. The author describes himself as "strongly right-handed" (line 2) in the context of a situation in which he is unable to use his right arm. Emphasizing his right-handedness in this way serves to show the tremendous challenge the author faced when his right arm was immobilized. Obviously, the more strongly established the habit of using one arm in preference to the other, the more difficult it is to adapt to being without that arm.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The author does not mention being "strongly right-handed" (line 2) in order to make a point about how easy it was for him to become ambidextrous. For one thing, he has not become ambidextrous. For example, even though he is able to write using his left hand, he writes "slowly, awkwardly" (line 4). Moreover, to the extent that he is learning to use his left hand and arm, the process is not an easy one. As part of the evidence of how difficult this process has been, the author writes that "in the first week I injured every finger on my left hand" (lines 19-20).

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Choice (B) is incorrect. The author does not use his being "strongly right-handed" (line 2) as a basis for comparing his particular abilities with those of other individuals. The contrast the author is primarily suggesting is between how he did things before (although this is not actually described) and after the arm surgery: "slowly, awkwardly" (line 4) in the case of writing, "quite off balance for a few days" (lines 9-10) in the case of walking.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. Readers will probably be sympathetic to the difficulties faced by the author. But the author does not mention his strong right-handedness to gain sympathy. Throughout the passage, the author is matter-of-fact ("I have also become very adept with my toes" (line 8) and does not seem to want readers to feel sorry for him. The point of mentioning his strong right-handedness is to give a sense of the magnitude of the adjustment that the author had to make.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The phrase "strongly right-handed" (line 2) does not mean that the right hand is, or was, particularly strong. The phrase means that there is a strong tendency to use the right hand instead of the left hand.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. "Conjecture" means guess or theory. When the author says, "[t]here must be changes going on with some of the programs and circuits in my brain" and then adds, "(though our methods of brain imaging are still too crude to show these)" (lines 14-17), he is explaining a theory he has developed as a result of his own observations. Because his theory is impossible to confirm, it is best described as conjecture.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The author's remark, which includes a reference to "programs and circuits in my brain" (lines 14-15), uses the language of computers (programs, circuits) metaphorically to talk about the brain, but this is not irony. "Irony" typically involves the use of a word to express the opposite of its literal meaning. The author's remark in lines 14-16 contains no irony of any kind.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Inquiry" means investigation. The author's remark in lines 14-16 may be interpreted as suggesting an inquiry or investigation, though the author seems to indicate that the proper technology with which to conduct an inquiry is not currently available (lines 16-17). However, this does not mean that the remark itself is an inquiry. The remark is a statement of what the author has come to believe.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. Although the author's remark in lines 14-16 is based on his observations, the remark itself is not an observation. An observation is based on physical data. This remark goes one step beyond simply offering physical data by creating a theory to explain what has been observed.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The author's remark is not, in itself, "evidence." The evidence that is being relied on here consists entirely of the author's observations of himself. Further, the author explains that "our methods of brain imaging are still too crude" to substantiate any of the changes he describes (lines 16-17). The more basic point is that the author's remark in lines 14-16 does not present evidence; rather, it presents an inference based on that evidence.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. In lines 15-16 the author mentions alterations in "synaptic weights and connectivities and signals." He then comments that our methods of brain imaging do not show these alterations yet because the methods are still "too crude" (line 17). In other words, these methods would have to be further refined, or developed, to show the alterations. So in this context, "crude" means unrefined or undeveloped.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. It would be difficult to make sense of a claim that a method was too "obvious," or straightforward, to show certain difficult-to-detect phenomena.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. There are uses of the word "crude" in which it means natural. The phrase "crude oil" is a case in point. The sense of "natural" that this involves is unprocessed, or as it occurs in nature. Methods of brain imaging are not things that occur in nature, so describing methods of brain imaging as "crude" in the sense of natural is inappropriate.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. A "crude remark" is a remark that shows a lack of social refinement and that may well be considered offensive. In lines 16-17, the point made about methods of brain imaging, however, is a point about what can be accomplished using those methods, not a point about their social acceptability. So "crude" as used in line 17 does not mean offensive.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Vulgar" means coarse or gross. Calling methods of brain imaging "vulgar" would be a misuse of the term.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. The author opens the passage with a description of how he adapted to having his right arm immobilized following surgery. The author explains that most of the adaptations "have occurred by themselves, unconsciously, by reprogrammings and adaptations of which I know nothing" (lines 20-22). The author indicates that these physical adaptations are as far outside his conscious knowledge as "how I normally walk." This illustrates an important point: neural adaptations are unconscious.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Choice (A) is incorrect. By saying that he does not know how he normally walks, the author is not depicting his physical capabilities before his accident. What he is saying is that normal walking is not an activity that is controlled by the conscious mind. The purpose of saying this is to tell the reader that the author's newly adapted ways of doing things are no different from normal ways of doing things.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The author's way of referring to learning from experience is learning "through trial and error" (line 19). The author sharply distinguishes adaptations that are produced by this sort of learning from unconscious adaptations. He does not seem to be very interested in the first kind, and the author's parenthetical reference in lines 22-23 serves to highlight a point about unconscious adaptations, not about learning through experience.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The author says, "I am adapting, learning, all the while—not merely this left-handed writing, but a dozen other left-handed skills as well" (lines 5-7). This argues against the position that the author continues to be unable to perform simple tasks. It suggests that at this point the author might well be able to perform simple tasks again, only with the left hand rather than with the right. Since no inability to perform simple tasks has been established, there is none to explain.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. To say that the author rationalizes a frustration presupposes that there is a frustration to rationalize. It is possible that the author was frustrated early on in his recovery, although he does not say so. At this point, the author just seems intensely interested in what is happening to him and observes it closely. He does not seem to be disappointed or discouraged.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. The surgeon's remarks in lines 34-36 are concerned with the author's recovery from arm surgery. With respect to the path to recovery to be taken, the surgeon tells the author: "There are *general* guidelines, restrictions, recommendations. But all the particulars you will have to find out for yourself." In other words, there is a broad framework within which recovery will take place, but for the most part the patient will have to develop his own procedures for coping.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The surgeon does not mention muscular adjustments at all. The author does mention them (line 30) but only to say that they will be part of his recovery from surgery. There is no indication that the author is insufficiently open-minded about muscular adjustments, so the surgeon would not appear to have any reason to advise him to become more open-minded about them.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. What the surgeon tells the author, according to lines 34-36, is basically that there will be no detailed and specific regimen of rehabilitation for the author to follow. There will be general rules, but beyond that, the author will have to find his own way.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The surgeon tells the author that there are general guidelines that are common to everyone who has undergone the kind of surgery the author has. So there would be no point in asking others about their adherence to those guidelines. As for the individual details of the author's recovery, the surgeon says that the author will have to figure things out for himself. The suggestion is that the details will be different for each individual.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The surgeon does not advise the author simply to wait patiently until he has recovered. The surgeon will give him some general directions, but aside from that, the surgeon's advice to the author is that he find out what works best for him personally.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. In his remarks the physiotherapist first makes the point that the adaptations of the nervous system are unique to each person and then adds, addressing the author, "You're the neurologist—you must see this all the time" (line 39). The physiotherapist infers that his patient, a neurologist, must be familiar with the nervous system's diversity of adaptations. The physiotherapist could not reason this way unless he assumed that all neurologists (including this particular neurologist) are familiar with the nervous system's adaptability.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The physiotherapist says that the nervous system's adaptations are peculiar to each individual. Since a patient's recovery involves adaptations by the nervous system, this means that patients will differ from one another in the way they recover. However, just because the recovery processes differ from one patient to another does not mean that patients have any control over them. Thus the physiotherapist's remarks do not show that he assumes that patients have complete control over their recovery.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The physiotherapist says that each person's adaptation by the nervous system "follows a different path" (line 37). The physiotherapist seems to assume that each neurologist understands this. But no assumption is being made about how neurologists come to have this understanding.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The physiotherapist's remarks (lines 36-39) revolve around a single point: "Adaptation follows a different path in each person. The nervous system creates its own paths" (lines 37-38). The physiotherapist takes it for granted that his patient, a neurologist, is familiar with this point; he says to his patient, "you must see this all the time" (line 39). These remarks do not suggest that the physiotherapist makes any particular assumptions about his patient's knowledge of the intricacies of the muscular system.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. There is nothing in the physiotherapist's remarks to suggest that he assumes that neurologists consider both healthy and injured brain processes to be parallel. Rather than parallels among adaptations, he stresses the uniqueness of each nervous system's adaptation. He does not invoke the distinction between healthy and injured brains in any way.

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. In line 42, physicist Freeman Dyson is reported to have spoken with awe of "this richness in the physical and biological worlds." This is immediately followed by another phrase that functions as a gloss, that is, as a brief explanation of a possibly obscure expression. This phrase is "the endless diversity of physical forms and forms of life" (lines 42-43). So the meaning of "richness" as it is used in line 42 is diversity, or variety.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The word "richness" in line 42 does not mean biological importance. For one thing, this "richness" is supposed to be found not only in the world of biology but also in the physical world. But more importantly, the passage itself fixes the intended meaning of the word as diversity (of forms). The phrase that spells out the meaning of "richness" is in lines 42-43 and reads, "the endless diversity of physical forms and forms of life."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The reference to "richness" in line 42 has nothing to do with economic wealth. The word occurs in the phrase "this richness," and refers back to the statement that "[n]ature's imagination . . . is richer than ours" (lines 40-41). So the wealth at issue is not economic wealth but a wealth of natural forms.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. What is being described is the richness of "[n]ature's imagination" (line 40), "richness in the physical and biological worlds" (line 42), and "the endless diversity of physical forms and forms of life" (lines 42-43). So the focus here is on abundance in what there is to be observed in nature, not abundance in how many different things it means. "Richness" is used to emphasize the existence of an abundance of forms, not to emphasize an abundance of interpretations.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. According to the passage, "richness" refers to "the endless diversity of physical forms and forms of life" (lines 42-43). Some of these diverse forms could be characterized as "resources," or useful things, but "richness" does not mean "resources" in this context.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. In the paragraph that includes lines 43-48, the author includes quotations from his surgeon and his physiotherapist, and gives a thumbnail sketch of physicist Freeman Dyson's views on "[n]ature's imagination" (line 40). At the end of the paragraph, the author spells out his own approach to the study of nature's richness, which he says is shaped by the fact that he is a physician. The reference to his professional qualifications thus explains why he is addressing the subject of health and disease, and emphasizes the validity of his point of view.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. In lines 43-48 the author explains how he, as a physician, thinks that the rich diversity of nature ought to be studied. This is a statement of a broad vision for study in the future. The author does not cite any information that might serve as an illustration of the limits of scientific knowledge.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The view that the author outlines in lines 43-48 does represent a physician's perspective, but it is quite broad. It is not confined to what would be of interest to, or be of potential benefit to, his own patients. The author's view is very general. It is about "human organisms, people" (line 46) in general, and it is concerned with how "nature's richness is to be studied" (line 44).

