

Question ID 01c1d9ee

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 01c1d9ee

Swahili Speakers in Three African Countries

Country	Approximate number of speakers (in millions)	Estimated % of population
Democratic Republic of the Congo	22	25
Kenya	55	100
Tanzania	61	100

Swahili is estimated to be the first language of up to 15 million people worldwide. It's also an officially recognized language in Tanzania, Kenya, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which means these countries use Swahili in government documents and proceedings. But even in countries where almost everyone speaks Swahili, for many, it isn't their first language but is instead their second, third, or even fourth language.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to support the underlined claim?

- A. Tanzania has approximately 61 million Swahili speakers, which is much more than the estimated total number of people worldwide for whom Swahili is their first language.
- B. Tanzania is estimated to have at most 15 million Swahili speakers, while the country's total population is approximately 61 million people.
- C. Approximately 100 percent of the people who speak Swahili as their first language live in Kenya, which has a total population of approximately 55 million people.
- D. Approximately 100 percent of Kenya's population speaks Swahili, while only about 25 percent of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's population speaks Swahili.

ID: 01c1d9ee Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to support the underlined claim. The text indicates that Swahili is the first language of up to 15 million people worldwide. The text goes on to claim, in the underlined portion, that even in countries where nearly everyone speaks Swahili, many of the language's speakers don't have Swahili as their first language. The table indicates that 61 million people in Tanzania, which amounts to 100 percent of the population, speak Swahili. If 61 million people in Tanzania speak Swahili, but only 15 million people worldwide have Swahili as their first language, that means there are many people in Tanzania who speak Swahili as a language other than their first language. This information about Swahili speakers in Tanzania therefore supports the claim that many Swahili speakers in countries where nearly everyone speaks Swahili speak it as a language other than their first language (such as their second, third, or fourth language).

Choice B is incorrect because it doesn't accurately describe information in the table. According to the table, Tanzania has 61 million Swahili speakers, not at most 15 million Swahili speakers. Additionally, the table indicates that 100 percent of Tanzania's population speak Swahili, which means that the number of Swahili speakers in the country and the country's total population should be the same, not that they should differ by such a large amount. Choice C is incorrect because there's no information in the table or the text that indicates where people who speak Swahili as their first language live. Although Kenya's total population can be inferred from the table—if Kenya has 55 million Swahili speakers and 100% of Kenya's population speak Swahili, then Kenya must have a population of 55 million people—nothing suggests that all the people who speak Swahili as their first language live in a single country, let alone that they all live in Kenya. Choice D is incorrect. Although the table does indicate that 100 percent of Kenya's population and 25 percent of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's population speak Swahili, this comparison is irrelevant to the claim that Swahili isn't the first language of many of its speakers even in countries where almost everyone speaks Swahili. On its own, a difference in the proportions of the population who speak Swahili cannot reveal whether those Swahili speakers have Swahili as their first language or a subsequent language.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 2c06139b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ ■

ID: 2c06139b

Tadpole Body Mass and Toxin Production after Three Weeks in Ponds

Population density	Average tadpole body mass (milligrams)	Average number of distinct bufadienolide toxins per tadpole	Average amount of bufadienolide per tadpole (nanograms)	Average bufadienolide concentration (nanograms per milligram of tadpole body mass)
High	193.87	22.69	5,815.51	374.22
Medium	254.56	21.65	5,525.72	230.10
Low	258.97	22.08	4,664.99	171.43

Ecologist Veronika Bókony and colleagues investigated within-species competition among common toads (*Bufo bufo*), a species that secretes various unpleasant-tasting toxins called bufadienolides in response to threats. The researchers tested *B. bufo* tadpoles' responses to different levels of competition by creating ponds with different tadpole population densities but a fixed amount of food. Based on analysis of the tadpoles after three weeks, the researchers concluded that increased competition drove bufadienolide production at the expense of growth.

Which choice uses data from the table to most effectively support the researchers' conclusion?

- A. The difference in average tadpole body mass was small between the low and medium population density conditions and substantially larger between the low and high population density conditions.
- B. Tadpoles in the low and medium population density conditions had substantially lower average bufadienolide concentrations but had greater average body masses than those in the high population density condition.
- C. Tadpoles in the high population density condition displayed a relatively modest increase in the average amount of bufadienolide but roughly double the average bufadienolide concentration compared to those in the low population density condition.
- D. Tadpoles produced approximately the same number of different bufadienolide toxins per individual across the population density conditions, but average tadpole body mass decreased as population density increased.

ID: 2c06139b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This data shows that the tadpoles in the high-density pond (meaning those with the most competition) didn't grow as big as the other two groups but produced more bufadienolide.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn't fully support the conclusion. It doesn't include any data about bufadienolide production. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn't fully support the conclusion. It doesn't include any data about growth. Choice D is incorrect. This doesn't fully support the conclusion. It doesn't demonstrate that the tadpoles

in the high-density pond produced more bufadienolide overall. The fact that they didn't produce more kinds of bufadienolide isn't relevant to the conclusion.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3bfcb73b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 3bfcb73b

An archaeological team led by Piotr Bieliński and Sultan al-Bakri found remnants of a 4,000-year-old Bronze Age board game at a site in Oman. Little is left of the game except a stone board, which is carved with a grid and has places to hold game pieces. Some scholars claim that the game was largely played by traders.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the scholars' claim?

- A. Other examples of the game dating to the same period have been found in the remains of several homes in the region, including in one home that may have belonged to a trader.
- B. Similar games have been found in other sites dating to the same period that were connected to the site in Oman via trade routes.
- C. The other known examples of the game dating to the same period have been found along routes that seem to have been used primarily by traders at the time.
- D. Remnants of other goods have been found at the site in Oman that probably also reached the location through trade.

ID: 3bfcb73b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support the scholars' claim about the board game. The text explains that the remains of a 4,000-year-old board game were found in Oman. The text then states that scholars claim this board game was played mostly by traders. If the other known examples of this board game from the same time period were discovered along routes that seem to have been used primarily by traders, this finding would directly support the scholars' claim because it suggests that the game was largely played by traders who brought it with them for entertainment as they traveled.

Choice A is incorrect because this finding would suggest only that a single trader may have possessed examples of the board game, perhaps for the purpose of trading or selling the game to residents of Oman. For this reason, the finding wouldn't directly support the scholars' claim that the majority of the game's players were traders. Choice B is incorrect because this finding doesn't mention the board game at all, referring only to similar games found at other sites, and would therefore provide no direct support for the scholars' claim about the board game. Choice D is incorrect because this finding doesn't mention the board game at all, referring only to the remains of other goods found at the site in Oman, and would therefore provide no direct support for the scholars' claim about the board game.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3f4ab688

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 3f4ab688

In a research paper, a student criticizes some historians of modern African politics, claiming that they have evaluated Patrice Lumumba, the first prime minister of what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, primarily as a symbol rather than in terms of his actions.

Which quotation from a work by a historian would best illustrate the student's claim?

- A. "Lumumba is a difficult figure to evaluate due to the starkly conflicting opinions he inspired during his life and continues to inspire today."
- B. "The available information makes it clear that Lumumba's political beliefs and values were largely consistent throughout his career."
- C. "Lumumba's practical accomplishments can be passed over quickly; it is mainly as the personification of Congolese independence that he warrants scholarly attention."
- D. "Many questions remain about Lumumba's ultimate vision for an independent Congo; without new evidence coming to light, these questions are likely to remain unanswered."

ID: 3f4ab688 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it illustrates the student's claim about some historians viewing Lumumba primarily as a symbol. This quotation argues that Lumumba "warrants" (or deserves) "scholarly attention" as a symbol and not for his "practical accomplishments"—that is, his actions as prime minister—which "can be passed over quickly," or dismissed as being of comparatively little importance. Thus, the quotation expresses the view that the student criticizes some historians for holding.

Choice A is incorrect. Although this quotation touches on the difficulty of evaluating Lumumba's legacy, it doesn't address how historians of modern African politics view him as a symbol. Choice B is incorrect. While this quotation mentions Lumumba's political beliefs, it doesn't discuss historians viewing him as a symbol. Choice D is incorrect. This quotation touches on Lumumba's vision for his country, but it doesn't discuss historians viewing him as a symbol.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3fc06a91

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 3fc06a91

Employment by Sector in France and the United States, 1800–2012 (% of total employment)

Year	Agriculture in France	Manufacturing in France	Services in France	Agriculture in US	Manufacturing in US	Services in US
1800	64	22	14	68	18	13
1900	43	29	28	41	28	31
1950	32	33	35	14	33	53
2012	3	21	76	2	18	80

Rows in table may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Over the past two hundred years, the percentage of the population employed in the agricultural sector has declined in both France and the United States, while employment in the service sector (which includes jobs in retail, consulting, real estate, etc.) has risen. However, this transition happened at very different rates in the two countries. This can be seen most clearly by comparing the employment by sector in both countries in _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. 1900 with the employment by sector in 1950.
- B. 1800 with the employment by sector in 2012.
- C. 1900 with the employment by sector in 2012.
- D. 1800 with the employment by sector in 1900.

ID: 3fc06a91 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents data from the table that most effectively complete the statement about the rates at which employment shifted in France and the United States. The text states that over the last two hundred years employment in the agricultural sector has declined while employment in the service sector has risen in both France and the US, and the data from the table reflect these trends. The text asserts, however, that the transition from agriculture to services “happened at very different rates in the two countries.” This assertion is best supported by a comparison of data from 1900 and 1950: the table shows that in those years, employment in agriculture went from 43% to 32% in France (a decline of 11 percentage points) and from 41% to 14% in the US (a decline of 27 percentage points), and that employment in services went from 28% to 35% in France (an increase of 7 percentage points) and from 31% to 53% in the US (an increase of 22 percentage points). In other words, the rate of change was greater in the US than in France for both sectors.

Choice B is incorrect because comparing the data for 1800 and 2012 would suggest a similar rate of change in the two countries, not very different rates: employment in agriculture went from 64% in 1800 to 3% in 2012 in France, which is close to the change from 68% in 1800 to 2% in 2012 in the US, while employment in services went from

14% in 1800 to 76% in 2012 in France, which is close to the change from 13% in 1800 to 80% in 2012 in the US. Choice C is incorrect because comparing the data for 1900 and 2012 would suggest a similar rate of change in the two countries rather than very different rates: employment in agriculture went from 43% in 1900 to 3% in 2012 in France, which is close to the change from 41% in 1900 to 2% in 2012 in the US, while employment in services went from 28% in 1900 to 76% in 2012 in France, which is close to the change from 31% in 1900 to 80% in 2012 in the US. Choice D is incorrect because comparing the data for 1800 and 1900 would suggest a similar rate of change in the two countries, not very different rates: employment in agriculture went from 64% in 1800 to 43% in 1900 in France, which is fairly close to the change from 68% in 1800 to 41% in 1900 in the US, while employment in services went from 14% in 1800 to 28% in 1900 in France, which is close to the change from 13% in 1800 to 31% in 1900 in the US.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 4fc9a13a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 4fc9a13a

The novelist Toni Morrison was the first Black woman to work as an editor at the publishing company Random House, from 1967 to 1983. A scholar asserts that one of Morrison's likely aims during her time as an editor was to strengthen the presence of Black writers on the list of Random House's published authors.

Which finding, if true, would most strongly support the scholar's claim?

- A. The percentage of authors published by Random House who were Black rose in the early 1970s and stabilized throughout the decade.
- B. Black authors who were interviewed in the 1980s and 1990s were highly likely to cite Toni Morrison's novels as a principal influence on their work.
- C. The novels written by Toni Morrison that were published after 1983 sold significantly more copies and received wider critical acclaim than the novels she wrote that were published before 1983.
- D. Works that were edited by Toni Morrison during her time at Random House displayed stylistic characteristics that distinguished them from works that were not edited by Morrison.

ID: 4fc9a13a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support the scholar's claim about Toni Morrison's likely goal of strengthening the presence of Black writers on Random House's list of published authors. The text explains that Morrison was the first Black woman to be an editor for Random House and that she was an editor there from 1967 to 1983. If it were true that Random House published a higher percentage of works by Black authors throughout the 1970s—during most of Morrison's time working there—than it had previously published, that would suggest that Morrison may have made a deliberate effort to strengthen the presence of Black authors on the list of Random House's published authors, thus supporting the scholar's claim.

Choice B is incorrect because the scholar's claim is about Morrison's work as an editor at a publishing company and her likely effort to strengthen the presence of Black writers on that company's list of published authors. It might be true that Black authors interviewed in the 1980s and 1990s often cited Morrison's novels as an influence on their work, but that finding would simply suggest something about how those authors approached their work; it wouldn't show that Morrison intended to increase the number of Black writers among the published authors specifically at Random House. Choice C is incorrect because the scholar's claim is about Morrison's work as an editor at a publishing company, not about her work as a novelist. Therefore, a finding that Morrison's novels published after 1983 sold more copies and were more widely acclaimed than her earlier novels would have no bearing on the claim that as an editor Morrison made an effort to ensure that more Black writers were present on Random House's list of published authors. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text discusses Morrison's work as an editor at Random House, the scholar's claim focuses on Morrison's likely effort in that role to increase the number of Black writers present on Random House's list of published authors, not on the influence she may have had on the content of the works she edited. Without knowing whether Morrison's stylistic influence led to more publications or if Morrison applied her influence specifically to works by Black

writers, the finding that works edited by Morrison could be identified by stylistic characteristics would have no bearing on the claim that Morrison intended to strengthen the presence of Black writers among the published authors at Random House.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 5b74feb9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 5b74feb9

Political scientists who favor the traditional view of voter behavior claim that voting in an election does not change a voter's attitude toward the candidates in that election. Focusing on each US presidential election from 1976 to 1996, Ebonya Washington and Sendhil Mullainathan tested this claim by distinguishing between subjects who had just become old enough to vote (around half of whom actually voted) and otherwise similar subjects who were slightly too young to vote (and thus none of whom voted). Washington and Mullainathan compared the attitudes of the groups of subjects toward the winning candidate two years after each election.

Which finding from Washington and Mullainathan's study, if true, would most directly weaken the claim made by people who favor the traditional view of voter behavior?

- A. Subjects' attitudes toward the winning candidate two years after a given election were strongly predicted by subjects' general political orientation, regardless of whether subjects were old enough to vote at the time of the election.
- B. Subjects who were not old enough to vote in a given election held significantly more positive attitudes towards the winning candidate two years later than they held at the time of the election.
- C. Subjects who voted in a given election held significantly more polarized attitudes toward the winning candidate two years later than did subjects who were not old enough to vote in that election.
- D. Two years after a given election, subjects who voted and subjects who were not old enough to vote were significantly more likely to express negative attitudes than positive attitudes toward the winning candidate in that election.

ID: 5b74feb9 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would weaken the claim made by people who favor the traditional view of voter behavior. According to the text, people who favor that view believe that voting in an election doesn't change a voter's attitude toward the candidates in that election. If Washington and Mullainathan found that two years after an election, attitudes toward the winning candidate were significantly more polarized among subjects who had voted than among subjects who had been too young to vote, that would suggest that the act of voting did have an effect on the voters' attitudes toward the candidates, which would undermine the claim that voting doesn't change voters' attitudes.

Choice A is incorrect because a finding about links between subjects' attitudes and general political orientation, regardless of age and ability to vote, wouldn't address the presence or absence of changes in attitudes among those subjects who did actually vote. Therefore, the finding wouldn't have any bearing on the claim that voting in an election doesn't change a voter's attitude toward the candidates in that election. Choice B is incorrect because a finding that positive attitudes toward a winning candidate significantly increased in the two years after the election among subjects who had been too young to vote would involve only people who didn't vote; therefore, the finding wouldn't have any bearing on the claim that when people do vote, the act of voting doesn't change their attitudes toward the candidates. Choice D is incorrect because the finding that subjects in both groups were

more likely to have negative attitudes than positive attitudes toward the winning candidate two years after an election would reflect all subjects' attitudes at one particular time whether they voted or not, rather than the presence or absence of a change in voters' attitudes after voting. Therefore, the finding would neither weaken nor strengthen the claim that voting in an election doesn't change a voter's attitude toward the candidates.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 5cf5c0d3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ ■

ID: 5cf5c0d3

Credited Film Output of James Young Deer, Dark Cloud, Edwin Carewe, and Lillian St. Cyr

Individual	Years active	Number of films known and commonly credited
James Young Deer	1909–1924	33 (actor), 35 (director), 10 (writer)
Dark Cloud	1910–1920	35 (actor), 1 (writer)
Edwin Carewe	1912–1934	47 (actor), 58 (director), 20 (producer), 4 (writer)
Lillian St. Cyr (Red Wing)	1908–1921	66 (actor)

Some researchers studying Indigenous actors and filmmakers in the United States have turned their attention to the early days of cinema, particularly the 1910s and 1920s, when people like James Young Deer, Dark Cloud, Edwin Carewe, and Lillian St. Cyr (known professionally as Red Wing) were involved in one way or another with numerous films. In fact, so many films and associated records for this era have been lost that counts of those four figures' output should be taken as bare minimums rather than totals; it's entirely possible, for example, that _____.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the example?

- A. Dark Cloud acted in significantly fewer films than did Lillian St. Cyr, who is credited with 66 performances.
- B. Edwin Carewe's 47 credited acting roles includes only films made after 1934.
- C. Lillian St. Cyr acted in far more than 66 films and Edwin Carewe directed more than 58.
- D. James Young Deer actually directed 33 films and acted in only 10.

ID: 5cf5c0d3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it uses data from the table to effectively exemplify the idea that the film outputs of the four individuals included in the table should be considered bare minimums—that is, that we should assume that the individuals actually had higher outputs than those recorded. The table presents the years during which the individuals were active and the number of known films the individuals are credited in. The table indicates that Lillian St. Cyr has 66 film credits as an actor and that Edwin Carewe has 58 film credits as a director; it follows that if some films and records for the era were lost, it's possible that Lillian St. Cyr acted in far more than 66 films and that Edwin Carewe directed more than 58 films.

