

RC00433-11

494. The passage suggests which of the following about the seventeenth-century English women mentioned in line 2?
- Their status as forerunners of modern feminism is not entirely justified.
 - They did not openly challenge the radical patriarchalism of Royalist Filmerian ideology.
 - Cavendish was the first among these women to criticize women's subordination in marriage and assert women's equality with men.
 - Their views on family organization and women's political rights were diametrically opposed to those of both Royalist and Parliamentarian ideology.
 - Historians would be less puzzled if more of them were identified with the Parliamentarian side in the English Civil Wars.

RC00433-04

495. The passage suggests that Margaret Cavendish's decision to become an author was motivated, at least in part, by a desire to
- justify her support for the Royalist cause
 - encourage her readers to work toward eradicating Filmerian patriarchalism
 - persuade other women to break free from their political and social isolation
 - analyze the causes for women's exclusion from the pursuit of power
 - create a world over which she could exercise total control

RC00433-08

496. The phrase "a satellite orbiting a dominant male planet" (lines 41–42) refers most directly to
- Cavendish's concept that each woman is a sovereign self
 - the complete political and social isolation of absolute singularity
 - the immaterial world that a writer can create on paper
 - the absolute subordination of women in a patriarchal society
 - the metaphorical figure of the absolute monarch

RC00433-06

497. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- trace the historical roots of a modern sociopolitical movement
 - present one scholar's explanation for a puzzling historical phenomenon
 - contrast two interpretations of the ideological origins of a political conflict
 - establish a link between the ideology of an influential political theorist and that of a notoriously eccentric writer
 - call attention to some points of agreement between opposing sides in an ideological debate

RC00433-09

498. Which of the following, if true, would most clearly undermine Gallagher's explanation of the link between Royalism and feminism?
- Because of their privileged backgrounds, Royalist women were generally better educated than were their Parliamentarian counterparts.
 - Filmer himself had read some of Cavendish's early writings and was highly critical of her ideas.
 - Cavendish's views were highly individual and were not shared by the other Royalist women who wrote early feminist works.
 - The Royalist and Parliamentarian ideologies were largely in agreement on issues of family organization and women's political rights.
 - The Royalist side included a sizable minority faction that was opposed to the more radical tendencies of Filmerian patriarchalism.

Line Frazier and Mosteller assert that medical research could be improved by a move toward larger, simpler clinical trials of medical treatments. Currently, researchers collect far more background information (5) on patients than is strictly required for their trials—substantially more than hospitals collect—thereby escalating costs of data collection, storage, and analysis. Although limiting information collection could increase the risk that researchers will overlook facts relevant to a study, Frazier and Mosteller contend that such risk, never entirely eliminable from (10) research, would still be small in most studies. Only in research on entirely new treatments are new and unexpected variables likely to arise.

(15) Frazier and Mosteller propose not only that researchers limit data collection on individual patients but also that researchers enroll more patients in clinical trials, thereby obtaining a more representative sample of the total population with the disease under study. Often researchers restrict study participation to patients who have no ailments besides those being studied. A treatment judged (20) successful under these ideal conditions can then be evaluated under normal conditions. Broadening the range of trial participants, Frazier and Mosteller suggest, would enable researchers to evaluate a treatment's efficacy for diverse patients under various conditions and to evaluate its effectiveness for different patient subgroups. For example, the value (25) of a treatment for a progressive disease may vary according to a patient's stage of disease. Patients' ages may also affect a treatment's efficacy.

(30)

Questions 499–503 refer to the passage.

RC00312-01

499. The passage is primarily concerned with

- (A) identifying two practices in medical research that may affect the accuracy of clinical trials
- (B) describing aspects of medical research that tend to drive up costs
- (C) evaluating an analysis of certain shortcomings of current medical research practices
- (D) describing proposed changes to the ways in which clinical trials are conducted
- (E) explaining how medical researchers have traditionally conducted clinical trials and how such trials are likely to change

RC00312-03

500. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about a study of the category of patients referred to in lines 20–22?

- (A) Its findings might have limited applicability.
- (B) It would be prohibitively expensive in its attempt to create ideal conditions.
- (C) It would be the best way to sample the total population of potential patients.
- (D) It would allow researchers to limit information collection without increasing the risk that important variables could be overlooked.
- (E) Its findings would be more accurate if it concerned treatments for a progressive disease than if it concerned treatments for a nonprogressive disease.

7.4 Reading Comprehension Practice Questions

RC00312-04

501. It can be inferred from the passage that a study limited to patients like those mentioned in lines 20–22 would have which of the following advantages over the kind of study proposed by Frazier and Mosteller?
- (A) It would yield more data and its findings would be more accurate.
 - (B) It would cost less in the long term, though it would be more expensive in its initial stages.
 - (C) It would limit the number of variables researchers would need to consider when evaluating the treatment under study.
 - (D) It would help researchers to identify subgroups of patients with secondary conditions that might also be treatable.
 - (E) It would enable researchers to assess the value of an experimental treatment for the average patient.

RC00312-05

502. The author mentions patients' ages (line 32) primarily in order to
- (A) identify the most critical variable differentiating subgroups of patients
 - (B) cast doubt on the advisability of implementing Frazier and Mosteller's proposals about medical research
 - (C) indicate why progressive diseases may require different treatments at different stages
 - (D) illustrate a point about the value of enrolling a wide range of patients in clinical trials
 - (E) substantiate an argument about the problems inherent in enrolling large numbers of patients in clinical trials

RC00312-06

503. According to the passage, which of the following describes a result of the way in which researchers generally conduct clinical trials?
- (A) They expend resources on the storage of information likely to be irrelevant to the study they are conducting.
 - (B) They sometimes compromise the accuracy of their findings by collecting and analyzing more information than is strictly required for their trials.
 - (C) They avoid the risk of overlooking variables that might affect their findings, even though doing so raises their research costs.
 - (D) Because they attempt to analyze too much information, they overlook facts that could emerge as relevant to their studies.
 - (E) In order to approximate the conditions typical of medical treatment, they base their methods of information collection on those used by hospitals.

Line There are recent reports of apparently drastic declines in amphibian populations and of extinctions of a number of the world's endangered amphibian species. These declines, if real, may be signs of a
(5) general trend toward extinction, and many environmentalists have claimed that immediate environmental action is necessary to remedy this "amphibian crisis," which, in their view, is an indicator of general and catastrophic environmental degradation due to human activity.

To evaluate these claims, it is useful to make a preliminary distinction that is far too often ignored. A declining population should not be confused with an endangered one. An endangered population is
(10) always rare, almost always small, and, by definition, under constant threat of extinction even without a proximate cause in human activities. Its disappearance, however unfortunate, should come as no great surprise. Moreover, chance events—which may indicate nothing about the direction of trends in population size—may lead to its extinction. The probability of extinction due to such random factors depends on the population size and is independent of the prevailing direction of change in that size.

(15) (20) (25) For biologists, population declines are potentially more worrisome than extinctions. Persistent declines, especially in large populations, indicate a changed ecological context. Even here, distinctions must again be made among declines that are only apparent (in the sense that they are part of habitual cycles or of normal fluctuations), declines that take a population to some lower but still acceptable level, and those that threaten extinction (e.g., by taking the number of individuals below the minimum viable population). Anecdotal reports of population decreases cannot distinguish among these possibilities, and some amphibian populations have shown strong fluctuations in the past.

(30) (35) (40) It is indisputably true that there is simply not enough long-term scientific data on amphibian populations to enable researchers to identify real declines in amphibian populations. Many fairly common amphibian species declared all but extinct after severe declines in the 1950s and 1960s have subsequently recovered, and so might the apparently declining populations that have generated the current appearance of an amphibian crisis. Unfortunately, long-term data will not soon be forthcoming, and postponing environmental action while we wait for it may doom species and whole ecosystems to extinction.

Questions 504–509 refer to the passage.

RC00229-01

504. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) assess the validity of a certain view
- (B) distinguish between two phenomena
- (C) identify the causes of a problem
- (D) describe a disturbing trend
- (E) allay concern about a particular phenomenon

RC00229-02

505. It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes which of the following to be true of the environmentalists mentioned in lines 5–6?

- (A) They have wrongly chosen to focus on anecdotal reports rather than on the long-term data that are currently available concerning amphibians.
- (B) Their recommendations are flawed because their research focuses too narrowly on a single category of animal species.
- (C) Their certainty that population declines in general are caused by environmental degradation is not warranted.
- (D) They have drawn premature conclusions concerning a crisis in amphibian populations from recent reports of declines.
- (E) They have overestimated the effects of chance events on trends in amphibian populations.

RC00229-03

506. It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes which of the following to be true of the amphibian extinctions that have recently been reported?

- (A) They have resulted primarily from human activities causing environmental degradation.
- (B) They could probably have been prevented if timely action had been taken to protect the habitats of amphibian species.
- (C) They should not come as a surprise, because amphibian populations generally have been declining for a number of years.
- (D) They have probably been caused by a combination of chance events.
- (E) They do not clearly constitute evidence of general environmental degradation.

7.4 Reading Comprehension Practice Questions

RC00229-04

507. According to the passage, each of the following is true of endangered amphibian species EXCEPT:
- (A) They are among the rarest kinds of amphibians.
 - (B) They generally have populations that are small in size.
 - (C) They are in constant danger of extinction.
 - (D) Those with decreasing populations are the most likely candidates for immediate extinction.
 - (E) They are in danger of extinction due to events that sometimes have nothing to do with human activities.

RC00229-05

508. Which of the following most accurately describes the organization of the passage?
- (A) A question is raised, a distinction regarding it is made, and the question is answered.
 - (B) An interpretation is presented, its soundness is examined, and a warning is given.
 - (C) A situation is described, its consequences are analyzed, and a prediction is made.
 - (D) Two interpretations of a phenomenon are described, and one of them is rejected as invalid.
 - (E) Two methods for analyzing a phenomenon are compared, and further study of the phenomenon is recommended.

RC00229-06

509. Which of the following best describes the function of the sentence in lines 35–38?
- (A) To give an example of a particular kind of study
 - (B) To cast doubt on an assertion made in the previous sentence
 - (C) To raise an objection to a view presented in the first paragraph
 - (D) To provide support for a view presented in the first paragraph
 - (E) To introduce an idea that will be countered in the following paragraph

Line While the most abundant and dominant species within a particular ecosystem is often crucial in perpetuating the ecosystem, a “keystone” species, here defined as one whose effects are much larger than would be predicted from its abundance, can also play a vital role. But because complex species interactions may be involved, identifying a keystone species by removing the species and observing changes in the ecosystem is problematic. It might seem that certain traits would clearly define a species as a keystone species; for example, *Pisaster ochraceus* is often a keystone predator because it consumes and suppresses mussel populations, which in the absence of this starfish can be a dominant species. But such predation on a dominant or potentially dominant species occurs in systems that do as well as in systems that do not have species that play keystone roles. Moreover, whereas *P. ochraceus* occupies an unambiguous keystone role on wave-exposed rocky headlands, in more wave-sheltered habitats the impact of *P. ochraceus* predation is weak or nonexistent, and at certain sites sand burial is responsible for eliminating mussels. Keystone status appears to depend on context, whether of particular geography or of such factors as community diversity (for example, a reduction in species diversity may thrust more of the remaining species into keystone roles) and length of species interaction (since newly arrived species in particular may dramatically affect ecosystems).

Questions 510–513 refer to the passage.

RC00556-03

510. The passage mentions which of the following as a factor that affects the role of *P. ochraceus* as a keystone species within different habitats?
- The degree to which the habitat is sheltered from waves
 - The degree to which other animals within a habitat prey on mussels
 - The fact that mussel populations are often not dominant within some habitats occupied by *P. ochraceus*
 - The size of the *P. ochraceus* population within the habitat
 - The fact that there is great species diversity within some habitats occupied by *P. ochraceus*
- RC00556-04
511. Which of the following hypothetical experiments most clearly exemplifies the method of identifying species’ roles that the author considers problematic?
- A population of seals in an Arctic habitat is counted in order to determine whether it is the dominant species in that ecosystem.
 - A species of fish that is a keystone species in one marine ecosystem is introduced into another marine ecosystem to see whether the species will come to occupy a keystone role.
 - In order to determine whether a species of monkey is a keystone species within a particular ecosystem, the monkeys are removed from that ecosystem and the ecosystem is then studied.
 - Different mountain ecosystems are compared to determine how geography affects a particular species’ ability to dominate its ecosystem.
 - In a grassland experiencing a changing climate, patterns of species extinction are traced in order to evaluate the effect of climate changes on keystone species in that grassland.

7.4 Reading Comprehension Practice Questions

RC00556-05

512. Which of the following, if true, would most clearly support the argument about keystone status advanced in the last sentence of the passage (lines 24–31) ?
- (A) A species of bat is primarily responsible for keeping insect populations within an ecosystem low, and the size of the insect population in turn affects bird species within that ecosystem.
 - (B) A species of iguana occupies a keystone role on certain tropical islands, but does not play that role on adjacent tropical islands that are inhabited by a greater number of animal species.
 - (C) Close observation of a savannah ecosystem reveals that more species occupy keystone roles within that ecosystem than biologists had previously believed.
 - (D) As a keystone species of bee becomes more abundant, it has a larger effect on the ecosystem it inhabits.
 - (E) A species of moth that occupies a keystone role in a prairie habitat develops coloration patterns that camouflage it from potential predators.

RC00556-06

513. The passage suggests which of the following about the identification of a species as a keystone species?
- (A) Such an identification depends primarily on the species' relationship to the dominant species.
 - (B) Such an identification can best be made by removing the species from a particular ecosystem and observing changes that occur in the ecosystem.
 - (C) Such an identification is likely to be less reliable as an ecosystem becomes less diverse.
 - (D) Such an identification seems to depend on various factors within the ecosystem.
 - (E) Such an identification can best be made by observing predation behavior.

- Line Conodonts, the spiky phosphatic remains (bones and teeth composed of calcium phosphate) of tiny marine animals that probably appeared about 520 million years ago, were once among the most controversial of fossils. Both the nature of the organism to which the remains belonged and the function of the remains were unknown. However, since the 1981 discovery of fossils preserving not just the phosphatic elements but also other remains of the tiny soft-bodied animals (also called conodonts) that bore them, scientists' reconstructions of the animals' anatomy have had important implications for hypotheses concerning the development of the vertebrate skeleton.
- (5) The vertebrate skeleton had traditionally been regarded as a defensive development, champions of this view postulating that it was only with the much later evolution of jaws that vertebrates became predators. The first vertebrates, which were soft-bodied, would have been easy prey for numerous invertebrate carnivores, especially if these early vertebrates were sedentary suspension feeders. Thus, traditionalists argued, these animals developed coverings of bony scales or plates, and teeth were secondary features, adapted from the protective bony scales. Indeed, external skeletons of this type are common among the well-known fossils of ostracoderms, jawless vertebrates that existed from approximately 500 to 400 million years ago.
- (10) However, other paleontologists argued that many of the definitive characteristics of vertebrates, such as paired eyes and muscular and skeletal adaptations for active life, would not have evolved unless the first vertebrates were predatory. Teeth were more primitive than external armor according to this view, and the earliest vertebrates were predators.
- (15) The stiffening notochord along the back of the body, V-shaped muscle blocks along the sides, and posterior tail fins help to identify conodonts as among the most primitive of vertebrates. The lack of any mineralized structures apart from the elements in the mouth indicates that conodonts were more primitive than the armored jawless fishes such as the ostracoderms. It now appears that the hard parts that first evolved in the mouth of an animal improved its efficiency as a predator, and that aggression rather than protection was the driving force behind the origin of the vertebrate skeleton.
- (20)
- (25)

Questions 514–516 refer to the passage.

RC00073-01

514. According to the passage, the anatomical evidence provided by the preserved soft bodies of conodonts led scientists to conclude that
- (A) conodonts had actually been invertebrate carnivores
 - (B) conodonts' teeth were adapted from protective bony scales
 - (C) conodonts were primitive vertebrate suspension feeders
 - (D) primitive vertebrates with teeth appeared earlier than armored vertebrates
 - (E) scientists' original observations concerning the phosphatic remains of conodonts were essentially correct

RC00073-03

515. The second paragraph in the passage serves primarily to
- (A) outline the significance of the 1981 discovery of conodont remains to the debate concerning the development of the vertebrate skeleton
 - (B) contrast the traditional view of the development of the vertebrate skeleton with a view derived from the 1981 discovery of conodont remains
 - (C) contrast the characteristics of the ostracoderms with the characteristics of earlier soft-bodied vertebrates
 - (D) explain the importance of the development of teeth among the earliest vertebrate predators
 - (E) present the two sides of the debate concerning the development of the vertebrate skeleton

RC00073-08

516. It can be inferred that on the basis of the 1981 discovery of conodont remains, paleontologists could draw which of the following conclusions?
- (A) The earliest vertebrates were sedentary suspension feeders.
 - (B) Ostracoderms were not the earliest vertebrates.
 - (C) Defensive armor preceded jaws among vertebrates.
 - (D) Paired eyes and adaptations for activity are definitive characteristics of vertebrates.
 - (E) Conodonts were unlikely to have been predators.

Line Jon Clark's study of the effect of the modernization of a telephone exchange on exchange maintenance work and workers is a solid contribution to a debate that encompasses two lively issues in the history and sociology of technology: technological determinism and social constructivism.

(5) Clark makes the point that the characteristics of a technology have a decisive influence on job skills and work organization. Put more strongly, technology can be a primary determinant of social and managerial organization. Clark believes this possibility has been obscured by the recent sociological fashion, exemplified by Braverman's analysis, that emphasizes the way machinery reflects social choices. For

(10) Braverman, the shape of a technological system is subordinate to the manager's desire to wrest control of the labor process from the workers. Technological change is construed as the outcome of negotiations among interested parties who seek to incorporate their own interests into the design and configuration of the machinery. This position represents the new mainstream called social constructivism.

(15) The constructivists gain acceptance by misrepresenting technological determinism: technological determinists are supposed to believe, for example, that machinery imposes appropriate forms of order on society. The alternative to constructivism, in other words, is to view technology as existing outside society, capable of directly influencing skills and work organization.

(20) Clark refutes the extremes of the constructivists by both theoretical and empirical arguments. Theoretically he defines "technology" in terms of relationships between social and technical variables.