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. Lines 43-48 do not establish that the author himself performs surgery. The author is presented as a "neurologist" (line 39), as a "physician" (line 44), and as having patients (lines 54-56), but not all neurologists are neurosurgeons, and there is no reference anywhere in the passage to the author as a surgeon.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The author's credentials as a neurologist are not in doubt, nor is there any indication that the author thinks they might be in doubt. Moreover, the author would probably realize that mentioning the fact that he is a physician would not go very far towards establishing specific credentials as a neurologist. Finally, the broad orientation that the author outlines in lines 43-48 goes well beyond the concerns of neurology.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. In lines 49-54 the author points out that there can be a creative aspect to disease. He concedes that disease can "destroy particular paths, particular ways of doing things" (lines 51-52). But in the process it "may force the nervous system into making" (line 52-53) paths and ways that had not been there before, and so "force on it an unexpected growth and evolution" (lines 53-54). Thus positive, or productive, change can be stimulated by disease as the nervous system adapts to the consequences of disease.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The only reference to anything psychological in lines 49-54 is the word "distressed" (line 49). The primary purpose of the discussion in lines 49-54 is to point out that, from the point of view of neurology, there can be positive responses to disease.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. Readers may already view disease as an inevitable fact of human existence, so there may not be much point in encouraging them to take this view. Moreover, lines 49-54 certainly do not give any such encouragement. What lines 49-54 do encourage the reader to do is consider seriously the possibility that disease may play a creative role with respect to the nervous system, and not just a destructive one.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The passage does not concern itself with evolution in the sense of genetic shifts in a population or a species through successive generations. It does use the term "evolution" (line 54) as applied to an individual nervous system, though, and here the word carries a sense of positive change, growth, or development. Evolution in this sense is presented as possibly being forced on the nervous system by disease (lines 50-54), rather than as being blocked, or retarded, by disease.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. Lines 49-54 do not address the question of how disease ought to be dealt with. The author has a clear view of how disease is, in fact, dealt with by the nervous system. The nervous system suffers losses: "particular paths, particular ways of doing things" (lines 51-52) are destroyed. But the nervous system also makes gains, by having "an unexpected growth and evolution" (lines 53-54) forced on it. This, as the author has made clear previously (lines 20-23), is mostly a matter of neural adaptations that occur on an unconscious level. The author does not bring spiritual matters into the discussion at all.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. The author's main point about "radical adaptations" (line 56) is that they demand "a view of the brain as dynamic and active rather than programmed and static" (lines 57-58). Thus it can be inferred that there are others who view the brain as programmed and static, that is, as inflexible and unchanging.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The author discusses adaptations as a response to at least three different sorts of situation: surgery (as in his own case), disease, and developmental disorders. He also speaks of adaptations to "neural or sensory mishap" (lines 70-71). So it is clear that in the author's own view adaptations occur in response to a wider range of circumstances than just disease. There is no indication anywhere in the passage that there are others who disagree with him on this point.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The passage leaves no doubt that all competent observers agree that neurological change can occur as a result of disease and developmental disorders. Disease and developmental disorders are not ordinarily considered evolutionary processes, nor does the author suggest that he or anyone else thinks they are. The author speaks of certain neurological changes as resulting in "growth and evolution" (line 54), or "evolution and change" (line 59). But this is a way of saying that evolution is an effect of neurological changes, not that neurological changes are an effect of evolutionary processes.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The author says in lines 62-64, "That the brain is minutely differentiated is clear: there are hundreds of tiny areas crucial for every aspect of perception and behavior." This is put forward as part of the general knowledge base that neurologists share.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The author says that among the many aspects of perception and behavior that depend on tiny areas in the brain is "perhaps, the intellectual orientation of the individual" (lines 65-66). So the idea that the intellectual orientation of the individual is an organic function is presented as a mere

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

possibility, not as a fact that people either recognize or fail to recognize. Moreover, this idea is not particularly related to the author's discussion of radical adaptations in lines 56-62, but rather to the author's presentation of a fact about brain structure (lines 62-66).

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. The author articulates the main point of the passage in lines 54-62. The central point is that the brain is "a supremely efficient adaptive system geared for evolution and change, ceaselessly adapting to the needs of the organism" (lines 58-60). The author returns to this point when he says that a "sense of the brain's remarkable plasticity, its capacity for the most striking adaptations" (lines 68-69), has come to dominate the way he sees his patients and their lives.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The author does mention certain relatively technical aspects of how the brain functions. For example, he notes that in the brain "there are hundreds of tiny areas crucial for every aspect of perception and behavior" (lines 63-64). However, this is not the main point of the passage. The main point is to take a position on the extent of the brain's ability to adapt, not to "explain the most fundamental aspects of brain function."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The author uses the surgery done on his right arm as a starting point for his reflections on the nervous system and the brain. This surgery is used as an example; it is not the main focus of the passage. In fact, by the time the author reaches his basic statement of his main point (lines 56-62), surgery is no longer specifically mentioned.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The author mentions healing in what is essentially an aside, referring to "a simple process like tissue healing" (line 29). He also mentions his "physiotherapist" (line 36) and thus acknowledges a role for physical rehabilitation in recovery. However, most of the discussion in the passage is concerned with "adaptations" (first mentioned in line 18), and the author does not seem to care whether they come about as the result of deliberate intervention (such as physical rehabilitation) or natural healing. His main concern is with what, if any, limits there are on adaptations.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. Early in the passage the author speculates about what is going on in his brain as he recovers from surgery on his right arm. He reasons that, "There must be changes going on with some of the programs and circuits in my brain—altering synaptic weights and connectivities and signals" (lines 14-16). To this he adds, in parentheses, "though our methods of brain imaging are still too crude to show these" (lines 16-17). However, this does not suggest that the main point of the passage is concerned with the technology used to measure brain activity, particularly since there are no other mentions of this technology in the remainder of the passage.

Section 6

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Choice (D) is correct. "Lengthy" means long, and "last" means to continue or remain active. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "May Sarton had a lengthy career: it lasted from 1929, when *Poetry* magazine published her early sonnets, to 1994, when her last collection of poems came out." The information following the colon indicates that both missing terms will address the length of Sarton's career. The fact that her presence in the publishing scene "lasted" so many years means that it was indeed "lengthy."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Limited" means kept within bounds, and "develop" means to come into being. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "May Sarton had a limited career: it developed from 1929, when *Poetry* magazine published her early sonnets, to 1994, when her last collection of poems came out." The sentence suggests that Sarton's career was long and accomplished, not "limited."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Diverse" means varied, and "founder" means to stumble or break down. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "May Sarton had a diverse career: it foundered from 1929, when *Poetry* magazine published her early sonnets, to 1994, when her last collection of poems came out." The fact that Sarton's work was published for so many years contradicts the claim that her career "foundered," or struggled. Furthermore, the sentence does not provide enough information to support the claim that her body of work was "diverse."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Variable" means changeable, and "decline" means to get increasingly worse. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "May Sarton had a variable career: it declined from 1929, when *Poetry* magazine published her early sonnets, to 1994, when her last collection of poems came out." The claim that Sarton's career was changeable contradicts the second part of the sentence, which suggests that it steadily "declined" through the years.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Sedate" means calm, and "soar" means to rise to great heights. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "May Sarton had a sedate career: it soared from 1929, when *Poetry* magazine published her early sonnets, to 1994, when her last collection of poems came out." A career that "soars" to great heights is not likely "sedate," or calm.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. "Confirm" means to prove to be true, and "speculations" are guesses. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Recent data recording a bottlenose whale's phenomenal dive of over 4,700 feet confirmed earlier speculations that such whales were among the sea's deepest divers." The phrase "recent data" and the term "earlier" set up a relationship between a fact and a claim. Data proving the bottlenose whale's diving ability would indeed "confirm earlier speculations," or guesses, that these animals are "among the sea's deepest divers."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Refute" means to prove false, and "theories" means systems of belief or conjectures. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Recent data

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

recording a bottlenose whale's phenomenal dive of over 4,700 feet refuted earlier theories that such whales were among the sea's deepest divers." A bottlenose whale's "phenomenal," or remarkable, dive would help to prove, not "refute," conjectures that the animals are superior divers.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Challenge" means to call into question, and "predictions" means assertions about future outcomes. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Recent data recording a bottlenose whale's phenomenal dive of over 4,700 feet challenged earlier predictions that such whales were among the sea's deepest divers." Such data would support, not "challenge," predictions that the bottlenose whale is a remarkable diver.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Validate" means to support with evidence, and "disclaimers" means denials. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Recent data recording a bottlenose whale's phenomenal dive of over 4,700 feet validated earlier disclaimers that such whales were among the sea's deepest divers." The bottlenose whale's "phenomenal" dive disproves, not "validates," earlier rejections of the notion that these animals are "among the sea's deepest divers."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Substantiate" means to show to be true with evidence, and "doubts" means uncertainties. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Recent data recording a bottlenose whale's phenomenal dive of over 4,700 feet substantiated earlier doubts that such whales were among the sea's deepest divers." A "phenomenal" dive of 4,700 feet would remove, not "substantiate," doubts that bottlenose whales are among the sea's deepest divers.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. "Circumscribed" means restricted or limited, and "impulsive" means spontaneous or hasty. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "The residents of the town lived circumscribed lives; no one indulged in wild or impulsive behavior." The semicolon indicates that the first missing term will contrast with "wild," while the word "or" suggests that the second missing term will be compatible with "wild." These terms logically complete the sentence because people who lead "circumscribed," or restricted, lives would not be expected to engage in "wild or impulsive behavior."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Rambunctious" means disorderly or boisterous, and "indecent" means morally offensive. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "The residents of the town lived rambunctious lives; no one indulged in wild or indecent behavior." People who are described as "rambunctious," or disorderly, may very well engage in wild behavior.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Extravagant" means wasteful, or excessive, and "excessive" in this context means uncontrolled. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "The residents of the town lived extravagant lives; no one indulged in wild or excessive behavior." The missing terms should have contrasting meanings, but "extravagant" and "excessive" are nearly