Choice A is incorrect because it doesn't effectively exemplify the idea that the film outputs of the four individuals included in the table should be considered bare minimums. Rather than addressing the idea that the individuals likely had higher outputs than those presented in the table, this choice simply compares data from the table to make the point that Dark Cloud has fewer credited acting roles than Lillian St. Cyr (35 and 66, respectively). Choice B is incorrect because it misrepresents data from the table, even though it may exemplify the idea that the film outputs of the four individuals included in the table should be considered bare minimums by implying that Edwin Carewe acted in more than 47 films. The table indicates that Edwin Carewe was active

from 1912 to 1934, meaning that his 47 credited acting roles were in films made before or during 1934, not after that time. Choice D is incorrect because it doesn't effectively exemplify the idea that the film outputs of the four individuals included in the table should be considered bare minimums. Instead of addressing the idea that the individuals likely had higher outputs than those recorded, this choice suggests that James Young Deer actually acted in and directed fewer films than presented in the table (only 33 known films as a director instead of 35, and only 10 known films as an actor instead of 33).

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 5d122d45

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 5d122d45

Psychologists Dacher Keltner and Jonathan Haidt have argued that experiencing awe—a sensation of reverence and wonder typically brought on by perceiving something grand or powerful—can enable us to feel more connected to others and thereby inspire us to act more altruistically. Keltner, along with Paul K. Piff, Pia Dietze, and colleagues, claims to have found evidence for this effect in a recent study where participants were asked to either gaze up at exceptionally tall trees in a nearby grove (reported to be a universally awe-inspiring experience) or stare at the exterior of a nearby, nondescript building. After one minute, an experimenter deliberately spilled a box of pens nearby.

Which finding from the researchers' study, if true, would most strongly support their claim?

- A. Participants who had been looking at the trees helped the experimenter pick up significantly more pens than did participants who had been looking at the building.
- B. Participants who helped the experimenter pick up the pens used a greater number of positive words to describe the trees and the building in a postexperiment survey than did participants who did not help the experimenter.
- C. Participants who did not help the experimenter pick up the pens were significantly more likely to report having experienced a feeling of awe, regardless of whether they looked at the building or the trees.
- D. Participants who had been looking at the building were significantly more likely to notice that the experimenter had dropped the pens than were participants who had been looking at the trees.

ID: 5d122d45 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most strongly support the researchers' claim that they found evidence that experiencing awe can make people feel more connected to others and thus more likely to behave altruistically (with beneficial and unselfish concern for others). According to the text, the researchers tested for this effect by first having participants look at either something known to be awe-inspiring (very tall trees) or something ordinary (a plain building) and then purposely spilling pens near the participants. The finding that participants who had looked at the trees helped pick up significantly more pens than did participants who had looked at the building would support the researchers' claim by demonstrating that the people who had experienced awe behaved more altruistically when the experimenter needed help than the other participants did.

Choice B is incorrect because a finding about helpful participants using positive words to describe the trees and the building after the experiment was over wouldn't have any bearing on the researchers' claim that experiencing awe increases altruistic behavior. The text doesn't address the use of positive words to describe things or suggest any connection between using such words and having experienced awe, so that behavior wouldn't serve as evidence that experiencing awe played a role in promoting helpful behavior. Choice C is incorrect because a finding that participants who didn't help the experimenter were significantly more likely than others to report having experienced awe whether they had looked at the building or the trees would weaken the researchers' claim that experiencing awe increases altruistic behavior by suggesting that the

opposite might be true—that experiencing awe is in fact linked to choosing not to act in a way that benefits someone else. Choice D is incorrect because a finding about participants noticing that the experimenter had dropped the pens wouldn't have any bearing on the researchers' claim about people behaving altruistically. Being aware of a challenge or problem isn't necessarily beneficial on its own and isn't the same as offering help, so the finding wouldn't support the idea that experiencing awe increases altruistic behavior.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 6a6bbac3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 6a6bbac3

Number and Origin of Clamshell Tools Found at Different Levels Below the Surface in Neanderthal Cave

Depth of tools found below surface in cave (meters)	Clamshells that Neanderthals collected from the beach	Clamshells that Neanderthals harvested from the seafloor
3–4	99	33
6–7	1	0
4–5	2	0
2–3	7	0
5–6	18	7

Studying tools unearthed at a cave site on the western coast of Italy, archaeologist Paola Villa and colleagues have determined that prehistoric Neanderthal groups fashioned them from shells of clams that they harvested from the seafloor while wading or diving or that washed up on the beach. Clamshells become thin and eroded as they wash up on the beach, while those on the seafloor are smooth and sturdy, so the research team suspects that Neanderthals prized the tools made with seafloor shells. However, the team also concluded that those tools were likely more challenging to obtain, noting that _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to support the research team's conclusion?

- A. at each depth below the surface in the cave, the difference in the numbers of tools of each type suggests that shells were easier to collect from the beach than to harvest from the seafloor.
- B. the highest number of tools were at a depth of 3–4 meters below the surface, which suggests that the Neanderthal population at the site was highest during the related period of time.
- C. at each depth below the surface in the cave, the difference in the numbers of tools of each type suggests that Neanderthals preferred to use clamshells from the beach because of their durability.
- D. the higher number of tools at depths of 5–6 meters below the surface in the cave than at depths of 4–5 meters below the surface suggests that the size of clam populations changed over time.

ID: 6a6bbac3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to support the researchers' conclusion about the harvesting of clamshells by Neanderthals for use as tools. The text explains that Neanderthals used clamshells to make tools and that the sturdiest, and therefore the most desirable, shells for this purpose are found on the seafloor, not on the beach. However, the researchers also concluded that the clamshell tools made from shells from the seafloor are rarer than those made from shells from the beach. Meanwhile the table shows that at each depth, the number of tools made from shells from the beach exceeds the

number made from the more desirable shells from the seafloor. The fact that the more desirable shells are less common suggests that it was significantly more difficult to harvest shells from the seafloor than from the beach.

Choice B is incorrect because knowing which depth represents the period of time with the highest Neanderthal population does not help answer the question of why the Neanderthals consistently made more tools from the less desirable shells from the beach than they made from the more desirable shells from the seafloor. Choice C is incorrect because it claims that the beach shells are more durable than the seafloor shells, which contradicts the text's description of shells from the seafloor as smoother and sturdier than shells from the beach. Choice D is incorrect because knowing which depth has the most artifacts or whether the clam population fluctuated does not help explain why tools made from the less desirable shells from the beach outnumber tools made from the more desirable shells from the seafloor.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 7a1877be

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 7a1877be

Nucleobase Concentrations from Murchison Meteorite and Soil Samples in Parts per Billion

Nucleobase	Murchison meteorite sample 1	Murchison meteorite sample 2	Murchison soil sample
Isoguanine	0.5	0.04	not detected
Purine	0.2	0.02	not detected
Xanthine	39	3	1
Adenine	15	1	40
Hypoxanthine	24	1	2

Employing high-performance liquid chromatography—a process that uses pressurized water to separate material into its component molecules—astrochemist Yashiro Oba and colleagues analyzed two samples of the Murchison meteorite that landed in Australia as well as soil from the landing zone of the meteorite to determine the concentrations of various organic molecules. By comparing the relative concentrations of types of molecules known as nucleobases in the Murchison meteorite with those in the soil, the team concluded that there is evidence that the nucleobases in the Murchison meteorite formed in space and are not the result of contamination on Earth.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the team's conclusion?

- A. Isoguanine and purine were detected in both meteorite samples but not in the soil sample.
- B. Adenine and xanthine were detected in both of the meteorite samples and in the soil sample.
- C. Hypoxanthine and purine were detected in both the Murchison meteorite sample 2 and in the soil sample.
- D. Isoguanine and hypoxanthine were detected in the Murchison meteorite sample 1 but not in sample 2.

ID: 7a1877be Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The researchers concluded that the meteorite's nucleobases weren't the result of soil contamination. Presence of nucleobases in the meteorite and not in soil provides evidence that those nucleobases likely didn't come from the soil.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't justify the conclusion. The researchers concluded that the meteorite's nucleobases weren't the result of soil contamination. If the nucleobases are present in both the soil and meteorite, then it's possible that these nucleobases came from the soil. Choice C is incorrect. This choice misreads the table. Purine was not detected in the soil sample. Choice D is incorrect. This choice misreads the table. Both isoguanine and hypoxanthine were detected in both Murchison meteorite samples.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 7f293254

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 7f293254

Art collectives, like the United States- and Vietnam-based collective The Propeller Group or Cuba's Los Carpinteros, are groups of artists who agree to work together: perhaps for stylistic reasons, or to advance certain shared political ideals, or to help mitigate the costs of supplies and studio space. Regardless of the reasons, art collectives usually involve some collaboration among the artists. Based on a recent series of interviews with various art collectives, an arts journalist claims that this can be difficult for artists who are often used to having sole control over their work.

Which quotation from the interviews best illustrates the journalist's claim?

- A. "The first collective I joined included many amazingly talented artists, and we enjoyed each other's company, but because we had a hard time sharing credit and responsibility for our work, the collective didn't last."
- B. "We work together, but that doesn't mean that individual projects are equally the work of all of us. Many of our projects are primarily the responsibility of whoever originally proposed the work to the group."
- C. "Having worked as a member of a collective for several years, it's sometimes hard to recall what it was like to work alone without the collective's support. But that support encourages my individual expression rather than limits it."
- D. "Sometimes an artist from outside the collective will choose to collaborate with us on a project, but all of those projects fit within the larger themes of the work the collective does on its own."

ID: 7f293254 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the quotation that best illustrates the journalist's claim. By indicating that a collective didn't continue because it was hard to share credit and responsibilities within the group even though the company was enjoyable, the quotation shows that working collaboratively can be difficult for artists who are used to having complete control over their work.

Choice B is incorrect because the quotation indicates that members of a collective are able to collaborate together and have agreed on a fair way to manage their responsibilities; this doesn't demonstrate the challenge of sharing control among members of a collective. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation highlights the support and encouragement of individual expression an artist experiences due to working in a collective; these positive aspects don't demonstrate the challenge of sharing control among members of a collective. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation doesn't address any challenges of sharing control among members of a collective; it simply indicates that artists sometimes choose to work with collectives without having to be a member. Therefore, the quotation doesn't illustrate the journalist's claim.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 09f9edb0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 09f9edb0

In the 1980s, many musicians and journalists in the English-speaking world began to draw attention to music from around the globe—such as mbaqanga from South Africa and quan họ from Vietnam—that can't be easily categorized according to British or North American popular music genres, typically referring to such music as "world music." While some scholars have welcomed this development for bringing diverse musical forms to prominence in countries where they'd previously been overlooked, musicologist Su Zheng claims that the concept of world music homogenizes highly distinct traditions by reducing them all to a single category.

Which finding about mbaqanga and quan họ, if true, would most directly support Zheng's claim?

- A. Mbaqanga and quan họ developed independently of each other and have little in common musically.
- B. Mbaqanga is significantly more popular in the English-speaking world than quan họ is.
- C. Mbaqanga and quan họ are now performed by a diverse array of musicians with no direct connections to South Africa or Vietnam.
- D. Mbaqanga and quan họ are highly distinct from British and North American popular music genres but similar to each other.

ID: 09f9edb0 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Zheng's claim is that the idea of world music "homogenizes" (meaning makes similar) distinct kinds of music by reducing them to one category. In other words, Zheng thinks the concept of world music is a harmful oversimplification of diverse musical forms. To support this claim, we need evidence that these musical traditions are so different from one another that they should not fall into the same category. If it's true that mbaqanga and quan họ developed separately and have little in common musically, then it wouldn't make sense to lump them into the same category.

Choice B is incorrect. If true, this wouldn't affect the claim. To support the claim, we need evidence that these musical traditions are so different from one another that they should not fall into the same category. A difference in popularity doesn't necessarily mean that the two musical traditions shouldn't be categorized together: instead, we need to know if the music itself is similar or different. Choice C is incorrect. If true, this wouldn't affect the claim. To support the claim, we need evidence that these musical traditions are so different from each other that they should not fall into the same category. This choice doesn't do that. Choice D is incorrect. If true, this would actually weaken the claim. Zheng thinks it's reductive or oversimplifying to put distinct musical traditions into a single category. But if mbaqanga and quan họ are similar to each other, then it would make sense to put them in the same category.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 9c407117

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 9c407117

A student performs an experiment testing her hypothesis that a slightly acidic soil environment is more beneficial for the growth of the plant *Brassica rapa parachinensis* (a vegetable commonly known as choy sum) than a neutral soil environment. She plants sixteen seeds of choy sum in a mixture of equal amounts of coffee grounds (which are highly acidic) and potting soil and another sixteen seeds in potting soil without coffee grounds as the control for the experiment. The two groups of seeds were exposed to the same growing conditions and monitored for three weeks.

Which finding, if true, would most directly weaken the student's hypothesis?

- A. The choy sum planted in the soil without coffee grounds were significantly taller at the end of the experiment than the choy sum planted in the mixture of soil and coffee grounds.
- B. The choy sum grown in the soil without coffee grounds weighed significantly less at the end of the experiment than the choy sum grown in the mixture of soil and coffee grounds.
- C. The choy sum seeds planted in the soil without coffee grounds sprouted significantly later in the experiment than did the seeds planted in the mixture of soil and coffee grounds.
- D. Significantly fewer of the choy sum seeds planted in the soil without coffee grounds sprouted plants than did the seeds planted in the mixture of soil and coffee grounds.

ID: 9c407117 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it describes an experimental outcome that would most directly weaken the student's hypothesis. According to the text, the student hypothesizes that *Brassica rapa parachinensis* (choy sum) will benefit more from acidic soil than it will from neutral soil. The text then explains that the student planted 16 choy sum seeds in potting soil with coffee grounds added to increase acidity and another 16 seeds in soil without coffee grounds as a control (a group identical to the experimental group except for the experimental modification being tested). If the hypothesis were correct, the plants in the more acidic soil-and-coffee-grounds mixture would grow faster than those in the control group. However, choice A proposes a scenario in which the plants in soil without coffee grounds were "significantly taller" than those in the more acidic mixture—an outcome that weakens the hypothesis that higher acidity is beneficial to the plants' growth.

Choice B is incorrect. If the choy sum planted in the neutral soil produced less plant matter and therefore weighed less than the choy sum planted in the acidic soil-and-coffee-grounds mixture, this finding would strengthen the student's hypothesis, not weaken it. Choice C is incorrect. If seeds planted in neutral soil (without coffee grounds) sprouted significantly later than seeds planted in the acidic soil-and-coffee-grounds mixture, this finding would strengthen, not weaken, the student's hypothesis that acidic soil benefits choy sum. Choice D is incorrect. If seeds planted in the neutral soil (without coffee grounds) sprouted significantly fewer plants than seeds planted in the acidic soil-and-coffee-grounds mixture did, this finding would strengthen, not weaken, the student's hypothesis that choy sum benefits from acidic soil.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 014b3394

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 014b3394

Average Number and Duration of Torpor Bouts and Arousal Episodes for Alaska Marmots and Arctic Ground Squirrels, 2008–2011

Feature	Alaska marmots	Arctic ground squirrels
torpor bouts	12	10.5
duration per bout	13.81 days	16.77 days
arousal episodes	11	9.5
duration per episode	21.2 hours	14.2 hours

When hibernating, Alaska marmots and Arctic ground squirrels enter a state called torpor, which minimizes the energy their bodies need to function. Often a hibernating animal will temporarily come out of torpor (called an arousal episode) and its metabolic rate will rise, burning more of the precious energy the animal needs to survive the winter. Alaska marmots hibernate in groups and therefore burn less energy keeping warm during these episodes than they would if they were alone. A researcher hypothesized that because Arctic ground squirrels hibernate alone, they would likely exhibit longer bouts of torpor and shorter arousal episodes than Alaska marmots.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the researcher's hypothesis?

- A. The Alaska marmots' arousal episodes lasted for days, while the Arctic ground squirrels' arousal episodes lasted less than a day.
- B. The Alaska marmots and the Arctic ground squirrels both maintained torpor for several consecutive days per bout, on average.
- C. The Alaska marmots had shorter torpor bouts and longer arousal episodes than the Arctic ground squirrels did.
- D. The Alaska marmots had more torpor bouts than arousal episodes, but their arousal episodes were much shorter than their torpor bouts.

ID: 014b3394 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it describes data from the table that support the researcher's hypothesis. According to the text, the researcher hypothesized that Arctic ground squirrels would exhibit longer torpor bouts and shorter arousal episodes than Alaska marmots do—or, put the other way, that the marmots would show shorter torpor bouts and longer arousal episodes than the ground squirrels do. The table shows data about torpor bouts and arousal episodes for the two species from 2008 to 2011. According to the table, the average duration of torpor bouts was 13.81 days for Alaska marmots, shorter than the average of 16.77 days for Arctic ground squirrels, and the average duration of arousal episodes was 21.2 hours for Alaska marmots, longer than the average of 14.2 hours for Arctic ground squirrels. Thus, the table supports the researcher's hypothesis by showing that Alaska marmots had shorter bouts of torpor and longer arousal episodes than Arctic ground squirrels did.

Choice A is incorrect because it inaccurately describes data from the table and doesn't support the researcher's hypothesis. The table shows that the average duration of arousal episodes was less than a day for both Alaska marmots (21.2 hours) and Arctic ground squirrels (14.2 hours). Additionally, information about arousal episodes for Alaska marmots and Arctic ground squirrels isn't sufficient to support a hypothesis involving comparisons of both arousal episodes and torpor bouts for those animals. Choice B is incorrect because it doesn't support the researcher's hypothesis, which involves comparisons of arousal episodes as well as torpor bouts for Alaska marmots and Arctic ground squirrels. Noting that both animals had torpor bouts lasting several days, on average, doesn't address arousal episodes at all, nor does it reveal how the animals' torpor bouts compared. Choice D is incorrect because it doesn't support the researcher's hypothesis. Although the table does show that Alaska marmots had more torpor bouts (12) than arousal episodes (11) and that their arousal episodes were much shorter than their torpor bouts (21.2 hours and 13.81 days, respectively), comparing data across only Alaska marmot behaviors isn't sufficient to support a hypothesis about torpor and arousal behaviors of both Alaska marmots and Arctic ground squirrels.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 24c1b7e4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	■ ■ ■

ID: 24c1b7e4

Percentage Point Changes in US Federal Outlays Relative to GDP by Congressional Status

Period	Congressional status	Change in total outlays	Change in nondefense outlays	Change in defense outlays
1981–1988	divided	−0.4	−1.3	0.9
1975–1976	divided	2.7	3.0	−0.3
1977–1980	undivided	0.3	0.6	−0.3
1964–1968	undivided	1.9	1.4	0.5
1969–1974	divided	−1.8	2.1	−3.9

Economist Steve H. Hanke has shown that divided US Congresses—which occur when one party holds the majority in the House of Representatives and another holds the majority in the Senate—tend to accompany reductions in total federal outlays (spending) relative to gross domestic product (GDP), which Hanke interprets to reflect decreases in government size. Hanke calculated the percentage point change in total outlays (encompassing nondefense and defense outlays) for consecutive US Congresses. Hanke has pointed to his calculations as evidence that a divided Congress may be a “necessary but not sufficient condition” for a decrease in government size to occur.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the underlined claim?