(25) Attempts to reduce the meaning of technology to cold, hard metal are bound to fail, for machinery is just scrap unless it is organized functionally and supported by appropriate systems of operation and maintenance. At the empirical level Clark shows how

(30) a change at the telephone exchange from maintenance-intensive electromechanical switches to semielectronic switching systems altered work tasks, skills, training opportunities, administration, and organization of workers. Some changes Clark

(35) attributes to the particular way management and labor unions negotiated the introduction of the technology, whereas others are seen as arising from the capabilities and nature of the technology itself. Thus Clark helps answer the question: "When is

(40) social choice decisive and when are the concrete characteristics of technology more important?"

Questions 517–524 refer to the passage.

RC00013-01

517. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- advocate a more positive attitude toward technological change
 - discuss the implications for employees of the modernization of a telephone exchange
 - consider a successful challenge to the constructivist view of technological change
 - challenge the position of advocates of technological determinism
 - suggest that the social causes of technological change should be studied in real situations

RC00013-02

518. Which of the following statements about the modernization of the telephone exchange is supported by information in the passage?
- The new technology reduced the role of managers in labor negotiations.
 - The modernization was implemented without the consent of the employees directly affected by it.
 - The modernization had an impact that went significantly beyond maintenance routines.
 - Some of the maintenance workers felt victimized by the new technology.
 - The modernization gave credence to the view of advocates of social constructivism.

RC00013-03

519. Which of the following most accurately describes Clark's opinion of Braverman's position?
- He respects its wide-ranging popularity.
 - He disapproves of its misplaced emphasis on the influence of managers.
 - He admires the consideration it gives to the attitudes of the workers affected.
 - He is concerned about its potential to impede the implementation of new technologies.
 - He is sympathetic to its concern about the impact of modern technology on workers.

7.4 Reading Comprehension Practice Questions

RC00013-04

520. The information in the passage suggests that which of the following statements from hypothetical sociological studies of change in industry most clearly exemplifies the social constructivists' version of technological determinism?
- (A) It is the available technology that determines workers' skills, rather than workers' skills influencing the application of technology.
 - (B) All progress in industrial technology grows out of a continuing negotiation between technological possibility and human need.
 - (C) Some organizational change is caused by people; some is caused by computer chips.
 - (D) Most major technological advances in industry have been generated through research and development.
 - (E) Some industrial technology eliminates jobs, but educated workers can create whole new skills areas by the adaptation of the technology.

RC00013-07

521. The information in the passage suggests that Clark believes that which of the following would be true if social constructivism had not gained widespread acceptance?
- (A) Businesses would be more likely to modernize without considering the social consequences of their actions.
 - (B) There would be greater understanding of the role played by technology in producing social change.
 - (C) Businesses would be less likely to understand the attitudes of employees affected by modernization.
 - (D) Modernization would have occurred at a slower rate.
 - (E) Technology would have played a greater part in determining the role of business in society.

RC00013-05

522. According to the passage, constructivists employed which of the following to promote their argument?
- (A) Empirical studies of business situations involving technological change
 - (B) Citation of managers supportive of their position
 - (C) Construction of hypothetical situations that support their view
 - (D) Contrasts of their view with a misstatement of an opposing view
 - (E) Descriptions of the breadth of impact of technological change

RC00013-08

523. The author of the passage uses the expression "are supposed to" in line 25 primarily in order to
- (A) suggest that a contention made by constructivists regarding determinists is inaccurate
 - (B) define the generally accepted position of determinists regarding the implementation of technology
 - (C) engage in speculation about the motivation of determinists
 - (D) lend support to a comment critical of the position of determinists
 - (E) contrast the historical position of determinists with their position regarding the exchange modernization

RC00013-09

524. Which of the following statements about Clark's study of the telephone exchange can be inferred from information in the passage?
- (A) Clark's reason for undertaking the study was to undermine Braverman's analysis of the function of technology.
 - (B) Clark's study suggests that the implementation of technology should be discussed in the context of conflict between labor and management.
 - (C) Clark examined the impact of changes in the technology of switching at the exchange in terms of overall operations and organization.
 - (D) Clark concluded that the implementation of new switching technology was equally beneficial to management and labor.
 - (E) Clark's analysis of the change in switching systems applies only narrowly to the situation at the particular exchange that he studied.

Line Because the framers of the United States Constitution (written in 1787) believed that protecting property rights relating to inventions would encourage the new nation's economic growth, they gave (5) Congress—the national legislature—a constitutional mandate to grant patents for inventions. The resulting patent system has served as a model for those in other nations. Recently, however, scholars have questioned whether the American system helped (10) achieve the framers' goals. These scholars have contended that from 1794 to roughly 1830, American inventors were unable to enforce property rights because judges were "antipatent" and routinely invalidated patents for arbitrary reasons. This (15) argument is based partly on examination of court decisions in cases where patent holders ("patentees") brought suit alleging infringement of their patent rights. In the 1820s, for instance, 75 percent of verdicts were decided against the patentee.

(20) The proportion of verdicts for the patentee began to increase in the 1830s, suggesting to these scholars that judicial attitudes toward patent rights began shifting then.

Not all patent disputes in the early nineteenth (25) century were litigated, however, and litigated cases were not drawn randomly from the population of disputes. Therefore the rate of verdicts in favor of patentees cannot be used by itself to gauge changes in judicial attitudes or enforceability of patent rights. If early judicial (30) decisions were prejudiced against patentees, one might expect that subsequent courts—allegedly more supportive of patent rights—would reject the former legal precedents. But pre-1830 cases have been cited as frequently as later (35) decisions, and they continue to be cited today, suggesting that the early decisions, many of which clearly declared that patent rights were a just recompense for inventive ingenuity, provided a lasting foundation for patent law.

The proportion of judicial decisions in favor of (40) patentees began to increase during the 1830s because of a change in the underlying population of cases brought to trial. This change was partly due to an 1836 revision to the patent system: an examination procedure, still in use today, was instituted in which each application is scrutinized for its adherence to patent law. Previously, (45) patents were automatically granted upon payment of a \$30 fee.

(50)

Questions 525–529 refer to the passage.

RC00650-02

525. The passage implies that which of the following was a reason that the proportion of verdicts in favor of patentees began to increase in the 1830s?
- Patent applications approved after 1836 were more likely to adhere closely to patent law.
 - Patent laws enacted during the 1830s better defined patent rights.
 - Judges became less prejudiced against patentees during the 1830s.
 - After 1836, litigated cases became less representative of the population of patent disputes.
 - The proportion of patent disputes brought to trial began to increase after 1836.

RC00650-03

526. The passage implies that the scholars mentioned in line 8 would agree with which of the following criticisms of the American patent system before 1830?
- Its definition of property rights relating to inventions was too vague to be useful.
 - Its criteria for the granting of patents were not clear.
 - It made it excessively difficult for inventors to receive patents.
 - It led to excessive numbers of patent-infringement suits.
 - It failed to encourage national economic growth.

RC00650-06

527. It can be inferred from the passage that the frequency with which pre-1830 cases have been cited in court decisions is an indication that
- judicial support for patent rights was strongest in the period before 1830
 - judicial support for patent rights did not increase after 1830
 - courts have returned to judicial standards that prevailed before 1830
 - verdicts favoring patentees in patent-infringement suits did not increase after 1830
 - judicial bias against patentees persisted after 1830

RC00650-07

528. It can be inferred from the passage that the author and the scholars referred to in line 21 disagree about which of the following aspects of the patents defended in patent-infringement suits before 1830?

- (A) Whether the patents were granted for inventions that were genuinely useful
- (B) Whether the patents were actually relevant to the growth of the United States economy
- (C) Whether the patents were particularly likely to be annulled by judges
- (D) Whether the patents were routinely invalidated for reasons that were arbitrary
- (E) Whether the patents were vindicated at a significantly lower rate than patents in later suits

RC00650-08

529. The author of the passage cites which of the following as evidence challenging the argument referred to in lines 14–15?

- (A) The proportion of cases that were decided against patentees in the 1820s
- (B) The total number of patent disputes that were litigated from 1794 to 1830
- (C) The fact that later courts drew upon the legal precedents set in pre-1830 patent cases
- (D) The fact that the proportion of judicial decisions in favor of patentees began to increase during the 1830s
- (E) The constitutional rationale for the 1836 revision of the patent system

Line Jacob Burckhardt's view that Renaissance European women "stood on a footing of perfect equality" with Renaissance men has been repeatedly cited by feminist scholars as a prelude to their presentation of rich historical evidence of women's inequality. In striking contrast to Burckhardt, Joan Kelly in her famous 1977 essay, "Did Women Have a Renaissance?" argued that the Renaissance was a period of economic and social decline for women relative both to Renaissance men and to medieval women. Recently, however, a significant trend among feminist scholars has entailed a rejection of both Kelly's dark vision of the Renaissance and Burckhardt's rosy one. Many recent works by these scholars stress the ways in which differences among Renaissance women—especially in terms of social status and religion—work to complicate the kinds of generalizations both Burckhardt and Kelly made on the basis of their observations about upper-class Italian women.

The trend is also evident, however, in works focusing on those middle- and upper-class European women whose ability to write gives them disproportionate representation in the historical record. Such women were, simply by virtue of their literacy, members of a tiny minority of the population, so it is risky to take their descriptions of their experiences as typical of "female experience" in any general sense. Tina Krontiris, for example, in her fascinating study of six Renaissance women writers, does tend at times to conflate "women" and "women writers," assuming that women's gender, irrespective of other social differences, including literacy, allows us to view women as a homogeneous social group and make that group an object of analysis. Nonetheless, Krontiris makes a significant contribution to the field and is representative of those authors who offer what might be called a cautiously optimistic assessment of Renaissance women's achievements, although she also stresses the social obstacles Renaissance women faced when they sought to raise their "oppositional voices." Krontiris is concerned to show women intentionally negotiating some power for themselves

- (45) (at least in the realm of public discourse) against potentially constraining ideologies, but in her sober and thoughtful concluding remarks, she suggests that such verbal opposition to cultural stereotypes was highly circumscribed; women seldom attacked (50) the basic assumptions in the ideologies that oppressed them.

Questions 530–536 refer to the passage.

RC00313-01

530. The author of the passage discusses Krontiris primarily to provide an example of a writer who
- (A) is highly critical of the writings of certain Renaissance women
 (B) supports Kelly's view of women's status during the Renaissance
 (C) has misinterpreted the works of certain Renaissance women
 (D) has rejected the views of both Burckhardt and Kelly
 (E) has studied Renaissance women in a wide variety of social and religious contexts

RC00313-02

531. According to the passage, Krontiris's work differs from that of the scholars mentioned in line 12 in which of the following ways?
- (A) Krontiris's work stresses the achievements of Renaissance women rather than the obstacles to their success.
 (B) Krontiris's work is based on a reinterpretation of the work of earlier scholars.
 (C) Krontiris's views are at odds with those of both Kelly and Burckhardt.
 (D) Krontiris's work focuses on the place of women in Renaissance society.
 (E) Krontiris's views are based exclusively on the study of a privileged group of women.

7.4 Reading Comprehension Practice Questions

RC0031303

532. According to the passage, feminist scholars cite Burckhardt's view of Renaissance women primarily for which of the following reasons?
- (A) Burckhardt's view forms the basis for most arguments refuting Kelly's point of view.
 - (B) Burckhardt's view has been discredited by Kelly.
 - (C) Burckhardt's view is one that many feminist scholars wish to refute.
 - (D) Burckhardt's work provides rich historical evidence of inequality between Renaissance women and men.
 - (E) Burckhardt's work includes historical research supporting the arguments of the feminist scholars.

RC00313-04

533. It can be inferred that both Burckhardt and Kelly have been criticized by the scholars mentioned in line 12 for which of the following?
- (A) Assuming that women writers of the Renaissance are representative of Renaissance women in general
 - (B) Drawing conclusions that are based on the study of an atypical group of women
 - (C) Failing to describe clearly the relationship between social status and literacy among Renaissance women
 - (D) Failing to acknowledge the role played by Renaissance women in opposing cultural stereotypes
 - (E) Failing to acknowledge the ways in which social status affected the creative activities of Renaissance women

RC00313-05

534. The author of the passage suggests that Krontiris incorrectly assumes that
- (A) social differences among Renaissance women are less important than the fact that they were women
 - (B) literacy among Renaissance women was more prevalent than most scholars today acknowledge
 - (C) during the Renaissance, women were able to successfully oppose cultural stereotypes relating to gender
 - (D) Renaissance women did not face many difficult social obstacles relating to their gender
 - (E) in order to attain power, Renaissance women attacked basic assumptions in the ideologies that oppressed them

RC00313-06

535. The last sentence in the passage serves primarily to
- (A) suggest that Krontiris's work is not representative of recent trends among feminist scholars
 - (B) undermine the argument that literate women of the Renaissance sought to oppose social constraints imposed on them
 - (C) show a way in which Krontiris's work illustrates a "cautiously optimistic" assessment of Renaissance women's achievements
 - (D) summarize Krontiris's view of the effect of literacy on the lives of upper- and middle-class Renaissance women
 - (E) illustrate the way in which Krontiris's study differs from the studies done by Burckhardt and Kelly

RC00313-08

536. The author of the passage implies that the women studied by Krontiris are unusual in which of the following ways?
- (A) They faced obstacles less formidable than those faced by other Renaissance women.
 - (B) They have been seen by historians as more interesting than other Renaissance women.
 - (C) They were more concerned about recording history accurately than were other Renaissance women.
 - (D) Their perceptions are more likely to be accessible to historians than are those of most other Renaissance women.
 - (E) Their concerns are likely to be of greater interest to feminist scholars than are the ideas of most other Renaissance women.

Line When asteroids collide, some collisions cause an asteroid to spin faster; others slow it down. If asteroids are all monoliths—single rocks—undergoing random collisions, a graph of their rotation rates (5) should show a bell-shaped distribution with statistical “tails” of very fast and very slow rotators. If asteroids are rubble piles, however, the tail representing the very fast rotators would be missing, because any loose aggregate spinning faster than once every few (10) hours (depending on the asteroid’s bulk density) would fly apart. Researchers have discovered that all but five observed asteroids obey a strict limit on rate of rotation. The exceptions are all smaller than 200 meters in diameter, with an abrupt cutoff for (15) asteroids larger than that.

The evident conclusion—that asteroids larger than 200 meters across are multicomponent structures or (20) rubble piles—agrees with recent computer modeling of collisions, which also finds a transition at that diameter. A collision can blast a large asteroid to bits, but after the collision those bits will usually move slower than their mutual escape velocity. Over several hours, gravity will reassemble all but the fastest pieces into a rubble pile. Because collisions among (25) asteroids are relatively frequent, most large bodies have already suffered this fate. Conversely, most small asteroids should be monolithic, because impact fragments easily escape their feeble gravity.

Questions 537–540 refer to the passage.

RC00524-02

537. The passage implies which of the following about the five asteroids mentioned in line 12?
- Their rotation rates are approximately the same.
 - They have undergone approximately the same number of collisions.
 - They are monoliths.
 - They are composed of fragments that have escaped the gravity of larger asteroids.
 - They were detected only recently.

RC00524-04

538. The discovery of which of the following would call into question the conclusion mentioned in line 16?
- An asteroid 100 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once per week
 - An asteroid 150 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of 20 times per hour
 - An asteroid 250 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once per week
 - An asteroid 500 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once per hour
 - An asteroid 1,000 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once every 24 hours

RC00524-06

539. According to the passage, which of the following is a prediction that is based on the strength of the gravitational attraction of small asteroids?
- (A) Small asteroids will be few in number.
(B) Small asteroids will be monoliths.
(C) Small asteroids will collide with other asteroids very rarely.
(D) Most small asteroids will have very fast rotation rates.
(E) Almost no small asteroids will have very slow rotation rates.
- RC00524-07
540. The author of the passage mentions “escape velocity” (see line 22) in order to help explain which of the following?
- (A) The tendency for asteroids to become smaller rather than larger over time
(B) The speed with which impact fragments reassemble when they do not escape an asteroid’s gravitational attraction after a collision
(C) The frequency with which collisions among asteroids occur
(D) The rotation rates of asteroids smaller than 200 meters in diameter
(E) The tendency for large asteroids to persist after collisions

Line Most attempts by physicists to send particles faster than the speed of light involve a remarkable phenomenon called quantum tunneling, in which particles travel through solid barriers that appear to be impenetrable. If you throw a ball at a wall, you expect it to bounce back, not to pass straight through it. Yet subatomic particles perform the equivalent feat. Quantum theory says that there is a distinct, albeit small, probability that such a particle will tunnel its way through a barrier; the probability declines exponentially as the thickness of the barrier increases. Though the extreme rapidity of quantum tunneling was noted as early as 1932, not until 1955 was it hypothesized—by Wigner and Eisenbud—that tunneling particles sometimes travel faster than light. Their grounds were calculations that suggested that the time it takes a particle to tunnel through a barrier increases with the thickness of the barrier until tunneling time reaches a maximum; beyond that maximum, tunneling time stays the same regardless of barrier thickness. This would imply that once maximum tunneling time is reached, tunneling speed will increase without limit as barrier thickness increases. Several recent experiments have supported this hypothesis that tunneling particles sometimes reach superluminal speed. According to measurements performed by Raymond Chiao and colleagues, for example, photons can pass through an optical filter at 1.7 times the speed of light.

Questions 541–543 refer to the passage.

RC00301-03

541. The author of the passage mentions calculations about tunneling time and barrier thickness in order to
- suggest that tunneling time is unrelated to barrier thickness
 - explain the evidence by which Wigner and Eisenbud discovered the phenomenon of tunneling
 - describe data recently challenged by Raymond Chiao and colleagues
 - question why particles engaged in quantum tunneling rarely achieve extremely high speeds
 - explain the basis for Wigner and Eisenbud's hypothesis

RC00301-02

542. The passage implies that if tunneling time reached no maximum in increasing with barrier thickness, then
- tunneling speed would increase with barrier thickness
 - tunneling speed would decline with barrier thickness
 - tunneling speed would vary with barrier thickness
 - tunneling speed would not be expected to increase without limit
 - successful tunneling would occur even less frequently than it does

RC00301-04

543. Which of the following statements about the earliest scientific investigators of quantum tunneling can be inferred from the passage?
- They found it difficult to increase barrier thickness continually.
 - They anticipated the later results of Chiao and his colleagues.
 - They did not suppose that tunneling particles could travel faster than light.
 - They were unable to observe instances of successful tunneling.
 - They made use of photons to study the phenomenon of tunneling.