synonymous. It is contradictory to claim that "extravagant" people do not demonstrate "excessive behavior."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Secluded" means isolated, and "scrupulous" means conscientiously honest. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "The residents of the town lived secluded lives; no one indulged in wild or scrupulous behavior." The first missing term should mean the opposite of "wild," and the second missing term should complement the meaning of "wild," but neither "secluded" nor "scrupulous" fits within the context of the sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Irreverent" means disrespectful or lacking seriousness, and "animated" means lively. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "The residents of the town lived irreverent lives; no one indulged in wild or animated behavior." "Irreverence" does not necessarily prevent people from being "wild or animated."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. "Tempered" means moderated, and "thriving" means living well. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "The study's warning that monkey populations were declining in Guatemala and Mexico was tempered by new evidence that nearby populations along the Belize River were thriving." The first missing term describes the effect that new evidence had on the study's warning, and the second missing term describes the current state of monkey populations. It is logical to conclude that evidence of a "thriving" monkey population would "temper," or tone down, the warning that the animals are disappearing.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Corroborated" means confirmed, and "prospering" means thriving or living well. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "The study's warning that monkey populations were declining in Guatemala and Mexico was corroborated by new evidence that nearby populations along the Belize River were prospering." New evidence regarding a "prospering" monkey population would contradict, not "corroborate," a warning that the number of monkeys is declining.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Confirmed" means strengthened or proven to be true, and "extant" means currently in existence. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "The study's warning that monkey populations were declining in Guatemala and Mexico was confirmed by new evidence that nearby populations along the Belize River were extant." The discovery of an existing population of monkeys does not "confirm" the study's warning that the animals are disappearing. Such new evidence may actually cast doubt on the study's claim.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Belied" means proved false, and "dwindling" means decreasing in number. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "The study's warning that monkey populations were declining in Guatemala and Mexico was belied by new evidence that nearby

populations along the Belize River were dwindling." Evidence that monkey populations are "dwindling," or decreasing in number, would support, not "believe," the study's warning.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Diminished" means reduced in importance, and "debilitated" means weakened. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "The study's warning that monkey populations were declining in Guatemala and Mexico was diminished by new evidence that nearby populations along the Belize River were debilitated." New evidence of a "debilitated" monkey population would strengthen, not "diminish," the warning that monkeys are disappearing.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. "Myopic" means short sighted. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "The staff complained that management was myopic, focusing on short-term profits while disregarding the long-term welfare of the corporation." The comma introduces an explanation of the missing term. It is indeed "myopic," or short sighted, to focus on a corporation's immediate profits at the expense of its long-term welfare.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Irresolute" means indecisive. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "The staff complained that management was irresolute, focusing on short-term profits while disregarding the long-term welfare of the corporation." The tendency to focus on one aspect of a company at the expense of another is not necessarily "irresolute," or indecisive.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Officious" means offering unwanted help. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "The staff complained that management was officious, focusing on short-term profits while disregarding the long-term welfare of the corporation." The second clause of the sentence must describe the missing term, but "officious" management would not necessarily sacrifice the company's "long-term welfare" for quick profits.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Rancorous" means bitterly hateful. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "The staff complained that management was rancorous, focusing on short-term profits while disregarding the long-term welfare of the corporation." Focusing on a corporation's short-term profits instead of its long-term welfare is not "rancorous," or bitterly hateful, behavior.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Punctilious" means very careful with small details. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "The staff complained that management was punctilious, focusing on short-term profits while disregarding the long-term welfare of the corporation." It is possible for corporate managers to pay attention to small details while still keeping long-term goals in mind.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. The paragraph suggests that readers of *Flaubert in Egypt* should be able to "conjure up," or imagine, the French author in the scenes depicted in old photographs of Egypt.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. It is illogical to claim that readers of *Flaubert in Egypt* should be able to "convene," or bring together, Flaubert.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The passage suggests that readers should be able to imagine, not "portray," Flaubert's travels in Egypt while looking at the museum's collection of photographs.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. It is illogical to suggest that readers should be able to "entreat," or beg, Flaubert.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. It makes little sense to say that readers should be able to "recollect," or remember, "the French author just outside the picture frame."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. The description of Flaubert "seeming oh-so-exquisitely bored" suggests that the author's boredom was merely an act. Someone who seems to cultivate the appearance of having a certain attitude is said to be "affected."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The author of the passage imagines Flaubert enjoying his time in Egypt, but there is no indication in the last sentence that the country "inspired," or motivated, him to write.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. An "oppressive," or severe, climate would not allow someone to comfortably "settle into the cool shade."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The museum's photographs depict Egypt during the time period when Flaubert presumably traveled there. No line in the passage, however, describes the French author actually posing for photographs.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. While the description of Flaubert suggests that he enjoyed his time in Egypt, the last sentence does not indicate that he had any particular appreciation for the country's culture.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. The passage describes maps as "breaking down the graphic or pictorial vocabulary to a bare minimum" (lines 1-2). Maps focus on specific pieces of information—distance, geographical features, particular patterns—effectively "accentuat[ing] selected information." By keeping what they represent minimal, maps accentuate the information that does get selected.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The passage does say that maps achieve "a visual minimalism" (line 2), but that does not mean that details are made small. Rather, it means that maps avoid visual clutter by focusing on selected information. In this way, patterns can emerge more easily.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. According to the passage, the effect of "breaking down" the map's vocabulary to a minimum is that patterns are created that "engage the highly evolved human capacity for pattern recognition" (lines 5-6). In other words, maps make the information they contain readily accessible and do not "create momentary confusion."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "By breaking down the graphic or pictorial vocabulary to a bare minimum" (lines 1-2), maps sharply reduce the variety of distinctions that can be captured on them. At the same time, whatever distinctions a map does capture, it is able to capture more clearly because there is less distracting information in the map. Thus there is no reason that the distinction between words and numbers should end up being minimized if in fact both are part of the vocabulary that a map adopts.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The passage mentions numbers being turned into visual images (lines 3-4), but it does not say anything about words being turned into visual images or being otherwise eliminated. The passage talks about only "breaking down the graphic or pictorial vocabulary to a bare minimum" (lines 1-2), not about eliminating things that would be useful to have.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. The phrase "maps of perception" (line 8) refers to the way that "perception filters and maps the relentless torrent of information provided by the sense organs" (lines 8-10). In particular, maps of perception have been invoked as the means by which an abundance of raw data—all that the sense organs encounter—is filtered to extract sensory information that is meaningful to humans. In other words, maps of perception allow humans to "separate the message from the static" (lines 12-13).

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The "maps of perception" mentioned in line 8 are not drawings of the organs of human perception or drawings of anything else. The maps of perception are an organizational feature of the brain that allows it to process the flood of raw data supplied by the sense organs into nonrandom

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

patterns. The maps of perception have to do with the way data is processed, not with the organs that collect such data.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. Describing the phrase "maps of perception (line 8) as a "depiction of how the world actually appears to the human eye" leaves out a crucial point. As the passage states, maps of perception are used to understand the way that "perception filters and maps the relentless torrent of information provided by the sense organs" (lines 8-9). Maps of perception show the way that this information is processed; depictions of the world's appearance to the human eye do not include this information. Moreover, in the passage, maps of perception are not limited to vision but are posited as filters of information provided by all of the sense organs.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Maps of perception" are maps of what the brain does with information from the sense organs, not how the sense organs themselves (including the eye) function at the cellular level.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The phrase "maps of perception" (line 8) describes an organizational feature of the brain which is used in many different ways. This is different from a representation or depiction of "a place from one person's perspective." Maps of perception are not the representations that people construct out of the sensory data received by the sense organs. Rather, they are tools people use in constructing those representations.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. The authors begin the passage by remarking that "a great many people, over the centuries and even over the past few decades, have not wanted it [the story of Black women] told" (lines 2-4). The authors then list some of the reasons that have been given for resisting the idea of a history that focuses specifically on Black women: "[s]ome have dismissed it, saying that it wasn't worth telling. Others have actively suppressed it, afraid of what it would reveal. Still others have tried to deny that there was any story particular to Black women" (lines 4-7).

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. While the authors of the passage might very well "defend diverse perspectives on race and gender," in this passage their interest is in allowing for the "voice of Black women to be heard loud and clear" (lines 52-53). The passage focuses on the exclusion of this voice from conventional accounts of women's and Black history. In lines 4-10, the authors point to the different ways this particular account (that of Black women) has been suppressed.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The purpose of lines 4-10 is to show the various objections that have been raised to treating the history of Black women as an important historical topic in its own right. Each of the objections on the list—it is not an interesting topic; it is a dangerous topic; it is not a separate topic in its own right—is presented as having been raised by a different group. Thus, although it is implied that the authors plan to discredit these views, the purpose of lines 4-10 is to present these views, not to discredit them.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The historical topic that interests the authors of the passage is the topic of Black women. One purpose of the list of views presented in lines 4-10 is to show that many historians are not interested in that topic.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The views presented in lines 4-10 are the views of various groups of historians. What these different views all state is that the history of Black women is not a topic that should be pursued. There is no suggestion that any of these historians are themselves Black women.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. "To assert" means to state or declare. Lines 11-12 present a statement or declaration of the authors' position: "But no matter what anyone may say to the contrary, Black women are different."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. An apology involves an admission of guilt or error of some kind. The sentence in lines 11-12 suggests that the authors of the passage feel that Black women's experiences have not been represented in either women's or Black history. Further, they disagree with the statement that, "after you've told the story of African Americans and the story of women, you're finished" (lines 8-9). Clearly the authors believe that there has been an error, but it has been made by other historians, not the authors of this passage. Thus the sentence cannot be described as an apology.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. A decision resolves uncertainty, but there is no uncertainty present in lines 11-12. The authors do not seem to doubt that "the story of Black women was a remarkable one" (lines 1-2) and that it should be told separately from the histories of African Americans and of women. Their statement that "Black women are different" is not a decision. It is simply an assertion of their position.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. A concession is an acknowledgment that someone else's point is correct. The sentence in lines 11-12 does contain an acknowledgment that others hold a different point of view ("But no matter what anyone may say to the contrary"), but it does not concede that they are right. In fact, the sentence as a whole flatly contradicts the view presented at the end of the previous paragraph.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. Although the authors of the passage do seem to criticize some historians' views at other points in the text, this is not the primary purpose of lines 11-12. The primary purpose of lines 11-12 is to forcefully state the authors' position (that "no matter what anyone may say to the contrary, Black women are different").