- A. The periods of undivided Congresses were associated with increases in nondefense outlays, whereas all the periods of divided Congresses except one were associated with reductions in defense outlays.
- B. All the periods of divided Congresses were associated with reductions in total outlays, although two periods were also associated with increases in nondefense outlays.
- C. The periods of undivided Congresses were associated with increases in total outlays, whereas all the periods of divided Congresses were associated with reductions in either nondefense outlays or defense outlays.
- D. All the periods of divided Congresses except one were associated with reductions in total outlays, whereas the periods of undivided Congresses were associated with increases in total outlays.

ID: 24c1b7e4 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The claim is that divided Congresses are necessary but insufficient—that is, we need divide Congresses, but they are not enough—to decrease government size, as measured by total federal outlays. This choice accurately expresses the supporting data from the “change in total outlays” part of the graph. Within the data set, divided Congresses sometimes decreased total outlays, but undivided ones never did.

Choice A is incorrect. The claim is only about government size, as measured by total federal outlays—defense and nondefense outlays aren’t relevant. Choice B is incorrect. The claim is only about government size as measured by total federal outlays—nondefense outlays aren’t relevant. Choice C is incorrect. The claim is only about government size as measured by total federal outlays—specific information about defense or nondefense outlays isn’t relevant.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 35ec767c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 35ec767c

Corn-Related Vocabulary in Various Southeastern Languages

Language family	Word (language)	English translation	Proposed origin in vocabulary of the Totozoquean language family
Muskogean	tanchi' (Chickasaw); tanchi (Choctaw); vce (Muscogee, pronounced "uh-chi")	corn	no
Iroquoian	se-lu (Cherokee)	corn	no
Caddoan	-k'as-	dried corn	yes
Chitimacha	k'asma (Chitimacha)	corn	yes

In Caddo, a language from what is now the US Southeast, vocabulary pertaining to corn cultivation resembles equivalent vocabulary in the Totozoquean language family in Mexico. This resemblance is perhaps attributable to cultural contact: such words could have entered Caddo through the intermediary of the neighboring but unrelated Chitimacha language, concurrent with the dissemination of corn itself from Mexico into the Southeast after 700 CE. That the vocabulary pertaining to domestic crops accompanies them as they diffuse into new regions is an established phenomenon globally. Crops may also be decoupled from vocabulary altogether: corn cultivation became ubiquitous among the Southeastern tribes, yet _____.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. the origins of vocabulary pertaining to the crop vary across languages in the region, with the words for corn in Cherokee and the Muskogean languages showing no demonstrable relationship to Totozoquean vocabulary.
- B. the region is linguistically diverse, being home not only to Chitimacha and Caddo, but also to the Muskogean language family (including Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Muscogee) and to one Iroquoian language (Cherokee).
- C. corn-related vocabulary underwent changes when entering other, unrelated languages, as can be seen by the divergence of the Caddo word from the Chitimacha word it originated in.
- D. words for corn in the languages of the Muskogean family evolved from a common root, with the Muscogee word having lost certain consonant sounds still present in the Chickasaw and Choctaw words.

ID: 35ec767c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The table provides evidence that the words for corn in the Cherokee and Muskogean languages appear unrelated to those in Caddo language, which is described as closely related to the Totozoquean language family. This supports the claim that corn cultivation spread across the Southeast without necessarily spreading Totozoquean vocabulary along with it.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice emphasizes the diversity of Southeastern languages in general, but we're specifically looking for information about words associated with corn. Choice C is incorrect. This choice shows how words for corn can change and evolve, but we're looking for an example that shows how some words for corn can be completely unrelated. Choice D is incorrect. This choice shows words for corn that share a common root, but we're looking for an example that shows how some words for corn can be unrelated.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 37e15265

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 37e15265

"The Young Girl" is a 1920 short story by Katherine Mansfield. In the story, the narrator takes an unnamed seventeen-year-old girl and her younger brother out for a meal. In describing the teenager, Mansfield frequently contrasts the character's pleasant appearance with her unpleasant attitude, as when Mansfield writes of the teenager, _____

Which quotation from "The Young Girl" most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "I heard her murmur, 'I can't bear flowers on a table.' They had evidently been giving her intense pain, for she positively closed her eyes as I moved them away."
- B. "While we waited she took out a little, gold powder-box with a mirror in the lid, shook the poor little puff as though she loathed it, and dabbed her lovely nose."
- C. "I saw, after that, she couldn't stand this place a moment longer, and, indeed, she jumped up and turned away while I went through the vulgar act of paying for the tea."
- D. "She didn't even take her gloves off. She lowered her eyes and drummed on the table. When a faint violin sounded she winced and bit her lip again. Silence."

ID: 37e15265 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim in the text that in describing the teenaged girl, Mansfield contrasts the character's pleasant appearance with her unpleasant attitude. In the quotation, Mansfield describes the teenager as having a "lovely nose" (a compliment about her appearance) but also as treating her makeup puff "as though she loathed it" (a judgment suggesting her unpleasant attitude).

Choice A is incorrect because the teenager's reaction to the flowers doesn't make it clear that she has an unpleasant attitude, and nothing in the quotation indicates that any part of her appearance is pleasant. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation suggests that the teenager has an unpleasant attitude (being upset with the location and leaving the table before the narrator has paid for the meal) but doesn't give any indication that she has a pleasant appearance. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation suggests that the teenager may have an unpleasant attitude (lowering her eyes, wincing, and sitting in silence) but doesn't give any indication that any part of her appearance is pleasant.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 39e440e4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 39e440e4

Archaeologists have held that the Casarabe culture, which emerged in the southwestern Amazon basin in the first millennium CE, was characterized by a sparse, widely distributed population and little intervention in the surrounding wilderness. Recently, however, archaeologist Heiko Prümers and colleagues conducted a study of the region using remote-sensing technology that enabled them to create three-dimensional images of the jungle-covered landscape from above, and the researchers concluded that the Casarabe people developed a form of urbanism in the Amazon basin.

Which finding about the remote-sensing images, if true, would most directly support Prümers and colleagues' conclusion?

- A. They show shapes consistent with widely separated settlements of roughly equal small size surrounded by uncultivated jungle.
- B. They show shapes consistent with long-distance footpaths running from Casarabe territories to large cities outside the region inhabited by the Casarabe people.
- C. They show shapes consistent with scattered small farms created by clearing jungle areas near sources of fresh water.
- D. They show shapes consistent with monumental platforms and dense central settlements linked to smaller settlements by a system of canals and roadways.

ID: 39e440e4 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This finding, if true, would support the archaeologists' conclusion. Dense central settlements linked to smaller ones would provide evidence of cities and suburbs—in other words, "a form of urbanism."

Choice A is incorrect. This finding, if true, would weaken the archaeologists' conclusion. Widely separated, small settlements with jungle in between would support the long-held belief that the Casarabe culture "was characterized by a sparse, widely distributed population and little intervention in the surrounding wilderness." Choice B is incorrect. This choice wouldn't support the researchers' conclusion. These large cities are located outside Casarabe territory, which doesn't show evidence of Casarabe urbanism. Choice C is incorrect. This finding wouldn't support the archaeologists' conclusion. Scattered small farms in jungle clearings are not good evidence to support the existence of cities ("a form of urbanism").

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 0045c234

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 0045c234

Given that stars and planets initially form from the same gas and dust in space, some astronomers have posited that host stars (such as the Sun) and their planets (such as those in our solar system) are composed of the same materials, with the planets containing equal or smaller quantities of the materials that make up the host star. This idea is also supported by evidence that rocky planets in our solar system are composed of some of the same materials as the Sun.

Which finding, if true, would most directly weaken the astronomers' claim?

- A. Most stars are made of hydrogen and helium, but when cooled they are revealed to contain small amounts of iron and silicate.
- B. A nearby host star is observed to contain the same proportion of hydrogen and helium as that of the Sun.
- C. Evidence emerges that the amount of iron in some rocky planets is considerably higher than the amount in their host star.
- D. The method for determining the composition of rocky planets is discovered to be less effective when used to analyze other kinds of planets.

ID: 0045c234 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would weaken the astronomers' claim about the makeup of host stars and their planets. The text explains that because stars and planets begin forming from the same gas and dust, astronomers believe planets should be composed of the same materials as their host stars, but in equal or smaller quantities. The finding that the amount of iron in some rocky planets is much higher than the amount in their host star would weaken the astronomers' claim because it would show that some planets contain the same material as their host star, but in higher quantities.

Choice A is incorrect because a finding only about the makeup of stars, whether they've cooled or not, would provide no information about the makeup of planets. Thus, it wouldn't have any bearing on the claim that planets and their host stars are composed of the same materials in differing quantities. Choice B is incorrect because a finding about two host stars having similar proportions of certain materials wouldn't provide any information about the makeup of planets. Thus, it wouldn't be relevant to the claim that planets and their host stars are composed of the same materials in differing quantities. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that the astronomers' claim is based on a fact—that stars and planets begin forming from the same gas and dust in space—which would remain true regardless of the effectiveness of a method for analysis of compositions. The text does cite analysis of rocky planets in our solar system and the Sun, but only as a single piece of evidence that is consistent with the claim and not as the source of the claim; the finding that the method used for that analysis is less effective in other scenarios wouldn't weaken a claim that's based on knowledge of how stars and planets initially form.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 53c6c179

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 53c6c179

Median Ages of First Marriage for Men and Women in the United States and in England and Wales, 1900–2000



A sociology student is reading an essay on the median age of first marriage in Western countries throughout the twentieth century. The author of the essay cites factors common to these countries that the author believes caused an increase in the median age of first marriage, such as new technologies that shortened the time needed for domestic chores, making two-person households less necessary and living alone more viable. The student asserts that beyond these factors there must be additional ones specific to particular Western countries that influenced the increase of age at first marriage.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph that support the student's assertion?

- A. Between 1970 and 2000, the median age of first marriage rose more sharply for men in England and Wales than it did for men in the United States.
- B. In England and Wales, the median age of first marriage was consistently higher for men than for women between 1900 and 2000, but this was not always the case in the United States.
- C. The median age of first marriage for men in England and Wales was lower in 1970 than in 1950 or 1990.
- D. Between 1900 and 2000, the median age of first marriage for women in England and Wales was consistently higher than for women in the United States, as was the case for men.

ID: 53c6c179 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The student concluded that country-specific factors influence changes to median age of first marriage. This choice describes a time period when the rate of change differed between countries, suggesting that country-specific factors may have played a role in these changes.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. The median age of first marriage was consistently higher for men than for women in the United States during the time period depicted. Choice C is incorrect. The student concluded that country-specific factors influence changes to median age of first marriage. However, this choice doesn't provide any contrasts between countries and thus doesn't support the idea of country-specific factors influencing median age of first marriage. Choice D is incorrect. The students' conclusion is about changes that occurred during the 20th century. This choice provides broad information about the century as a whole, so it doesn't give insight into how median age at first marriage changed over time.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 55df0275

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 55df0275

Ablation Rates for Three Elements in
Cosmic Dust, by Dust Source

Element	SPC	AST	HTC	OCC
iron	20%	28%	90%	98%
potassium	44%	74%	97%	100%
sodium	45%	75%	99%	100%

Earth's atmosphere is bombarded by cosmic dust originating from several sources: short-period comets (SPCs), particles from the asteroid belt (ASTs), Halley-type comets (HTCs), and Oort cloud comets (OCCs). Some of the dust's material vaporizes in the atmosphere in a process called ablation, and the faster the particles move, the higher the rate of ablation. Astrophysicist Juan Diego Carrillo-Sánchez led a team that calculated average ablation rates for elements in the dust (such as iron and potassium) and showed that material in slower-moving SPC or AST dust has a lower rate than the same material in faster-moving HTC or OCC dust. For example, whereas the average ablation rate for iron from AST dust is 28%, the average rate for _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the example?

- A. iron from SPC dust is 20%.
- B. sodium from OCC dust is 100%.
- C. iron from HTC dust is 90%.
- D. sodium from AST dust is 75%.

ID: 55df0275 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively completes the example regarding the ablation rate of iron. The table shows the ablation rates for three elements—iron, potassium, and sodium—found in cosmic dust that comes from one of four sources. The text says that the ablation rate for a given element in slower-moving SPC and AST dust was lower than the ablation rate for that same element in faster-moving HTC or OCC dust. The text then presents the first part of an example of this pattern, describing an ablation rate of 28% for iron in AST dust. The information that iron from HTC dust had an ablation rate of 90% is therefore the most effective way to complete this example—the comparison of a relatively low ablation rate for iron in slower-moving AST dust with a relatively high ablation rate for iron in faster-moving HTC dust illustrates the tendency of ablation rates for a given element to be lower in slower-moving dust than in faster-moving dust.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that SPC dust, like AST dust, moves relatively slowly; a comparison of the ablation rates of iron from two slower-moving dust sources could not be an example of the difference between ablation rates in slower-moving dust and faster-moving dust, which is the pattern that the

example is supposed to illustrate. Choice B is incorrect because the example in the text is supposed to illustrate the difference in the ablation rates of the same element from slower-moving dust and faster-moving dust, and the first part of the example provides data about the ablation rate of iron, which means the second part of the example must also be about the ablation rate of iron, not the ablation rate of sodium. Choice D is incorrect because the example in the text is supposed to illustrate the difference in the ablation rates of the same element from slower-moving dust and faster-moving dust, and the first part of the example provides data about the ablation rate of iron, which means the second part of the example must also be about the ablation rate of iron, not the ablation rate of sodium. Additionally, any ablation rate from AST dust would be ineffective in this example since AST dust is referenced in the first part of the example and thus additional data focused on AST dust would not illustrate a variation across dust types.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 56f477fb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 56f477fb

Distribution of Ecosystem Services Affected by Invasive Species by Service Type

Region (Overall)	Provisioning (75%)	Regulating (21%)	Cultural (4%)
West	73%	27%	0%
North	88%	12%	0%
South	79%	14%	7%
East	83%	6%	11%
Central	33%	67%	0%

To assess the impact of invasive species on ecosystems in Africa, Benis N. Egoh and colleagues reviewed government reports from those nations about how invasive species are undermining ecosystem services (aspects of the ecosystem on which residents depend). The services were sorted into three categories: provisioning (material resources from the ecosystem), regulating (natural processes such as cleaning the air or water), and cultural (nonmaterial benefits of ecosystems). Egoh and her team assert that countries in each region reported effects on provisioning services and that provisioning services represent the majority of the reported services.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support Egoh and colleagues' assertion?

- A. Provisioning services represent 73% of the services reported for the West region and 33% of those for the Central region, but they represent 75% of the services reported overall.
- B. None of the percentages shown for provisioning services are lower than 33%, and the overall percentage shown for provisioning services is 75%.
- C. Provisioning services are shown for each region, while no cultural services are shown for some regions.
- D. The greatest percentage shown for provisioning services is 88% for the North region, and the least shown for provisioning services is 33% for the Central region.

ID: 56f477fb Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The finding that all the regions reported at least some effects on provisioning services supports the first part of the assertion. And the fact that provisioning services comprise 75% of the reported services overall supports the second part of the assertion.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't fully support the assertion. It doesn't include the finding that all the regions (not just Central and West) reported at least some effects on provisioning services. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't fully support the assertion. It doesn't demonstrate that provisioning services represent the majority of the reported services overall. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't fully support the assertion. It doesn't demonstrate that provisioning services represent the majority of the reported services overall.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 63e7799d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 63e7799d

In vertical inheritance, parents pass genes to their offspring, but in horizontal transfer (HT), one species, often bacteria, passes genetic material to an unrelated species. In a 2022 study, herpetologist Atsushi Kurabayashi and his team investigated HT in multicellular organisms—namely, snakes and frogs in Madagascar. The team detected *BovB*—a gene transmitted vertically in snakes—in many frog species. The apparent direction of gene transfer seems counterintuitive because frogs usually don't survive encounters with snakes and so wouldn't be able to transmit the newly acquired gene to offspring, but the team concluded that *BovB* is indeed transmitted from snakes to frogs, either directly or indirectly, via HT.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the team's conclusion?

- A. *BovB* can be transmitted across frog species through HT.
- B. Parasites known to feed on species of snakes and frogs in which the *BovB* gene occurs also carry *BovB*.
- C. *BovB* cannot be reliably transmitted from a snake species to bacteria that are usually encountered by frog species.
- D. Frog species with *BovB* show few discernible advantages as compared with frog species that do not carry *BovB*.

ID: 63e7799d Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. If there are parasites that feed on both snakes and frogs, they could carry *BovB* from snakes to frogs. HT could occur “indirectly” through those encounters, which frogs are more likely to survive than snake encounters.

Choice A is incorrect. The team's conclusion specifically argues that *BovB* is transmitted from snakes to frogs via HT, and this choice doesn't mention snakes. Choice C is incorrect. The team argues that *BovB* is transmitted from snakes to frogs via HT, and this answer choice discusses a scenario in which the gene is not transmitted. Choice D is incorrect. Whether or not frog species with *BovB* are advantaged isn't relevant to the team's conclusion about how the gene is transmitted.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 80fd9454

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 80fd9454

Percentage of Available Eggs Eaten by Cane Toad Tadpoles

Amphibian species (common name)	Percentage of eggs eaten	Native to Australia	Produces bufadienolide
Little red tree frog	1%	yes	no
Cane toad	90%	no	yes
Short-footed frog	7%	yes	no
Striped burrowing frog	10%	yes	no
Dainty green tree frog	1%	yes	no

Native to Latin America, the cane toad was introduced to Australia in the 1930s. In recent decades, tadpoles in the Australian population have been shown to consume eggs of their own species. A 2022 study showed that when presented with cane toad eggs as well as eggs of native Australian amphibians, cane toad tadpoles disproportionately consumed eggs of their own species. This behavior results from their attraction to bufadienolide, a chemical produced by the eggs of cane toads but not by the eggs of native amphibians. However, using data from this study, a student wishes to argue that the presence of bufadienolide doesn't entirely explain the cane toad tadpoles' preference for certain eggs over others.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the student's argument?