7.5 Answer Key

405. D	433. A	461. C	489. C	517. C
406. D	434. C	462. A	490. E	518. C
407. B	435. D	463. B	491. A	519. B
408. B	436. B	464. D	492. B	520. A
409. C	437. B	465. E	493. D	521. D
410. C	438. B	466. C	494. E	522. B
411. A	439. C	467. A	495. E	523. A
412. C	440. C	468. E	496. D	524. C
413. D	441. A	469. A	497. B	525. A
414. C	442. D	470. D	498. C	526. E
415. A	443. D	471. D	499. D	527. B
416. C	444. C	472. D	500. A	528. D
417. C	445. E	473. B	501. C	529. C
418. C	446. A	474. B	502. D	530. D
419. E	447. C	475. C	503. A	531. E
420. A	448. D	476. C	504. A	532. C
421. C	449. E	477. E	505. D	533. B
422. B	450. A	478. D	506. E	534. A
423. B	451. B	479. D	507. D	535. C
424. A	452. C	480. B	508. B	536. D
425. D	453. C	481. C	509. C	537. C
426. C	454. B	482. B	510. A	538. D
427. E	455. E	483. E	511. C	539. B
428. B	456. C	484. D	512. B	540. E
429. D	457. E	485. E	513. D	541. D
430. C	458. A	486. B	514. D	542. C
431. B	459. D	487. D	515. E	543. E
432. D	460. A	488. C	516. B	

7.6 Answer Explanations

The following discussion of reading comprehension is intended to familiarize you with the most efficient and effective approaches to the kinds of problems common to reading comprehension. The particular questions in this chapter are generally representative of the kinds of reading comprehension questions you will encounter on the GMAT exam. Remember that it is the problem solving strategy that is important, not the specific details of a particular question.

Questions 405–407 refer to the passage on page 364.

*RC00504-01

405. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) challenge recent findings that appear to contradict earlier findings
- (B) present two sides of an ongoing scientific debate
- (C) report answers to several questions that have long puzzled researchers
- (D) discuss evidence that has caused a long-standing belief to be revised
- (E) attempt to explain a commonly misunderstood biological phenomenon

Main idea

This question depends on understanding the passage as a whole. The passage begins by describing a long-held belief regarding humans' circadian rhythms: that the SCNs control them. It then goes on to explain that new findings have led scientists to believe that other organs and tissues may be involved in regulating the body's circadian rhythms as well.

- A The passage does not challenge the more-recent findings. Furthermore, the recent findings that the passage recounts do not contradict earlier findings; rather, when placed alongside those earlier findings, they have led scientists to reach additional conclusions.
- B The passage does not discuss a two-sided debate; no findings or conclusions are disputed by any figures in the passages.

- C There is only one question at issue in the passage: whether the SCN alone control human circadian rhythms. Furthermore, nothing in the passage suggests that researchers have been puzzled for a long time about this.
- D **Correct.** The new evidence regarding circadian rhythm-related gene activity in all the body's tissue has led scientists to revise their long-standing belief that the SCN alone control circadian rhythms.
- E The biological phenomenon of circadian rhythms is not, at least as far as the passage is concerned, misunderstood. Its causes are being investigated and refined.

The correct answer is D.

RC00504-05

406. The passage mentions each of the following as a function regulated by the SCNs in some animals EXCEPT

- (A) activity level
- (B) blood pressure
- (C) alertness
- (D) vision
- (E) temperature

*These numbers correlate with the online test bank question number. See the GMAT Official Guide Online Index in the back of this book.

Supporting idea

This question asks about what is NOT specifically mentioned in the passage with regard to functions regulated by the SCN. Those functions, as identified in the passage, are blood pressure, body temperature, activity level, alertness, and the release of melatonin.

- A The passage includes activity level in its list of functions regulated by the SCN.
- B The passage includes blood pressure in its list of functions regulated by the SCN.
- C The passage includes alertness in its list of functions regulated by the SCN.
- D Correct.** While the passage does say that cells in the human retina transmit information to the SCN, there is no suggestion that the SCN reciprocally control vision.
- E The passage includes temperature in its list of functions regulated by the SCN.

The correct answer is D.

RC00504-04

407. The author of the passage would probably agree with which of the following statements about the SCNs?
- (A) The SCNs are found in other organs and tissues of the body besides the hypothalamus.
 - (B) The SCNs play a critical but not exclusive role in regulating circadian rhythms.**
 - (C) The SCNs control clock genes in a number of tissues and organs throughout the body.
 - (D) The SCNs are a less significant factor in regulating blood pressure than scientists once believed.
 - (E) The SCNs are less strongly affected by changes in light levels than they are by other external cues.

Main idea

The author of the passage discusses the SCN in the passage in order to explain that they are most likely not, as long believed, solely responsible for the control of our circadian rhythms.

- A** The author states that the SCN are nerve clusters in the hypothalamus, and nothing in the passage contradicts or undermines the supposition that they are only in the hypothalamus.
- B** **Correct.** The author points out in the second paragraph that the SCN control core circadian function, but that circadian clocks found elsewhere in the body have an effect as well.
- C** The evidence offered in the second paragraph about the activity of the clock gene in rat livers suggests that these clock genes are not under the SCN's control. The passage does not suggest that the SCN control any of the non-SCN controllers of circadian rhythms.
- D** The author states in the second paragraph that scientists do not dispute the idea that the SCN regulate blood pressure.
- E** The first paragraph indicates that the SCN respond to light levels; clock genes in other tissues are the ones that may respond to other external cues.

The correct answer is B.

Questions 408–410 refer to the passage on page 366.

RC00525-01

408. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) question the results of a study that examined the effect of service-quality guarantees in the restaurant industry
- (B) discuss potential advantages and disadvantages of service-quality guarantees in the restaurant industry
- (C) examine the conventional wisdom regarding the effect of service-quality guarantees in the restaurant industry
- (D) argue that only certain restaurants would benefit from the implementation of service-quality guarantees
- (E) consider the impact that service-quality guarantees can have on the service provided by a restaurant

Main idea

This question depends on understanding the passage as a whole. The first paragraph describes Tucci and Talaga's findings regarding the effect of service-quality guarantees: that they have different, more positive results for higher-priced restaurants than for lower-priced ones, which could be affected negatively. The second paragraph explains that a particular benefit from service guarantees could accrue to restaurants generally.

- A The passage does not question the results of Tucci and Talaga's study; rather, the passage appears to accept the results of the study as accurate.
- B **Correct.** The potential advantages involve the management and motivation of service staff, as well as, for higher-priced restaurants, a greater likelihood of being selected by customers over other restaurants. Potential disadvantages for lower-priced restaurants include the possibility that potential customers may believe that such restaurants are concerned about the quality of their service.

- C The passage does not indicate whether there is any conventional wisdom regarding service-quality guarantees in the restaurant industry.
- D The second paragraph of the passage suggests that restaurants in general could potentially enjoy some benefits from the implementation of service-quality guarantees. For lower-priced restaurants, these benefits could offset the possible negative effects of service-quality guarantees described in the first paragraph.
- E The second paragraph of the passage indicates an effect that service-quality guarantees could have on a restaurant's staff and the service that the staff provides, but this is only one of the subsidiary points contributing to the focus of the passage as a whole. The first is more concerned with the question of what effect these guarantees would have on whether customers choose to patronize that restaurant.

The correct answer is B.

RC00525-02

409. It can be inferred that the author of the passage would agree with which of the following statements about the appeal of service guarantees to customers?

- (A) Such guarantees are likely to be somewhat more appealing to customers of restaurants than to customers of other businesses.
- (B) Such guarantees are likely to be more appealing to customers who know what to anticipate in terms of service.
- (C) Such guarantees are likely to have less appeal in situations where customers are knowledgeable about a business's product or service.
- (D) In situations where a high level of financial commitment is involved, a service guarantee is not likely to be very appealing.
- (E) In situations where customers expect a high level of customer service, a service guarantee is likely to make customers think that a business is worried about its service.

Inference

This question asks for an inference from the passage about the author's view of why and how service guarantees would appeal to customers. The question does not ask specifically about service guarantees in the context of restaurants, but rather service guarantees in general. The end of the first paragraph addresses this general question: a service guarantee may appeal most to customers in the case of activities whose quality they are less likely to know how to question.

- A The author states that a service guarantee might have greater appeal in the case of skilled activities than it would for restaurant customers.
- B According to the author, customers who know what to expect in terms of service—a group that includes restaurant customers—would likely find service guarantees less appealing.
- C **Correct.** The author makes clear that service guarantees would be less appealing to restaurant customers when they know what to expect in terms of the quality of service.
- D The passage provides some evidence that where a high level of financial commitment is involved, a service guarantee may be more rather than less appealing than in other situations. In discussing higher-priced restaurants, which require a relatively high level of financial commitment, the author states that Tucci and Talaga found evidence that a service guarantee would likely appeal to customers.
- E The author implies that customers of higher-priced restaurants expect a high level of service, certainly a level higher than that expected by customers of lower-priced restaurants. But it is at lower-priced restaurants that Tucci and Talaga found that a service guarantee makes customers think a given restaurant is concerned about its service.

The correct answer is C.

RC00525-07

410. According to the passage, Tucci and Talaga found that service guarantees, when offered by lower-priced restaurants, can have which of the following effects?

- (A) Customers' developing unreasonably high expectations regarding service
- (B) Customers' avoiding such restaurants because they fear that the service guarantee may not be fully honored
- (C) Customers' interpreting the service guarantee as a sign that management is not confident about the quality of its service
- (D) A restaurant's becoming concerned that its service will not be assiduous enough to satisfy customers
- (E) A restaurant's becoming concerned that customers will be more emboldened to question the quality of the service they receive

Supporting ideas

This question requires identifying Tucci and Talaga's findings regarding service guarantees offered by lower-priced restaurants. The passage states directly that these researchers found in these situations that a guarantee could lead potential customers to think that the restaurant has concerns about its service.

- A The passage does not report that Tucci and Talaga found that service guarantees create unreasonably high expectations regarding service.
- B The passage does not report that Tucci and Talaga found that customers doubted that service guarantees would be honored.
- C **Correct.** The passage explicitly indicates that Tucci and Talaga found that potential customers of lower-priced restaurants could interpret service guarantees as indicating worries about the quality of service.
- D The passage indicates that Tucci and Talaga found that customers might think that lower-priced restaurants are offering service guarantees because they are concerned that the quality of their service is too low, but the passage does not indicate that service guarantees lead such restaurants to have concerns about the quality of their service, and in fact it may be that such guarantees could lead to improvements in service.

- E The passage indicates that service guarantees offered at lower-priced restaurants may empower customers to question the quality of service, but it does not indicate that service guarantees lead restaurants to have concerns about this.

The correct answer is C.

Questions 411–412 refer to the passage on page 368.

RC00455-03

411. The passage suggests that in the study mentioned in line 14 the method for gathering information about security of land tenure reflects which of the following pairs of assumptions about Tawahka society?
- (A) The security of a household's land tenure depends on the strength of that household's kinship ties, and the duration of a household's residence in its village is an indication of the strength of that household's kinship ties.
- (B) The ample availability of land makes security of land tenure unimportant, and the lack of a need for secure land tenure has made the concept of legal property rights unnecessary.
- (C) The strength of a household's kinship ties is a more reliable indicator of that household's receptivity to new agricultural technologies than is its quantity of nonland wealth, and the duration of a household's residence in its village is a more reliable indicator of that household's security of land tenure than is the strength of its kinship ties.
- (D) Security of land tenure based on kinship ties tends to make farmers more receptive to the use of improved plant varieties, and security of land tenure based on long duration of residence in a village tends to make farmers more receptive to the use of chemical herbicides.
- (E) A household is more likely to be receptive to the concept of land tenure based on legal property rights if it has easy access to uncultivated land, and a household is more likely to uphold the tradition of land tenure based on kinship ties if it possesses a significant degree of nonland wealth.

Evaluation

In discussing the study, the passage notes that the strength of kinship ties is a more important indicator of land-tenure security than are legal property rights. The researchers, knowing this, measured land-tenure security by indirectly measuring the strength of kinship ties. How long a household had resided in its village was taken as an indicator of the strength of kinship ties, and indirectly, of the household's degree of land-tenure security.

- A **Correct.** This summarizes two assumptions that the passage suggests were made by the researchers.
- B The passage notes that ample availability of land is characteristic of rain-forest communities, which presumably includes the Tawahka people on whom the study focused. However, based on the information in the passage, the study did not assume that land-tenure security was unimportant in that community.
- C The passage reports that the study took a household's duration of residence in its village as a reliable indicator of the strength of the household's kinship ties. Thus, the researchers did not assume that duration of residence was a more reliable measure of land-tenure security than kinship ties.
- D The passage does not indicate that the researchers assumed this. As already stated, the researchers in effect equated a household's strength of kinship ties with its length of residence in its village. Though only the latter was directly measured, both were regarded as guarantors and indicators of land-tenure security. According to the passage, the researchers found that "longer residence correlated with more adoption of improved plant varieties but with less adoption of chemical herbicides." This was a finding based on research data, not an assumption.
- E The passage does not attribute to the researchers an assumption that "a household is more likely to be receptive to the concept of land tenure based on legal property rights if it has easy access to uncultivated land."

The correct answer is A.

RC00455-05

412. According to the passage, the proposal mentioned in line 1 is aimed at preserving rain forests by encouraging farmers in rain-forest regions to do each of the following EXCEPT
- adopt new agricultural technologies
 - grow improved plant varieties
 - decrease their use of chemical herbicides
 - increase their productivity
 - reduce their need to clear new land for cultivation

Supporting ideas

The goal of the proposal is to help preserve rain forests by encouraging the adoption of new agricultural technologies, including use of chemical herbicides. The latter would presumably help improve crop yields on existing land, reducing the need to clear portions of rain forest to expand agricultural production.

- The proposal aims to encourage farmers to adopt new agricultural technologies.
- The proposal aims to encourage farmers to grow improved plant varieties.
- Correct.** The proposal aims to encourage farmers to adopt new agricultural technologies, such as increased use of chemical herbicides. So persuading farmers to reduce their use of chemical herbicides is not part of the proposal.
- The proposal aims to encourage farmers to increase their productivity.
- The proposal aims to encourage farmers to reduce their need to clear rain-forest land for cultivation.

The correct answer is C.

Questions 413–416 refer to the passage on page 370.

RC00344-02

413. Information in the passage suggests that David Pearce would most readily endorse which of the following statements concerning monetization?
- Monetization represents a strategy that is attractive to both environmentalists and their critics.

- Monetization is an untested strategy, but it is increasingly being embraced by environmentalists.
- Monetization should at present be restricted to ecological services and should only gradually be extended to such commercial endeavors as tourism and recreation.
- Monetization can serve as a means of representing persuasively the value of environmental conservation.
- Monetization should inform environmental decision-making processes only if it is accepted by environmentalist groups.

Inference

This question requires an understanding of David Pearce's view of monetization. According to the passage, Pearce finds the idea that conservation is unprofitable to be an illusion. He argues for showing the economic value of ecosystems in order to make progress in conserving those ecosystems.

- The passage attributes to Gretchen Daily the view that monetization is unpopular with environmentalists. The passage gives no reason to believe that Pearce would endorse the idea that environmentalists currently find monetization attractive.
- The passage gives no indication that monetization is increasingly being embraced by environmentalists, even if Pearce thinks it should be.
- The passage indicates Pearce's belief that some types of tourism are also types of ecological services that have economic value and that they should be monetized.
- Correct.** Pearce believes that monetization quantifies the value of the services provided by ecological systems—and if that value is quantified, people are more likely to be persuaded to conserve those systems.
- Pearce is arguing, against some environmentalists, that monetization should inform the decision-making process with regard to preserving ecosystems.

The correct answer is D.

RC00344-04

414. Which of the following most clearly represents an example of an “ecological service” as that term is used in line 20?
- A resort hotel located in an area noted for its natural beauty
 - A water-purifying plant that supplements natural processes with nontoxic chemicals
 - A wildlife preserve that draws many international travelers
 - A nonprofit firm that specializes in restoring previously damaged ecosystems
 - A newsletter that keeps readers informed of ecological victories and setbacks

Application

Based on the passage, *ecological services* are services provided by natural assets that have not been converted into commercial assets. Thus any example of such an ecological service requires that the area providing it is natural.

- The passage mentions resort hotels as an example of explicitly commercial assets. Although some hotels might be situated in ecologically valuable natural environments, any ecological services in such cases would be contributed by the natural environments, not by the hotels themselves.
- Water purifying is *an ecological service* if it is supplied by *undisturbed forests and wetlands*. The word *plant* here must mean a technological installation, not a botanical organism, because it is said to supplement—not to be part of—the natural processes. Thus it is not a natural asset and therefore does not provide an ecological service as described in the passage.
- Correct.** The passage states that a wildlife preserve that creates jobs and generates income would be providing an ecological service.
- A nonprofit firm that restores damaged ecosystems would be performing a valuable ecology-related service, but it would not itself be an example of a natural asset providing an ecological service.

- Environmentalists and others would most likely find such a newsletter informative, but it would not be an ecological service, because it is not a service provided by a natural asset.

The correct answer is C.

RC00344-05

415. According to the passage, Daily sees monetization as an indication of which of the following?
- The centrality of economic interests to people's actions
 - The reluctance of the critics of environmentalism to acknowledge the importance of conservation
 - The inability of financial interests and ecological interests to reach a common ideological ground
 - The inevitability of environmental degradation
 - The inevitability of the growth of ecological services in the future

Supporting ideas

This question asks about Daily’s view of monetization, and according to the passage, she sees monetization as a practice that *reflects the dominant role that economic decisions play in human behavior*.

- Correct.** According to the passage, Daily believes that economic interests are central to people’s actions, and monetization of ecological services would take that central role realistically into account.
- Monetization, as Daily sees it, is a way of assigning value to conservation and thus acknowledging its importance. Many environmentalists, rather than their critics, are reluctant to embrace monetization, according to Daily.
- For Daily, monetization represents a way for financial interests and ecological interests to reach a common ground; by using this *common currency*, both sides can make good decisions about the environment.
- Monetization, on Daily’s view, would help to prevent environmental degradation; the passage does not suggest that she regards such degradation as at all inevitable.

- E Daily does not see monetization as inevitably spurring the growth of ecological services but as more likely preventing their decline by leaving those *services* undisturbed.

The correct answer is A.

RC00344-06

416. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage concerning the environmentalists mentioned in line 8 ?
- (A) They are organized in opposition to the generation of income produced by the sale of ecological services.
- (B) They are fewer in number but better organized and better connected to the media than their opponents.
- (C) They have sometimes been charged with failing to use a particular strategy in their pursuit of conservational goals.
- (D) They have been in the forefront of publicizing the extent of worldwide environmental degradation.
- (E) They define environmental progress differently and more conservatively than do other organized groups of environmentalists.