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. Although the authors acknowledge that much of Black women's experience "derives from racism and much from sexism" (lines 14-15), they also assert that Black women have a unique perspective. This is because Black women's experiences involve "the blending of their separate identities [as African Americans, on the one hand, and as women, on the other] in a way that chemists would call a combination, not just a mixture" (lines 17-19). The authors explain this metaphor by saying that "both race and gender are transformed when they are present together" (lines 19-20). The chemistry metaphor is used to suggest the way that race and gender interact to produce Black women's unique perspective.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The authors describe Black women's perspective as the result of a combination of their identities as women and as African Americans, "not just a mixture" of those identities. This perspective, the passage suggests, is the result of challenges that are unique to Black women. But the chemistry metaphor does not help characterize those challenges.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. Since the passage does not mention scientific studies of race, class, or gender, it does not make sense to say that the passage uses the chemistry metaphor to illustrate connections between such studies.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The passage does not mention any "agents for change in a particular social transition." It is concerned with making the point that the experiences of Black women—what they "have experienced and still experience today" (lines 16-17)—result from a unique interaction of race and gender. The chemistry metaphor serves to emphasize the idea that "after you've told the story of African Americans and the story of women" (lines 8-9) there is still a further story to tell that is not reducible to these other stories.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The passage does not suggest that racism and sexism are similar. In particular, the chemistry metaphor does nothing to show any similarities between them.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. In lines 24-26 the authors say that many Black men and many White feminists "want to put their arms metaphorically around the Black woman's shoulder and say, 'She's with us.'" The authors add that, although Black women are sought after by both these groups, "they will be valued for their difference so long as they do not mention it too often" (lines 29-31). The suggestion is that both groups see an advantage in claiming Black women as allies, but only as long as Black women can be kept from insisting on having the uniqueness of their experiences recognized. According to the authors, the figurative gesture toward Black women is both self-interested and calculating.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The authors say that both Black men and White feminists "want to put their arms metaphorically around Black women's shoulders" (lines 24-25). But this figurative gesture is presented

as a way of claiming Black women for their own cause, not a gesture of affection for Black women themselves.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. Genuine empathy involves being aware of and sensitive to the feelings of others. But according to the authors, Black women "will be valued for their difference so long as they do not mention it too often" (lines 29-31). This suggests that Black women's value in this context is dependent on their ability to keep their mouths shut. In claiming Black women for their respective groups by putting "their arms metaphorically around the Black woman's shoulder" (lines 24-25), neither Black men nor White feminists are being genuinely empathetic.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. There is no indication in the passage that either Black men or White feminists require any special courage to claim Black women for their respective groups. The suggestion is rather that both groups claim Black women out of self-interest.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Arrogance" means haughtiness or lacking in humility. While the authors suggest that the reason many Black men and many White feminists "want to put their arms metaphorically around the Black woman's shoulder and say, 'She's with us'" (lines 24-26) is in order to claim that they fully represent Black women's interests, there is no suggestion that this gesture is arrogant. The authors of the passage do suggest that the people who make this gesture are being insensitive to the different experiences of Black women, but they do not claim that the gesture itself is overtly or openly arrogant.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. The "sad situation" (line 32) is that having to acknowledge difference "makes people feel nervous and guilty" (line 31). The authors speculate that "maybe it is the American obsession with race that makes it so difficult for us as a nation to get rid of our fear that difference implies, even guarantees, animosity and opposition" (lines 34-37). This suggests that the explanation for the "sad situation" is people's fear that focusing on differences will lead to disharmony.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The "sad situation" (line 32) is that having to acknowledge difference "makes people feel nervous and guilty" (line 31). The authors suggest that the explanation for the "sad situation" is people's fear that focusing on differences will lead to disharmony. Further, two of the groups discussed in the passage, Black political leaders and White feminist political leaders, are specifically working for political change. Thus it does not make sense to describe resistance to political change as the explanation for the "sad situation" mentioned in line 32.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The passage does not mention role models or people's fears of being held up as role models.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. On the contrary, the authors suggest that, at least with respect to their attitudes toward Black women, Black political leaders and White feminist political leaders behave very similarly. There are no references to other people who might be considered to hold positions of power. Thus it is unlikely that the authors regard differences in the ways men and women behave in positions of power as the explanation for the "sad situation."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The "sad situation" (line 32) is that having to acknowledge difference "makes people feel nervous and guilty" (line 31). The authors suggest that the explanation for the "sad situation" is people's fear that focusing on differences will lead to disharmony. This explanation depends on conformity in a specific respect: people being reluctant to acknowledge difference. Thus placing a high value on nonconformity—that is, on being different from other people—cannot explain the "sad situation."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. "Admonish" means to gently warn or express disapproval. The authors speculate that people in the United States are uncomfortable about acknowledging differences—e.g., between Black women and White women—because of "our fear that difference implies, even guarantees, animosity and opposition" (lines 36-37). In lines 37-39 the authors then comment on this refusal to accept difference: "But denial of difference is not the road to harmony. It is the road only to a kind of false unity that is so fragile it will splinter at a touch." The tone of lines 37-39 is admonishing, because the practice of denying difference is both disapproved of and warned against.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. To "confide" means to entrust or to tell in secret. In lines 37-39, the authors do not tell anything in confidence. Rather, they are making a bold statement about the impact of the sort of "false unity" (line 38-39) they describe. Further, the authors make it clear that they disapprove of the practice of denying difference in an effort to maintain unity. They do not seem concerned with potential criticism of their views, nor do they seem to desire to keep their views secret. Thus the tone of lines 37-39 cannot be described as confiding.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Defiant" means confrontational or disobedient. In lines 37-39 the authors do express their position that the "fear that difference implies, even guarantees, animosity and opposition" (lines 36-37) is a mistaken fear. The tone is measured and even emphatic ("so fragile that it will splinter at a touch"), but not confrontational or challenging, so the tone of these lines cannot be described as defiant.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Skeptical" means unwilling to accept or doubtful. In lines 37-39 the authors express their position that the "fear that difference implies, even guarantees, animosity and opposition" (lines 36-37) is a mistaken fear. But there is no suggestion that they are unwilling to accept that such fear exists, or that they are doubtful that people seek to deny difference because of that fear. Thus the tone of lines 37-39 cannot be described as skeptical.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Resign" means quit or surrender. In lines 37-39, there is no indication that the authors have given up on their attempt to show that denying difference is a bad strategy for securing harmony among people.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. Elsa Barkley Brown is quoted as saying that history is "everybody talking at once, multiple rhythms being played simultaneously" (lines 45-46). This view emphasizes multiplicity ("multiple rhythms") and inclusion ("everybody talking at once").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. Barkley Brown is quoted as saying that the "events and people we write about did not occur in isolation but in dialogue with a myriad of other people and events" (lines 46-48). This kind of dialogue might possibly suggest mutual respect, but it does not emphasize privacy.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. Barkley Brown's view that "the events and people we write about did not occur in isolation but in dialogue with a myriad of other people and events" (lines 46-48) emphasizes the interdependence of people, not their self-reliance or individuality.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. Barkley Brown's image of a "conversational style . . . in which everybody talks at once and all the stories interrelate and play off each other" (lines 42-44) does not suggest intellectual curiosity any more than it suggests a simple acceptance, at face value, of what other people have to say.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. Barkley Brown's image of "everybody talking at once, multiple rhythms being played simultaneously" (lines 45-46) perhaps suggests cooperation or collaboration, but there is no suggestion of invention.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. The narrator originally begins the story by saying "In the department of . . . " and then stops short of identifying the department. By way of an explanation, the narrator mentions the "wrath" (line 3) of a department. Then the narrator speaks of avoiding "any unpleasantness" and launches into the story again, this time beginning with "In a certain department" (line 6), being careful not to identify the department. So the "unpleasantness" that the narrator seeks to avoid is most likely whatever the bad consequences of identifying the department might have been.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The narrator does not display any anger in the story, and thus does not use strong language inspired by anger. The reference to "wrath" in line 3 concerns the angry reaction of

government offices at finding uncomplimentary stories told about them; it does not describe the narrator.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The narrator does not mention any arguments between different government offices. The wrath of government offices referred to in line 3 is not anger directed by one government office at another, but anger at anyone who would write negative things about a government office while at the same time fully identifying it.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. In lines 33-42 the narrator describes the teasing that Akaky was subjected to by the young clerks in his department. But the word "unpleasantness" in line 5 does not refer to the young clerks' teasing of Akaky. Rather, it refers to what might happen to a writer if the writer were to identify a government office when writing unflattering things about it.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The narrator is about to identify (or pretends to be about to identify) the government department in which the story is set but then decides not to. The reason for not naming the department is only hinted at: the department would be moved to wrath, and there would be unpleasantness. However, the strong implication is that the person who would suffer unpleasant consequences is just the narrator. There is no indication that the unpleasantness referred to in line 5 would be discomfort felt by many Russian citizens.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. Akaky is described as being "always seen in the same place, at the very same duty" (lines 19-20). In fact, no one remembers "when and how long ago he entered the department" (lines 17-18). His superiors jokingly sum up this impression by saying that "he must have been born a perpetual titular councillor" (lines 21-22).

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. There is no evidence in the story that Akaky ever tried to escape his basic nature. The narrator suggests that there was only one time when Akaky did something that was slightly more challenging than his usual daily routine, but that was at instructions from a director of the department, not on his own initiative.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The department officials say, jokingly, that "he must have been born a perpetual titular councillor in uniform all complete and with a bald patch on his head" (lines 21-23). The reference to Akaky's uniform is part of their joke, but there is no reason to think that they would have thought of Akaky any differently if he had not worn that particular uniform.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The narrator makes clear that no one in the department could remember a time when Akaky had not been working there.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The remark that "he must have been born a perpetual titular councillor in uniform all complete and with a bald patch on his head" (lines 21-23) does not contain any suggestion of Akaky's real age, nor is the issue of Akaky's age touched on anywhere else in the story.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. The "simple fly" (line 25) is introduced as something that the porters in the vestibule of the building where Akaky worked would not have taken any notice of. The point of comparing Akaky to a simple fly is to emphasize how completely the porters ignored Akaky when he came in. So the fly serves as an image of something that is easily overlooked.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. A fly may be annoying at times, but the comparison in lines 24-25 is not based on this quality of flies.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The point of calling the fly "simple" is not to suggest that it is "uncomplicated," but rather that there is nothing about a fly that would attract special attention.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. A "fast-moving" fly might be a fly that has a better chance of not being noticed than a slow-moving one, but this would not be the quality that the comparison in line 25 appeals to.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The mention of the fly serves to stress just how little notice the porters took of Akaky. So the point of referring to the fly cannot be to introduce an image of something potentially harmful.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. The two quotations in lines 28-29 are examples of expressions that are, according to the narrator, commonplace "in well-behaved offices" (line 29). Someone saying these things would just be behaving politely in the ordinary course of carrying on routine business.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The two quotations in lines 28-29 are not examples of compliments, but rather of everyday civilities.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The narrator clearly does not view these expressions as examples of unreasonable demands, but rather of everyday civilities.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The two quotations in lines 28-29 actually do serve as examples of small talk, but not of unappreciated small talk. The narrator says that in Akaky's case, the clerk's assistant who gave him his work did not say any of these things to Akaky. The narrator then comments, "And he would take it" (lines 29-30), suggesting that Akaky would actually have appreciated having those things said to him.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. These expressions may be "unnecessary," but they do not really explain anything. They serve as examples of the kind of courtesies that are exchanged by people who have at least some respect for one another but which Akaky's coworkers did not extend to him.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. To say that people told "stories of their own invention" (line 35) is to say that they told stories that they had made up, invented, or "fabricated."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. If "invention" meant creative experiment in this context, then "stories of their own invention" would be stories that grew out of their own creative experimentation. There is no indication in what the narrator says that the stories the young clerks told about Akaky were the product of any kind of experimentation.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. It is true that, in technological contexts, what is called an "invention" often is a new device, but the context in which "invention" appears in line 35 is not concerned with technology. It is the context of making up stories.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. While "invention" and "discovery" can be related in certain contexts, it is clear here that the clerks fabricate rather than "discover," or "find," their stories.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The word "adeptness" suggests skill. The idea of skill can be related to the invention of a story: the greater the skill, the better the story. But the quality of the stories that the young clerks fabricate and tell is not relevant.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. There are indications that the narrator disapproves of the young clerk's cruelty. In lines 11-15, the narrator points out that Akaky is in a category of workers who are among "those who cannot defend themselves." At the end of the paragraph, the narrator's disapproval is expressed through the description of the reaction of the one young clerk who has not yet learned to tease Akaky. Without any strong direct expression of disapproval, the narrator nevertheless manages to convey disapproval.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. There is no indication in the narrative that Akaky is the supervisor of the young clerks, and there is no indication that they are disrespectful of any co-workers aside from Akaky.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The narration does suggest that the young clerks do not all work hard all of the time. But even though their actions are described in some detail, the narrator never says anything to the effect that they should be doing their assigned work instead of tormenting Akaky.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The young clerks do seem to lack a challenge, but the author does not pretend to have any sympathy with them for any such lack. His sympathy—real sympathy—is squarely on Akaky's side, even though the expression of this sympathy is not very direct.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. There is also indication that the narrator is in the least amused.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. The clerk who is new to the office is described as being "cut to the heart" (line 45) when Akaky finally responds to his tormentors with words. This suggests that he is responding to Akaky's words with compassion.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The passage does not indicate that the clerk who is new to the office is confused about anything.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. There is no indication that the clerk who is new to the office responds to Akaky's words with sarcasm or bitter, cutting language that is used to hurt someone's feelings. The clerk does not say anything aloud, and there is no evidence that he feels bitterness.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The new clerk cannot have had any difficulty believing that Akaky said what he did. Given the taunting behavior of the other young clerks, for Akaky to say, "Leave me alone! Why do you insult me?" (lines 41-42) must have seemed quite natural.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Choice (D) is incorrect. Akaky's words do not contain anything that would be likely to provoke fear. The young clerk himself gives no evidence of being afraid.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. In the incident described in lines 55-65, Akaky is given slightly more responsibility than he ordinarily has ("something a little more important than his ordinary copying" (lines 57-58)). His task is to adapt a text, instead of just copying it. Doing this costs him considerable effort, and in the end he decides he does not want the extra burden of responsibility.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. All that the narration says about the director is that he was "a good-natured man" (lines 55-56), that he was "anxious to reward him [Akaky] for his long service" (lines 56-57), and that he did send Akaky "something a little more important than his ordinary copying" (lines 57-58). All of this sounds as though the director had been entirely sincere. It is true that this sort of effort to reward Akaky was not continued, but that seems to have been at Akaky's own request, "No, better let me copy something" (line 64).