- A. The tadpoles consumed a higher percentage of the striped burrowing frog eggs than they did of the eggs of the dainty green tree frog.
- B. The tadpoles left a certain percentage of the eggs of each of the five species unharmed, thus ultimately allowing them to hatch.
- C. The tadpoles consumed a lower percentage of the short-footed frog eggs than they did of the eggs of their own species.
- D. The tadpoles consumed the same percentage of the dainty green tree frog eggs as they did of the little red tree frog eggs.

ID: 80fd9454 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to support the student's argument about the role of bufadienolide in the egg preferences of cane toad tadpoles. For each of five amphibian species included in the 2022 study, the table gives the percentage of available eggs that the cane toad tadpoles ate. According to the table, the tadpoles ate 10% of striped burrowing frog eggs and 1% of dainty green tree frog eggs, which suggests a preference for striped burrowing frog eggs over dainty green tree frog eggs. The table also indicates that neither of these species' eggs produces bufadienolide. Thus, these data suggest that

something other than the presence or absence of bufadienolide is needed to adequately explain the tadpoles' egg preferences.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the table shows that for each of the five amphibian species, the cane toad tadpoles ate less than 100% of that species' eggs, which demonstrates that the tadpoles did indeed leave some eggs for each species unharmed, this fact alone is irrelevant to the tadpoles' preferences for some species' eggs over other species' eggs. Choice C is incorrect. Although the table indicates that the cane toad tadpoles ate 90% of the cane toad eggs and 7% of the short-footed frog eggs, which suggests that they prefer cane toad eggs over short-footed frog eggs, the table also indicates that cane toad eggs produce bufadienolide, whereas short-footed frog eggs do not. Therefore, these data are not sufficient to exclude that bufadienolide alone could explain the tadpoles' preference for some species' eggs over other species' eggs. Choice D is incorrect. Although the table shows that for both dainty green tree frog eggs and little red tree frog eggs, the cane toad tadpoles ate 1% of those species' eggs, it also indicates that neither produces bufadienolide. Thus, these data alone don't indicate bufadienolide's role in the tadpoles' egg preferences.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 124fdcd7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 124fdcd7

Many archaeologists will tell you that categorizing excavated fragments of pottery by style, period, and what objects they belong to relies not only on standard criteria, but also on instinct developed over years of practice. In a recent study, however, researchers trained a deep-learning computer model on thousands of images of pottery fragments and found that it could categorize them as accurately as a team of expert archaeologists. Some archaeologists have expressed concern that they might be replaced by such computer models, but the researchers claim that outcome is highly unlikely.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers' claim?

- A. In the researchers' study, the model was able to categorize the pottery fragments much more quickly than the archaeologists could.
- B. In the researchers' study, neither the model nor the archeologists were able to accurately categorize all the pottery fragments that were presented.
- C. A survey of archaeologists showed that categorizing pottery fragments limits the amount of time they can dedicate to other important tasks that only human experts can do.
- D. A survey of archaeologists showed that few of them received dedicated training in how to properly categorize pottery fragments.

ID: 124fdcd7 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support the researchers' claim that archaeologists are unlikely to be replaced by certain computer models. The text explains that although archaeologists hold that categorizing pottery fragments relies on both objective criteria and instinct developed through direct experience, researchers have found that a computer model can categorize the fragments with the same degree of accuracy as the humans can—a finding that has caused some archaeologists to worry that their own work won't be needed any longer. If survey results indicate that categorizing pottery fragments limits the amount of time archaeologists can dedicate to other important tasks that only human experts can do, that would mean that computer models aren't able to do all of the important things archaeologists do, thus supporting the researchers' claim that computer models are unlikely to replace human archaeologists.

Choice A is incorrect because if it were true that the computer model could categorize the pottery fragments much more quickly than the archaeologists could, that would weaken the researchers' claim that archaeologists are unlikely to be replaced by certain computer models, since it would demonstrate that the models could conduct the archaeologists' work not only with equal accuracy but also at a faster pace. Choice B is incorrect because the inability of both the computer model and the archaeologists to accurately categorize all of the pottery fragments presented wouldn't support the researchers' claim that archaeologists are unlikely to be replaced by certain computer models. The text indicates that some archaeologists are worried because the computer model's accuracy is equal to their own, and that could be the case whether both were perfectly accurate or were unable to achieve complete accuracy. Choice D is incorrect because survey results showing

that few archaeologists received special training in properly categorizing pottery fragments wouldn't support the researchers' claim that archaeologists are unlikely to be replaced by certain computer models. The amount of special training in categorizing pottery fragments that archaeologists have received has no direct bearing on whether computer models' success at categorizing fragments will lead to the models replacing the archaeologists.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 156ff681

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 156ff681

Many governments that regularly transfer money to individuals—to provide supplemental incomes for senior citizens, for example—have long done so electronically, but other countries typically have distributed physical money and have only recently developed electronic transfer infrastructure. Researchers studied the introduction of an electronic transfer system in one such location and found that recipients of electronic transfers consumed a different array of foods than recipients of physical transfers of the same amount did. One potential explanation for this result is that individuals conceive of and allocate funds in physical money differently than they conceive of and allocate funds in electronic form.

Which finding from the study, if true, would most directly weaken the potential explanation?

- A. Recipients of electronic transfers typically spent their funds at a slower rate than recipients of physical transfers did.
- B. Nearly every recipient of an electronic transfer withdrew the entire amount in physical money shortly after receiving the transfer.
- C. Recipients of physical transfers tended to purchase food about as frequently as recipients of electronic transfers did.
- D. Some recipients of physical transfers received small amounts of money relatively frequently, while others received large amounts relatively infrequently.

ID: 156ff681 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This would weaken the explanation. If the recipients of electronic money immediately withdrew it all as physical money, then both kinds of recipients ended up spending physical money on food. So there must be some other explanation why those who initially received electronic money ate different kinds of food.

Choice A is incorrect. This wouldn't weaken the explanation. If anything, it actually supports it: it demonstrates that recipients of electronic money and recipients of physical money have different spending habits. Choice C is incorrect. This wouldn't weaken the explanation. The explanation we're testing this choice against is about the way that people might "conceive of and allocate" physical and electronic funds differently. This choice only focuses on the timing, not what they spend the money on. Choice D is incorrect. This would have no impact on the explanation. It doesn't tell us anything about possible differences between the spending habits of those who spend physical money and those who spend money electronically.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 0240d11c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 0240d11c

In the twentieth century, ethnographers made a concerted effort to collect Mexican American folklore, but they did not always agree about that folklore's origins. Scholars such as Aurelio Espinosa claimed that Mexican American folklore derived largely from the folklore of Spain, which ruled Mexico and what is now the southwestern United States from the sixteenth to early nineteenth centuries. Scholars such as Américo Paredes, by contrast, argued that while some Spanish influence is undeniable, Mexican American folklore is mainly the product of the ongoing interactions of various cultures in Mexico and the United States.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Paredes's argument?

- A. The folklore that the ethnographers collected included several songs written in the form of a *décima*, a type of poem originating in late sixteenth-century Spain.
- B. Much of the folklore that the ethnographers collected had similar elements from region to region.
- C. Most of the folklore that the ethnographers collected was previously unknown to scholars.
- D. Most of the folklore that the ethnographers collected consisted of *corridos*—ballads about history and social life—of a clearly recent origin.

ID: 0240d11c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support Paredes's argument that Mexican-American folklore is mostly the result of cultural interactions in Mexico and the United States rather than an adaptation of Spanish folklore. The text describes a disagreement among scholars about whether Mexican-American folklore mostly derived from the folklore of Spain or originated in Mexico and the United States as cultures there have interacted. The latter view is the argument that Paredes puts forward. If Mexican-American folklore collected in the twentieth century mostly consists of ballads about history and social life that originated recently, then that would support Paredes's argument, since it would suggest that the folklore mostly arose after Spanish rule ended in the early nineteenth century and that the folklore reflects cultural interactions in Mexico and the United States rather than traditions from Spain.

Choice A is incorrect because the inclusion of songs influenced by sixteenth-century Spanish poetry among Mexican-American folklore collected in the twentieth century would not support Paredes's view that the folklore was the result of cultural interactions in Mexico and the United States rather than an offshoot of Spanish folklore. If anything, the presence of such songs among the folklore collected in the twentieth century would weaken Paredes's argument, since it would reflect the influence of Spanish culture on the folklore. Choice B is incorrect because the mere presence of similarities in Mexican-American folklore across regions would not be sufficient to draw a conclusion about where the folklore originated, let alone to support Paredes's argument that the folklore reflects cultural interactions in Mexico and the United States. In fact, since Paredes argued that Mexican-American folklore is the product of various cultures interacting in Mexico and the United States, he would likely expect there to be regional variations in folklore as different cultures have interacted in different places. Choice C is incorrect because scholars' previous ignorance of the folklore would have no bearing on

Paredes's argument that Mexican-American folklore mostly reflects cultural interactions in Mexico and the United States. The folklore's origins are independent of scholars' knowledge of the folklore.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 378c66d5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 378c66d5

A member of the Otomi, an Indigenous people in Central Mexico, Octavio Medellín immigrated to the United States as a child, and his sculpture bears the impress of traditions on both sides of the border: US-based modernist sculpture, Mexican modernist painting, Otomi art, and the ancient sculpture of other Mexican Indigenous peoples, including the Maya. In his 1950 masterpiece *History of Mexico*, Medellín fuses these influences into a style so idiosyncratic that it resists efforts to view his work through the lens of nationality or cultural identity. Artists, he insisted, should strive for individual expression, even as they draw inspiration from their heritage and the communities where they live and work.

Which quotation from an art critic most directly challenges the underlined claim in the text?

- A. "Although a number of ancient Indigenous artistic traditions pictured human forms in profile, the forms populating the surface of *A History of Mexico* suggest a specifically Maya influence."
- B. "In *A History of Mexico*, the synthesis of ancient and modernist traditions functions as a stylistic parallel to the work's subject matter: a survey of centuries of Mexican history."
- C. "Many critics focus on Indigenous influences in *A History of Mexico* and other key works by Medellín to the exclusion of influences from non-Indigenous art."
- D. "While *A History of Mexico* features modernist motifs, it relies primarily on angular human forms in profile—a staple of Maya sculpture—and thus invites classification as Indigenous art."

ID: 378c66d5 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This critic challenges the claim by arguing that *A History of Mexico* is not so idiosyncratic (unique) as to resist classification because its use of Maya-style human profiles actually "invites classification as Indigenous art." Therefore, according to this critic, the work can be viewed, at least partially, through a lens of national or cultural identity.

Choice A is incorrect. While it describes the Maya influence on a particular aspect of *A History of Mexico*, this quotation doesn't push back on Medellín's "idiosyncratic" (unique) style, nor does it try to categorize the entire work into a single cultural tradition. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't directly challenge the underlined claim, but rather supports it. It suggests that the work effectively blends a variety of artistic products to create a single work that can't be defined by any one tradition. Instead, the work recalls many centuries of history and culture all at once. Choice C is incorrect. This choice supports rather than challenges the underlined claim. The quotation argues that other critics focus too much on Indigenous influences on the artwork instead of viewing all of the influences equally—that they should instead be viewing the work as an idiosyncratic whole instead of through one or two narrow cultural lenses.

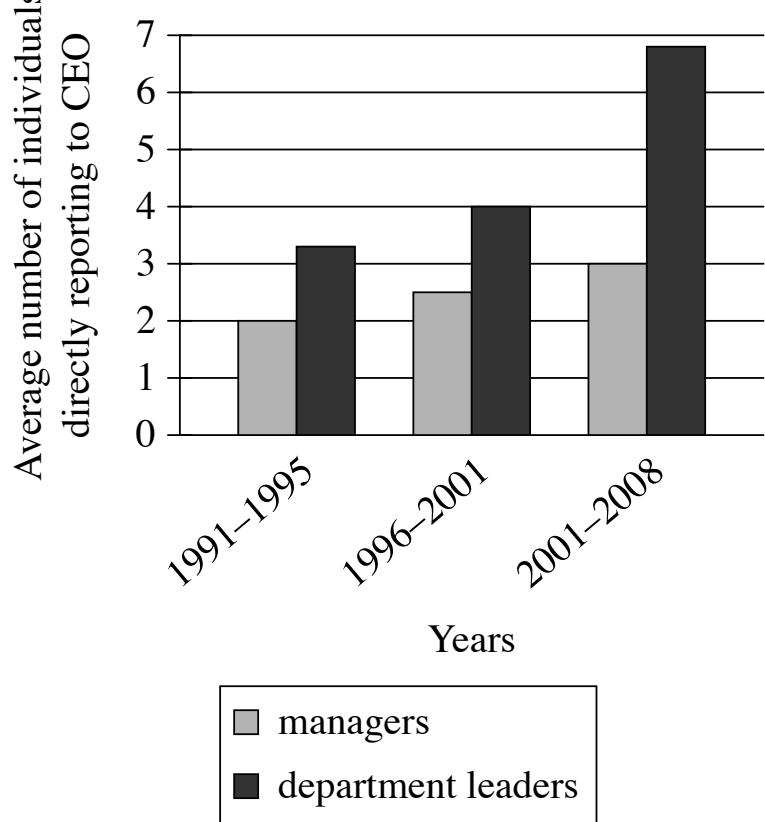
Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 645fd11a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 645fd11a

Average Number of Individuals Reporting Directly to CEOs



Considering a large sample of companies, economics experts Maria Guadalupe, Julie Wulf, and Raghuram Rajan assessed the number of managers and leaders from different departments who reported directly to a chief executive officer (CEO). According to the researchers, the findings suggest that across the years analyzed, there was a growing interest among CEOs in connecting with more departments in their companies.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support the researchers' conclusion?

- A. The average numbers of managers and department leaders reporting directly to their CEO didn't fluctuate from the 1991–1995 period to the 2001–2008 period.
- B. The average number of managers reporting directly to their CEO was highest in the 1996–2001 period.
- C. The average number of department leaders reporting directly to their CEO was greater than the average number of managers reporting directly to their CEO in each of the three periods studied.
- D. The average number of department leaders reporting directly to their CEO rose over the three periods studied.

ID: 645fd11a Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that support the researchers' conclusion that there is a growing interest among CEOs in connecting with more departments in their companies. The graph shows the average number of individuals reporting directly to CEOs during three different time periods: the individuals are divided into managers and department leaders. The average number of department leaders directly reporting to their CEO during the 1991–1995 period was slightly more than three, during the 1996–2001 period it was four, and during the 2001–2008 period it was almost seven. Thus, the average number of department leaders reporting directly to their CEO rose over the three periods studied, which suggests that CEOs were connecting with more departments.

Choice A is incorrect because the average number of managers and department leaders reporting directly to their CEO rose for both categories between the 1991–1995 and 2001–2008 periods; thus, it isn't true that the average numbers didn't fluctuate. Choice B is incorrect because the average number of managers reporting directly to their CEO was highest in the 2001–2008 period, not in the 1996–2001 period. Choice C is incorrect. Although it correctly describes a feature of the graph, the observation that more department leaders than managers are reporting to CEOs does not by itself address the question of whether CEOs are connecting with more departments over time—to address that question, one needs to know whether the number of department leaders reporting to CEOs is increasing over time.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 783d1388

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 783d1388

The Souls of Black Folk is a 1903 book by W.E.B. Du Bois. In the book, Du Bois suggests that upon hearing Black folk songs, he felt an intuitive and sometimes unexpected sense of cultural recognition: _____

Which quotation from *The Souls of Black Folk* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "[Black folk music] still remains as the singular spiritual heritage of the nation and the greatest gift of the Negro people."
- B. "Ever since I was a child these songs have stirred me strangely. They came out of the South unknown to me, one by one, and yet at once I knew them as of me and of mine."
- C. "Caricature has sought again to spoil the quaint beauty of the music, and has filled the air with many debased melodies which vulgar ears scarce know from the real. But the true Negro folk-song still lives in the hearts of those who have heard them truly sung and in the hearts of the Negro people."
- D. "The songs are indeed the siftings of centuries; the music is far more ancient than the words, and in it we can trace here and there signs of development."

ID: 783d1388 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because the quotation from *The Souls of Black Folk* illustrates the claim that Du Bois felt a sense of cultural recognition when he heard Black folk songs. In the quotation, Du Bois explains that for his entire life, Black folk songs "stirred [him] strangely." Even though they originated in the South, a region he wasn't familiar with, he knew the songs "as of me and of mine." That is, he identified strongly with them and associated them with his community. Therefore, Du Bois felt an intuitive sense of cultural recognition when he heard Black folk songs.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the quotation considers the cultural and spiritual value of Black folk music, it doesn't establish that this music inspired in Du Bois a sense of cultural recognition. Choice C is incorrect because this quotation addresses the cultural survival of Black folk songs despite attempts to caricature, or parody, them, not Du Bois's sense of cultural connection to them. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation indicates that the Black folk songs and music are old, "the siftings of centuries," instead of addressing how Du Bois felt when he heard the songs.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 825dc766

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 825dc766

King Lear is a circa 1606 play by William Shakespeare. In the play, the character of King Lear attempts to test his three daughters' devotion to him. He later expresses regret for his actions, as is evident when he _____.

Which choice most effectively uses a quotation from *King Lear* to illustrate the claim?

- A. says of himself, "I am a man / more sinned against than sinning."
- B. says during a growing storm, "This tempest will not give me leave to ponder / On things would hurt me more."
- C. says to himself while striking his head, "Beat at this gate that let thy folly in / And thy dear judgement out!"
- D. says of himself, "I will do such things— / What they are yet, I know not; but they shall be / The terrors of the earth!"

ID: 825dc766 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses a quotation from *King Lear* to illustrate the claim that King Lear expresses regret for his actions. In the quotation, Lear describes striking himself on the head—the same act he's engaged in as he speaks, and one that suggests he's deeply upset with himself. Referring to himself in the second person (with "thy"), the character exclaims "Beat at this gate that let thy folly in / And thy dear judgement out!" Lear refers metaphorically to his own mind as a gate that has allowed folly, or poor judgement, to enter and good judgement to escape. This suggests that Lear regrets his attempts to test his three daughters' devotion to him, regarding those attempts as examples of the folly that has entered the gate of his mind.