Inference

The sentence in question states that critics blame environmentalists for their failure to address the economic issues of environmental degradation.

- A The passage states that in the absence of monetization, conservation can appear unprofitable. But this does not mean that the environmentalists in question are opposed to conservation generating income.
- B The passage does not address the issue of the number of environmentalists in question, the number of those opposed to them, or whether either group is better connected to the media.
- C **Correct.** The passage indicates that critics of the environmentalists in question believe environmentalists are to blame for not using an effective economics-based strategy to promote conservation.
- D Although it may be the case that the environmentalists in question have been prominent in publicizing worldwide environmental degradation, the passage does

not provide grounds for inferring that they have been.

- E The passage suggests that certain critics consider environmentalists in general to be at fault for failing to address economic issues. In this respect, the passage makes no distinctions among different environmentalist groups, organized or otherwise.

The correct answer is C.

Questions 417–420 refer to the passage on page 372.

RC00359-01

417. According to the passage, the studies referred to in line 12 reported which of the following about the effect of price on consumers' perception of the performance risk associated with a new product?
- (A) Although most consumers regard price as an important factor, their perception of the performance risk associated with a new product is ultimately determined by the manufacturer's reputation.
- (B) Price interacts with the presentation of an advertised message to affect perceived performance risk.
- (C) Price does not significantly affect consumers' perception of the performance risk associated with a new product.
- (D) Consumers tend to regard price as more important than the manufacturer's credibility when they are buying from that manufacturer for the first time.
- (E) Consumers are generally less concerned about a new product's performance risk when that product is relatively expensive.

Supporting ideas

The question asks about information explicitly provided in the passage. The first paragraph explains that there are *conflicting findings* in the research about how the price of a product affects a consumer's perception of the performance risk of that product. Some studies have found that higher priced products reduce the perception of performance risk. The *other studies* referred to in line 12, however, have found little or no connection between price and perceived performance risk.

- A The passage does not mention that these studies consider the manufacturer's reputation.
- B The passage does not mention that these studies consider advertising messages.
- C **Correct.** The passage indicates that these studies have found little or no connection between relative price and consumers' perception of performance risk.
- D The passage does not mention that these studies consider the manufacturer's credibility.
- E Although some studies have found that a relatively high price reduces the perception of performance risk, the passage explains that the studies referred to in line 12 have not confirmed that finding.

The correct answer is C.

RC00359-03

418. The "past research" mentioned in line 25 suggests which of the following about perceived performance risk?
- (A) The more expensive a new product is, the more likely consumers may be to credit advertised claims about that product.
 - (B) The more familiar consumers are with a particular manufacturer, the more willing they may be to assume some risk in the purchase of a new product being advertised by that manufacturer.
 - (C) Consumers' perception of the performance risk associated with a new product being advertised may be influenced by an interplay between the product's price and the manufacturer's credibility.
 - (D) Consumers may be more likely to believe that a product will function as it is advertised to do when they have bought products from a particular manufacturer before.
 - (E) The price of a particular advertised product may have less impact than the manufacturer's credibility on consumers' assessment of the performance risk associated with that product.

Supporting ideas

The question asks about information explicitly provided in the passage. The second paragraph explains that, according to some research, consumers perceive a product as having less performance risk when they trust the source

of advertising about that product. *Past research*, however, suggests that performance risk is affected not merely by the credibility of the source, but by an interaction between source credibility and the price of the product.

- A The passage does not indicate that the past research addressed the question of how the price of a product affects consumers' perception of advertised claims. It only says that the research suggests that the two factors *interact*.
- B Although the passage discusses consumers' perception of how risky a purchase might be, it does not address the relationship between familiarity and willingness to assume risk.
- C **Correct.** The *past research* suggests that performance risk is affected by an interaction between the price of the product and the credibility of the source of the advertising about the product—in other words, the manufacturer.
- D The *past research* suggests that consumers' beliefs about a product's performance are affected not merely by their perception of the manufacturer, but by an interplay between source credibility and product price. The passage does not mention any possible role of prior experience in this interplay.
- E The passage does not discuss whether price or the manufacturer's credibility has more of an effect on perceived performance risk.

The correct answer is C.

RC00359-05

419. The passage is primarily concerned with
- (A) challenging the implications of previous research into why consumers try new products
 - (B) suggesting new marketing strategies for attracting consumers to new products
 - (C) reconciling two different views about the effect of price on consumers' willingness to try new products
 - (D) describing a new approach to researching why consumers try new products
 - (E) discussing certain findings regarding why consumers try new products

Main idea

The question depends on understanding the passage as a whole. The passage begins with a statement explaining that much research has investigated *what motivates consumers to try new products*. It then defines one such motivating factor—perception of performance risk. The remainder of the passage summarizes research into how price and a manufacturer’s advertising affect consumers’ perception of performance risk.

- A The passage summarizes research findings that conflict with one another but does not support some findings over others.
- B The passage does not suggest any new marketing strategies.
- C The first paragraph mentions a study that could reconcile two conflicting findings, but this is only a supporting point in the passage’s larger purpose of summarizing research.
- D The passage does not describe new research approaches.
- E **Correct.** The passage discusses studies about performance risk, which is a factor that motivates consumers to try new products.

The correct answer is E.

RC00359-06

420. Which of the following, if true, would most tend to weaken the conclusions drawn from “some of this research” (see line 8)?
- (A) In a subsequent study, consumers who were asked to evaluate new products with relatively low prices had the same perception of the products’ performance risk as did consumers who were shown the same products priced more expensively.
 - (B) In a subsequent study, the quality of the advertising for the products that consumers perceived as having a lower performance risk was relatively high, while the quality of the advertising for the products that consumers perceived as having a higher performance risk was relatively poor.
 - (C) In a subsequent study, the products that consumers perceived as having a lower performance risk were priced higher than the highest priced products in the previous research.

- (D) None of the consumers involved in this research had ever before bought products from the manufacturers involved in the research.
- (E) Researchers found that the higher the source credibility for a product, the more consumers were willing to pay for it.

Evaluation

The question depends on evaluating the reasoning behind the conclusions of some research and deciding which evidence would weaken them. The research concludes that higher prices reduce consumers’ perception of performance risk associated with a particular product. This conclusion involves a claim of cause and effect, so evidence showing that higher prices do not cause that effect would weaken the argument.

- A **Correct.** If lowering prices has no effect on consumers’ perception of performance risk, the conclusions of the research are called into question.
- B A correlation between quality of advertising and perceived performance risk is not clearly relevant to the research conclusions about the effects of price.
- C This answer choice provides no basis for comparison among prices within the subsequent study. For all we can tell, the prices that correlated with higher perceived performance risk in the subsequent study may have been lower than those that correlated with lower perceived risk. In that case, the subsequent study would tend to strengthen, not weaken, the conclusions drawn from the earlier research.
- D Consumers’ lack of familiarity with other products from the manufacturers is not clearly relevant to the studies’ conclusions about the effects of price.
- E Credibility of the source of advertisements is discussed as a separate issue in the second paragraph and is not clearly relevant to these studies’ conclusions about the effects of price. To the extent that it may be obliquely relevant, it tends to strengthen, rather than to weaken, the conclusions.

The correct answer is A.

Questions 421–425 refer to the passage on page 374.

RC00419-01

421. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) compare the economic role played by southern banks with the economic role played by banks in the rest of the United States during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries
- (B) reevaluate a conventional interpretation of the role played by banks in the American economy during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries
- (C) present different interpretations of the role played by banks in the American economy during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries
- (D) analyze how the increasing number of banks in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries affected the American economy
- (E) examine how scholarly opinion regarding the role played by banks in the American economy during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries has changed over time

Main idea

The question depends on understanding the passage as a whole. The passage describes two contrasting views about the role banks played in the economic growth of the United States around the turn of the nineteenth century. The first paragraph describes the view that banks played only a small role. The second paragraph describes the contrasting view that banks played a critical role.

- A The mention of banks in the South is a small part of a larger discussion about the role of banks in the country as a whole.
- B The passage describes two major views held by historians; it does not reevaluate either of those views.
- C **Correct.** The passage describes two different views about the role that banks played in America's growing economy.
- D The passage does not analyze any aspect of the relationship between the increasing number of banks and the economy. It alludes to the increase in numbers only within a broader description of two contrasting views about how banks affected the economy.
- E The passage suggests that at the time when it was written, the two views it describes were both still held among historians.

The correct answer is C.

RC00419-02

422. The passage suggests that the scholars mentioned in line 4 would argue that the reason banks tended not to fund manufacturing and transportation projects in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was that

- (A) these projects, being well established and well capitalized, did not need substantial long-term financing from banks
- (B) these projects entailed a level of risk that was too great for banks' conservative lending practices
- (C) banks preferred to invest in other, more speculative projects that offered the potential for higher returns
- (D) bank managers believed that these projects would be unlikely to contribute significantly to economic growth in the new country
- (E) bank managers believed funding these projects would result in credit being extended to too many borrowers

Inference

The question asks about information implied by the passage. According to the scholars' view described in the first paragraph, banks followed conservative lending practices: they shunned projects that were uncertain and that required substantial investments in capital. It follows that, according to those scholars, the reason banks chose not to fund certain projects was that they entailed too great a risk.

- A The passage indicates that manufacturing and transportation projects were less well established than those the banks preferred to fund, not more so.
- B **Correct.** Because the projects were *uncertain* and required a great deal of capital, banks considered them too risky.
- C The passage indicates that banks followed conservative lending practices and avoided investments that were uncertain.
- D The passage does not mention banks' beliefs about economic growth, and it does not provide any basis for inferring that the scholars in question held any particular views regarding such beliefs.
- E The passage does not mention, or provide a basis for inferences about, bank managers' concerns about numbers of borrowers.

The correct answer is B.

RC0041904

423. The passage suggests that Paul Gilje would be most likely to agree with which of the following claims about the lending practices of the “earliest banks” (see line 21) ?
- These lending practices were unlikely to generate substantial profits for banks.
 - These lending practices only benefited a narrow sector of the economy.
 - The restrictive nature of these lending practices generated significant opposition outside of the South.
 - The restrictive nature of these lending practices forced state legislatures to begin granting more bank charters by the early nineteenth century.
 - These lending practices were likely to be criticized by economic elites as being overly restrictive.

Inference

This question asks about conclusions that can be logically inferred from information provided in the passage. According to the second paragraph, Paul Gilje believes that a driving force in American economic growth in the early nineteenth century was banks’ lending to a larger and more diverse group of borrowers. The question asks what this would imply about Gilje’s view toward earlier banks—which, the passage explains, offered credit only to *well-connected merchants*.

- The profitability of banks’ lending practices is not at issue in the discussion.
- Correct.** The passage says that the earliest banks had primarily made loans only to a narrow sector—well-connected merchants—and that they began lending more broadly in the early nineteenth century. It then cites Gilje’s view to corroborate and explicate this claim. This strongly suggests that Gilje agrees with the claim.
- Opposition to the earliest banks is not mentioned or alluded to in the discussion.
- The passage provides no basis for inferring that Gilje held any particular view as to why legislatures began granting more bank charters.

- The passage does not mention or provide a basis for inference about the views of economic elites regarding the lending practices of the earliest banks in the United States. It thus provides no basis for inferring that Gilje would have any particular opinion on this topic.

The correct answer is B.

RC0041905

424. The passage suggests that the opposition to banks in the South in the early nineteenth century stemmed in part from the perception that banks
- did not benefit more than a small minority of the people
 - did not support the interests of elite planters
 - were too closely tied to transportation and industrial interests
 - were unwilling to issue the long-term loans required by agrarian interests
 - were too willing to lend credit widely

Inference

The question asks about statements that can be inferred from information provided in the passage. The second paragraph explains that people who opposed banks in the South saw them as monopolies controlled by elite planters. This would imply that those who opposed banks believed that most people in the South did not benefit from them.

- Correct.** Since people opposed the banks on the grounds that they were monopolies controlled by an elite group of planters, they likely thought banks did not benefit most of the population.
- The passage implies that people believed the banks did serve the interests of elite planters.
- The passage indicates that people believed banks in the South were tied to planters, not to transportation and industrial interests.
- Southern banks’ willingness to provide long-term loans is not discussed or alluded to in the passage.
- The passage does not imply that anyone believed banks in the South were willing to lend credit widely. Since people believed the banks were controlled by the elite, they more likely thought banks were unwilling to lend credit widely.

The correct answer is A.

RC00419-06

425. Which of the following statements best describes the function of the last sentence of the passage?
- It provides evidence tending to undermine the viewpoint of the scholars mentioned in line 5.
 - It resolves a conflict over the role of banks summarized in the first paragraph.
 - It clarifies some of the reasons state legislatures began granting more bank charters.
 - It qualifies a claim made earlier in the passage about the impact of banks on the American economy in the early nineteenth century.
 - It supports a claim made earlier in the passage about how the expansion of credit affected the economy.

Evaluation

This question asks about the function of the last sentence in relation to the rest of the passage. The first paragraph describes the view of one set of historians. The second paragraph describes the contrasting view of a second set of historians. The last sentence of the passage points out an exception mentioned by the second set of historians.

- The last sentence pertains to the view of historians described in the second paragraph, not those described in the first paragraph.
- The conflict between the two differing views is not resolved by the passage.
- The passage does not explain why legislatures began granting more bank charters.
- Correct.** The second set of historians claim banks spurred American economic growth at the turn of the nineteenth century, but the last sentence adds an exception to that claim.
- The last sentence does not support the claim made by the second set of historians, but rather serves as an exception to that claim.

The correct answer is D.

Questions 426–429 refer to the passage on page 376.

RC00458-01

426. The passage is primarily concerned with
- examining economic factors that may have contributed to the success of certain Japanese companies
 - discussing the relative merits of strategic partnerships as compared with those of market-exchange relationships
 - challenging the validity of a widely held assumption about how Japanese firms operate
 - explaining why Western companies have been slow to adopt a particular practice favored by Japanese companies
 - pointing out certain differences between Japanese and Western supplier relationships

Main idea

This question asks for an assessment of what the passage as a whole is doing. The passage discusses how Western business managers have been following the advice of academics and journalists to pursue strategic partnerships with their suppliers. The advice is based on studies comparing Japanese production and supply practices with those of the rest of the world. Newer research, however, indicates that Japanese practices actually differ from those indicated in the earlier studies and are not significantly different from practices associated with Western manufacturers.

- The passage is not primarily concerned with economic factors contributing to the success of Japanese companies, but rather with whether Japanese relationships with suppliers conform to the practices recently adopted by Western business manufacturers.
- Although the passage discusses strategic partnerships and market-exchange relationships, it does not discuss their relative merits.
- Correct.** The passage does question the view promoted by several studies regarding the relationship Japanese firms have with their suppliers.

- D The passage does not indicate that Western companies have been slow to adopt any particular practice favored by Japanese companies.
- E Rather than pointing out differences between Japanese and Western supplier relationships, it actually suggests that they are more similar than generally realized.

The correct answer is C.

RC00458-02

427. According to the passage, the advice referred to in line 6 was a response to which of the following?
- (A) A recent decrease in the number of available suppliers within the United States automobile industry
- (B) A debate within Western management circles during the past decade regarding the value of strategic partnerships
- (C) The success of certain European automobile manufacturers that have adopted strategic partnerships
- (D) An increase in demand over the past decade for automobiles made by Western manufacturers
- (E) Research comparing Japanese business practices with those of other nations

Supporting idea

This question is concerned with identifying what the passage says about certain experts' advice. The passage indicates that the experts' advice is based on numerous studies carried out over the previous decade that compared Japanese manufacturing and supply practices with those of the rest of the world.

- A The passage indicates that the major automobile manufacturers in the United States have decreased the number of suppliers they deal with, but the experts' advice was not in response to such a decrease; rather, the decrease was in response to the manufacturers' adoption of the experts' advice.
- B The passage does not say anything about a debate within Western management circles regarding management partnerships.

- C The passage mentions that European manufacturers have adopted strategic partnerships, but it does not indicate how successful those manufacturers have been.
- D The passage does not indicate whether demand for automobiles has increased over the past decade.
- E **Correct.** The passage indicates that the experts' advice was made in reaction to studies that compared Japanese business practices regarding production and suppliers with those of other companies.

The correct answer is E.

RC00458-03

428. The author mentions “the success of a certain well-known Japanese automaker” in lines 10–11, most probably in order to
- (A) demonstrate some of the possible reasons for the success of a certain business practice
- (B) cite a specific case that has convinced Western business experts of the value of a certain business practice
- (C) describe specific steps taken by Western automakers that have enabled them to compete more successfully in a global market
- (D) introduce a paradox about the effect of a certain business practice in Japan
- (E) indicate the need for Western managers to change their relationships with their external business partners

Evaluation

The question requires the test-taker to determine the author's reason for mentioning *the success of a certain well-known Japanese automaker*. Most likely, the author wishes to present a specific case that was crucial in leading Western management circles to value strategic partnerships.

- A The passage does not discuss reasons for the success of the business practice.
- B **Correct.** The well-known success of a certain Japanese automaker is offered as a reason for Western management circles to believe in the value of the business practice of forming strategic partnerships.

- C Although the passage does indicate that Western automakers have adopted strategic partnerships with suppliers, it does not indicate whether this has enabled them to become more successful globally.
- D The passage does not specifically discuss any paradox related to the effects of Japanese business practices.
- E Although the passage does give reason to think that the changes adopted by Western managers may have made their relationships with external business partners less, rather than more, like the relationships Japanese managers have, the passage does not indicate whether the Western managers need to make any further changes.

The correct answer is B.

RC00458-05

429. Which of the following is cited in the passage as evidence supporting the author's claim about what the new research referred to in line 20 demonstrates?

- (A) The belief within Western management circles regarding the extent to which Japanese firms rely on strategic partnerships
- (B) The surprising number of European and United States businesses that have strategic partnerships with their suppliers
- (C) The response of Western automobile manufacturers to the advice that they adopt strategic partnerships with their suppliers
- (D) The prevalence of "market-exchange" relationships between Japanese firms and their suppliers
- (E) The success of a particular Japanese automobile manufacturer that favors strategic partnerships with its suppliers

Supporting idea

To answer this question, you must identify what evidence is cited in the passage regarding the author's claim that new research casts doubt on the widespread view that Japanese firms primarily manage their supplier relationships through strategic partnerships. To support this claim regarding the new research, the author points out that Japanese firms make extensive use of "market-exchange relationships," which are alternatives to the strategic relationships discussed in the preceding paragraph.