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The incident described in lines 55-65 makes it appear doubtful that the director understood Akaky particularly well, since he acts towards Akaky in a way that causes Akaky great discomfort ("it threw him into a regular perspiration" (lines 62-63)). If the director had understood Akaky well enough to predict this, his good nature would probably have led him to spare Akaky the entire stressful episode.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The narrator describes Akaky as a man "who loved his work" (line 47) and whose "zeal in the service" (line 50) was unquestionable. Akaky is eager to work hard, as long as the work is work he can cope with.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The incident described in lines 55-65 contains no evidence that Akaky had a strong desire for a promotion. The slightly more challenging job he was given might have been the kind of work that could have led to a promotion, but it was not Akaky's idea to take on this job in the first place.

Section 9

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. "Alleviate" means to relieve or lessen. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Efforts are finally being made to alleviate the traffic congestion that plagues the downtown area." A situation that "plagues," or afflicts, an area needs to be relieved or lessened. Thus, it is logical that efforts to "alleviate," or relieve, the situation would be made.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Engage" means to capture the attention of. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Efforts are finally being made to engage the traffic congestion that plagues the downtown area." Situations are not normally things that can be "engaged"; the term is usually used with people or devices. Thus, it does not make sense to use the word "engage" to apply to traffic congestion.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Transport" means to carry away or convey. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Efforts are finally being made to transport the traffic congestion that plagues the downtown area." "Traffic" is a term that refers to different methods of transportation, but traffic congestion itself cannot be "transported."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Regenerate" means to reproduce. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Efforts are finally being made to regenerate the traffic congestion that plagues the downtown area." If traffic congestion was so bad that it was said to be plaguing the downtown area, no one would want to reproduce it.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Trivialize" means to treat as unimportant. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Efforts are finally being made to trivialize the traffic congestion that plagues the downtown area." If the traffic congestion were so serious that it was referred to as plaguing the downtown area, it is unclear why people would want to "trivialize" it.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. "Serene" means calm or undisturbed. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Though outwardly serene, the speaker was actually quite disturbed by the tumultuous crowd." A clause that begins with "though" normally contrasts in meaning with the main clause of the sentence. This expectation is satisfied in this sentence because a person's outwardly "serene," or calm, appearance is contrasted with the disturbance caused by a "tumultuous," or disorderly, crowd.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Apprehensive" means anxious or uneasy. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Though outwardly apprehensive, the speaker was actually quite disturbed by the tumultuous crowd." The word "though" alerts the reader that the statement in the first clause will contrast in meaning with that of the second clause. However, people who are "apprehensive," or uneasy, are also in some sense disturbed, so the sentence does not make sense.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Agitated" means stirred up or excited. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Though outwardly agitated, the speaker was actually quite disturbed by the tumultuous crowd." The first clause of the sentence begins with the word "though," which signals

that the second clause will contrast with the first clause. A person who is "agitated" can also be said to be disturbed, so there is no contrast between the two clauses.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Furious" means violently angry. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Though outwardly furious, the speaker was actually quite disturbed by the tumultuous crowd." The first clause of the sentence begins with the word "though," which signals to the reader that the second clause will stand in contrast to the meaning of the first clause. However, there is no such contrast between a "furious" outward state and a disturbed inner state, since an outwardly furious person is normally also disturbed inside.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Considerate" means taking others' feelings into account. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Though outwardly considerate, the speaker was actually quite disturbed by the tumultuous crowd." A person is said to be "outwardly considerate" in the clause introduced by "though," but inwardly disturbed in the main clause. Those two qualities do not contrast in the way that the word "though" suggests. A "considerate" person can still be disturbed on the inside; there is nothing surprising about that.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. "Forthrightness" means frankness, and "reserved" means restrained. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "K'ang-hsi, emperor of China from 1661 to 1722, expressed his private thoughts with a forthrightness rarely found in the usually reserved rulers of great empires." The sentence is structured to contrast a rare quality, the emperor's expression, with a common quality usually found in the rulers of great empires. So K'ang-hsi's "forthrightness," or frankness, is contrasted with the usual "reserve," or restraint, of other rulers.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Peacefulness" means calmness, and "placid" means calm or untroubled. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "K'ang-hsi, emperor of China from 1661 to 1722, expressed his private thoughts with a peacefulness rarely found in the usually placid rulers of great empires." Since "placid" is another way of saying "peaceful," or calm, there is no contrast between the two ideas. However, the sentence is structured to show how the emperor's expression was distinct from the way rulers of great empires usually acted.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Fairness" means justice or honesty, and "dilatory" means slow. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "K'ang-hsi, emperor of China from 1661 to 1722, expressed his private thoughts with a fairness rarely found in the usually dilatory rulers of great empires." There is no contrast between the meanings of "fair" and "dilatory"; these two words refer to qualities that can occur together in the same personality without contradiction. The sentence would make more sense if the two terms to be inserted were opposites of each other, such as "fairness" and "unfair" or "swiftness" and "dilatory."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Meticulousness" means carefulness, and "accessible" means available. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "K'ang-hsi, emperor of China from 1661 to 1722, expressed his private thoughts with a meticulousness rarely found in the usually accessible rulers of great empires." There is no contrast between "meticulousness," or carefulness, and "accessibility." People who are careful about details in their lives can make themselves available or unavailable to others. However, the sentence is structured so that the two terms inserted into it should be opposites of each other.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Peevishness" means irritability, and "irritable" means easily annoyed. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "K'ang-hsi, emperor of China from 1661 to 1722, expressed his private thoughts with a peevishness rarely found in the usually irritable rulers of great empires." Since "peevishness" is another way of saying "irritability," the contrast set up by the sentence between the two ideas does not exist, and the sentence is illogical.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. "Imprudent" means unwise, and "denuded" means stripped. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Farming had been profitable on the Great Plains for many decades, but by 1938 imprudent agricultural practices and years of inadequate precipitation had denuded the land." The word "but" indicates that the two clauses have contrasting meanings. The fact that farming on the Great Plains was profitable for many decades contrasts with the situation in 1938. By then, unwise agricultural practices and drought had stripped the land, making it unprofitable.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Conscientious" means extremely careful, and "despoiled" means plundered or robbed. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Farming had been profitable on the Great Plains for many decades, but by 1938 conscientious agricultural practices and years of inadequate precipitation had despoiled the land." It is unlikely that "conscientious," or extremely careful, agricultural practices would "despoil" the land. Conscientious practices are generally good ones, in both intent and effect.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Incompetent" means without adequate ability, and "sustained" means maintained. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Farming had been profitable on the Great Plains for many decades, but by 1938 incompetent agricultural practices and years of inadequate precipitation had sustained the land." "Incompetent" agricultural practices and years of drought would most likely ruin the land, not "sustain" it.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Shrewd" means clever, and "debilitated" means weakened. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Farming had been profitable on the Great Plains for many decades, but by 1938 shrewd agricultural practices and years of inadequate precipitation had debilitated the land." It is unclear why clever agricultural practices would be said to cause the weakening of the land.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Innovative" means using new methods, and "fertilized" means enriched. If one were to insert these terms into the text, the sentence would read "Farming had been profitable on the Great Plains for many decades, but by 1938 innovative agricultural practices and years of inadequate precipitation had fertilized the land." The word "but" signals the reader that the positive situation of profitable farming described in the first clause will be contrasted with a negative situation in the second clause. However, the second clause focuses on a primarily positive outcome in that the soil became "fertilized," or enriched. Moreover, it is unlikely that years of inadequate rain would contribute to a fertilization of the soil.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. "Dispatch" means haste or speed. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Cathedrals usually take decades, even centuries, to complete; thus, no one expected the National Cathedral to be built with dispatch." Cathedrals in general take a very long time to complete, so people would not expect a particular new cathedral to be built with great speed.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Presumption" means audacity, or overstepping of proper bounds. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Cathedrals usually take decades, even centuries, to complete; thus, no one expected the National Cathedral to be built with presumption." The word "thus" after the semicolon in the sentence signals that the second clause is a conclusion made on the basis of the statement in the first clause. However, the first clause deals with the length of time it takes to build cathedrals, and overstepping proper bounds has nothing to do with this. Thus the second clause cannot be a conclusion based on the first clause.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Durability" means long-lasting. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Cathedrals usually take decades, even centuries, to complete; thus, no one expected the National Cathedral to be built with durability." The second clause of the sentence is introduced by the word "thus," and this means that the second clause is a conclusion based on the information in the first clause. However, the conclusion that no one expected a particular cathedral to be built with durability, or long-lasting qualities, is not adequately supported by the statement in the first clause; in fact, one would expect something that takes a long time to build would last a long time.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Deliberation" means careful consideration. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Cathedrals usually take decades, even centuries, to complete; thus, no one expected the National Cathedral to be built with deliberation." Saying that cathedrals take decades to complete, thus no one expected a particular cathedral to be built with careful consideration, is contradictory. Something that usually takes a long time to build would probably be carefully planned.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Reverence" means deep respect. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "Cathedrals usually take decades, even centuries, to complete; thus, no one expected the National Cathedral to be built with reverence." When an activity is done with "reverence," it is usually done carefully and slowly. It therefore does not make sense to say that because cathedrals have traditionally taken many decades to complete, no one expected a particular new cathedral "to be built with reverence."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. "Amalgam" means mixture or blend. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "New York designer Anna Sui creates eclectic clothes that represent an amalgam of playful, 1970's funky styles fused with an edgy, urban sensibility." An "eclectic style" is one that is composed of elements drawn from different sources. The sentence shows how Anna Sui's style is an "amalgam," or blend, of several different artistic traditions.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. "Induction" means something like bringing facts or ideas forward. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "New York designer Anna Sui creates eclectic clothes that represent an induction of playful, 1970's funky styles fused with an edgy, urban sensibility." Styles are not things that can normally be induced. An "induction of styles" is thus not a meaningful phrase.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. "Immersion" means deep involvement. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "New York designer Anna Sui creates eclectic clothes that represent an immersion of playful, 1970's funky styles fused with an edgy, urban sensibility." An "immersion" is something that is generally done while studying a subject or in preparation for some creative project. Such "immersion" is not part of the actual process of creating art, clothes, or other products, however. "An immersion of playful . . . styles" thus does not carry a clear meaning.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. "Occlusion" means closing off. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "New York designer Anna Sui creates eclectic clothes that represent an occlusion of playful, 1970's funky styles fused with an edgy, urban sensibility." An "occlusion," or closing off, of certain styles could not then "fuse," or combine, with something else. Things that are closed off are generally rendered unavailable.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Estrangement" means alienation. If one were to insert this term into the text, the sentence would read "New York designer Anna Sui creates eclectic clothes that represent an estrangement of playful, 1970's funky styles fused with an edgy, urban sensibility." If something is "estranged," or alienated, from something else, it is cut off from that thing. Thus it makes no sense to say that something is an estrangement of certain styles that are "fused," or combined, with something else.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. Both passages are about the impact on songwriters of allowing people to download songs from the Internet for free. Both passages simply express their authors' opinions, so it is important that these be informed opinions, that is, that the authors be seen to have direct experience of writing songs professionally. The author of Passage 1 gives evidence of having been a professional songwriter