Choice A is incorrect because this quotation doesn't express King Lear's sense of regret over his own actions; instead, it expresses his belief that the harm that others have done to him (or the extent to which they have "sinned against" him) outweighs whatever harm he himself has caused by "sinning." Choice B is incorrect because this quotation doesn't express King Lear's sense of regret over his own actions; instead, it expresses his thoughts about an approaching storm ("this tempest"), which he believes "will not give [him] leave to ponder," or time to consider, the harm that he will continue to experience ("things" that "would hurt [him] more"). Choice D is incorrect because this quotation expresses King Lear's vow to commit terrible actions (or "things" that "shall be / The terrors of the earth") in the future, not his regret over actions that he's already taken.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 8391a002

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 8391a002

Black beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) are a nutritionally dense food, but they are difficult to digest in part because of their high levels of soluble fiber and compounds like raffinose. They also contain antinutrients like tannins and trypsin inhibitors, which interfere with the body's ability to extract nutrients from foods. In a research article, Marisela Granito and Glenda Álvarez from Simón Bolívar University in Venezuela claim that inducing fermentation of black beans using lactic acid bacteria improves the digestibility of the beans and makes them more nutritious.

Which finding from Granito and Álvarez's research, if true, would most directly support their claim?

- A. When cooked, fermented beans contained significantly more trypsin inhibitors and tannins but significantly less soluble fiber and raffinose than nonfermented beans.
- B. Fermented beans contained significantly less soluble fiber and raffinose than nonfermented beans, and when cooked, the fermented beans also displayed a significant reduction in trypsin inhibitors and tannins.
- C. When the fermented beans were analyzed, they were found to contain two microorganisms, *Lactobacillus casei* and *Lactobacillus plantarum*, that are theorized to increase the amount of nitrogen absorbed by the gut after eating beans.
- D. Both fermented and nonfermented black beans contained significantly fewer trypsin inhibitors and tannins after being cooked at high pressure.

ID: 8391a002 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a finding that would best support Granito and Álvarez's claim that fermenting black beans makes them easier to digest and more nutritious. The text indicates that high levels of soluble fiber and raffinose in black beans make the beans hard to digest and that tannins and trypsin inhibitors make it harder for the body to extract nutrients from the beans. If it were found that fermenting the beans significantly reduces their levels of soluble fiber, raffinose, trypsin inhibitors, and tannins when cooked, this would directly support the claim that fermentation improves the digestibility of the beans and makes them more nutritious.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that trypsin inhibitors and tannins interfere with the body's ability to extract nutrients from black beans; if fermentation and cooking were found to increase these antinutrients, fermented beans would likely be less nutritious than unfermented ones, not more nutritious (as Granito and Álvarez claim). Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't address the idea that greater nitrogen absorption in the gut has an effect on a food's digestibility or level of nutrition, so the discovery of the presence of microorganisms that may increase nitrogen absorption wouldn't provide relevant support for the claim that fermentation makes black beans easier to digest and more nutritious. Choice D is incorrect because Granito and Álvarez's claim focuses on the effect of fermenting black beans, but the finding that nonfermented black beans also have fewer trypsin inhibitors and tannins when cooked at high pressure would suggest that the role of the cooking method could be significant when it comes to nutrition; further, the finding wouldn't address the beans' digestibility.

Question ID 8545ccfe

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 8545ccfe

Icebergs generally appear to be mostly white or blue, depending on how the ice reflects sunlight. Ice with air bubbles trapped in it looks white because much of the light reflects off the bubbles. Ice without air bubbles usually looks blue because the light travels deep into the ice and only a little of it is reflected. However, some icebergs in the sea around Antarctica appear to be green. One team of scientists hypothesized that this phenomenon is the result of yellow-tinted dissolved organic carbon in Antarctic waters mixing with blue ice to produce the color green.

Which finding, if true, would most directly weaken the team's hypothesis?

- A. White ice doesn't change color when mixed with dissolved organic carbon due to the air bubbles in the ice.
- B. Dissolved organic carbon has a stronger yellow color in Antarctic waters than it does in other places.
- C. Blue icebergs and green icebergs are rarely found near each other.
- D. Blue icebergs and green icebergs contain similarly small traces of dissolved organic carbon.

ID: 8545ccfe Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would weaken the scientists' hypothesis about icebergs that appear to be green. The text indicates that most icebergs are either mostly white or blue in color but that some icebergs in Antarctica appear to be green. The text goes on to say that the scientists hypothesized that this green color occurs when yellow-tinted dissolved organic carbon in ocean waters mixes with blue ice. A finding that both blue icebergs and green icebergs contain similarly small traces of dissolved organic carbon would suggest that something other than yellow-tinted organic carbon causes some icebergs' green color, since the blue icebergs that contain yellow-tinted organic carbon remained blue instead of turning green.

Choice A is incorrect because, according to the text, the scientists' hypothesis was that blue icebergs, not white ones, change color when their ice mixes with yellow-tinted dissolved organic carbon. A finding that white ice, because of its air bubbles, doesn't change color when it's mixed with dissolved organic carbon would therefore have no bearing on the scientists' hypothesis. Choice B is incorrect because the text focuses only on Antarctic icebergs that appear to be green. It doesn't indicate that icebergs in locations other than Antarctica have been found to have a green hue. A finding that dissolved organic carbon has a stronger yellow color in Antarctic waters than in other places would therefore have no bearing on the scientists' hypothesis that green color in icebergs in Antarctica is caused by yellow-tinted dissolved organic carbon mixing with blue ice. Choice C is incorrect because, according to the text, the scientists' hypothesis was that blue icebergs turn green when their ice mixes with yellow-tinted dissolved organic carbon in the sea around them. If that's correct, one would expect blue icebergs and green icebergs to be located at a distance from each other since all blue icebergs in an area where the waters contain yellow-tinted dissolved organic carbon would take on a green hue. A finding that blue icebergs and green icebergs are rarely found near each other would therefore strengthen, not weaken, the researchers' hypothesis.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 8584f3ce

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 8584f3ce

When digging for clams, their primary food, sea otters damage the roots of eelgrass plants growing on the seafloor. Near Vancouver Island in Canada, the otter population is large and well established, yet the eelgrass meadows are healthier than those found elsewhere off Canada's coast. To explain this, conservation scientist Erin Foster and colleagues compared the Vancouver Island meadows to meadows where otters are absent or were reintroduced only recently. Finding that the Vancouver Island meadows have a more diverse gene pool than the others do, Foster hypothesized that damage to eelgrass roots increases the plant's rate of sexual reproduction; this, in turn, boosts genetic diversity, which benefits the meadow's health overall.

Which finding, if true, would most directly undermine Foster's hypothesis?

- A. At some sites in the study, eelgrass meadows are found near otter populations that are small and have only recently been reintroduced.
- B. At several sites not included in the study, there are large, well-established sea otter populations but no eelgrass meadows.
- C. At several sites not included in the study, eelgrass meadows' health correlates negatively with the length of residence and size of otter populations.
- D. At some sites in the study, the health of plants unrelated to eelgrass correlates negatively with the length of residence and size of otter populations.

ID: 8584f3ce Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would weaken Foster's hypothesis that damage to eelgrass roots improves the health of eelgrass meadows by boosting genetic diversity. The text indicates that sea otters damage eelgrass roots but that eelgrass meadows near Vancouver Island, where there's a large otter population, are comparatively healthy. When Foster and her colleagues compared the Vancouver Island eelgrass meadows to those that don't have established otter populations, the researchers found that the Vancouver Island meadows are more genetically diverse than the other meadows are. This finding led Foster to hypothesize that damage to the eelgrass roots encourages eelgrass reproduction, thereby improving genetic diversity and the health of the meadows. If, however, other meadows not included in the study are less healthy the larger the local otter population is and the longer the otters have been in residence, that would suggest that damage to the eelgrass roots, which would be expected to increase with the size and residential duration of the otter population, isn't leading meadows to be healthier. Such a finding would therefore weaken Foster's hypothesis.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that small, recently introduced otter populations are near other eelgrass meadows in the study wouldn't weaken Foster's hypothesis. If otter populations were small and only recently established, they wouldn't be expected to have caused much damage to eelgrass roots, so even if those eelgrass meadows were less healthy than the Vancouver Island meadows, that wouldn't undermine Foster's hypothesis. In fact, it would be consistent with Foster's hypothesis since it would suggest that the greater damage caused by

larger, more established otter populations is associated with healthier meadows. Choice B is incorrect because the existence of areas with otters but without eelgrass meadows wouldn't reveal anything about whether the damage that otters cause to eelgrass roots ultimately benefits eelgrass meadows. Choice D is incorrect because the health of plants other than eelgrass would have no bearing on Foster's hypothesis that damage to eelgrass roots leads to greater genetic diversity and meadow health. It would be possible for otters to have a negative effect on other plants while nevertheless improving the health of eelgrass meadows by damaging eelgrass roots.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 860803dd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 860803dd

Biologist Valentina Gómez-Bahamón and her team have investigated two subspecies of the fork-tailed flycatcher bird that live in the same region in Colombia, but one subspecies migrates south for part of the year, and the other doesn't. The researchers found that, due to slight differences in feather shape, the feathers of migratory forked-tailed flycatcher males make a sound during flight that is higher pitched than that made by the feathers of nonmigratory males. The researchers hypothesize that fork-tailed flycatcher females are attracted to the specific sound made by the males of their own subspecies, and that over time the females' preference will drive further genetic and anatomical divergence between the subspecies.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Gómez-Bahamón and her team's hypothesis?

- A. The feathers located on the wings of the migratory fork-tailed flycatchers have a narrower shape than those of the nonmigratory birds, which allows them to fly long distances.
- B. Over several generations, the sound made by the feathers of migratory male fork-tailed flycatchers grows progressively higher pitched relative to that made by the feathers of nonmigratory males.
- C. Fork-tailed flycatchers communicate different messages to each other depending on whether their feathers create high-pitched or low-pitched sounds.
- D. The breeding habits of the migratory and nonmigratory fork-tailed flycatchers remained generally the same over several generations.

ID: 860803dd Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support Gómez-Bahamón and her team's hypothesis about fork-tailed flycatchers. The text indicates that although two subspecies of the birds live in the same region, the tail feathers of the migrating males make a higher-pitched sound than the tail feathers of the nonmigrating males do. Gómez-Bahamón and her team hypothesize that female fork-tailed flycatchers are attracted to the particular sound made by the tail feathers of males of their own subspecies, which will bring about additional "genetic and anatomical divergence" between the two subspecies. If it were found that the pitch generated by the tail feathers of migrating males is getting higher over successive generations, it would indicate that the shape of the migrating subspecies' tail feathers is diverging further from that of the nonmigrating subspecies. And if females continue to prefer the sounds of the males of their own subspecies, the females of the migrating subspecies will become acclimated to increasingly higher pitches over subsequent generations, causing further divergence between the subspecies. Thus, if it were found that migrating males' tail feathers were producing higher pitches over time, that would support the researchers' hypothesis.

Choice A is incorrect because the researchers' hypothesis is that female flycatchers prefer the sounds produced by the tail feathers of males of their own subspecies, which will lead to further divergence between the two subspecies. This finding is about the shape of wing feathers and how that affects long-distance flight, whereas the hypothesis is about the shape of tail feathers and how that relates to female mate preference. Choice C is

incorrect because the researchers' hypothesis is that female flycatchers prefer the sounds produced by the tail feathers of males of their own subspecies, which will lead to further divergence between the two subspecies. This finding focuses on how the tail feather sounds communicate different messages, which doesn't address differences between the subspecies or female preferences. Choice D is incorrect because the researchers' hypothesis is that female flycatchers prefer the sounds produced by the tail feathers of males of their own subspecies, which will lead to further divergence between the two subspecies. The finding that breeding habits haven't changed for either subspecies does not, by itself, suggest anything about female preferences or divergence between the two subspecies.

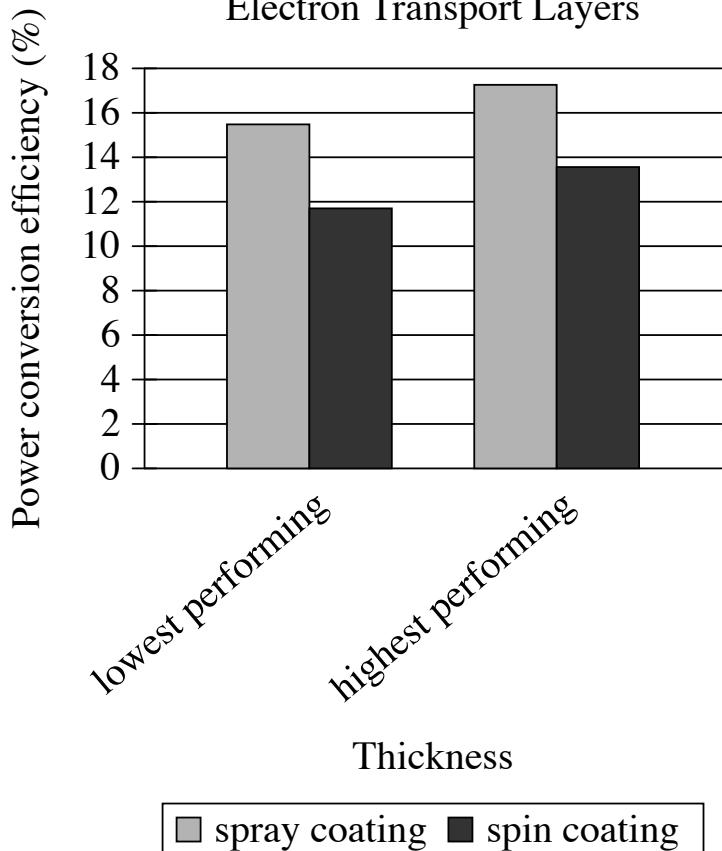
Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 02848335

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 02848335

Power Conversion Efficiency of Lowest and Highest Performing Spin-coated and Spray-coated Electron Transport Layers



Perovskite solar cells convert light into electricity more efficiently than earlier kinds of solar cells, and manufacturing advances have recently made them commercially attractive. One limitation of the cells, however, has to do with their electron transport layer (ETL), through which absorbed electrons must pass. Often the ETL is applied through a process called spin coating, but such ETLs are fairly inefficient at converting input power to output power. André Taylor and colleagues tested a novel spray coating method for applying the ETL. The team produced ETLs of various thicknesses and concluded that spray coating holds promise for improving the power conversion efficiency of ETLs in perovskite solar cells.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support Taylor and colleagues' conclusion?

- A. Both the ETL applied through spin coating and the ETL applied through spray coating showed a power conversion efficiency greater than 10% at their lowest performing thickness.
- B. The lowest performing ETL applied through spray coating had a higher power conversion efficiency than the highest performing ETL applied through spin coating.
- C. The highest performing ETL applied through spray coating showed a power conversion efficiency of approximately 13%, while the highest performing ETL applied through spin coating showed a power conversion efficiency of approximately 11%.

D. There was a substantial difference in power conversion efficiency between the lowest and highest performing ETLs applied through spray coating.

ID: 02848335 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that support Taylor and colleagues' conclusion that spray coating holds promise for improving the power conversion efficiency of ETLs in perovskite solar cells. The text explains that perovskite solar cells' efficiency at converting light into electricity is diminished by their electron transport layer (ETL), which is applied through spin coating, but that Taylor's team devised a new spray coating method for applying the ETL that improves its power conversion efficiency. The graph displays data on the power conversion efficiency of solar cells in tests conducted by Taylor's team, with bars for both the highest- and lowest-performing ETLs in two data categories: spray coating and spin coating. According to the graph, the lowest-performing ETL applied through spray coating had a power conversion efficiency of between 14% and 16%, while the highest-performing ETL applied through spin coating had a power conversion efficiency of less than 14%. These data confirm that ETLs applied through novel spray coating are more efficient than those applied though traditional spin coating. Thus, the data support Taylor and colleagues' conclusion about spray coating's potential value.

Choice A is incorrect. Although this claim correctly describes the data in the graph by stating that both the lowest-performing ETL applied through spin coating and the lowest-performing ETL applied through spray coating had a power conversion efficiency greater than 10%, this relationship in the data doesn't support or relate to Taylor and colleagues' conclusion that spray coating promises greater efficiency for solar cells than traditional spin coating does. Choice C is incorrect. This claim does address the greater power conversion efficiency of the highest-performing ETL applied through spray coating, compared with the highest-performing ETL applied through spin coating. However, it also incorrectly cites the value for the efficiency of the highest-performing ETL applied through spray coating as approximately 13%, instead of a value between 14% and 16%, and the value for the efficiency of the highest-performing ETL applied through spin coating as approximately 11%, instead of a value between 12% and 14%, as shown in the graph. Choice D is incorrect because Taylor and colleagues' conclusion is based on the difference in the power conversion efficiency of ETLs applied through spray coating and that of ETLs applied through spin coating, not on the difference between the highest- and lowest-performing ETLs applied through just spray coating.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 6536183b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 6536183b

In the mountains of Brazil, *Barbacenia tomentosa* and *Barbacenia macrantha*—two plants in the Velloziaceae family—establish themselves on soilless, nutrient-poor patches of quartzite rock. Plant ecologists Anna Abrahão and Patricia de Britto Costa used microscopic analysis to determine that the roots of *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha*, which grow directly into the quartzite, have clusters of fine hairs near the root tip; further analysis indicated that these hairs secrete both malic and citric acids. The researchers hypothesize that the plants depend on dissolving underlying rock with these acids, as the process not only creates channels for continued growth but also releases phosphates that provide the vital nutrient phosphorus.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers' hypothesis?

- A. Other species in the Velloziaceae family are found in terrains with more soil but have root structures similar to those of *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha*.
- B. Though *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha* both secrete citric and malic acids, each species produces the acids in different proportions.
- C. The roots of *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha* carve new entry points into rocks even when cracks in the surface are readily available.
- D. *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha* thrive even when transferred to the surfaces of rocks that do not contain phosphates.