- A This is the belief that the author claims that the new research casts doubt on, so it would not make sense for the author to cite this as evidence for the author's claim.
- B This is cited as a result of the belief that the author claims the new research casts doubt on, not as evidence for the author's claim.
- C The new research undermines the basis of the advice referred to here—advice that the Western automobile manufacturers heed—so it would make little sense for the author to cite this as evidence in support of the author's claim about the new research.
- D **Correct.** The passage does cite this prevalence as evidence for the author's claim that the new research casts doubt on the widely held view about Japanese firms.
- E Citing this firm's success would tend to support the widespread view about Japanese firms, not undermine that view.

The correct answer is D.

Questions 430–433 refer to the passage on page 378.

RC00497-02

430. According to the passage, the research mentioned in line 6 suggests which of the following about lower-ranked top executives and postacquisition success?

- (A) Given that these executives are unlikely to contribute to postacquisition success, little effort should be spent trying to retain them.
- (B) The shorter their length of service, the less likely it is that these executives will play a significant role in postacquisition success.
- (C) These executives are less important to postacquisition success than are more highly ranked top executives.
- (D) If they have long tenures, these executives may prove to be as important to postacquisition success as are more highly ranked top executives.
- (E) Postacquisition success is unlikely if these executives are retained.

Supporting idea

The question asks about information provided by the passage. According to the third sentence, research suggests that retaining the highest-level top executives in an acquisition is more strongly associated with success than retaining lower-ranked top executives—which suggests, in turn, that lower-ranked top executives are less important than top-level executives to postacquisition success, though it does not suggest that they are unimportant to such success.

- A The research indicates that lower-ranked top executives are less strongly associated with success than are higher-ranked executives but does not provide advice about retention efforts.
- B The research mentioned in the third sentence does not consider length of service.
- C **Correct.** The research indicates that lower-ranked top executives are less strongly associated with postacquisition success than are the highest-ranked executives.
- D The research mentioned in the third sentence does not consider length of service.
- E The research suggests that lower-ranked top executives are less strongly associated with postacquisition success but does not suggest that they decrease the likelihood of success.

The correct answer is C.

RC00497-03

431. The resource-based view, as described in the passage, is based on which of the following ideas?

- (A) The managerial skills of top executives become strongest after the first five years of their tenure.
- (B) Company-specific knowledge is an important factor in the success of an acquisition process.
- (C) The amount of nontransferable knowledge possessed by long-tenured top executives tends to be underestimated.
- (D) Effective implementation of an acquisition depends primarily on the ability of executives to adapt to change.
- (E) Short-tenured executives are likely to impede the implementation of a successful acquisition strategy.

Evaluation

This question requires analysis of the reasoning underlying one of the two explanations described in the passage. The resource-based view (RBV) holds that retaining high-level executives with long tenure will contribute to success because those people have important company-specific knowledge. This view rests on the assumption that company-specific knowledge is valuable to postacquisition success.

- A In RBV, executives with long tenure are valuable not specifically for their managerial skills but for their knowledge about the acquired company. The passage does not restrict to five years the period in which this knowledge is gained.
- B **Correct.** RBV values executives' knowledge of the acquired company and is based on the belief that company-specific knowledge is valuable for postacquisition success.
- C The passage does not indicate that RBV claims that executives' company-specific knowledge is generally undervalued. But the passage does indicate that RBV regards such knowledge as valuable to postacquisition success.
- D In RBV, executives with long tenure are valuable not for their ability to adapt to change, but for their knowledge about the acquired company.
- E RBV does not suggest that short-tenured executives impede postacquisition success, only that they are less important to success than the highest-ranked executives.

The correct answer is B.

RC00497-04

432. The passage suggests that Bergh and a proponent of the upper echelons perspective would be most likely to disagree over which of the following?

- (A) Whether there is a positive correlation between short organizational tenure and managerial adaptability
- (B) Whether there is a positive correlation between long organizational tenure and the acquisition of idiosyncratic and nontransferable knowledge
- (C) Whether adaptability is a useful trait for an executive who is managing an acquisition process

- (D) Whether retaining less-tenured top executives of an acquired company is an optimal strategy for achieving postacquisition success
- (E) Whether retaining highest-level top executives of acquired companies is more important than retaining lower-ranked top executives

Inference

The question asks about conclusions that can reasonably be drawn from the information provided in the passage. Bergh's study supports the resource-based view (RBV), which suggests that top executives with long tenure are more valuable to postacquisition success than other executives. The upper echelons perspective (UEP), in contrast, suggests that top executives with shorter tenure are more valuable to postacquisition success. Thus, Bergh and a proponent of UEP would likely disagree about whether long or short tenure top executives are more valuable to a positive outcome in a postacquisition situation.

- A The passage does not provide sufficiently specific information about statistical relationships to determine whether Bergh and proponents of UEP would agree or disagree about whether there is such a positive correlation.
- B There is a weak suggestion in the passage that Bergh believes such a positive correlation exists, but there is no indication that a proponent of UEP would question such a correlation.
- C The passage does not indicate that Bergh would disagree with proponents of UEP that adaptability is a valuable trait in an executive who is managing an acquisition.
- D **Correct.** The passage suggests that proponents of UEP believe that retaining less-tenured top executives during and after an acquisition is a better strategy, while Bergh believes that retaining longer-tenured top executives is better.
- E The passage suggests that Bergh and proponents of UEP agree that retaining the highest-level top executives is more important to postacquisition success than is retaining lower-ranked top executives.

The correct answer is D.

RC00497-05

433. According to the passage, prior to Bergh's study, research on the role of top executives of acquired companies in business acquisition success was limited in which of the following ways?
- (A) It did not address how the organizational tenure of top executives affects postacquisition success.
- (B) It did not address why some companies have longer-tenured CEOs than others.
- (C) It did not consider strategies for retaining long-tenured top executives of acquired companies.
- (D) It failed to differentiate between the contribution of highest-level top executives to postacquisition success and that of lower-ranked top executives.
- (E) It underestimated the potential contribution that lower-level top executives can make to postacquisition success.

Supporting idea

This question asks about information explicitly provided in the passage. The first paragraph summarizes research indicating that retaining highest-level top executives during and after an acquisition is more strongly associated with successful outcomes than retaining lower-ranking top executives. The paragraph then states that this research has limitations, including failing to take into account how long the highest-ranking executives have worked for the company. The second paragraph explains that Bergh's study responds to those limitations by analyzing the role of tenure (length of service in the organization).

- A **Correct.** The passage indicates that the research about the role of highest-level executives in acquisitions is limited by its failure to consider tenure.
- B The passage does not portray the failure of the research to address this as a limitation of the research in question.
- C The passage does not portray the failure of the research to consider this as a limitation of the research in question.
- D The passage indicates that the research does, in fact, differentiate between the respective contributions of these two groups of top executives.

- E Undervaluing the contributions of lower-level top executives is not one of the limitations mentioned in the passage.

The correct answer is A.

Questions 434–437 refer to the passage on page 380.

RC00017-02

434. According to the passage, which of the following contributed to Marcus Garvey's success?
- (A) He introduced cultural and historical consciousness to the African American community.
 - (B) He believed enthusiastically in the traditional American success ethos.
 - (C) His audience had already formed a consciousness that made it receptive to his message.
 - (D) His message appealed to critics of African American support for United States military involvement in the First World War.
 - (E) He supported the movement to protest segregation that had emerged prior to his arrival in the United States.

Supporting idea

To answer this question, find what the passage states explicitly about how Marcus Garvey achieved his success. The passage begins by stating that Garvey arrived at the right time: that returning African American soldiers were primed to receive what he had to say about the African American community. These soldiers already held strong beliefs about their rights to opportunities for success; the passage concludes that the divide between the soldiers' expectations and their experiences led to Garvey's success.

- A The passage states that African American people were in possession of a strong cultural and historical consciousness prior to Garvey's arrival in the United States.
- B The passage attributes belief in the traditional American success ethos to African American people who joined the armed forces; it does not mention Garvey's beliefs on this subject.

- C **Correct.** African American soldiers who had experienced segregation during the First World War were ready to hear what Garvey had to say.

- D Critics of African American support for United States involvement in the First World War are not mentioned in the passage.
- E While Garvey most likely would have supported a movement to protest segregation, such a movement is not discussed in the passage.

The correct answer is C.

RC00017-03

435. The passage suggests that many African American people responded to their experiences in the armed forces in which of the following ways?
- (A) They maintained as civilians their enthusiastic allegiance to the armed forces.
 - (B) They questioned United States involvement in the First World War.
 - (C) They joined political organizations to protest the segregation of African American troops and the indignities they suffered in the military.
 - (D) They became aware of the gap between their expectations and the realities of American culture.
 - (E) They repudiated Garvey's message of pride and unity.

Inference

According to the passage, African Americans enthusiastically joined the armed services but were confronted with continued segregation, both in the military and when they returned home. The passage does not explicitly state their response to these experiences, but a response can be inferred. The second paragraph refers to anthropologist Anthony F. C. Wallace, who argued that a revitalization movement may be brought about by the perception of a gap between expectations and reality, and such a revitalization did occur in African American communities following the First World War; thus, many African American people may have become aware of a gap such as Wallace described.

- A The passage states that African American troops experienced segregation and other indignities while in the military; these experiences could reasonably be inferred to have dampened their enthusiasm for the armed forces. Regardless, the passage does not suggest an enthusiastic allegiance.
- B The passage describes African American people's enthusiasm about joining the military. Although they experienced segregation and other indignities while in the military, the passage does not suggest that their opinion about involvement in the war changed.
- C While African American troops may have joined political organizations, the passage does not provide any actual evidence of this having occurred.
- D Correct.** The fact that, as the passage states, a revitalization movement occurred in the African American community following the First World War suggests that the returning soldiers did become aware of the gap between their expectations of an improved situation with regard to segregation and the reality of continued segregation in the United States.
- E The passage does not suggest that African American troops repudiated Garvey's message. On the contrary, it states that Garvey built *the largest revitalization movement in African American history*. This suggests that the members of the African American community, including the returning soldiers, were extremely receptive to Garvey's message.

The correct answer is D.

RC00017-04

436. It can be inferred from the passage that the "scholars" mentioned in line 24 believe which of the following to be true?
- (A) Revitalization resulted from the political activism of returning African American soldiers following the First World War.
- (B) Marcus Garvey had to change a number of prevailing attitudes in order for his mass movement to find a foothold in the United States.
- (C) The prevailing sensibility of the African American community provided the foundation of Marcus Garvey's political appeal.

- (D) Marcus Garvey hoped to revitalize consciousness of cultural and historical identity in the African American community.
- (E) The goal of the mass movement that Marcus Garvey helped bring into being was to build on the pride and unity among African Americans.

Inference

To determine what it is logical to infer regarding the scholars discussed in the third paragraph, look at the context in which they are mentioned. According to the passage, these scholars argue that Garvey was responsible for creating a particular consciousness within the African American community, a consciousness that the passage identifies as *identity, strength, and [a] sense of history*. Unlike the passage author, these scholars believe strongly in Garvey's responsibility for this consciousness, so they would most likely reject any suggestion that it existed prior to his arrival and activism.

- A According to the passage, the scholars believe that Garvey was responsible for the creation of the consciousness that led to revitalization, which suggests that revitalization resulted from Garvey's activism, not soldiers' activism.
- B Correct.** According to the passage, the scholars believe that Garvey created the consciousness that led to his revitalization movement. This suggests that he had to change prevailing attitudes in order to foster this new consciousness.
- C According to the passage, the scholars believe that Garvey created a new consciousness in the African American community; thus, the prevailing sensibility could not have provided a foundation for his appeal.
- D According to the passage, the scholars believe that Garvey built his revitalization movement on a new consciousness of cultural and historical identity, not a previously existing one.
- E According to the passage, the scholars' position is that Garvey's movement was built on a new sense of pride and unity that he provided, and that that sense did not precede Garvey's work.

The correct answer is B.

RC00017-05

437. According to the passage, many African American people joined the armed forces during the First World War for which of the following reasons?
- They wished to escape worsening economic conditions in African American communities.
 - They expected to fulfill ideals of personal attainment.
 - They sought to express their loyalty to the United States.
 - They hoped that joining the military would help advance the cause of desegregation.
 - They saw military service as an opportunity to fulfill Marcus Garvey's political vision.

Supporting idea

This question depends on identifying what the passage states directly about African American people's reasons for joining the armed forces. The reason offered by the passage is that the African American people who entered the armed forces did so because they were *hoping to participate in the traditional American ethos of individual success*.

- Although this is a plausible reason for entering the armed forces, the passage does not discuss economic conditions.
- Correct.** The passage states that African American people who joined the armed forces during the First World War wanted to achieve individual success.
- The passage does not discuss African American people's loyalty to the United States.
- The passage states that African American troops experienced segregation, but it does not suggest that they had hoped their joining the military would promote desegregation.
- The passage suggests that African American troops did not become aware of Marcus Garvey's political vision until after they returned from the First World War.

The correct answer is B.

Questions 438–442 refer to the passage on page 382.

- RC00394-02
438. Which of the following can be inferred about supplier partnerships, as they are described in the passage?
- They cannot be sustained unless the goods or services provided are available from a large number of suppliers.
 - They can result in purchasers paying more for goods and services than they would in a competitive-bidding situation.
 - They typically are instituted at the urging of the supplier rather than the purchaser.
 - They are not feasible when the goods or services provided are directly related to the purchasers' end products.
 - They are least appropriate when the purchasers' ability to change suppliers is limited.

Inference

According to the passage, in supplier partnerships a corporate purchaser forgoes the right to pursue alternative suppliers for certain goods or services. This tends to reduce or eliminate the threat of competition for the supplier in the partnership. It can be inferred that the corporate purchaser in a supplier partnership risks paying more for goods or services than it would if the supplier had to compete for the business.

- The passage suggests something incompatible with this, i.e., that availability of the relevant goods or services from many suppliers would undermine rather than strengthen a supplier partnership.
- Correct.** The passage indicates that supplier partnerships, by definition, reduce the supplier's exposure to competition, and it can be inferred from this that a purchaser in such a partnership could sometimes pay more for the supplied goods or services than if not in the partnership.
- The passage is silent on how supplier partnerships are initiated, and the passage gives no reason to believe that these would usually be initiated by suppliers.

- D The passage indicates that supplier partnerships are usually instituted for the supply of goods or services that do not contribute directly to the company's end products, though the passage gives no reason to believe that such partnerships would never make sense for supply of items directly related to end products.
- E The passage states that where alternative suppliers for certain goods or services are few and change from an existing supplier is difficult, partnerships may be "unavoidable." This seems to imply that in such cases, supplier partnerships are the most appropriate.

The correct answer is B.

RC00394-03

439. Which of the following best describes the relation of the second paragraph to the first?
- (A) The second paragraph offers proof of an assertion made in the first paragraph.
- (B) The second paragraph provides an explanation for the occurrence of a situation described in the first paragraph.
- (C) The second paragraph discusses the application of a strategy proposed in the first paragraph.
- (D) The second paragraph examines the scope of a problem presented in the first paragraph.
- (E) The second paragraph discusses the contradictions inherent in a relationship described in the first paragraph.

Evaluation

The first paragraph recommends that a corporate purchaser of certain categories of goods and services should consider two variables to evaluate how, if at all, it might exert pressure on a supplier to gain economic advantage. Applying the two variables, the second paragraph identifies four different scenarios and, for each scenario, explains how the purchaser can gain some economic advantage.

- A The second paragraph is not focused on proving anything; rather it conducts an analysis of the ways in which, under various conditions, a corporate purchaser can gain economic advantage from a supplier.

B The second paragraph conducts an analysis of various situations affecting the feasibility of a purchaser's exerting pressure to gain economic advantage from a supplier; it is not focused on explaining what causes the occurrence of any situation mentioned in the first paragraph.

C **Correct.** The first paragraph recommends that corporate purchasers consider two variables in analyzing the feasibility of exerting pressure on suppliers with a view to economic advantage; the second paragraph shows how purchasers can apply those variables to identify four different types of situations affecting the degree to which economic advantage can be gained by exerting competitive pressure.

D The first paragraph is not focused on presenting a problem, but rather on indicating an approach that purchasers might use in evaluating the feasibility of exerting economic pressure on suppliers with a view to economic advantage. The second paragraph elaborates on the suggested approach.

E The second paragraph does not characterize as contradictory any relationship involved in the four types of situations it discusses. The first paragraph discusses supplier partnerships and identifies a disadvantage that they sometimes involve for purchasers; but the discussion in the second paragraph does not focus exclusively on situations that involve a supplier partnership.

The correct answer is C.

RC00394-04

440. It can be inferred that the author of the passage would be most likely to make which of the following recommendations to a company purchasing health care benefits for its employees?
- (A) Devise strategies for circumventing the obstacles to replacing the current provider of health care benefits.
- (B) Obtain health care benefits from a provider that also provides other indirect products and services.
- (C) Obtain bids from other providers of health care benefits in order to be in a position to negotiate a better deal with the current provider.

RC00394-05

- (D) Switch providers of health care benefits whenever a different provider offers a more competitive price.
- (E) Acknowledge the difficulties involved in replacing the current provider of health care benefits and offer to form a partnership with the provider.

Inference

In the passage, health care benefits are used as an example of a Type 2 situation, where there are many competing providers, but where changing from one provider to another is difficult. In Type 2 situations, the author of the passage recommends that the corporate purchaser examine the alternative providers to provide leverage in bargaining with the existing provider.

- A Presumably handling any obstacles to replacement would be necessary if a corporate purchaser had decided to change providers. The author of the passage does not preclude the possibility that this may sometimes be a reasonable decision but does not recommend it.
- B The author of the passage does not consider such a possibility, and does not even recommend switching from the existing provider in a Type 2 situation.
- C **Correct.** The recommendation offered in the passage is to review competitive alternatives to the existing provider, with a view to bargaining effectively for better terms with the existing provider.
- D As already noted, the author of the passage does not recommend switching from the existing provider, but recommends reviewing competitive alternatives to exert pressure on the existing provider to grant more favorable terms.
- E The author of the passage does not recommend this course of action in a Type 2 situation, which the corporate purchase of health care benefits exemplifies. The only situation in which the author views a supplier partnership as possibly the best of a set of bad options is a Type 4 situation, where there are few competitive alternatives available and change is difficult.

The correct answer is C.

441. Which of the following is one difference between Type 2 situations and Type 4 situations, as they are described in the passage?