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

through the references to famous songs the author helped compose (lines 3-4) and to the "great artists" (line 6) that recorded those songs (lines 7-8). In Passage 2, the author's reference to "The Grateful Dead, for whom I once wrote songs" (line 57) serves the same purpose.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. In Passage 1, the lists of famous songs and the "great artists" who recorded them do serve to show that the author has experience writing songs "in many different musical styles" (lines 4-5), and thus suggest that the author's own musical tastes are likely to be fairly broad. But the reference to "The Grateful Dead" (line 57) does not suggest that either the songwriting experience or the personal taste in music of the author of Passage 2 extends over a particularly broad range of musical tastes.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The references to the "great artists" and to "The Grateful Dead" serve to establish the credentials of the authors as professional songwriters. Although it is reasonable to think that, as professional songwriters, the authors have an appreciation of musical talent, the references to the "great artists" and to "The Grateful Dead" neither illustrate their appreciation of musical talent nor establish that they genuinely have such appreciation.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. Most of the "great artists" mentioned in Passage 1 appealed to people who were young at the time those artists were popular. This is also true of The Grateful Dead. So the fact that the authors wrote songs for these performers suggests that they have had some understanding of songs that have appealed to young people. However, although it is important for both authors to establish their credentials as professional songwriters, no purpose would be served by establishing that they have a particular understanding of songs that appeal to young people. So the references to "The Grateful Dead" and to the "great artists" are unlikely to have been made to illustrate such an understanding.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The "great artists" in Passage 1 and "The Grateful Dead" in Passage 2 are mentioned to establish the authors' credentials as professional songwriters. There is no indication that either the performers they mention or the music associated with those performers would be regarded by the authors as being of lower quality than most people believe. So there is no indication that either author has an ironic view of what constitutes "quality" in popular music.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. The author of Passage 1 says that "a songwriter makes nothing until a song is marketed in the form of a recording for sale to the public, and unless that record of the song sells, a songwriter gets nothing for it" (lines 14-17). Napster, in the view of this author, threatens the livelihood of the professional songwriter by making it possible for people to get the song without having to buy the record. Passage 2 argues that Napster is not a threat to professional songwriters. But it does not argue for that position by suggesting that professional songwriters can get along without commercial music sales. Rather, it argues that the ready availability of free recordings tends to increase commercial sales of music. So the authors of both passages would be likely to agree that commercial music sales are necessary to sustain a professional songwriter.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Choice (A) is incorrect. The author of Passage 2 says that despite the popularity of VCR's, "more people go to the movies than ever" (lines 67-68). But Passage 1 does not mention VCR's at all. The main focus of Passage 1 is the impact on commercial music sales of free recordings from the Web. Since VCR tapes generally are not available for free, nothing the author of Passage 1 says about free recordings can simply be taken to apply to VCR's. So there is no way of knowing what the author of Passage 1 would be likely to believe about the impact of VCR's on people's interest in movies.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. There are many ways of making a living through music besides songwriting. But neither passage is concerned with any music career other than songwriting. Even with respect to songwriting, though, the author of Passage 2 does not suggest that it is any more difficult for a professional songwriter today to make a living than it ever was. The author of Passage 1 says that Napster and companies like it are threatening his retirement (line 35) by threatening to reduce future income from past songwriting and expresses "fear for the seventeen-year-old songwriter looking forward to a career in the music business today" (lines 32-34). But the author's fears about the future do not necessarily mean that it is difficult for a musician to make a living today.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 explicitly says that "Napster and companies like it are threatening . . . the future of music itself" (lines 34-36). But the author of Passage 2 sees the ready availability of free music as likely to increase the commercial sale of music recordings. So the author of Passage 2 very likely believes that companies such as Napster will ultimately benefit the music industry.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. Neither author would be likely to agree that artists should free themselves from the demands of the marketplace. The message of Passage 2 is that, for artists, the demands of the marketplace work differently than they do for people who sell things like cars. For artists the market realities are that "noncommercial distribution of information increases the sale of commercial information" (lines 80-81). And the author of Passage 1 rejects the position that artists should free themselves "from the control of the recording industry" (lines 22-23) and make music "simply for the love of it" (line 24). Both authors are concerned with the conditions under which artists can thrive within the marketplace.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. In line 14, the author of Passage 1 says that writing a song is "always a gamble." The author goes on to explain that "A songwriter makes nothing until a song is marketed in the form of a recording for sale to the public, and unless that record of the song sells, a songwriter gets nothing for it" (lines 14-17). The "gamble" involved in writing a song is that writing a song takes time and effort, but there is no guarantee that expending the time and effort to write a song will result in any money for the songwriter. So the risk is financial.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The focus of Passage 1 is on the economics of songwriting. The "gamble" has to do with the risk that the songwriter will end up not getting paid for the time spent working on the song. There may also be artistic risks involved in writing a song, but Passage 1 has nothing to say about such risks.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. Passage 1 has nothing to say about any legal risks involved in songwriting. Nor does anything the author says suggest that there are such risks.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 does think that the technology that makes it possible to freely download commercial songs from the Web has, in effect, made aiming for a career in songwriting more of a risk. But the "gamble" that the author says is always involved in writing a song has to do with the risk that the songwriter will end up not getting paid for the time spent working on the song. And this is a risk that was present well before the technology for getting free music from the Web was developed.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The "gamble" the author says is always involved in writing a song has to do with the risk that the songwriter will end up not getting paid for the time spent working on the song. The entire focus of Passage 1 is the economics of songwriting. Writing a song that does not sell, and not getting paid for one's work, may involve psychological risks as well as financial ones, but the author of Passage 1 does not consider any psychological risks that may be involved in songwriting.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. In lines 17-20, the author of Passage 1 claims that "Each time a Napster user downloads a copy of a song I have composed, I am deprived of the royalty that my work should have earned me." The royalty is the payment made to the songwriter for each copy of the song that is commercially sold. So for songwriters to lose royalties as a result of someone downloading one of their songs for free, it has to be true that every downloaded song means one fewer song sold commercially. But according to the author of Passage 2, "noncommercial distribution of information increases the sale of commercial information" (lines 80-81). Applied to songwriters, this means that getting their songs distributed for free will ultimately increase the number of their songs that get sold commercially. So the author of Passage 2 would probably regard as shortsighted the view that a free download of a song is a loss of a royalty.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 takes the position that songwriters lose a royalty payment every time someone downloads a free copy of one of their songs. This position does not attribute any motives to anyone. In particular, it does not attribute a base motive (e.g., wanting to deprive a songwriter of income) to people who do the downloading. But for a claim to be "cynical," it has to attribute base motives without any good evidence. And since the claim in lines 17-20 does not do this, the author of Passage 2 would have no reason to contend that the claim was cynical.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 claims that songwriters are deprived of royalty payments when their songs are downloaded for free. So the author evidently assumes that the people who download the songs would buy them if they could not get them for free. But this assumption does not depend on getting people to buy music that they do not like, since people probably do not download songs that they do not like. So the author of Passage 2 would have no reason to think that pointing out that people cannot be forced to buy music they do not like would show that the claim is unreasonable.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The author of Passage 2 is strongly in favor of the sorts of technological innovations that make downloading songs possible and does not believe that they interfere with artistic creativity. Thus, even if he were to find the claim in lines 17-20 discouraging, it would probably not be because of any belief that downloading drives a wedge between technological innovation and artistic creation.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 claims that songwriters are deprived of royalty payments when their songs are downloaded for free. There is nothing superior or patronizing about this claim. And there is no reason to think that the author of Passage 2 would see it as patronizing. Moreover, the only assumption the claim makes about the Internet is that it has made it possible for people to download songs for free.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. The author of Passage 1 notes that "Many say that since making music is an art, artists like me should do it simply for the love of it" (lines 23-24). The author then goes on to criticize this position by asking "But how free can artists be to do what we love if we must spend most of our days doing something else to make a living?" (lines 24-26). So the author challenges an idealistic position by pointing to the practical realities overlooked by those who hold that position. "Pragmatic" has to do with the practical rather than the idealistic. So the author's argument against the position that artists should make music "simply for the love of it" (line 24) can accurately be called pragmatic.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The author counters the position that artists should make music "simply for the love of it" (line 24) by pointing out that artists who have to spend most of their time doing something else to make a living have little time to make music. This point—that someone who has little time to spend on making music cannot make much music—is a general one that holds true of any historical period. So the author's argument against the position that artists should make music "simply for the love of it" (line 24) is not an historical one.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The author argues against the view that artists should make music "simply for the love of it" (line 24) by pointing out that artists who have to spend most of their time doing something else to make a living have little time to make music. The author apparently takes it for granted that artists have to earn a living by something they do—either by the music they make or in some other way—and that whatever they do to earn a living will take up most of their time. That in different political and economic circumstances artists might not have to spend time earning a living is not an issue the author considers. So the author's argument is not a "political" one.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. A position that considers only how things ideally would be without considering the practicalities involved is an "idealistic" position. Thus, the position that the author argues against—that artists should make music "simply for the love of it" (line 24)—can accurately be called idealistic. The author challenges this position by pointing to certain practical realities—making a living