ID: 6536183b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support the researchers' hypothesis about the plants' dependence on dissolving rock. The text indicates that the roots of the two plant species grow directly into quartzite rock, where hairs on the roots secrete acids that dissolve the rock. The researchers hypothesize that the plants depend on this process because dissolving rock opens spaces for the roots to grow and releases phosphates that provide the plants with phosphorous, a vital nutrient. If the plants carry out this process of dissolving rock even when the rock already has spaces into which the roots could grow, that would support the researchers' hypothesis because it suggests that the plants are getting some advantage—such as access to phosphorous—from the action of dissolving rock. If the plants don't benefit from dissolving rock, they would be expected to grow in the cracks that already exist, as doing so would mean that the plants don't have to spend energy creating and secreting acids; if, however, the plants create new entry points by dissolving rock even when cracks already exist, that would support the hypothesis that they depend on dissolving rock for some benefit.

Choice A is incorrect because the existence of soil-inhabiting members of the Velloziaceae family with similar root structures to those of the two species discussed in the text wouldn't support the researchers' hypothesis that the species discussed in the text depend on dissolving rock. If other such members exist, that might suggest that the root structures can serve more functions than secreting acids to dissolve rock (since dissolving rock may not be necessary for plants living in soil), but that wouldn't suggest anything about whether the

species discussed in the text benefit from dissolving rock. Choice B is incorrect because differences in the proportions of citric and malic acid secreted by the two species would be irrelevant to the hypothesis that the plants depend on dissolving rock. There's no information in the text to suggest that the proportion of each acid has any bearing on the process of dissolving rock or on any benefits the plants might receive from that process. Choice D is incorrect because if the two species thrive on rocks without phosphates, that would weaken the researchers' hypothesis that the plants depend on dissolving rock partly because dissolving rock gives them access to phosphates. If the plants can survive on rocks without getting a vital nutrient by dissolving those rocks, then either the nutrient isn't actually vital for those plants or they can get the nutrient in some way other than by dissolving rocks.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 9452092c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: 9452092c

Effects of Mycorrhizal Fungi on 3 Plant Species

Plant species	Mycorrhizal host	Average mass of plants grown in soil containing mycorrhizal fungi (in grams)	Average mass of plants grown in soil treated to kill fungi (in grams)
Corn	yes	15.1	3.8
Marigold	yes	10.2	2.4
Broccoli	no	7.5	7

Mycorrhizal fungi in soil benefits many plants, substantially increasing the mass of some. A student conducted an experiment to illustrate this effect. The student chose three plant species for the experiment, including two that are mycorrhizal hosts (species known to benefit from mycorrhizal fungi) and one nonmycorrhizal species (a species that doesn't benefit from and may even be harmed by mycorrhizal fungi). The student then grew several plants from each species both in soil containing mycorrhizal fungi and in soil that had been treated to kill mycorrhizal and other fungi. After several weeks, the student measured the plants' average mass and was surprised to discover that

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. broccoli grown in soil containing mycorrhizal fungi had a slightly higher average mass than broccoli grown in soil that had been treated to kill fungi.
- B. corn grown in soil containing mycorrhizal fungi had a higher average mass than broccoli grown in soil containing mycorrhizal fungi.
- C. marigolds grown in soil containing mycorrhizal fungi had a much higher average mass than marigolds grown in soil that had been treated to kill fungi.
- D. corn had the highest average mass of all three species grown in soil that had been treated to kill fungi, while marigolds had the lowest.

ID: 9452092c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement. The text explains that mycorrhizal hosts are plants that benefit from the presence of mycorrhizal fungi in the soil and that some such plants produce more mass when grown in the presence of these fungi, while for nonmycorrhizal species the fungi either have no effect or may be harmful. The experiment included two mycorrhizal hosts (corn and marigold) and one nonmycorrhizal species (broccoli). Given the claim in the text that nonmycorrhizal species will see either no difference or a decrease in mass when exposed to mycorrhizal fungi, the student would likely have been surprised by the higher average mass for broccoli grown in the presence of the fungi than the broccoli grown in the soil treated to kill fungi.

Choice B is incorrect. Although this choice accurately describes the corn data from the table, the fact that the mycorrhizal host corn is more massive in the presence of the fungi likely fits with what the student expected and would therefore not be surprising. Choice C is incorrect. Although this choice accurately describes the marigold data from the table, the fact that the mycorrhizal host marigold is more massive in the presence of the fungi is likely what the student expected and thus would not be surprising. Choice D is incorrect because it does not accurately represent the data in the table—when grown in soil treated to kill fungi, corn had an average mass of 3.8 g while broccoli had an average mass of 7g—and because making comparisons among the plants in the no-fungi condition, by itself, does not provide a basis to compare the average mass of mycorrhizal hosts and nonmycorrhizal species grown in the presence of the fungi with those grown in the soil treated to kill fungi.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 20583752

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 20583752

"The Poet Walt Whitman" is an 1887 essay by José Martí, a Cuban author and political activist, originally written in Spanish. In the essay, Martí explores the value of literature, arguing that a society's spiritual well-being depends on the character of its literary culture: _____

Which quotation from a translation of "The Poet Walt Whitman" most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "Poetry, which brings together or separates, which fortifies or brings anguish, which shores up or demolishes souls, which gives or robs men of faith and vigor, is more necessary to a people than industry itself, for industry provides them with a means of subsistence, while literature gives them the desire and strength for life."
- B. "Every society brings to literature its own form of expression, and the history of the nations can be told with greater truth by the stages of literature than by chronicles and decades."
- C. "Where will a race of men go when they have lost the habit of thinking with faith about the scope and meaning of their actions? The best among them, those who consecrate Nature with their sacred desire for the future, will lose, in a sordid and painful annihilation, all stimulus to alleviate the ugliness of humanity."
- D. "Listen to the song of this hardworking and satisfied nation; listen to Walt Whitman. The exercise of himself exalts him to majesty, tolerance exalts him to justice, and order to joy."

ID: 20583752 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that Martí argues that a society's spiritual well-being depends on the character of its literary culture. In the quotation, Martí asserts that poetry is "more necessary to a people than industry itself" and that it has the power to provide people with "faith and vigor." He also adds that literature gives people "the desire and strength for life." Therefore, this quotation shows that Martí believes that literature is a societal necessity because it uplifts people and nourishes their spiritual well-being.

Choice B is incorrect. Although this quotation emphasizes the importance of literature, it focuses on how the nature of a society is reflected in that society's literature rather than on literature's value for people's spiritual well-being. Choice C is incorrect. Although this quotation involves an element of spirituality, it doesn't discuss literature. The quotation instead focuses on humanity's actions. Choice D is incorrect because this quotation mainly focuses on the importance of Walt Whitman rather than on the value of literature in general.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 71904085

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: 71904085

Linguist Deborah Tannen has cautioned against framing contentious issues in terms of two highly competitive perspectives, such as pro versus con. According to Tannen, this debate-driven approach can strip issues of their complexity and, when used in front of an audience, can be less informative than the presentation of multiple perspectives in a noncompetitive format. To test Tannen's hypothesis, students conducted a study in which they showed participants one of three different versions of local news commentary about the same issue. Each version featured a debate between two commentators with opposing views, a panel of three commentators with various views, or a single commentator.

Which finding from the students' study, if true, would most strongly support Tannen's hypothesis?

- A. On average, participants perceived commentators in the debate as more knowledgeable about the issue than commentators in the panel.
- B. On average, participants perceived commentators in the panel as more knowledgeable about the issue than the single commentator.
- C. On average, participants who watched the panel correctly answered more questions about the issue than those who watched the debate or the single commentator did.
- D. On average, participants who watched the single commentator correctly answered more questions about the issue than those who watched the debate did.

ID: 71904085 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents the finding that, if true, would most strongly support Tannen's hypothesis. According to the text, Tannen's hypothesis is that multiple perspectives presented in a noncompetitive format is more informative than a debate between opposing viewpoints is. If participants who saw a panel of three commentators with various views about an issue answered more questions about the issue correctly than did participants who saw a debate, that would support Tannen's hypothesis since it would show that participants who heard multiple varied perspectives were better informed than were participants who heard a debate between opposing viewpoints.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that participants perceived commentators in the debate as more knowledgeable than commentators in the panel is irrelevant to Tannen's hypothesis, which is that presenting multiple perspectives on an issue is more informative to the audience than presenting opposing views of the issue is. Participants' perception of how knowledgeable panelists are has no bearing on how much participants learn from the panelists. Choice B is incorrect because finding that participants perceived commentators in the panel as more knowledgeable than a single commentator is irrelevant to Tannen's hypothesis, which is that presenting multiple perspectives on an issue is more informative to the audience than presenting opposing views of the issue is. Participants' perception of how knowledgeable panelists are has no bearing on how much participants learn from the panelists, and Tannen's hypothesis says nothing about how informative single commentators are. Choice D is incorrect because finding that participants who watched a single commentator

answered more questions correctly than participants who watched the debate did wouldn't be relevant to Tannen's hypothesis, which is that hearing multiple varying perspectives is more informative than hearing a debate. Tannen's hypothesis says nothing about how informative single commentators are.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID a44bbd6b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: a44bbd6b

Several studies of sediment (e.g., dirt, pieces of rock, etc.) in streams have shown an inverse correlation between sediment grain size and downstream distance from the primary sediment source, suggesting that stream length has a sorting effect on sediment. In a study of sediment sampled at more than a dozen sites in Alpine streams, however, geologists Camille Litty and Fritz Schlunegger found that cross-site variations in grain size were not associated with differences in downstream distance, though they did not conclude that downstream distance is irrelevant to grain size. Rather, they concluded that sediment influx in these streams may have been sufficiently spatially diffuse to prevent the typical sorting effect from being observed.

Which finding about the streams in the study, if true, would most directly support Litty and Schlunegger's conclusion?

- A. The streams regularly experience portions of their banks collapsing into the water at multiple points upstream of the sampling sites.
- B. The streams contain several types of sediment that are not typically found in streams where the sorting effect has been demonstrated.
- C. The streams mostly originate from the same source, but their lengths vary considerably due to the different courses they take.
- D. The streams are fed by multiple tributaries that carry significant volumes of sediment and that enter the streams downstream of the sampling sites.

ID: a44bbd6b Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This finding would support the conclusion. If stream banks are collapsing into the water at multiple points, then sediment is getting into the water at those various points. This supports the conclusion that the inflow of sediment is very spread out.

Choice B is incorrect. This finding wouldn't support the conclusion. The conclusion is about the influx of sediment being "spatially diffuse," meaning spread out over a large area. The type of sediment wouldn't have an impact on the conclusions. Choice C is incorrect. This finding wouldn't support the conclusion. It doesn't say anything about the influx of sediment being "spatially diffuse" (spread out). Choice D is incorrect. This finding wouldn't support the conclusion. Any sediment that enters downstream of the sampling sites wouldn't end up in the samples, so it wouldn't affect the findings or the conclusion.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID af9e3240

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: af9e3240

Electra is a circa 420–410 BCE play by Sophocles, translated in 1870 by R.C. Jebb. Electra, who is in mourning for her dead father and her long-absent brother, is aware of the intensity of her grief but believes it to be justified:

Which quotation from *Electra* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "O thou pure sunlight, and thou air, earth's canopy, how often have ye heard the strains of my lament, the wild blows dealt against this bleeding breast, when dark night fails!"
- B. "Send to me my brother; for I have no more the strength to bear up alone against the load of grief that weighs me down."
- C. "I know my own passion, it escapes me not; but, seeing that the causes are so dire, will never curb these frenzied plaints, while life is in me."
- D. "But never will I cease from dirge and sore lament, while I look on the trembling rays of the bright stars, or on this light of day."

ID: af9e3240 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. Electra states that she “knows her own passion,” which shows that she’s aware of the intensity of her grief. But she also claims that the “causes are so dire”—meaning the reasons for her grief are so awful—that she can’t let it go, which shows that she believes her grief is justified.

Choice A is incorrect. This quotation doesn’t show that Electra believes her grief is justified. It shows that Electra is aware of its intensity, but it doesn’t suggest that she believes she has a legitimate reason for feeling that way. Choice B is incorrect. This quotation doesn’t show that Electra believes her grief is justified. It shows that Electra is aware of its intensity, but it doesn’t suggest that she believes she has a legitimate reason for feeling that way. Choice D is incorrect. This quotation doesn’t show that Electra believes her grief is justified. It shows that Electra is aware of the intensity of her grief, but it doesn’t suggest that she has a legitimate reason for feeling that way.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b2e54b50

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: b2e54b50

Correlations Between Congestion Ratings and Features of the Crowd in Raters' Immediate Vicinity

Crowd feature	Before obstacle	After obstacle	Overall
Density	0.8592	0.7308	0.7447
Velocity	-0.9357	-0.9518	-0.8587

Researcher Xiaolu Jia and colleagues monitored individuals' velocity and the surrounding crowd density as a group of study participants walked through a space and navigated around an obstacle. Participants rated how congested it seemed before the obstacle, after the obstacle, and overall, and the researchers correlated those ratings with velocity and density. (Correlations range from -1 to 1, with greater distance from 0 indicating greater strength). The researchers concluded that the correlations with velocity are stronger than those with density.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the researchers' conclusion?

- A. The correlation between congestion ratings before the obstacle and density is further from 0 than the correlation between overall congestion rating and velocity is.
- B. The correlation between congestion ratings before the obstacle and velocity is further from 0 than the correlation between congestion overall and velocity is.
- C. For each of the three ratings, the correlation with velocity is negative while the correlation with density is positive.
- D. For each of the three ratings, correlations with velocity are further from 0 than the corresponding correlations with density are.

ID: b2e54b50 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text tells us that the farther the correlation is from 0, the "stronger" it is (doesn't matter if it's negative or positive). The table shows that the correlations with velocity are farther from zero than the correlations with density, which supports the conclusion that the correlations with velocity are stronger.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the conclusion. It makes an "apples to oranges" comparison by comparing density and velocity correlations across features instead of comparing them for each feature. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the conclusion. It doesn't include the density correlations for comparison. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the conclusion. The text tells us that the farther the correlation is from 0, the "stronger" it is: it doesn't matter for "strength" whether it's negative or positive.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b32c4b3a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: b32c4b3a

The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), a band of clouds that encircles Earth in the tropics and is a major rainfall source, shifts position in response to temperature variations across Earth's hemispheres. Data from Huagapo Cave in Peru suggest the ITCZ shifted south during the Little Ice Age (circa 1300–1850), but a shift as far into South America as Huagapo should have led to dry conditions in Central America, which is inconsistent with climate models. To resolve the issue, geologist Yemane Asmerom and colleagues collected data from Yok Balum Cave in Central America and compared them with the Huagapo data. They concluded that during the Little Ice Age, the ITCZ may have expanded northward and southward rather than simply shifted.

Which finding from Asmerom and colleagues' study, if true, would most directly support their conclusion?

- A. Neither the Yok Balum data nor the Huagapo data show significant local variations in temperature during the Little Ice Age.
- B. Both the Yok Balum data and the Huagapo data show increased temperatures and prolonged dry conditions during the Little Ice Age.
- C. The Yok Balum data show prolonged dry conditions during the same portions of the Little Ice Age in which the Huagapo data show heightened levels of rainfall.
- D. The Yok Balum data and the Huagapo data show strongly correlated patterns of high rainfall during the Little Ice Age.

ID: b32c4b3a Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support Asmerom and colleagues' conclusion that the ITCZ may have expanded northward and southward rather than shifting south during the Little Ice Age. The text indicates that the ITCZ, a band of clouds in the tropics that is a significant rainfall source, can change position. Data from Peru's Huagapo Cave suggest that the ITCZ shifted south during the Little Ice Age. But according to the text, if the ITCZ moved into South America in that way, then Central America should have been drier than climate models suggest it was. In other words, rainfall should have been reduced in Central America because the ITCZ, a significant rainfall source, had shifted into South America, but climate models do not show such a reduction in Central America. The text goes on to say that Asmerom and colleagues tried to resolve this apparent conflict by collecting data from Yok Balum cave in Central America and comparing them with data from Huagapo, which led the researchers to conclude that the ITCZ may have expanded both northward and southward rather than simply shifting south. If it is true that Yok Balum in Central America and Huagapo in South America show strongly correlated patterns of high rainfall during the Little Ice Age, such a finding would support Asmerom and colleagues' conclusion by suggesting that the two areas were affected by the same rainfall source, and thus that the ITCZ may have expanded rather than shifted.

Choice A is incorrect because there is no information in the text about how, if at all, the ITCZ affects temperature in areas where it is located. Rather, the text states that temperature variations across Earth's hemispheres can shift the position of the ITCZ. Finding that neither Yok Balum nor Huagapo data show evidence of significant

local variations in temperature during the Little Ice Age would have no clear bearing on Asmerom and colleagues' claim. Choice B is incorrect because finding that both Yok Balum and Huagapo experienced prolonged dry conditions during the Little Ice Age would not support Asmerom and colleagues' conclusion that the ITCZ, a major source of rainfall, may have expanded northward and southward rather than simply shifting south. Dry conditions in both locations would suggest that the ITCZ did not cover either location. Additionally, finding that temperatures were elevated in both locations would have no clear bearing on Asmerom and colleagues' conclusion, since there is no information in the text that indicates how, if at all, the ITCZ affects temperature. Choice C is incorrect because finding that Yok Balum experienced prolonged dry conditions at the same time that Huagapo experienced high rainfall would weaken Asmerom and colleagues' conclusion, not strengthen it. Such a finding would suggest that the ITCZ shifted south and left Central America dry rather than expanding both northward and southward.