- (A) The number of alternative suppliers available to the purchaser
- (B) The most effective approach for the purchaser to use in obtaining competitive bids from potential suppliers
- (C) The degree of difficulty the purchaser encounters when changing suppliers
- (D) The frequency with which each type of situation occurs in a typical business environment
- (E) The likelihood that any given purchase will be an indirect purchase

Evaluation

According to the passage, Type 2 situations are those where there are several competitive alternative suppliers available but where changing from the existing supplier would be difficult. Type 4 situations are those where there are few competitive alternative suppliers and changing from the existing supplier would be difficult.

- A **Correct.** The two types of situations differ in the number of competitive alternatives to the existing supplier that are available: in Type 2 situations there are several; in Type 4 situations there are few.
- B How should the prospective purchaser ensure that potential suppliers submit truly competitive bids, or can a prospective purchaser even ensure it? The passage gives no answer to such questions that helps to identify a difference between the two types of situations.
- C In both types of situations as described in the passage, changing to a new supplier is difficult, and no difference in the degree of difficulty is mentioned.
- D How frequently each of the two types of situations typically occur is not addressed in the passage.

- E Indirect purchases, as described in the passage, are goods or services that are not embodied in the corporation's end products. Many corporate producers currently make indirect purchases such as computers or business consultancy services. The passage does not compare the proportion of a corporation's total purchases that are indirect (the proportion would presumably vary widely depending on the nature of a corporation's production); so the passage provides no rational basis for estimating a universally applicable likelihood that a given purchase would be indirect.

The correct answer is A.

RC00394-06

442. According to the passage, which of the following factors distinguishes an indirect purchase from other purchases?
- (A) The ability of the purchasing company to subject potential suppliers of the purchased item to competitive scrutiny
 - (B) The number of suppliers of the purchased item available to the purchasing company
 - (C) The methods of negotiation that are available to the purchasing company
 - (D) The relationship of the purchased item to the purchasing company's end product
 - (E) The degree of importance of the purchased item in the purchasing company's business operations

Supporting ideas

The passage characterizes a purchase of goods or services as indirect when the goods or services are not directly related to the end products of the purchasing corporation. Examples given are computers, advertising, and legal services. By implication, direct purchases by an automobile manufacturer could include steel, batteries, and tires: these would obviously be inputs embodied in the final products.

- A The passage suggests that “competitive scrutiny” is typically applied only to suppliers of direct purchases, but makes the case that it could be applied also to suppliers of indirect purchases. The exposure to competitive scrutiny is not the characteristic

that the passage uses to distinguish direct from indirect purchases.

- B The number of available suppliers clearly can vary for both direct purchases and indirect purchases, and the passage provides no reason to think otherwise.
- C The passage provides no information about the methods of negotiation that are available for direct purchases. The passage does not base the distinction between direct and indirect purchases on differences in methods of negotiation.
- D **Correct.** The passage defines direct purchases as those directly related to the purchasing firm's end products; indirect purchases are purchases that are not related to the end products.
- E The type of purchase—direct or indirect—is not, according to the passage, determined by the degree of importance of the purchase in facilitating the purchasing firm's business operations. For example, purchase of advertising by an accounting firm could be critically important for success of the firm's business operations, but such a purchase would likely count as indirect, given the way the passage defines indirect purchases.

The correct answer is D.

Questions 443–447 refer to the passage on page 384.

RC00423-01

443. According to the “conventional view” referred to in line 13 of the passage, brighter carotenoid-based coloration in certain species suggests that an individual
- (A) lives in a habitat rich in carotenoid-bearing plants and insects
 - (B) has efficient detoxification processes
 - (C) has a superior immune system
 - (D) possesses superior foraging capacity
 - (E) is currently capable of reproducing

Supporting ideas

According to the passage, the conventional view is that carotenoids in a male animal—recognizable by brighter coloration—are meaningful in the context of mate selection because they are rare and not easily acquired. A male that displays brighter coloration than other males would appear to a female of the species to have foraged more effectively and would therefore seem healthier, and more eligible as a mate, than some less brightly colored males.

- A Male animals in a carotenoid-rich environment might, on average, have brighter coloration, but the passage does not imply that this is part of the conventional view. The passage represents the conventional view as emphasizing the rarity of carotenoids, and the consequent difficulty of finding them.
- B The conventional view holds that a brightly colored male might appear healthier than less brightly colored males to a female of the species. If the male were healthier, this would presumably require having efficient detoxification processes. But the passage does not treat this as part of the conventional view.
- C If a male animal is healthier than other males of the species, presumably that male has a superior immune system, but the passage does not represent this as part of the conventional view.
- D Correct.** The passage represents the conventional view as holding that more brightly colored males seem to females to be more effective foragers, and therefore healthier.
- E The passage does not represent the conventional view as holding that brighter coloration in a male animal would be taken by a female of the species as indicating a current ability to reproduce.

The correct answer is D.

RC00423.02

444. The idea that carotenoid-based coloration is significant partly because carotenoids are required for health suggests that a lack of bright coloration in a male is most likely to indicate which of the following?
- (A) Inefficient detoxification processes
 - (B) Immunity to parasite infestation
 - (C) Low genetic resistance to disease
 - (D) Lack of interest in mating
 - (E) Lack of carotenoid-storing tissues

Inference

The passage states that carotenoids are used by the immune system and for detoxification processes that help maintain health. Males that are more susceptible to disease and parasites, i.e., males that lack high genetic resistance to such things, must use up the carotenoids they accumulate to boost their immune systems. The passage suggests that consequently male animals perceived by females of the species as having used up their carotenoids would be perceived as having relatively low genetic resistance to disease and parasites.

- A Even if an animal has efficient detoxification processes, the passage suggests that carotenoids would be used up in such processes. Thus, having relatively less bright coloration (and therefore less carotenoids) would not necessarily indicate inefficient detoxification processes.
- B The information in the passage suggests that having low genetic resistance to parasite infections is consistent with having immunity to at least some parasite infections, because carotenoids can be used to boost immunity. But this comes at the cost of lacking bright coloration.
- C Correct.** The passage indicates that a male's having relatively bright coloration could indicate relatively high genetic resistance to disease, and having relatively less bright coloration could indicate relatively low genetic resistance, because the carotenoids that create bright coloration would have been used to boost immunity or aid detoxification processes.

- D The passage does not suggest that male animals lacking bright coloration would be perceived by a female of the species as lacking interest in mating.
- E The passage does not address the issue of whether carotenoid-storing tissues may be lacking in a male of a species that would normally have such tissues. The passage only states that “many” animal species use colorful signals made possible by carotenoids.

The correct answer is C.

RC00423-03

445. The passage suggests that relatively bright carotenoid-based coloration is a signal of which of the following characteristics in males of certain animal species?
- (A) Readiness for mating behavior
 (B) Ability to fight
 (C) Particular feeding preferences
 (D) Recovery from parasite infestation
 (E) Fitness as a mate

Application

According to the passage, “studies of several animal species have shown that when choosing mates, females prefer males with brighter, carotenoid-based coloration.” The passage examines two mechanisms by which carotenoid-based coloration might affect mate selection: either signaling good health or signaling high genetic resistance to infection. It is implicit in the discussion that whichever mechanism is in question, bright coloration would function to signal fitness as a mate.

- A The passage discusses how bright carotenoid-based coloration may affect mate selection but does not cite perceived bright coloration as signaling readiness for mating behavior.
- B The passage suggests that bright carotenoid-based coloration tends to signal good health or genetic resistance to factors that cause illness. The passage does not refer to ability to fight.
- C The passage does not refer to feeding preferences, but only indicates that animals with bright carotenoid-based coloration would have consumed organisms that are rich in carotenoids.

- D The passage explores the possibility that bright carotenoid-based coloration could signal high genetic resistance to infection, but implies that recovery from infection could arise from strong immune resistance rather than from high genetic resistance, and could be signaled by lack of carotenoid-based brightness.
- E **Correct.** The passage discussion indicates that, whatever the precise mechanism, bright carotenoid-based coloration in males of certain species functions to signal fitness as a mate.

The correct answer is E.

RC00423-04

446. The passage implies which of the following about the insects from which animals acquire carotenoids?
- (A) They do not produce carotenoids themselves.
 (B) They use carotenoids primarily for coloration.
 (C) They maintain constant levels of carotenoids in their tissues.
 (D) They are unable to use carotenoids to boost their immune system.
 (E) They are available in greater abundance than are carotenoid-bearing plants.

Inference

The passage says that animals “acquire carotenoids either directly (from the plants and algae that produce them) or indirectly (by eating insects).”

- A **Correct.** The passage indicates that the phrase *acquire directly* signifies in this context acquisition from the ultimate source of carotenoids, so the phrase *acquire ... indirectly* signifies an acquisition that is not from the ultimate source. This implies that insects do not produce their own carotenoids, but derive them by consuming plants, algae, or other insects.
- B This may well be true of some insects, but no information in the passage implies it.
- C No information in the passage implies that carotenoid levels in insect tissue remain constant over time.
- D The passage contains no information that relates to the immune system of any insect species.

- E Even if this is true, the passage contains no information that implies it.

The correct answer is A.

RC00423-05

447. Information in the passage suggests that which of the following is true of carotenoids that a male animal uses for detoxification processes?
- They were not acquired directly from plants and algae.
 - They cannot be replenished through foraging.
 - They cannot be used simultaneously to brighten coloration.
 - They do not affect the animal's susceptibility to parasites.
 - They increase the chances that the animal will be selected as a mate.

Inference

The passage states that carotenoids are used by the immune system and for detoxification processes. To the extent that any carotenoids are used for these purposes, the passage suggests, they would not also be available for bright-colored display to potential mates.

- The passage states that animals can acquire carotenoids from insects, as well as from plants and algae. Nothing indicates that a male animal's use of the carotenoids would determine which of these sources they are acquired from.
- No information in the passage suggests this. The passage tells us that males acquire carotenoids by foraging.
- Correct.** The passage implies that the quantity of carotenoids used for detoxification is no longer available for any other purpose, such as display of bright coloration.
- The passage suggests that carotenoids could benefit immune response; this implies the possibility of better resistance to parasitic infections.
- The passage conjectures that a male animal's use of carotenoids for detoxification processes could reduce the chances of being selected as a mate.

The correct answer is C.

Questions 448–452 refer to the passage on page 386.

RC00349-02

448. According to the passage, Kerber maintained that which of the following led to an increase in educational opportunities for women in the United States after the American Revolution?
- An unprecedented demand by women for greater educational opportunities in the decades following the Revolution
 - A new political ideology calling for equality of opportunity between women and men in all aspects of life
 - A belief that the American educational system could be reformed only if women participated more fully in that system
 - A belief that women needed to be educated if they were to contribute to the success of the nation's new form of government
 - A recognition that women needed to be educated if they were to take an active role in the nation's schools and churches

Supporting ideas

The passage ascribes to Linda Kerber the claim that there was “a surge of educational opportunities for women in the United States” after the American Revolution, and that this surge resulted from a new ideology of “republican motherhood.” According to the passage, Kerber argued that the nation’s leaders advocated education for women to equip them, in their family role, to raise politically virtuous sons.

- The passage attributes no claim to Kerber concerning a demand by women for education.
- The passage attributes no claim to Kerber concerning a new ideology calling for equality between women and men.
- Kerber’s argument as represented in the passage did not claim that an increase in education opportunities for women resulted from a belief that such an increase was required for successful reform of the American educational system.

- D** **Correct.** According to the passage, Kerber argued that educational opportunities for women increased because the nation's leaders believed that successful democratic government would require that women raise politically virtuous sons within their families, and that women could do so only if they had access to education themselves.
- E** According to the passage, Kerber's thesis primarily concerns the roles that it was believed educated women could play in raising politically virtuous sons in the context of the family, not in the nation's schools or churches.

The correct answer is D.

RC00349-03

449. According to the passage, within the field of educational history, Thomas Woody's 1929 work was
- (A) innovative because it relied on newspaper advertisements as evidence
- (B) exceptional in that it concentrated on the period before the American Revolution
- (C) unusual in that it focused on educational attitudes rather than on educational practices
- (D) controversial in its claims regarding educational opportunities for boys
- (E) atypical in that it examined the education of girls

Supporting ideas

According to the passage, Woody's work was a "notable exception" as contrast to the work of other educational historians, who "barely mentioned women and girls."

- A Other historians prior to Woody's 1929 work may have used newspaper advertisements as evidence, but the passage provides no information as to whether this was so.
- B The passage is silent as to whether educational historians besides Woody concentrated on the period before the American Revolution.
- C The passage does not provide information as to the extent to which either Woody or other historians focused on educational attitudes as opposed to educational practices.

- D** According to the passage, Woody noted that educational opportunities increased for both girls and boys around 1750. But the passage does not indicate that this claim, or any other claim Woody may have made about educational opportunities for boys, was controversial.
- E** **Correct.** As stated above, the passage describes Woody's work as a "notable exception," i.e., atypical, with respect to his discussion of education for girls.

The correct answer is E.

RC00349-04

450. The passage suggests that Woody would have agreed with which of the following claims regarding "An Essay on Woman"?
- (A) It expressed attitudes concerning women's education that were reflected in new educational opportunities for women after 1750.
- (B) It persuaded educators to offer greater educational opportunities to women in the 1750s.
- (C) It articulated ideas about women's education that would not be realized until after the American Revolution.
- (D) It offered one of the most original arguments in favor of women's education in the United States in the eighteenth century.
- (E) It presented views about women's education that were still controversial in Woody's own time.

Application

According to the passage, Woody characterized "An Essay on Woman" (1753) as reflecting a shift in view, and the context indicates that this shift concerned new attitudes that accompanied increased opportunities after 1750 for girls to become educated women.

- A** **Correct.** Based on the passage, this is a claim with which Woody would likely have agreed.
- B** The passage represents Woody as claiming that "An Essay on Woman" reflected changes that had already occurred around 1750. The passage does not indicate whether Woody would have agreed with this claim about a persuasive effect on educators.

- C Nothing in the passage represents Woody as thinking that “An Essay on Woman” had ideas about women’s education that did not come to fruition until after the American Revolution. The tenor of Woody’s thinking, as the passage represents it, is that the essay reflected changes already occurring.
- D The passage indicates that Woody characterizes “An Essay on Woman” as “reflecting” a view that had already gained some currency; so it is unlikely that Woody saw the essay as offering any highly original arguments in favor of women’s education.
- E It may be true that “An Essay on Woman” presented some views that were at least somewhat controversial even around 1929, but the passage provides no information that addresses this point.

The correct answer is A.

RC00349-05

451. The passage suggests that, with regard to the history of women’s education in the United States, Kerber’s work differs from Woody’s primarily concerning which of the following?
- (A) The extent to which women were interested in pursuing educational opportunities in the eighteenth century
- (B) The extent of the support for educational opportunities for girls prior to the American Revolution
- (C) The extent of public resistance to educational opportunities for women after the American Revolution
- (D) Whether attitudes toward women’s educational opportunities changed during the eighteenth century
- (E) Whether women needed to be educated in order to contribute to the success of a republican form of government

Evaluation

The passage represents Kerber as claiming that the American Revolution led to a surge in educational opportunities for women because the nation’s leaders believed women needed to be educated if they were to raise politically virtuous sons. Woody, however, is represented as claiming that there was a significant increase in

such opportunities and significant advocacy for women’s education well before the Revolution.

- A The passage does not represent either Kerber or Woody as addressing the extent to which women were interested in pursuing educational opportunities in the eighteenth century.
- B **Correct.** The passage attributes to Woody the view that “practical education for females had many advocates before the Revolution,” notably in the 1750s, and that the Revolution at most accelerated an earlier trend of changing attitudes. This is contrary to the views attributed to Kerber.
- C The passage gives no information as to whether Kerber or Woody addresses this issue, nor does it discuss to what extent, if any, such resistance may have occurred.
- D The passage indicates that Kerber and Woody hold that there was a change in attitudes toward women’s educational opportunities during the eighteenth century, disagreeing, however, as to whether the most significant change occurred before or after the Revolution.
- E Neither Kerber nor Woody is represented by the passage as holding divergent views on this point, and it would be reasonable to think that they may have agreed.

The correct answer is B.

RC00349-06

452. According to the passage, Kerber argued that political leaders thought that the form of government adopted by the United States after the American Revolution depended on which of the following for its success?
- (A) Women assuming the sole responsibility for instilling political virtue in children
- (B) Girls becoming the primary focus of a reformed educational system that emphasized political virtue
- (C) The family serving as one of the primary means by which children were imbued with political virtue
- (D) The family assuming many of the functions previously performed by schools and churches
- (E) Men and women assuming equal responsibility for the management of schools, churches, and the family

Supporting ideas

The passage attributes to Kerber the claim that the nation's leaders believed a virtuous citizenry was essential to the success of the nation's republican form of government, and that women would play a primary role in raising future citizens who would be politically virtuous.

- A According to the passage, Kerber indicates that the nation's leaders believed churches and schools, as well as families, would work to imbue political virtue, though they emphasized the crucial role of families.
- B Kerber argues that the educational system underwent reform in the sense that educational opportunities for women increased; but does not claim that schools or families would change focus to imbue girls with political virtue.
- C **Correct.** Kerber argues that political leaders emphasized the family as the primary means by which future citizens would be imbued with political virtue.
- D Kerber does not claim the nation's leaders proposed that the family would take over functions previously fulfilled by schools and churches.
- E Kerber does not attribute to the nation's leaders the view that men and women would exercise equal roles in managing schools, churches, and the family.

The correct answer is C.

Questions 453–455 refer to the passage on page 388.

RC00633-01

453. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) compare the adaptive responses of several species of columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert with those in the arid tropical regions of southern Mexico
- (B) discuss some of the possible causes of the relatively low abundance of migratory nectar-feeding bats in the Sonoran Desert
- (C) provide a possible explanation for a particular evolutionary change in certain species of columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert

- (D) present recent findings that challenge a particular theory as to why several species of columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert have expanded their range of pollinators
- (E) compare the effectiveness of nocturnal and diurnal pollination for several different species of columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert

Main idea

This question depends on understanding the passage as a whole. The first paragraph discusses an evolutionary change undergone by columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert with regard to pollination. The second paragraph offers a possible reason for this change—migratory nectar-feeding bats are unreliable pollinators—and the third paragraph goes on to provide evidence that supports the reason given in the second paragraph.

- A The passage does compare the adaptations of cacti in the Sonoran Desert with those of cacti in southern Mexico, but it does so in support of a larger point about the Sonoran Desert cacti.
- B The relatively low abundance of migratory nectar-feeding bats in the Sonoran Desert is important to the passage in that it provides a reason why the columnar cacti in that region have made certain adaptations. But the passage does not explain why the bats are not particularly abundant.
- C **Correct.** The flowers of the columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert have evolved to remain open after sunrise, and the passage is primarily concerned with explaining why this change may have taken place.
- D The passage presents recent findings that support, rather than challenge, a theory as to why the columnar cacti of the Sonoran Desert have expanded their range of pollinators. The passage does not allude to any competing theory that may be challenged by the findings.
- E Any comparison of the effectiveness of nocturnal and diurnal pollination for columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert is made in support of the passage's primary concern: explaining why these cacti have come to remain open and receptive to pollination in daylight.