takes time. So it is the position against which the author argues, not the author's argument against that position, that can properly be described as idealistic.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. A "facetious" argument is one that is not being put forward seriously; in other words, it is a joke. But there is no indication that the author of Passage 1 is not being serious in arguing that artists who have to spend most of their time doing something else to make a living have little time to make music.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. The author of Passage 1 remarks that if people could have copied the author's early hit songs "without paying Jerry Lieber and me" (line 29) it is likely that "I would not have had the luxury to compose full time" (lines 30-31). The author then goes on to say, "I fear for the seventeen-year-old songwriter looking forward to a career in the music business today" (lines 32-34). The author's point is that because Napster and companies like it have made it possible to copy songs without any payment to the songwriter, there is reason to fear that young songwriters will no longer be able to earn a living by writing songs.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The author's fear is that permitting songs to be copied for free will make it necessary for young songwriters to spend most of their time doing other kinds of work in order to make money. So the fear is that these young songwriters will not have the time to spend mastering their craft, not that they will have less desire to do so.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. Popularity, or artistic success, is not an issue that is discussed in Passage 1. The author is concerned with the loss of income from the free distribution of songs. The author's fear is not that young songwriters will be less popular than young songwriters were in the past, but that any popularity young songwriters may achieve will benefit them less financially.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. There is no suggestion in Passage 1 that royalties (per recording commercially sold) decline when demand for recordings rises. The author is concerned that a songwriter's total income from royalties will decline as a result of the free distribution of songs because the author believes that the free distribution of songs will cause commercial sales of those songs to drop.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. Technological innovations have made Napster and companies like it possible. And the author of Passage 1 does suggest that companies like Napster pose a threat to "the future of music itself" (lines 35-36). But there is no suggestion that the author feels that the technology itself is to blame. The problem, as the author sees it, is that companies like Napster are allowed to exploit that technology to make free downloading of songs possible.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. Passage 1 sets out certain basic economic realities of songwriting to show that by encouraging the free downloading of songs from the Internet, companies like Napster pose a major threat to songwriters. The point of making this case is to argue against the practice of downloading songs for free.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. Passage 1 strongly suggests that its author does recognize a particular ethical stance as the traditional one: that songwriters should be financially rewarded for the time and effort that went into writing a successful song. But this is not a stance that the author challenges. The stance challenged is the nontraditional stance that it is ethically permissible to download songs for free.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The technology that makes Napster possible is never discussed in the passage.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 talks about young songwriters to show that a career as a songwriter is possible for them only if they get royalties from commercial sales of their songs. Without such royalties, the author suggests, the desire to write songs would result in the occasional song written "for fun" (line 30) but nothing more. But this is an account of an economic reality, not an examination of an adolescent impulse.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 argues against the practice of downloading songs for free on the grounds that this practice threatens the livelihood of professional songwriters. But there is no suggestion that the author would regard banning the practice of downloading songs for free as a radical course of action. On the contrary, the author sees the ban as in line with traditional ethical principles associated with the commercial distribution of music.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. The quotation marks around these words in both passages are meant to suggest that the authors do not really believe the ideas the words express. The author of Passage 1 is skeptical that the free availability of music on the Internet "frees" artists in any way. Instead, the author argues that free downloadable music will reduce artists' freedom because artists will have to take time working other jobs to support themselves. Likewise, the author of Passage 2 does not believe that Deadheads were "stealing" the "property" of the artists. Instead, the author argues that the Deadheads helped the Grateful Dead gain popularity and financial success by widely distributing the music. Thus, in both passages, the quotes are used to indicate that the authors do not believe the terms appropriately describe the situations of the artists.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. Neither of the passages discusses musical theories. There are serious theoretical differences between the authors of the two passages, but those differences concern economic theories, not musical ones.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. In both passages, the authors give illustrations of how people who disagree with their position talk. The quotation marks around the word "frees" in Passage 1 and the quotation marks around "stealing" and "property" in Passage 2 are used to highlight points of disagreement, not to quote a respected authority.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. In both passages, the words in quotation marks are used to mock people. In the case of Passage 2, the people being mocked probably are in the music industry. But in the case of Passage 1 there is no indication that the people being mocked are from the music industry. In fact, Passage 2 strongly suggests that the people mocked by Passage 1—people who think making music available free of charge on the Web is good for songwriters—are not in the music industry (lines 69-72).

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. None of the words in quotation marks are unusual or specialized, nor do those using them mean to use them in any unusual way. And neither passage makes any effort to define those words. The point of the quotation marks is to suggest that these words are being misused.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. In lines 49-53, the author of Passage 2 says: "I take further comfort in the fact that the human species managed to produce pretty decent creative work during the 5,000 years" before the first modern copyright law, and goes on to cite Sophocles, Dante, da Vinci, Botticelli, Michelangelo, Shakespeare, Newton, Cervantes, and Bach as examples. The term "pretty decent" generally means reasonably good but not great. Since this is a list of people who are regarded as some of the finest creative geniuses ever, characterizing their works as reasonably good is a huge understatement. And the implicit denial of greatness in "pretty decent" suggests the opposite of what the author knows to be true. So the phrase "pretty decent" is also being used ironically. The phrase as it appears in line 50 is a perfect example of "ironic understatement."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The author of Passage 2 writes in a briskly informal but engaged manner throughout. There is nothing either "solemn" or "detached" about the passage.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The term "pretty decent" generally means reasonably good but not great. In this passage, the phrase is being used ironically to characterize the works of indisputable geniuses. The point of listing these geniuses is not to celebrate them or their achievements, however, but to use the indisputable greatness of their work in support of a serious argument (despite the ironic tone) about creative work.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The phrase "pretty decent" is being used ironically to characterize the kind of creative work done by such people as Michelangelo, Shakespeare, Newton, and Bach. The author cites these people precisely because there is no room for doubt about the quality of their creative work.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The phrase "pretty decent" is being used ironically to characterize the kind of creative work done by such people as Michelangelo, Shakespeare, Newton, and Bach. The author chooses these people as examples precisely because their creative work is of such high quality that approval can be taken for granted. So describing their work with a phrase that conveys "reluctant approval" would not make sense.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer E :

Choice (E) is correct. In Passage 2, the author mentions fans being allowed to tape Grateful Dead concerts "and freely reproduce those tapes—'stealing' our intellectual 'property' just like those heinous Napsterians" (lines 58-60). The part of the text between the dashes is meant to mimic the sort of thing people say who think that allowing people to freely reproduce tapes of songwriters' songs reduces commercial sales of their songs. The author, by contrast, believes that the free reproduction of songs results in greatly increased commercial sales. So the part of the text between the dashes is making fun of a position the author thinks is mistaken, that is, its tone is "satirical."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. An "ebullient" tone is a lively, enthusiastic tone. The part of the text between the dashes is meant to mimic the sort of thing said by people who take a position that the author disagrees with. It is a putdown of those people. The tone is sarcastic much more than enthusiastic.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. In lines 59-60, the part of the text between the dashes is meant to show how people talk who hold a position that the author disagrees with. The author is making fun of that position, and the tone is mocking or sarcastic, not "somber."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. A "quizzical" tone is one that expresses puzzlement or disbelief. In lines 59-60, the part of the text between the dashes is meant to show the way people talk who hold a certain position. The author thinks that this position is mistaken, but there is no indication that the author is either puzzled by the position or doubts that people do hold it.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. An "irate" tone is an angry tone. In lines 59-60, the part of the text between the dashes mocks the way people talk who hold a certain position. The author disagrees with that position and is making sarcastic fun of it. But there is no indication that the author feels any anger toward people who hold that position.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. Passage 2 refers to "a marketing virus that would spawn enough Deadheads to fill any stadium in America" (lines 61-62). "Spawn" means to produce in large numbers, and "Deadheads"