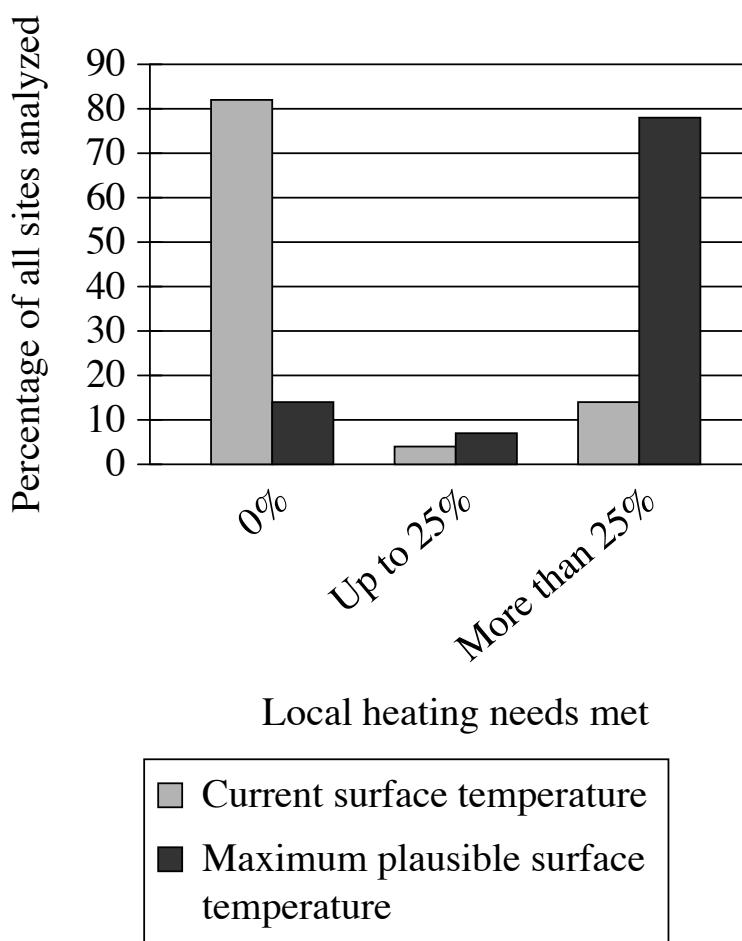
Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID be19faa1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: be19faa1

Home Heating Needs Met with Subsurface Thermal Pollution for Two Temperature Conditions, by Percentage of Sites



Urbanization, industrialization, and the warming climate create thermal pollution (excess heat) in the shallow subsurface soil. Susanne A. Benz and colleagues analyzed thousands of sites on three continents under one scenario in which surface temperature remains at the current level and under another in which the surface reaches the maximum plausible temperature. They then categorized each site according to the percentage of local home heating needs that could be met using this excess subsurface heat. The team concluded that if surface temperature approaches the maximum plausible level, the percentage of sites where thermal pollution could feasibly contribute to meeting home heating needs will increase.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support Benz and colleagues' conclusion?

- A. Under both temperature conditions, less than 10% of sites were in the up-to-25% group, but at the maximum plausible surface temperature, almost 80% of sites could have all their local heating needs met by thermal pollution.
- B. At current surface temperatures, more than 80% of the sites have no need for supplemental local home heating from subsurface thermal pollution, but at the maximum plausible surface temperature, more than 70% of sites exhibit significantly greater home heating needs.

- C. At current surface temperatures, more than 80% of sites can meet, at most, 25% of local home heating needs with subsurface thermal pollution, but at the maximum plausible surface temperature, more than 80% of sites can meet greater than 25% of local home heating needs.
- D. At current surface temperatures, more than 80% of the sites cannot use subsurface thermal pollution to meet any portion of local home heating needs, but at the maximum plausible surface temperature, that percentage drops below 20%.

ID: be19faa1 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The researchers concluded that as we approach maximum plausible surface temperatures, there will be a larger percentage of sites where thermal pollution could contribute to meeting home heating needs. By showing that only a small percentage of homes can currently use thermal pollution for home heating, and that this percentage would grow much larger at maximum plausible surface temperatures, this choice supports the researchers' conclusion.

Choice A is incorrect. We do not know how many sites could have all (i.e., 100%) of their local heating needs met by thermal pollution, as the graph only classifies sites by whether "0%," "Up to 25%," and "More than 25%" of heating needs could be met. Choice B is incorrect. The graph is not depicting need for supplemental heating from thermal pollution, but rather potential to use thermal pollution for supplemental heating. Choice C is incorrect. The graph indicates that, at current surface temperatures, less than 10% of sites can meet 25% of local home heating needs and that more than 80% of sites cannot meet any local home heating needs.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c2c61e7d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: c2c61e7d

Researchers hypothesized that a decline in the population of dusky sharks near the mid-Atlantic coast of North America led to a decline in the population of eastern oysters in the region. Dusky sharks do not typically consume eastern oysters but do consume cownose rays, which are the main predators of the oysters.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers' hypothesis?

- A. Declines in the regional abundance of dusky sharks' prey other than cownose rays are associated with regional declines in dusky shark abundance.
- B. Eastern oyster abundance tends to be greater in areas with both dusky sharks and cownose rays than in areas with only dusky sharks.
- C. Consumption of eastern oysters by cownose rays in the region substantially increased before the regional decline in dusky shark abundance began.
- D. Cownose rays have increased in regional abundance as dusky sharks have decreased in regional abundance.

ID: c2c61e7d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support the researchers' hypothesis about the connection between the dusky shark population decline and the eastern oyster population decline. The text indicates that although dusky sharks don't usually eat eastern oysters, they do consume cownose rays, which are the main predators of eastern oysters. An increase in the abundance of cownose rays in the region in response to a decline in the abundance of dusky sharks would directly support the researchers' hypothesis: a higher number of cownose rays would consume more eastern oysters, driving down the oyster population.

Choice A is incorrect because a finding that there's an association between a decline in the regional abundance of some of dusky sharks' prey and the regional abundance of dusky sharks wouldn't directly support the researchers' hypothesis that a decline in dusky sharks has led to a decline in eastern oysters in the region. Although such a finding might help explain why shark abundance has declined, it would reveal nothing about whether the shark decline is related to the oyster decline. Choice B is incorrect because a finding that eastern oyster abundance tends to be greater when dusky sharks and cownose rays are present than when only dusky sharks are present wouldn't support the researchers' hypothesis that a decline in dusky sharks has led to a decline in eastern oysters in the region. The text indicates that the sharks prey on the rays, which are the main predators of the oysters; if oyster abundance is found to be greater when rays are present than when rays are absent, that would suggest that rays aren't keeping oyster abundance down, and thus that a decline in rays' predators, which would be expected to lead to an increase in the abundance of rays, wouldn't bring about a decline in oyster abundance as the researchers hypothesize. Choice C is incorrect because a finding that consumption of eastern oysters by cownose rays increased substantially before dusky sharks declined in regional abundance wouldn't support the researchers' hypothesis that the decline in dusky sharks has led to a decline in eastern oysters in the region. Such a finding would suggest that some factor other than shark

abundance led to an increase in rays' consumption of oysters and thus to a decrease in oyster abundance, thereby weakening the researchers' hypothesis.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c83e0b43

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: c83e0b43

O Pioneers! is a 1913 novel by Willa Cather. In the novel, Cather depicts Alexandra Bergson as a person who takes comfort in understanding the world around her: _____

Which quotation from *O Pioneers!* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "She looked fixedly up the bleak street as if she were gathering her strength to face something, as if she were trying with all her might to grasp a situation which, no matter how painful, must be met and dealt with somehow."
- B. "She had never known before how much the country meant to her. The chirping of the insects down in the long grass had been like the sweetest music. She had felt as if her heart were hiding down there, somewhere, with the quail and the plover and all the little wild things that crooned or buzzed in the sun. Under the long shaggy ridges, she felt the future stirring."
- C. "Alexandra drove off alone. The rattle of her wagon was lost in the howling of the wind, but her lantern, held firmly between her feet, made a moving point of light along the highway, going deeper and deeper into the dark country."
- D. "Alexandra drew her shawl closer about her and stood leaning against the frame of the mill, looking at the stars which glittered so keenly through the frosty autumn air. She always loved to watch them, to think of their vastness and distance, and of their ordered march. It fortified her to reflect upon the great operations of nature, and when she thought of the law that lay behind them, she felt a sense of personal security."

ID: c83e0b43 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively uses a quotation from *O Pioneers!* to illustrate the claim that Alexandra Bergson takes comfort in understanding the world around her. In the quotation, Alexandra is described as enjoying looking at the stars and feeling a "sense of personal security" when she contemplates nature's order and its governing laws. This suggests that Alexandra takes comfort in understanding the world around her.

Choice A is incorrect because the quotation expresses how Alexandra Bergson attempts to meet difficult situations with determination, not how she takes comfort in understanding the world around her. Choice B is incorrect because the quotation expresses "how much the country meant to" Alexandra Bergson, not how she takes comfort in understanding the world around her. In detailing some of the wildlife surrounding Alexandra, the quotation conveys that nature is important to her but not necessarily that it gives her comfort. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation describes Alexandra driving her wagon down a highway at night; it doesn't describe how she takes comfort in understanding the world around her or address how she's feeling as she drives off.

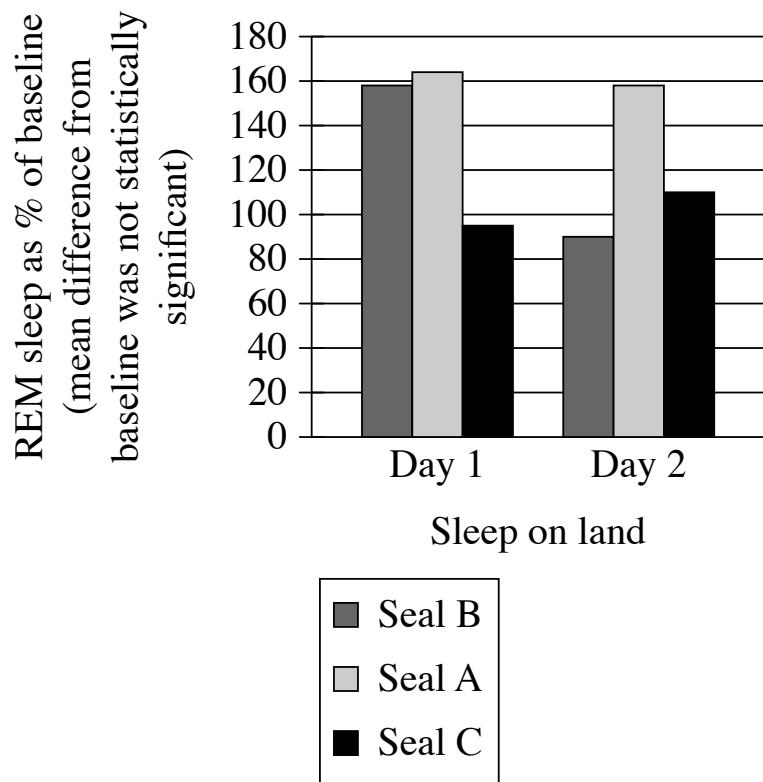
Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID ccb1ab92

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: ccb1ab92

Fur Seal REM Sleep on Land after an Extended Period in Water



Research suggests that REM sleep in animals is homeostatically regulated: animals compensate for periods of REM sleep deprivation by increasing subsequent REM sleep. When on land, fur seals get enough REM sleep, but during the weeks they're in the water, they get almost none. In a study of fur seals' sleep habits, researchers recorded the REM sleep (as a percentage of baseline) of fur seals once they had returned to land. They concluded that REM sleep may not be homeostatically regulated in fur seals, citing as evidence the fact that the seals in the study

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the text?

- A. didn't show significantly less REM sleep during the second day after returning to land than they did during the first day.
- B. showed no significant differences from one another in baseline levels of REM sleep.
- C. didn't consistently demonstrate a significant increase in REM sleep after their period of deprivation in the water.
- D. showed no significant difference between REM sleep after returning to land and REM sleep while in the water.

ID: ccb1ab92 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. If REM sleep were homeostatically regulated in fur seals, then all the seals would compensate with REM levels significantly over baseline after going weeks without REM. We'd also expect the seals to maintain those elevated REM levels for some time. Since seals B and C return very quickly to baseline REM levels, this suggests that REM sleep in fur seals may not be regulated homeostatically.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn't support the conclusion. If REM sleep were homeostatically regulated in fur seals, then we'd suspect the seals to sustain REM levels well above baseline for a prolonged period in order to compensate for weeks of REM deprivation while in the water. Whether or not there's a reduction in REM sleep from day 1 to day 2 doesn't tell us how REM sleep on those days relates to baseline, which is where our focus should be. Choice B is incorrect. The y-axis of this graph doesn't depict baseline levels of REM sleep, but rather shows REM sleep as a percent of baseline. Choice D is incorrect. The graph doesn't depict REM sleep while in the water for the seals in the study. Additionally, we're told fur seals get no REM sleep while in the water, which is significantly different to the values shown in the graph for after they return to land.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID d102706f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: d102706f

Estimates of Tyrannosaurid Bite Force

Study	Year	Estimation method	Approximate bite force (newtons)
Cost et al.	2019	muscular and skeletal modeling	35,000–63,000
Gignac and Erickson	2017	tooth-bone interaction analysis	8,000–34,000
Meers	2002	body-mass scaling	183,000–235,000
Bates and Falkingham	2012	muscular and skeletal modeling	35,000–57,000

The largest tyrannosaurids—the family of carnivorous dinosaurs that includes *Tarbosaurus*, *Albertosaurus*, and, most famously, *Tyrannosaurus rex*—are thought to have had the strongest bites of any land animals in Earth's history. Determining the bite force of extinct animals can be difficult, however, and paleontologists Paul Barrett and Emily Rayfield have suggested that an estimate of dinosaur bite force may be significantly influenced by the methodology used in generating that estimate.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support Barrett and Rayfield's suggestion?

- A. The study by Meers used body-mass scaling and produced the lowest estimated maximum bite force, while the study by Cost et al. used muscular and skeletal modeling and produced the highest estimated maximum.
- B. In their study, Gignac and Erickson used tooth-bone interaction analysis to produce an estimated bite force range with a minimum of 8,000 newtons and a maximum of 34,000 newtons.
- C. The bite force estimates produced by Bates and Falkingham and by Cost et al. were similar to each other, while the estimates produced by Meers and by Gignac and Erickson each differed substantially from any other estimate.
- D. The estimated maximum bite force produced by Cost et al. exceeded the estimated maximum produced by Bates and Falkingham, even though both groups of researchers used the same method to generate their estimates.

ID: d102706f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it accurately describes data from the table that support Barrett and Rayfield's suggestion about bite force estimates. According to the text, Barrett and Rayfield believe that estimates of dinosaur bite force may be strongly influenced by the methods used to produce them—that is, that different methods may produce significantly different results. The table shows that the studies by Bates and Falkingham and by Cost et al. used the same estimation method (muscular and skeletal modeling) and produced similar bite force estimates (approximately 35,000–57,000 newtons and 35,000–63,000 newtons, respectively). The study by Meers, however, used body-mass scaling and produced a much higher bite force estimate (183,000–235,000 newtons), while the study by Gignac and Erickson used tooth-bone interaction analysis and produced a much lower bite force estimate (8,000–34,000 newtons). The fact that one method produced similar estimates in

two different studies and that two different methods used in other studies produced substantially different estimates supports the idea that dinosaur bite force estimates are significantly influenced by the methodology used to produce them.

Choice A is incorrect because it inaccurately describes data from the table. The table does show that the studies by Meers and by Cost et al. used different estimation methods and produced very different ranges of estimated dinosaur bite force, which would support Barrett and Rayfield's suggestion that different methodologies may produce significantly different estimates. However, the table doesn't show that the study by Meers produced the lowest estimated maximum bite force while the study by Cost et al. produced the highest. In fact, the study by Meers estimated a maximum bite force of approximately 235,000 newtons, which is the highest of all the estimated maximums. Choice B is incorrect. Although the data from Gignac and Ericson's study are accurately described, a single set of findings from one study using only one methodology can't show that different methodologies may produce significantly different dinosaur bite force estimates, as Barrett and Rayfield suggest. Choice D is incorrect. Although the table shows that the maximum bite force estimated by Cost et al. was higher than that estimated by Bates and Falkingham, the difference is relatively small; in fact, both teams estimated a minimum bite force of approximately 35,000 newtons and a maximum bite force close to approximately 60,000 newtons. Because these findings demonstrate that a single methodology (muscular and skeletal modeling) produced similar overall results in two studies, the findings don't support Barrett and Rayfield's suggestion that different methodologies may produce significantly different dinosaur bite force estimates.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID dc87adf4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: dc87adf4

Barchester Towers is an 1857 novel by Anthony Trollope. In the novel, Trollope's portrayal of Dr. Proudie underscores the character's exaggerated sense of his own abilities: _____

Which quotation from *Barchester Towers* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "It must not...be taken as proved that Dr. Proudie was a man of great mental powers, or even of much capacity for business, for such qualities had not been required in him."
- B. "[Dr. Proudie] was comparatively young, and had, as he fondly flattered himself, been selected as possessing such gifts, natural and acquired, as must be sure to recommend him to a yet higher notice."
- C. "[Dr. Proudie's] residence in the metropolis, rendered necessary by duties thus entrusted to him, his high connexions, and the peculiar talents and nature of the man, recommended him to persons in power."
- D. "[Dr. Proudie] was certainly possessed of sufficient tact to answer the purpose for which he was required without making himself troublesome."

ID: dc87adf4 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. In this quotation, Dr. Proudie is described as "fondly flatter[ing] himself" that he has gifts that "must be sure to recommend him to a yet higher notice." In other words, he expects his skills to push him to greater fame and success. This implies an exaggerated sense of his own abilities, which matches the claim we're trying to support.

Choice A is incorrect. This quotation doesn't describe Proudie's view of himself, nor does it paint him in an especially flattering light. Instead, by saying his mental powers and business skill are not "proved," it implies that he is actually dim-witted and bad at business. Choice C is incorrect. This choice describes Proudie's closeness to power and importance, but it doesn't show what Proudie thinks of himself. Proudie is not describing himself or his abilities here. The narrator is. Choice D is incorrect. While this quotation offers Proudie very mild praise, it doesn't show what Proudie thinks of himself or his own abilities, which is what the claim focuses on.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID dd1757fd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: dd1757fd

Neural networks are computer models intended to reflect the organization of human brains and are often used in studies of brain function. According to an analysis of 11,000 such networks, Rylan Schaeffer and colleagues advise caution when drawing conclusions about brains from observations of neural networks. They found that when attempting to mimic grid cells (brain cells used in navigation), while 90% of the networks could accomplish navigation-related tasks, only about 10% of those exhibited any behaviors similar to those of grid cells. But even this approximation of grid-cell activity has less to do with similarity between the neural networks and biological brains than it does with the rules programmed into the networks.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the claim in the underlined sentence?

- A. The rules that allow for networks to exhibit behaviors like those of grid cells have no equivalent in the function of biological brains.
- B. The networks that do not exhibit behaviors like those of grid cells were nonetheless programmed with rules that had proven useful in earlier neural-network studies.
- C. Neural networks can often accomplish tasks that biological brains do, but they are typically programmed with rules to model multiple types of brain cells simultaneously.
- D. Once a neural network is programmed, it is trained on certain tasks to see if it can independently arrive at processes that are similar to those performed by biological brains.