The correct answer is C.

RC00633-02

454. According to the passage, which of the following types of nectar-feeding pollinators is likely to be an unreliable pollinator of a particular cactus flower?
- A dietary specialist whose abundance is typically high in relation to that of the flower
 - A dietary specialist whose abundance is at times significantly lower than that of the flower
 - A dietary generalist for whom that flower's nectar is not a preferred food but is the most consistently available food
 - A dietary generalist for whom that flower's nectar is slightly preferred to other available foods
 - A dietary generalist that evolved from a species of dietary specialists

Supporting idea

This question depends on recognizing the qualities of an unreliable pollinator, as described in the passage. The second paragraph addresses this issue: it explains that the unreliability of pollinators can arise in any of three ways: they may be dietary generalists with alternative sources of food; they may be dietary specialists whose own abundance varies; or they may be dietary specialists whose abundance is chronically low in relation to the flowers.

- A dietary specialist whose abundance is high in relation to the flowers on which it feeds would likely be a reliable pollinator.
- Correct.** A dietary specialist whose abundance is at times significantly lower than that of the flower it pollinates would be, according to the passage, unreliable.
- A dietary generalist who finds the flower of a particular species more consistently available than other suitable food sources would most likely be a reliable pollinator of that flower.
- A dietary generalist who prefers the flower's nectar would likely be a reliable pollinator of that flower compared to other flowers.
- The passage provides no reason to believe that the evolution of a pollinator's dietary preference has any bearing on its reliability as a pollinator.

The correct answer is B.

RC00633-06

455. According to the passage, present-day columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert differ from their close relatives in southern Mexico in that the Sonoran cacti
- have flowers that remain open after sunset
 - are pollinated primarily by dietary specialists
 - can be pollinated by nectar-feeding bats
 - have stigmas that are un receptive to pollination at night
 - are sometimes pollinated by diurnal pollinators

Supporting idea

This question depends on identifying a difference noted in the passage between columnar cacti in the Sonoran Desert and their relatives in southern Mexico. The first paragraph states that in southern Mexico, columnar cactus flowers are not receptive to pollination by diurnal pollinators, whereas in the Sonoran Desert, the flowers have evolved to allow diurnal pollination.

- The cacti in both the Sonoran Desert and southern Mexico have flowers that remain open after sunset, because cacti in both locations can be pollinated nocturnally.
- Sonoran Desert cacti are pollinated, at least partially, by nectar-feeding bats, which are dietary specialists. But the cacti in southern Mexico are pollinated by these specialists, too.
- Sonoran Desert cacti can be pollinated by nectar-feeding bats—but so can cacti in southern Mexico.
- Cacti in the Sonoran Desert have stigmas that have evolved to be receptive to pollination both at night and during the day.
- Correct.** The distinction between cacti in the Sonoran Desert and those in southern Mexico is that Sonoran Desert cacti have evolved to allow pollination during the day—that is, pollination by diurnal pollinators.

The correct answer is E.

Questions 456–460 refer to the passage on page 390.

RC00121-01

456. The passage suggests that in order for a manufacturer in a capital-intensive industry to have a decisive advantage over competitors making similar products, the manufacturer must

- (A) be the first in the industry to build production facilities of theoretically optimal size
- (B) make every effort to keep fixed and sunk costs as low as possible
- (C) be one of the first to operate its manufacturing plants at minimum efficient scale
- (D) produce goods of higher quality than those produced by direct competitors
- (E) stockpile raw materials at production sites in order to ensure a steady flow of such materials

Inference

This question asks for an inference about what a manufacturer in a capital-intensive industry must do to have an advantage over competitors making similar products. The passage addresses this question by stating that advantage accrues to those firms that are the first to exploit the full potential of optimally sized, technologically sophisticated plants. In this context, exploiting the full potential of such plants means operating them at *minimum efficient scale*. Based on the definition in the first paragraph, this means that the plant must have an output of such a size that the cost per unit of output is at a minimum.

- A The passage says that for new capital-intensive firms to dominate the market, it is not enough for them to have optimally sized plants; the plants must also be operated in a way that fully exploits their potential.
- B While keeping fixed and sunk costs low would obviously help keep overall costs low, the passage does not suggest that this is decisive in enabling a firm to have an advantage over competitors.
- C **Correct.** Being among the first manufacturers to operate plants at minimum efficient scale means that those plants are being exploited to their full potential. This strategy would most likely give such manufacturers a decisive advantage over new firms hoping to compete effectively.

- D The passage does not discuss the quality of goods made by manufacturers.
- E The passage does not suggest that stockpiling raw materials is the most efficient way to ensure a steady flow of raw materials into the manufacturing process, though the passage states that such a steady flow is a factor in achieving minimum efficient scale.

The correct answer is C.

RC00121-02

457. The passage suggests that which of the following is true of a manufacturer's fixed and sunk costs?

- (A) The extent to which they are determined by market conditions for the goods being manufactured is frequently underestimated.
- (B) If they are kept as low as possible, the manufacturer is very likely to realize significant profits.
- (C) They are the primary factor that determines whether a manufacturer will realize economies of scale.
- (D) They should be on a par with the fixed and sunk costs of the manufacturer's competitors.
- (E) They are not affected by fluctuations in a manufacturing plant's throughput.

Inference

This question asks about what the passage implies about fixed and sunk costs. The passage states that when production declines due to certain factors, such costs remain at the same level (which may be high), and the cost per unit produced (*unit costs*) rises sharply.

- A The passage discusses the impact of market conditions on determining what the optimal size of a manufacturing plant is (which affects fixed and sunk costs). But it makes no claim about the frequency with which such an impact is “underestimated.”
- B The passage emphasizes that failing to keep throughput at an efficiently high level reduces profitability because that failure results in increased cost per unit (to which, of course, the plant's fixed and sunk costs contribute). But the passage does not claim that keeping aggregate fixed and sunk costs very low is necessary in order to have the most competitive production operation.

- C The passage emphasizes that the crucial factor in achieving economies of scale is efficient operation of the production facilities, not the size of the firm's fixed and sunk costs (even though such costs are clearly in part determined by the size and design of the production facilities).
- D While a manufacturer's fixed and sunk costs may be on a par with those of the manufacturer's competitors, the passage provides no grounds for inferring that there is any need for them to be (for example, physical plants that employ different technologies may have different price tags).
- E **Correct.** According to the passage, "throughput" refers to the flow of materials through a plant. This flow can vary as a result of various factors, but fixed and sunk costs—financial resources already committed—remain the same regardless of such variation.

The correct answer is E.

RC00121-03

458. In the context of the passage as a whole, the second paragraph serves primarily to
- (A) provide an example to support the argument presented in the first paragraph
- (B) evaluate various strategies discussed in the first paragraph
- (C) introduce evidence that undermines the argument presented in the first paragraph
- (D) anticipate possible objections to the argument presented in the first paragraph
- (E) demonstrate the potential dangers of a commonly used strategy

Evaluation

This question asks about the rhetorical function of the second paragraph. While the first paragraph argues that a crucial factor in achieving economies of scale is intangible capital, or organized human capabilities, the second paragraph uses the example of new capital-intensive manufacturing industries to help show that this is indeed the case.

- A **Correct.** The second paragraph provides an example that illustrates the claims made in the first paragraph. It discusses the way in which intangible capital—e.g., distribution networks, marketing systems, smooth production processes, and qualified management teams—enables manufacturers in new capital-intensive manufacturing industries to realize economies of scale and achieve market dominance.
- B The second paragraph does, in a sense, "evaluate" investment in intangible capital: it suggests that such investment is necessary. However, investment in intangible capital is the only strategy it discusses.
- C The second paragraph supports rather than undermines the first paragraph's argument.
- D Nothing in the second paragraph suggests that there are, or could be, any objections to the first paragraph's argument.
- E The second paragraph discusses the potential positive outcomes of investing in intangible capital. It suggests that there might be negative consequences to not making such investments, but it does not indicate that avoiding such investments is a commonly used strategy.

The correct answer is A.

RC00121-05

459. The passage LEAST supports the inference that a manufacturer's throughput could be adversely affected by
- (A) a mistake in judgment regarding the selection of a wholesaler
- (B) a breakdown in the factory's machinery
- (C) a labor dispute on the factory floor
- (D) an increase in the cost per unit of output
- (E) a drop in the efficiency of the sales network

Application

This question may be best approached by using an elimination strategy—first finding the four choices that can reasonably be inferred from the passage, and then checking to make sure that the remaining choice cannot reasonably be inferred. This requires understanding the information the passage gives about throughput, then making inferences about what can cause throughput to

drop. The passage defines throughput generally as *the flow of materials through a plant* and goes on to explain that it involves coordination of the production process itself, as well as obtaining materials from suppliers and marketing and distributing the manufactured products. Anything that damages this flow of materials and products would be said to have an adverse effect on throughput.

- A Making a poor judgment about a wholesaler would most likely have an adverse effect on throughput, in that it could affect *the flow of output to wholesalers and final consumers*.
- B A breakdown in machinery would likely fall into the category of *problems on the factory floor* mentioned in the passage and would likely prove damaging to throughput because of its effect on the production process itself.
- C A labor dispute would also likely fall into the category of *problems on the factory floor* mentioned in the passage and would probably cause a decline in production and thus adversely affect throughput.
- D Correct.** The passage emphasizes that changes in throughput can cause increases or decreases in costs per unit. But the passage is not committed to any claims about how changes in costs per unit might affect throughput.
- E The passage suggests that inefficient sales networks could cause a decline in production. Thus a decrease in sales efficiency would most likely adversely affect a manufacturer's ability to provide goods to consumers, and thus would create problems with throughput.

The correct answer is D.

RC00121-07

460. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) point out the importance of intangible capital for realizing economies of scale in manufacturing
- (B) show that manufacturers frequently gain a competitive advantage from investment in large manufacturing facilities
- (C) argue that large manufacturing facilities often fail because of inadequate investment in both tangible and intangible capital

- (D) suggest that most new industries are likely to be dominated by firms that build large manufacturing plants early
- (E) explain why large manufacturing plants usually do not help manufacturers achieve economies of scale

Main idea

This question depends on understanding the passage as a whole. In general, it makes an argument for investing in intangible capital as a way for manufacturers to realize economies of scale, and it supports its argument with an example.

- A Correct.** The passage focuses on intangible capital as a crucial factor in realizing economies of scale.
- B According to the passage, manufacturers gain competitive advantage by building plants of optimal size that they then fully exploit; nothing in the passage suggests that large plants are frequently optimal.
- C The passage assumes that manufacturers invest appropriately in tangible capital and argues that it is important for them to invest in intangible capital as well.
- D The passage states that new capital-intensive manufacturing industries are dominated not by firms that are the first to build large plants, but by firms that exploit the full potential of their plants.
- E The passage indicates that economies of scale can be achieved in plants of optimal size. The passage does not suggest that large plants cannot be optimal.

The correct answer is A.

Questions 461–466 refer to the passage on page 392.

RC00120-05

461. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) describe the development of new techniques that may help to determine the driving force behind population cycles in lepidoptera
- (B) present evidence that refutes a particular theory about the driving force behind population cycles in lepidoptera
- (C) present a hypothesis about the driving force behind population cycles in lepidoptera

RC00120-06

- (D) describe the fluctuating patterns of population cycles in lepidoptera
 (E) question the idea that a single driving force is behind population cycles in lepidoptera

Main idea

This question depends on understanding the passage as a whole in order to identify its purpose. The first paragraph defines population cycles of lepidoptera and discusses some ways those cycles have been studied. It suggests that a particular agent may regulate these cycles. The second paragraph describes a candidate for this agent: nuclear polyhedrosis viruses. The third paragraph explains why this hypothesis is compelling.

- A The passage mentions new techniques in molecular biology, but it does so in order to explain why a particular candidate for the agent behind population cycles has come to light.
 B The theory the passage presents is that there is a driving force behind lepidoptera population cycles. It does not refute this theory; rather, it offers a convincing case for nuclear polyhedrosis viruses as that force. It also discusses some previous approaches to seeking plausible hypotheses but does not focus on refuting any particular hypothesis.
C Correct. The passage is primarily concerned with presenting the hypothesis that nuclear polyhedrosis viruses are the driving force behind lepidoptera population cycles.
 D The first paragraph describes the fluctuating patterns of lepidoptera population cycles, but it does so to explain what population cycles are, so that it can then go on to attempt to account for those cycles.
 E The passage is concerned with making a case for nuclear polyhedrosis viruses as the driving force behind at least some lepidoptera population cycles, not with questioning the idea that there is a driving force.

The correct answer is C.

462. It can be inferred from the passage that the mortality caused by agents such as predatory birds or parasites was measured in an attempt to
 (A) develop an explanation for the existence of lepidoptera population cycles
 (B) identify behavioral factors in lepidoptera that affect survival rates
 (C) identify possible methods for controlling lepidoptera population growth
 (D) provide evidence that lepidoptera populations are self-regulating
 (E) determine the life stages of lepidoptera at which mortality rates are highest

Inference

The passage states that mortality caused by various agents, birds and parasites among them, was measured because this was the common approach to studying causes of population cycles. This in turn suggests that those scientists engaged in such measuring in the case of lepidoptera were attempting to come up with a definitive explanation for why those lepidoptera population cycles occurred.

- A Correct.** Measuring mortality caused by various agents was part of the attempt to determine the driving force behind lepidoptera population cycles.
 B The passage does not indicate that behavioral factors in lepidoptera are related to their mortality as caused by agents such as predatory birds or parasites.
 C The passage is concerned not with controlling lepidoptera population growth, but rather with determining why population cycles occur.
 D According to the information in the passage, scientists sought to measure mortality caused by particular agents in order to determine the driving force behind lepidoptera population cycles. In suggesting that mortality caused by these agents is not that force, the measurements may have indicated that the cycles could be self-regulating, but they were not undertaken in order to provide such evidence.

- E The passage discusses mortality primarily in the caterpillar stage and does not suggest that any research was directed toward comparing caterpillar mortality rates with mortality rates in other life stages of the insects.

The correct answer is A.

RC00120-01

463. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author’s conclusion in lines 18–22?
- (A) New research reveals that the number of species of birds and parasites that prey on lepidoptera has dropped significantly in recent years.
- (B) New experiments in which the habitats of lepidoptera are altered in previously untried ways result in the shortening of lepidoptera population cycles.
- (C) Recent experiments have revealed that the nuclear polyhedrosis virus is present in a number of predators and parasites of lepidoptera.
- (D) Differences among the habitats of lepidoptera species make it difficult to assess the effects of weather on lepidoptera population cycles.
- (E) Viral disease is typically observed in a large proportion of the lepidoptera population.

Evaluation

The sentence in question presents the author’s conclusion that lepidoptera populations may be self-regulating or regulated by something more closely connected to the insects than predatory birds or parasites are. To weaken that conclusion requires weakening its support, namely, that mortality caused by predators and parasites seems not to affect population cycles, and that changing habitats and reducing populations has not altered population cycles either.

- A A drop in birds and parasites preying on lepidoptera would not weaken the author’s conclusion; mortality caused by these predators has not affected population cycles.
- B **Correct.** New experiments involving changes in habitat that did succeed in altering population cycles would suggest that the populations are not in fact self-regulating, and that the search for another cycle-altering agent may be unnecessary.

- C This finding would support the idea that the nuclear polyhedrosis virus is responsible for population cycles—that is, that the virus is the closely connected agent the author concludes is responsible.
- D The suggestion that the effects of weather may not have been adequately assessed is remotely relevant to the author’s conclusion, but the mere difficulty of assessing the effects provides no positive reason to suppose that weather may be the cause of the cycles. On the other hand, answer choice B does offer evidence for an alternative explanation.
- E Viral disease is what the author ultimately suggests is the agent that drives the lepidoptera population cycles in question. The wide presence of viruses in lepidoptera could help support the author’s conclusion.

The correct answer is B.

RC00120-02

464. According to the passage, before the discovery of new techniques for detecting viral DNA, population ecologists believed that viral diseases
- (A) were not widely prevalent among insect populations generally
- (B) affected only the caterpillar life stage of lepidoptera
- (C) were the driving force behind lepidoptera population cycles
- (D) attacked already declining caterpillar populations
- (E) infected birds and parasites that prey on various species of lepidoptera

Supporting idea

This question addresses what the passage states directly about population ecologists’ beliefs regarding viral diseases prior to the discovery of new viral DNA-detection techniques. The second paragraph of the passage states that these ecologists believed viral disease contributed to population decline that was already underway rather than initiating it.

- A The second paragraph states that viral disease had been reported; thus, population ecologists were aware of its existence in insect populations. The passage is consistent with ecologists having believed that it was prevalent.

- B The passage focuses mainly on the caterpillar life stage of lepidoptera, but there is nothing to suggest that scientists held particular beliefs regarding viral diseases' restriction to that life stage.
- C It is after, not before, the discovery of new techniques for detecting viral DNA when populations ecologists came to believe that such diseases were the driving force behind the population cycles.
- D **Correct.** As stated in the passage, population ecologists believed that viral diseases contributed to already occurring population decline.
- E The passage does not discuss whether viral diseases may infect any lepidoptera predators.

The correct answer is D.

RC00120-03

465. According to the passage, nuclear polyhedrosis viruses can remain virulent in the environment only when
- the polyhedrin protein crystals dissolve
 - caterpillar populations are in decline
 - they are present in large numbers
 - their concentration in a particular area remains low
 - they are sheltered from direct sunlight

Supporting idea

The passage states in the second paragraph that these viruses remain virulent for many years if they are protected from direct sunlight. They are embedded in crystals of polyhedrin protein.

- The viruses remain virulent partially because of their being contained in polyhedrin protein crystals. They would most likely not remain virulent if those crystals dissolved.
- The viruses remain virulent even when caterpillar populations are not in decline; that is how the viruses initiate new population declines.
- According to the passage, viral DNA has been detected in the environment at low concentrations, yet the viruses are still virulent. Thus, they need not be present in large numbers.
- Nothing in the passage indicates that the concentration of these viruses must be low for them to be virulent.

- E **Correct.** The passage says that if the viruses are protected from direct sunlight, they remain virulent for many years. The context strongly suggests that if they are not so protected, they do not remain virulent.