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

are serious fans of the band the Grateful Dead. So the author is saying that the "marketing virus" greatly increased the number of serious Grateful Dead fans, that is, greatly increased the band's popularity. The passage goes on to suggest that commercial sales of the band's recordings increased because of the increase in popularity caused by the "marketing virus." And the author clearly approves of such an increase in sales.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. The author's attitude toward the "marketing virus" is strongly positive because, in the author's view, it created many serious fans and increased commercial sales of the band's recordings. But there is no indication that the author thinks that the "marketing virus" had any effect on the band's worldview.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The author says that the "marketing virus" increased the number of serious Grateful Dead fans. Fans of a certain kind of music are people who greatly like that music. Music critics are generally people who write about music, and most music fans are not music critics. The passage neither mentions music critics nor says anything to indicate what effect the "marketing virus" might have had on music critics' views of the Grateful Dead.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The author's attitude toward the "marketing virus" is strongly positive because it resulted in more fans and more commercial sales of recordings. There is no indication that the "marketing virus" caused the band to be less concerned about artistic integrity.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. The author's attitude toward the "marketing virus" is strongly positive because it resulted in more fans who came to the band's live performances and also resulted in more commercial sales of recordings. There is no suggestion that fans not being able to fully appreciate musical innovations made by the Grateful Dead is viewed as a problem by the author.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. The main point of Passage 2 is that free distribution of songs increases their overall commercial sales and thus increases songwriters' income from royalties. The author refers to the discussion of VCR's and software as "examples that point to the same conclusion: noncommercial distribution of information increases the sale of commercial information" (lines 79-81). So citing the experiences of these other industries serves primarily to support the author's argument about music.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. Software and VCR's are examples of technologies that have had an enormous impact on contemporary life. However, the author of Passage 2 is not concerned with technology as such, or with its impact on contemporary life in general. The focus of the passage is much narrower. The focus is on the connection between wide availability (made possible by new technologies) and increased commercial sales.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is incorrect. The author's personal experience is with the music industry, and this experience appears to be the basis for his analysis of the effects that the free distribution of a band's songs had on the overall commercial sales of the band's songs. There is no indication that the author had any personal experience with either the software industry or the movie industry.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The author's argument is that letting people download software and music for free does not cut into overall commercial sales of software and CD's. The reason the author favors permitting free distribution of music is that it actually encourages commercial sales. Increasing commercial sales is the point. So the author would be unlikely to want to discourage anyone from purchasing commercial CD's and software.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. There is nothing in Passage 2 that indicates that the author has any interest in the scope of the entertainment industry. The author's focus is narrowly on the connection between free distribution of things people refer to as "intellectual property," such as songs and software, and commercial sales of those things.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. In Passage 1 the author mentions the song "Hound Dog" as one of his early hits. The author then poses the rhetorical question: "Where would I be today if anyone could have recorded 'Hound Dog' and anyone else could have copied that recording without paying Jerry Lieber and me?" (lines 26-29). The author of Passage 2 claims that "nothing makes you famous faster than an audience willing to distribute your work for free" (lines 86-88). So the answer that the author of Passage 2 would probably give to the question posed by the author of Passage 1 is: "More famous." And more fame is the same as "increased renown."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is incorrect. The author of Passage 1 certainly believes that free distribution of an artist's work does not increase that artist's artistic freedom. And the two authors have very different positions on the long-term effects of allowing songs to be distributed free of charge. Passage 2 does not discuss artistic freedom at all. It is unlikely that the author of Passage 2 thinks that the free distribution of songs reduces a songwriter's artistic freedom. However, it is more likely that the author of Passage 2 feels that the free distribution of songs has no impact whatsoever on artists' artistic freedom.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is incorrect. "Musical elitism" means musical snobbery or restrictiveness. The free distribution of songs via the Internet is likely to make music less elite rather than more so. And there is nothing to suggest that the author of Passage 2 thinks otherwise.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) is incorrect. The answer the author of Passage 1 would give to the question posed in lines 26-29 is, "Financially damaged." But this is not the answer that the author of Passage 2 would give. The author of Passage 2 believes that free distribution of songwriters' songs will ultimately result in more commercial sales of their songs and thus in higher income from royalties.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is incorrect. "Technical knowledge" is involved in setting up a company like Napster. But nothing in Passage 2 suggests that the author believes that songwriters' technical knowledge is likely to increase as a result of having their songs distributed for free.

Section 10

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by using the right words to indicate the cause-effect relationship between the ideas in the sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) uses an improper idiom. The phrase "so that" means "with the result that" or "as a result." With this phrase in the sentence, the sentence is erroneously suggesting that being able to produce energy without generating pollution is a result of being beneficial.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) uses an improper connective. The subordinate conjunction "Although" is used, erroneously indicating a contrast where none exists.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) uses awkward, confusing phrasing. The phrase "in order that will" does not make sense. The phrase should be changed to the more precise "because it."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) involves an incorrect pronoun. The plural pronoun "they" can only refer to the sentence's lone plural noun ("many potential uses"); however, it makes no sense to say that "uses" can or will "produce energy without generating pollution."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

Choice (A) is correct. It avoids the errors of the other choices by removing excess words and using established idioms to clearly express what Ms. Kopel said.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is awkward and unidiomatic. The phrase "stated about having" is used where the more precise and idiomatic "stated that she had" is needed.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) includes an inappropriate idiom whose use distorts the meaning of the sentence. The phrase "made a statement of having proof" does not properly indicate exactly what Ms. Kopel said in her letter.

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

For clarity, the phrase should be revised in one of two ways: it could be changed to "stated that she had proof" or "made a statement in which she said she had proof."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) involves an inappropriate idiom. The phrase "gave a statement" usually suggests the kind of statement that an eyewitness would give to the police. The much simpler, more idiomatic "said that she had" is needed.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is awkward and wordy. The entire phrase ("had a statement . . . about having" should be reduced to the more idiomatic and precise "stated that she had."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by providing a main verb ("maintain") to express a complete thought.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to complete the thought.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is a sentence fragment. There is no main verb (only the verbal "maintaining") to complete the thought.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) involves an improper idiom. To indicate how sales will improve, the preposition "by" must be used in place of the conjunction "and."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) involves an error in subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "maintains" does not agree with its plural subject, "officers."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by presenting the information as concisely as possible.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) is awkward and wordy. The entire phrase "in the actions . . . determinant" can be reduced to the more precise "an animal's actions are determined by instinct."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) involves an error in pronoun reference. The plural pronoun "ones" cannot logically refer to "behavior and actions."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) includes an improper idiom. The phrase "as to" should be replaced by "and."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is awkward and imprecise. The phrase "Animals mainly have their instinct" is not idiomatic. It would be more idiomatic to say "An animal's instincts."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by completing the list of plural nouns with another plural noun ("professionals").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) involves an illogical statement. "More and more women" cannot become "other professions."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) exhibits wordiness. The phrase "or they work in other professions" could be reduced to the more precise "or professionals in other fields."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) involves an improper idiom. The phrase "at work" does not make sense in this context.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) involves wordiness that distorts the meaning of the sentence. It doesn't make sense to say that more women are becoming "in other professional fields."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by providing an idiomatic phrase to modify "several camera types."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) involves improper coordination. Two complete thoughts ("Beginning photographers . . . types" and "there is . . . interests") are joined with only a comma.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Choice (B) involves an improper idiom. The phrase "of which there is one best" does not make sense. The phrase should be reduced to the more precise "one of which is best."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) exhibits ineffective coordination. The coordinate conjunction "and" is used, implying that choosing camera types is somehow unrelated to the fact that one of the types is best.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) involves improper coordination. Two complete thoughts ("Beginning photographers . . . types" and "one is . . . interests") are joined with only a comma.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by using the correct verb tense to indicate a condition ("would spend").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) involves an error in verb tense. The future "will" should be the conditional "would."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) involves improper modification. The opening clause ("In the belief . . . her mind") cannot logically modify a thing ("hours").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) exhibits improper modification as a result of an error in pronoun use. The plural pronoun "they" can only refer to the plural noun "puzzles," but if it does, then the sentence erroneously suggests that the crossword puzzles themselves believed that crossword puzzles "stimulated" Dolores' mind.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) involves improper modification. The opening clause ("In the belief . . . her mind") cannot logically modify a thing ("every week").

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by removing unnecessary pronouns.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) involves unclear pronoun reference. It is not clear whether the pronoun "they" is meant to refer to "Enzymes" or to "chemical compounds."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Choice (B) uses improper modification. The noun "enzymes" should come immediately after the opening phrase ("Among the oldest . . . compounds") that modifies it.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) involves an awkward construction. The word "being" should be removed, and the phrase beginning with "among" should be moved to the beginning of the sentence so that it clearly modifies "enzymes."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) involves awkward phrasing and construction. The awkward phrase "Actually, enzymes being" can be reduced to the more precise and idiomatic "Enzymes are actually," the words "they are" can be deleted without loss of meaning, and the phrase "among the oldest . . . compounds" can be moved to the beginning of the sentence so that it clearly modifies "enzymes."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by using pronouns consistently.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) involves an error in pronoun use. The second person ("you") is inconsistent with the earlier pronoun ("someone"). "You" should be changed to "he or she."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) includes an error in pronoun reference. "Someone" cannot be described as an "it."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) involves an error in pronoun use. The second person ("you") is inconsistent with the earlier pronoun ("someone").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) includes an error in pronoun reference. The pronoun "it" cannot be used to refer to "someone."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by providing the correct noun for the opening phrase to modify.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) involves improper modification. The opening phrase ("Brought . . . education") modifies the noun that immediately follows it, but in this case "His first book" cannot have been "brought to the United States at the age of thirteen . . ."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) involves a modification error. It does not make sense to suggest that "Lee Yan Phou's childhood" was "brought to the United States at age thirteen."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) involves improper modification. The opening phrase ("Brought . . . education") cannot logically modify "the subject of his first books."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) involves vague pronoun reference. It is not clear to what the pronoun "this" is meant to refer.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer C :

Choice (C) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by clearly specifying who "decided not to run for reelection."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) results in an illogical statement. The pronoun "she" refers to the only noun preceding it ("Mayor Julia Wilson's daughter"); however, only the mother, who is already mayor, can decide "not to run for reelection."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is awkward and wordy. The entire phrase "the decision . . . reelected" can be reduced to the more precise "her mother had decided not to run for reelection."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) involves an error in pronoun use that distorts the intended meaning of the sentence. The pronoun "she" refers to the only noun preceding it ("Mayor Julia Wilson's daughter"); however, only the mother, who is already mayor, can decide "not to run for reelection."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) involves vague pronoun reference. The pronoun "her" can only refer to "Mayor Julia Wilson's daughter," but the mother, who is already mayor, is the only one who can decide not to run for "reelection."

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer A :

More SAT information and tests at <http://www.cracksat.net>

Choice (A) is correct. It avoids the errors of the other choices by using a subordinating conjunction ("Although") to introduce the contrast, and by using proper verb tenses to indicate when the action in the sentence took place.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) is awkward and wordy. The awkwardly phrased "Although beginning to increase, as superintendent" can be reduced to the more precise "Although the superintendent has begun to increase."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) involves an ineffective construction and lacks important words. There is no reason to place the modifying phrase "beginning . . . schools" between the subject of the sentence, "The superintendent," and the independent clause begun by "she." Furthermore, words that would properly convey the contrast between the ideas are not used.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) involves an improper connective. The coordinate conjunction "and" is used here where the disjunctive conjunction "but" is needed to indicate contrasting ideas.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is sentence fragment. There is no main verb (only the verbal "beginning") to complete the thought.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer B :

Choice (B) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by using the active voice to clearly signal who is performing the action in the sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) involves the ineffective use of a passive construction. The sentence gives two things that happen when "we read," but the connection between the two actions (forming impressions and then evaluating them) is not made clear here. The passive construction erroneously suggests that the impressions that we get when we first read are subsequently evaluated by someone else.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) is awkward and imprecise. The phrase "evaluating those impressions then" could be reduced to the more precise "which we then evaluate."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D :

Choice (D) involves improper coordination. Two complete thoughts ("When we read . . . impressions" and "then we evaluate . . . impressions") are joined with only a comma.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) involves improper coordination. Two complete thoughts ("When we read . . . impressions" and "we evaluate . . . then") are joined with only a comma.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanation for Correct Answer D :

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by properly comparing "songs of humpback whales" with "those [songs] of birds."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A :

Choice (A) involves an illogical comparison. It does not make sense to say that "songs of humpback whales" are "longer than birds."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B :

Choice (B) results in an illogical statement. It does not make sense to say that "songs of humpback whales" last longer than "birds."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C :

Choice (C) involves an error in pronoun use. There is nothing in the sentence to which the singular pronoun "that" can refer.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E :

Choice (E) is an illogical statement. It does make sense to say that "songs of humpback whales" last "longer than birds."