ID: dd1757fd Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. While many networks can perform navigation tasks, or even mimic grid cells, it doesn't mean they're actually behaving like biological brains—this finding suggests that the rules that govern neural network behavior are completely unlike the way real brains work.

Choice B is incorrect. Although it mentions the rules that are programmed into the networks, this finding wouldn't clarify whether or not these rules have anything to do with the function of biological brains. Choice C is incorrect. This choice suggests that neural networks are modeled after multiple types of brain cells, which sidesteps the question of whether these rule-based networks are genuinely similar to biological brains. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't address the key point of the claim, which is that the apparent similarity between neural networks and biological brains is only due to the rules programmed into the networks. It focuses on training tasks, not the originally programmed rules.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID df9c5a1d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: df9c5a1d

Juvenile Plants Found Growing on Bare Ground and in Patches of Vegetation for Five Species

Species	Bare ground	Patches of vegetation	Total	Percent found in patches of vegetation
<i>T. moroderi</i>	9	13	22	59.1%
<i>T. libanitis</i>	83	120	203	59.1%
<i>H. syriacim</i>	95	106	201	52.7%
<i>H. squamatum</i>	218	321	539	59.6%
<i>H. stoechas</i>	11	12	23	52.2%

Alicia Montesinos-Navarro, Isabelle Storer, and Rocío Pérez-Barrales recently examined several plots within a diverse plant community in southeast Spain. The researchers calculated that if individual plants were randomly distributed on this particular landscape, only about 15% would be with other plants in patches of vegetation. They counted the number of juvenile plants of five species growing in patches of vegetation and the number growing alone on bare ground and compared those numbers to what would be expected if the plants were randomly distributed. Based on these results, they claim that plants of these species that grow in close proximity to other plants gain an advantage at an early developmental stage.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the researchers' claim?

- A. For all five species, less than 75% of juvenile plants were growing in patches of vegetation.
- B. The species with the greatest number of juvenile plants growing in patches of vegetation was *H. stoechas*.
- C. For *T. libanitis* and *T. moroderi*, the percentage of juvenile plants growing in patches of vegetation was less than what would be expected if plants were randomly distributed.
- D. For each species, the percentage of juvenile plants growing in patches of vegetation was substantially higher than what would be expected if plants were randomly distributed.

ID: df9c5a1d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it provides the most direct support from the table for the claim that the plants growing in close proximity to other plants gained an advantage at an early developmental stage. The table shows the total number of juvenile plants from five species that were found growing on bare ground and in patches of vegetation as well as the percentage of the total number of each species that were growing in patches of vegetation. For each of the five species, more than 50% of the juvenile plants were growing in patches of vegetation. The text notes, however, that a random distribution of plants across the landscape should result in only about 15% of the plants being found in patches of vegetation. In other words, for each of the five species, the

percentage of juvenile plants found growing in patches of vegetation was substantially higher than could be explained by chance alone. This finding supports the claim in the text: if plants growing in patches are overrepresented among plants that have survived to the juvenile stage, as the data show they are, then it suggests that it's advantageous for plants at an early stage of development to grow in patches of vegetation.

Choice A is incorrect because the statement that less than 75% of juvenile plants were found growing in patches of vegetation, while true, doesn't clearly support the claim that the plants growing in close proximity to other plants gained an advantage at an early developmental stage. Saying that less than 75% of plants were found in patches doesn't indicate how the percentage growing in patches compares with the percentage that would be expected to grow in patches on the basis of chance alone, which is the information necessary to evaluate whether the claim in the text has support in the table. Put another way, if the percentage of plants found growing in patches was 15% or less, it would be true that less than 75% were found in patches, but the data would in fact weaken the claim in the text, not strengthen it, since the data would show that growing in patches wasn't advantageous. Choice B is incorrect because only 12 plants of this species were found growing in patches, which was the lowest number of any species, not the greatest number. Additionally, even if it were true that this species had the greatest number of plants growing in patches, the finding would be irrelevant to the claim that plants of all five species gained an advantage by growing in close proximity to other plants. Choice C is incorrect because 59.1% of the plants of these species were found growing in patches, which is a far greater percentage, not a lower percentage, than what would be expected if plants were randomly distributed (around 15%). Additionally, if it were true that the percentage of plants growing in patches was lower for these species than what would be expected from chance alone, that finding would weaken, not strengthen, the claim that growing in patches is advantageous.

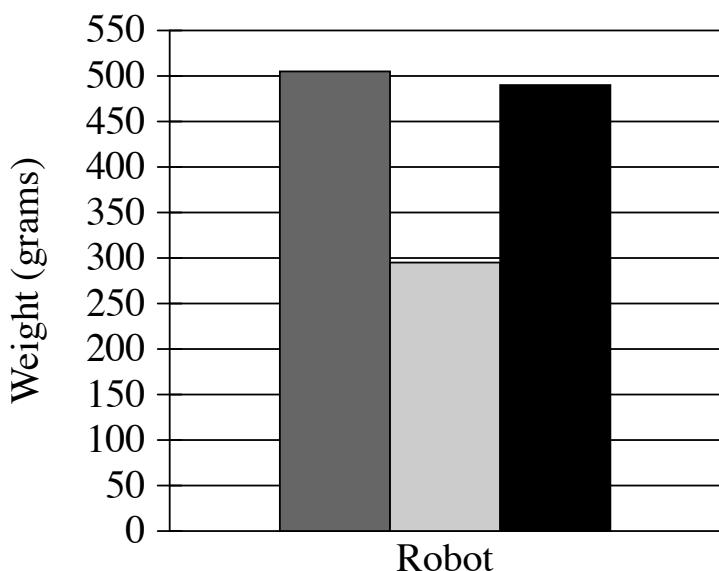
Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID df37c087

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	3

ID: df37c087

Weight of Three Aerial Robots



- Ultra-Fast Robot Hand
- Permanent Magnet Hand
- Yale Model T

Aerial robots vary considerably in their holding force; the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand, for example, has a holding force of 56 newtons, more than twice that of the Permanent Magnet Hand and more than four times that of the Yale Model T. Since an aerial robot must lift its own weight along with its cargo, engineer Jiawei Meng and colleagues used a ratio of each robot's holding force to the robot's weight to calculate payload capacity, with higher ratios corresponding to greater capacity, concluding that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a higher payload capacity than the Yale Model T.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support Meng and colleagues' conclusion?

- A. The Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T each weigh more than 450 grams.
- B. The Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T each weigh more than the Permanent Magnet Hand does.
- C. The Yale Model T has a lower holding force than the Permanent Magnet Hand despite weighing more.
- D. The Ultra-Fast Robot Hand weighs only slightly more than the Yale Model T does.

ID: df37c087 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it describes data in the graph that support Meng and colleagues' conclusion that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a higher payload capacity than the Yale Model T. According to the text, payload capacity is calculated by using a ratio of a robot's holding force to the robot's weight, and higher ratios indicate a greater payload capacity. The Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a holding force of 56 newtons, four times greater than that of the Yale Model T. Additionally, the graph shows that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a weight of approximately 500 grams, slightly more than the Yale Model T's weight of approximately 480 grams. Therefore, the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a higher ratio of holding force to weight than the Yale Model T. Since higher ratios correspond to greater payload capacity, the information from the graph indicating that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand weighs only slightly more than the Yale Model T combined with the information in the text ultimately supports the conclusion that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a higher payload capacity than the Yale Model T.

Choice A is incorrect. Although, according to the graph, it's true that both the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T weigh more than 450 grams, this statement doesn't support Meng and colleagues' conclusion that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a higher payload capacity than the Yale Model T. This statement emphasizes a similarity, not a distinction, between the two robots. Choice B is incorrect. Although, according to the graph, it's true that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T both weigh more than the Permanent Magnet Hand does, this statement doesn't support Meng and colleagues' conclusion that the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand has a higher payload capacity than the Yale Model T. This statement emphasizes a similarity, not a distinction, between the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T. Furthermore, the comparison to the Permanent Magnet Hand is irrelevant to the claim about the relative ratios and payload capacities of the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text states that the Yale Model T has a lower holding force than the Permanent Magnet Hand, the graph provides no information about holding force. Moreover, information about the Permanent Magnet Hand is irrelevant to the conclusion by Meng and colleagues, which only concerns the Ultra-Fast Robot Hand and the Yale Model T.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID df91532e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: df91532e

In the “language nest” model of education, Indigenous children learn the language of their people by using it as the medium of instruction and socialization at pre-K or elementary levels. In their 2016 study of a school in an Anishinaabe community in Ontario, Canada, scholars Lindsay Morcom and Stephanie Roy (who are Anishinaabe themselves) found that the model not only imparted fluency in the Anishinaabe language but also enhanced students’ pride in Anishinaabe culture overall. Given these positive effects, Morcom and Roy predict that the model increases the probability that as adults, former students of the school will transmit the language to younger generations in their community.

Which finding, if true, would most strongly support the researchers’ prediction?

- A. Anishinaabe adults who didn’t attend the school feel roughly the same degree of cultural pride as the former students of the school feel.
- B. After transferring to the school, new students experience an increase in both fluency and academic performance overall.
- C. As adults, former students of the school are just as likely to continue living in their community as individuals who didn’t attend the school.
- D. As they complete secondary and higher education, former students of the school experience no loss of fluency or cultural pride.

ID: df91532e Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support the researchers’ prediction about the language nest model of education. The text states that Morcom and Roy studied the effects of the language nest model of education on students at an Anishinaabe school, and they found that the model—which is used with students during pre-K or elementary school—increased students’ fluency in the Anishinaabe language and pride in Anishinaabe culture. The researchers predicted that the students’ positive early experiences with the Anishinaabe language would lead them to be more likely to later share the language with younger generations. If former students maintain full fluency and cultural pride after finishing secondary and higher education, it follows that they would be both able and motivated to share what they know with others; this would likely result in a higher probability of transmitting the language to younger generations, as the researchers predict.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that Anishinaabe adults who didn’t attend the school feel approximately the same degree of cultural pride as those adults who did attend wouldn’t support the researchers’ prediction that former students will be more likely to share their knowledge with younger generations. This finding would identify a similarity between the groups rather than a factor that might make former students more likely than other adults to transmit the language to younger people. Choice B is incorrect because finding that new students experience increased performance in language fluency and academics would suggest that the school has a positive effect on students when they attended but wouldn’t reveal anything about those students’ later actions

as adults (such as their likelihood of sharing their knowledge with younger generations). Choice C is incorrect because finding that Anishinaabe adults who attended the school are equally likely to stay in the community as adults who didn't attend the school wouldn't support the researchers' prediction that former students will be more likely to share their knowledge with younger generations. This finding would identify a similarity between the groups rather than a factor that might make former students more likely than other adults to transmit the language to younger people.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e946a32e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: e946a32e

Boldly mixing elements of poetry, fiction, drama, philosophy, and manifesto, Puerto Rican writer Giannina Braschi creates cross-genre literature that explores themes such as immigration and independence. Her works have inspired responses from individuals across different fields and in a wide range of formats, from musical compositions and a comic book to architecture and furniture design. In an essay, a student asserts that the production of these diverse creations by others is reflective of Braschi's own approach to crafting literature.

Which quotation from a scholarly review of Braschi's work best supports the student's claim?

- A. "Braschi is the focus of a 2020 collection of essays in which fifteen scholars from seven different countries delved into the linguistic and structural patterns of her writings."
- B. "Braschi's eagerness to push boundaries and blend genres within literature invites us to consider how other art forms might also engage with literature."
- C. "Before settling in New York City, where she would go on to become a college professor, Braschi studied both literature and philosophy in several cities around the world."
- D. "In addition to her creative literary works, Braschi has produced academic pieces analyzing writings by Miguel de Cervantes, Federico García Lorca, and other authors."

ID: e946a32e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents the quotation that best supports the student's claim about Braschi. By describing how Braschi's blending of genres invites her audience to think about how other art forms could also engage with literature, the quotation supports the idea that the diversity of responses to Braschi's work reflects Braschi's own approach to creating literature.

Choice A is incorrect because the quotation describes scholars from different countries writing essays about Braschi's use of language in her writings; it doesn't address how Braschi's creation of cross-genre literature inspires diverse types of responses, which is the claim the student makes. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation focuses on the fact that Braschi studied in several different cities, which doesn't address the student's claim that Braschi's creation of cross-genre literature inspires diverse types of responses. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation lists some of the authors who Braschi has written academic works about, which is irrelevant to the student's claim that Braschi's creation of cross-genre literature inspires diverse types of responses.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID ec93e52c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: ec93e52c

Archaeologist Petra Vaiglova, anthropologist Xinyi Liu, and their colleagues investigated the domestication of farm animals in China during the Bronze Age (approximately 2000 to 1000 BCE). By analyzing the chemical composition of the bones of sheep, goats, and cattle from this era, the team determined that wild plants made up the bulk of sheep's and goats' diets, while the cattle's diet consisted largely of millet, a crop cultivated by humans. The team concluded that cattle were likely raised closer to human settlements, whereas sheep and goats were allowed to roam farther away.

Which finding, if true, would most strongly support the team's conclusion?

- A. Analysis of the animal bones showed that the cattle's diet also consisted of wheat, which humans widely cultivated in China during the Bronze Age.
- B. Further investigation of sheep and goat bones revealed that their diets consisted of small portions of millet as well.
- C. Cattle's diets generally require larger amounts of food and a greater variety of nutrients than do sheep's and goats' diets.
- D. The diets of sheep, goats, and cattle were found to vary based on what the farmers in each Bronze Age settlement could grow.

ID: ec93e52c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most strongly support the team's conclusion that cattle were likely raised closer to human settlements than sheep and goats were. The text explains that Vaiglova, Liu, and their colleagues analyzed the chemical composition of sheep, goat, and cattle bones from the Bronze Age in China in order to investigate the animals' domestication, or their adaptation from a wild state to a state in which they existed in close connection with humans. According to the text, the team's analysis showed that sheep and goats of the era fed largely on wild plants, whereas cattle fed on millet—importantly, a crop cultivated by humans. If analysis of the animal bones shows that the cattle's diet also consisted of wheat, another crop cultivated by humans in China during the Bronze Age, the finding would support the team's conclusion by offering additional evidence that cattle during this era fed on human-grown crops—and, by extension, that humans raised cattle relatively close to the settlements where they grew these crops, leaving goats and sheep to roam farther away in areas with wild vegetation, uncultivated by humans.

Choice B is incorrect because if it were true that sheep's and goats' diets consisted of small portions of millet, which the text states was a crop cultivated by humans, the finding would suggest that sheep and goats were raised relatively close to human settlements, weakening the team's conclusion that cattle were likely raised closer to those settlements than sheep and goats were. Choice C is incorrect because the finding that cattle generally require more food and nutrients than do sheep and goats wouldn't support the team's conclusion that cattle were likely raised closer to human settlements than sheep and goats were. Nothing in the text suggests that cattle were incapable of obtaining sufficient food and nutrients without access to human-grown crops.

Hence, even if cattle's diets are found to have different requirements than the diets of sheep and goats, the cattle could have met those requirements from food located far from human settlements. Choice D is incorrect because if it were true that the diets of sheep, goats, and cattle varied based on what the farmers in each Bronze Age settlement could grow, the finding would weaken the team's conclusion that cattle were likely raised closer to human settlements than sheep and goats were, suggesting instead that all three types of animals were raised close enough to human settlements to feed on those settlements' crops.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID f9c4bdab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	

ID: f9c4bdab

A student is writing a paper about *One Night in Miami...*, a 2020 film directed by Regina King and written by Kemp Powers. Powers adapted the film's screenplay from his 2013 play, which he wrote after learning about a 1964 meeting that took place in Miami, Florida, between four prominent figures of the Civil Rights movement: Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, Jim Brown, and Sam Cooke. The student claims that although Powers was inspired by this meeting, the film is best understood not as a precise retelling of historical events but rather as a largely imagined but informed representation of them.

Which quotation from an article about *One Night in Miami...* would be the most effective evidence for the student to include in support of this claim?

- A. "When Powers learned of the meeting, he initially planned to write a much longer work about its four famous participants rather than focusing on the meeting itself."
- B. "*One Night in Miami...* received numerous awards and nominations, including an Academy Award nomination for Powers for Best Adapted Screenplay."
- C. "Powers has described *One Night in Miami...* as the story of four friends encouraging and supporting one another while engaged in a crucial political debate about how best to achieve equality for Black people in the United States."
- D. "Powers could find only the most superficial historical details about the meeting, so he read extensively about the four individuals and their thinking at the time in an effort to portray what might have happened between them."

ID: f9c4bdab Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it provides a quotation that effectively supports the student's claim about the film *One Night in Miami...*. The quotation states that in researching the play on which the film was based, Kemp Powers only found superficial details about what actually happened during the 1964 meeting in Miami between four leading Civil Rights leaders, meaning that there is very little information about the meeting in the historical record. In the absence of greater details, it wouldn't have been possible for the film to be a precise retelling of the historical events it depicts. The quotation explains that to compensate for this lack of information about the meeting, Powers did extensive research into the four figures and how they thought at the time in order to speculate in an informed way about what they might have said or what might have occurred between them. Therefore, the quotation effectively supports the claim that the film is best understood not as a precise retelling of a historical event but as a deeply informed imaginative rendering of that event.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the quotation discusses how on learning about the 1964 meeting in Miami, Powers was inspired to write a play and, later, to adapt it into a screenplay, it doesn't discuss Powers's approach to representing what had occurred in the meeting. Instead, it states that Powers didn't initially plan to write a story only "focusing on the meeting itself" but rather had considered writing a "much longer" and more expansive work about the meeting's four participants. Choice B is incorrect because the quotation doesn't

discuss Powers's approach to representing historical events in his play and in the film; instead, the quotation focuses on the film's positive critical reception by mentioning that it received numerous awards and nominations. Choice C is incorrect. Although the quotation references historical events that are discussed directly in the play and film by explaining how the four historical figures featured in the story engage in political debates about contemporary issues, it doesn't specify to what extent Powers's representation of what occurred during the 1964 meeting in Miami is a factual retelling of what happened and how much is an imaginative rendering of what might have happened. Rather, the quotation focuses on Powers's description of the film's basic premise and how the characters engage with the historical context of its setting.

Question Difficulty: Hard