The correct answer is E.

RC00120-04

466. It can be inferred from the passage that while inside its polyhedrin protein crystals, the nuclear polyhedrosis virus
- is exposed to direct sunlight
 - is attractive to predators
 - cannot infect caterpillars' cells
 - cannot be ingested by caterpillars
 - cannot be detected by new techniques of molecular biology

Inference

The passage indicates that the polyhedrin protein crystals protect the nuclear polyhedrosis virus when it is in the environment. When a caterpillar ingests those crystals, they dissolve. That releases the virus, whereupon it infects the caterpillar's cells. Thus it is reasonable to infer that the virus must be released from the crystals before it can infect the caterpillar.

- The passage states that nuclear polyhedrosis viruses remain embedded in polyhedrin protein crystals if protected from direct sunlight, not that the virus is exposed to light when it is in the protein crystals.
- Nothing in the passage indicates that any organism preys on the virus itself or that it attracts predators to caterpillars that it infects.
- Correct.** The virus must be released from the crystals before it can infect caterpillars' cells.
- The passage states that caterpillars ingest the polyhedrin protein crystals.
- According to the passage, new techniques of molecular biology enable the detection of viral DNA in the environment. The nuclear polyhedrosis virus persists in the environment inside protein crystals. The passage suggests that the new techniques are able to detect the virus inside its crystals but does not provide any evidence about whether they detect it directly or infer its presence indirectly.

The correct answer is C.

Questions 467–470 refer to the passage on page 394.

RC00223-03

467. According to the passage, which of the following is true of plant antiherbivore chemistry?
- Changes in a plant's antiherbivore chemistry may affect insect feeding behavior.
 - A plant's repellent effects often involve interactions between gum and resin.
 - A plant's antiherbivore responses assist in combating bacterial infections.
 - Plant antiherbivore chemistry plays only a minor role in the coevolution of plants and insects.
 - Researchers first studied repellent effects in plants beginning in the 1950s.

Supporting ideas

This question addresses what the information in the passage indicates about plant antiherbivore chemistry—that is, plants' chemical defenses against herbivore attacks. The second paragraph of the passage cites the views of various scientists regarding the possible role of resin in antiherbivore chemistry; plants could have evolved resin specifically to repel insects.

- A** **Correct.** According to the second paragraph, various scientists have suggested that a change in antiherbivore chemistry, here specifically involving resin, could repel insects; alternatively, some insects could have been attracted to resin, feeding more heavily on plants that produced it. Other researchers have suggested that even if resin does not directly repel or attract insects, it may indirectly affect insect-feeding behavior by mediating changes in plants' antiherbivore chemistry.
- B** The first paragraph states that plants produce gum in response to bacterial infections. Although this does not rule out the hypothesis that gum also contributes to plants' antiherbivore chemistry, the passage provides no evidence that it does so.
- C** According to the passage, a plant's antiherbivore responses have developed to combat predators, such as insects, that eat plants. The passage provides no evidence that such responses also combat bacterial infections.

- The second paragraph indicates that plant antiherbivore chemistry plays a major role in the discipline of chemical ecology, and chemical ecology concerns itself with coevolution of plants and insects.
- According to the passage, it was in the 1950s that entomologists began discussing resin's possible role in repelling and attracting insects. The passage does not suggest that this marked the beginning of their study of repellent effects more generally.

The correct answer is A.

RC00223-04

468. Of the following topics, which would be most likely to be studied within the discipline of chemical ecology as it is described in the passage?

- Seeds that become attached to certain insects, which in turn carry away the seeds and aid in the reproductive cycle of the plant species in question
- An insect species that feeds on weeds detrimental to crop health and yield, and how these insects might aid in agricultural production
- The effects of deforestation on the life cycles of subtropical carnivorous plants and the insect species on which the plants feed
- The growth patterns of a particular species of plant that has proved remarkably resistant to herbicides
- Insects that develop a tolerance for feeding on a plant that had previously been toxic to them, and the resultant changes within that plant species

Application

The discipline of chemical ecology, as it is described in the passage, deals with how plants use chemicals to interact with other organisms—in particular, how they defend against attack—and how those interactions have evolved. To be studied within that discipline, a specific topic would need to address some aspect of that chemical interaction.

- A** The passage provides no reason to suppose that the topic of seeds and how they travel would be studied within chemical ecology, given that it does not discuss how chemicals might be involved in the reproductive cycle.

- B The passage provides no indication that chemical ecology would be concerned with how weed-destroying insects would aid agricultural production.
- C The passage provides no indication that deforestation would involve plant chemicals or that its effects would be studied in chemical ecology.
- D The passage provides no indication that a plant's resistance to herbicides would be studied in chemical ecology, but the passage does suggest that the focus of chemical ecology is on how plants chemically interact with other organisms.
- E **Correct.** Chemical ecology developed to deal with the interdependence between plants and insects. Insects' developing a tolerance for feeding on a once-toxic plant, and the plants' resultant changes, is a situation of just such interdependence: plants and insects coevolving.

The correct answer is E.

RC00223-05

469. The author refers to “bacterial infections” (see line 11) most likely in order to
- (A) describe the physiological function that gum performs in plants
- (B) demonstrate that sap is not the only substance that is transported through a plant's tissues
- (C) explain how modern chemical analysis has been used to clarify the function of resin
- (D) show that gum cannot serve as an effective defense against herbivores
- (E) give an example of how confusion has arisen with regard to the nature of resin

Evaluation

The author mentions *bacterial infections* in the first paragraph as the reason why plants produce the substance known as gum.

- A **Correct.** The author states directly that plants produce gum in response to bacterial infections.
- B The author states directly that sap is transported through plant tissues. The passage does not address the question of whether bacterial infections or anything related to them are similarly transported.

- C The passage indicates that rigorous chemical analysis is now available, but scientists still do not know resin's function. The reference to bacterial infections is related to gum, not resin.
- D The reference to bacterial infections indicates the actual purpose served by gum; it does not function to show ways in which gum is inadequate.
- E Gum itself serves as an example of the confusion surrounding the nature of resin; bacterial infections, to which gum production is a response, do not serve as that example.

The correct answer is A.

RC00223-07

470. The author of the passage refers to Pliny most probably in order to
- (A) give an example of how the nature of amber has been misunderstood in the past
- (B) show that confusion about amber has long been more pervasive than confusion about resin
- (C) make note of the first known reference to amber as a semiprecious gem
- (D) point out an exception to a generalization about the history of people's understanding of amber
- (E) demonstrate that Pliny believed amber to be a mineral

Evaluation

The passage states generally that *amber has been widely misunderstood* but cites Pliny as noting correctly, in the first century, that amber resulted from a substance discharged by trees.

- A Pliny's observation was, according to the author, accurate and not a misunderstanding.
- B The author equates confusion about amber with confusion about resin; the reference to Pliny does not indicate which of the two, amber or resin, has been more widely misunderstood.
- C The author indicates that others, not Pliny, mischaracterized amber as a semiprecious gem—and when that mischaracterization first occurred is not identified.

- D **Correct.** Pliny's recognition that amber came from a substance discharged by trees stands, in the author's account, as an exception to the widespread incorrect identifications of the substance.
- E Others held the belief that amber was a mineral. The passage indicates that Pliny recognized that amber came from trees but provides no evidence that he also considered it a mineral.

The correct answer is D.

Questions 471–473 refer to the passage on page 396.

RC00333-01

471. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- compare the impact of the Great Depression on Latin America with its impact on the United States
 - criticize a school of economic historians for failing to analyze the Great Depression in Latin America within a global context
 - illustrate the risks inherent in comparing different types of economic enterprises to explain economic phenomena
 - call into question certain scholars' views concerning the severity of the Great Depression in Latin America
 - demonstrate that the Great Depression had a more severe impact on industry in Latin American than in certain other regions

Main idea

This question depends on understanding the passage as a whole. The passage first describes the view of many economic historians of the 1980s. It next describes the evidence on which that view is based. The remainder of the passage raises issues about the rationale for that view.

- The comparison between Latin America and the United States is only a small part of a larger argument analyzing studies of the Great Depression in Latin America.
- The passage does not discuss a global context for the Great Depression.
- The passage does not primarily aim to illustrate risks that may be generally inherent in explaining economic phenomena.

- D **Correct.** The passage claims that certain scholars underestimate the severity of the Great Depression in Latin America.
- E The passage does not claim that the impact of the Great Depression on Latin American industry was generally more severe than its impact on industry elsewhere.

The correct answer is D.

RC00333-02

472. Which of the following conclusions about the Great Depression is best supported by the passage?
- It did not impede Latin American industrial growth as much as historians had previously thought.
 - It had a more severe impact on the Brazilian and the Mexican textile industries than it had on Latin America as a region.
 - It affected the Latin American textile industry more severely than it did any other industry in Latin America.
 - The overall impact on Latin American industrial growth should be reevaluated by economic historians.
 - Its impact on Latin America should not be compared with its impact on the United States.

Inference

This question asks which conclusion is most strongly supported by the passage. The passage presents the rationale of some historians for their conclusion that the Great Depression did not significantly interfere with economic growth in Latin America. It then critiques that rationale and conclusion. By questioning the historians' claims, the passage suggests that a reevaluation of the Great Depression's effect on Latin America is needed.

- The passage does not significantly support this. The passage indicates that, in fact, the Great Depression impeded Latin American economic development more than some historians had thought.
- The passage does not significantly support this. The passage does not compare the impact on the Brazilian and Mexican textile industries to the impact on the Latin American region.

- C The passage does not significantly support this. The passage does not compare the effect of the Great Depression on the textile industry to its effect on other industries.
- D **Correct.** As presented in the passage, the passage author's critique of the historians' rationale for their claims provides significant support for the conclusion that their claims should be reevaluated.
- E The passage does not significantly support the claim that the comparison in question should not be made.

The correct answer is D.

RC00333-04

473. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's assertion regarding economic indicators in lines 25–27?
- (A) During an economic depression, European textile manufacturers' profits rise while their industrial output remains steady.
- (B) During a national economic recession, United States microchips manufacturers' profits rise sharply while United States steel manufacturers' profits plunge.
- (C) During the years following a severe economic depression, textile manufacturers' output levels and profit levels increase in Brazil and Mexico but not in the rest of Latin America.
- (D) Although Japanese industry as a whole recovers after an economic recession, it does not regain its previously high levels of production.
- (E) While European industrial output increases in the years following an economic depression, total output remains below that of Japan or the United States.

Application

The question involves applying information from outside the passage to a claim made by the author. The text in lines 25–27 asserts that broad economic indicators pertaining to a nation or region can obscure differences between individual firms or industries within that nation or region. The question asks which evidence would most strengthen the support for that conclusion.

- A This refers only to the relationship between a single industry's profits and its output, not to general economic indicators.
- B **Correct.** The phrase *a national recession* refers to a general economic indicator. Suppose that in a situation described as a national recession, one industry (microchip manufacturing) prospers while another industry (steel manufacturing) does not. This would provide some additional support, over and above that given in the passage, for the assertion that broad economic indicators may mask differences between industries.
- C Economic differences between countries do not strengthen the support for the author's assertion regarding variations among different firms and industries in one country or region.
- D This has no obvious bearing on how sweeping economic indicators can mask differences between industries or enterprises in a single country or region.
- E A comparison of different countries does not pertain to the assertion regarding variation among firms and industries in the same country.

The correct answer is B.

Questions 474–477 refer to the passage on page 398.

RC00272-02

474. It can be inferred from the passage that a large plant might have to spend more than a similar but smaller plant on environmental compliance because the larger plant is
- (A) more likely to attract attention from local regulators
- (B) less likely to be exempt from permit and reporting requirements
- (C) less likely to have regulatory costs passed on to it by companies that supply its raw materials
- (D) more likely to employ older production technologies
- (E) more likely to generate wastes that are more environmentally damaging than those generated by smaller plants

Inference

This item depends on understanding the implications of the passage's discussion of differences between large and small plants. It asks what might be true of a larger plant that would compel it to spend more than a smaller plant on environmental compliance. The passage addresses this issue by stating that smaller plants are often not subject to the same permit or reporting requirements that larger plants are.

- A The likelihood of attracting regulatory attention is discussed only in the context of comparing plants that are *isolated* with small plants that are near large noncompliant ones. The passage does not suggest that size is generally the crucial determining factor in attracting regulatory attention.
- B **Correct.** According to the passage, certain permit or reporting requirements may not apply to smaller plants; this suggests that larger plants are less likely than smaller plants to be exempt from these requirements, and thus that the larger plants would have to spend more to comply.
- C The passage does not discuss the passing on of regulatory costs from suppliers to plants.
- D The passage does not suggest that larger plants are any more likely than smaller plants to employ older production technologies.
- E The passage does not distinguish between the types of wastes emitted by larger plants and those emitted by smaller plants.

The correct answer is B.

RC00272-04

475. According to the passage, which of the following statements about sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide outputs is true?
- (A) Older production technologies cannot be adapted so as to reduce production of these outputs as waste products.
 - (B) Under the most recent environmental regulations, industrial plants are no longer permitted to produce these outputs.
 - (C) Although these outputs are environmentally hazardous, some plants still generate them as waste products despite the high compliance costs they impose.

- (D) Many older plants have developed innovative technological processes that reduce the amounts of these outputs generated as waste products.
- (E) Since the production processes that generate these outputs are less costly than alternative processes, these less expensive processes are sometimes adopted despite their acknowledged environmental hazards.

Supporting idea

This item depends on identifying what the passage states explicitly about outputs of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. The passage says that plants that produce these outputs are those that use older industrial coal-fired burners, and that such plants are subject to extensive compliance costs imposed by new regulations.

- A The passage does not address the question of whether older production technologies might be adapted to reduce outputs of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.
- B The passage states that new regulations have imposed high compliance costs on companies that produce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide outputs, not that these outputs are prohibited.
- C **Correct.** The passage states that some companies are still using the older kinds of burners that generate sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide outputs, and that new regulations have imposed high compliance costs on these companies.
- D The passage does not address the question of whether older plants have developed new processes to reduce the amounts of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide they produce.
- E Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide outputs, the passage suggests, are produced only by older industrial coal-fired burners; newer facilities (using alternative processes) do not employ this technology, the expense of which is not mentioned in the passage.

The correct answer is C.

RC00272-06

476. Which of the following best describes the relationship of the statement about large plants (lines 12–17) to the passage as a whole?
- It presents a hypothesis that is disproved later in the passage.
 - It highlights an opposition between two ideas mentioned in the passage.
 - It provides examples to support a claim made earlier in the passage.
 - It exemplifies a misconception mentioned earlier in the passage.
 - It draws an analogy between two situations described in the passage.

Evaluation

This question asks about the role played in the passage by the following statement: *Additionally, large plants can spread compliance costs such as waste treatment across a larger revenue base; on the other hand, some smaller plants may not even be subject to certain provisions such as permit or reporting requirements by virtue of their size.* This statement describes situations in which compliance costs for plants of different sizes may differ, which serve as evidence in support of the passage's main claim: that environmental regulations do *not* affect all competitors in a given industry uniformly.

- The statement in question is not a hypothesis; rather, it reports factors that are known to affect the varying impact of environmental regulations.
- This is too vague to be a good description of the kind of relationship the question asks about. The statement in question does present a contrast—it suggests that larger plants' compliance costs are lower under some circumstances, while smaller plants' compliance costs are lower under other circumstances. But this purports to state two facts rather than mere *ideas*; they are contrasting facts but not in any meaningful sense *opposed*, since they can easily coexist.
- Correct.** The statement provides examples to support the initial claim made in the passage that regulatory costs fall unevenly on competitors in an industry: large plants can spread compliance costs around, and smaller plants may not even have to pay certain costs.

- This statement helps to dispel, not exemplify, a misconception mentioned earlier in the passage—i.e., the myth that environmental regulations affect all companies in an industry the same way.
- The statement does not suggest that the situation of larger and smaller plants is similar (or analogous) to any other situation mentioned in the passage.

The correct answer is C.

RC00272-07

477. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- address a widespread environmental management problem and suggest possible solutions
 - illustrate varying levels of compliance with environmental regulation among different corporations
 - describe the various alternatives to traditional methods of environmental management
 - advocate increased corporate compliance with environmental regulation
 - correct a common misconception about the impact of environmental regulations

Main idea

This question depends on understanding the passage as a whole. Its first sentence indicates its main purpose: to dispel a myth about environmental regulations that is often taken as fact.

- The passage is not about the management of any environmental problem, which would be a problem about how to prevent or undo damage to the environment. The passage primarily aims to dispel a belief that the passage says is widely held by environmental managers.
- The passage refers to variations in firms' levels of compliance with environmental regulations, but its primary purpose is not to illustrate those varying levels, nor does it do so.
- The passage suggests that most environmental managers are mistaken about a key concept; its primary purpose is not to describe traditional methods of environmental management or alternatives to those traditional methods, nor does it do so.

- D The passage takes no position on whether companies should increase their compliance with environmental regulation.
- E Correct.** The passage primarily aims to dispel the belief that environmental regulations affect all companies in an industry uniformly.

The correct answer is E.

Questions 478–483 refer to the passage on page 400.

RC11332-01

478. In the passage, the author is primarily interested in
- (A) suggesting an alternative to an outdated research method
- (B) introducing a new research method that calls an accepted theory into question
- (C) emphasizing the instability of data gathered from the application of a new scientific method
- (D) presenting a theory and describing a new method to test that theory
- (E) initiating a debate about a widely accepted theory

Main idea

This question concerns the main point of the passage. A careful examination of the overall structure of the passage will reveal the main point. In the first paragraph, the author briefly presents Milankovitch's theory and explains why it could not be tested early on. In the second and third paragraphs, the author describes how a new method allows testing of the theory and shows how evidence from the testing supports the theory. While the final paragraph acknowledges that other factors should be considered, the author's primary interest in this passage is in presenting Milankovitch's theory and the recently discovered method for testing it.

- A A new research method is described, but no previous method is discussed.
- B As described in the passage, the new method tests and confirms the theory; there is no mention that the theory is accepted or that the method casts doubt on it.
- C Nothing in the passage suggests that "instability of data" is an issue.
- D Correct.** The author presents Milankovitch's theory and describes the oxygen isotope method of testing it.

- E The theory is nowhere said to be "widely accepted" and the author does not debate the theory.

The correct answer is D.

RC11332-02

479. The author of the passage would be most likely to agree with which of the following statements about the Milankovitch theory?
- (A) It is the only possible explanation for the ice ages.
- (B) It is too limited to provide a plausible explanation for the ice ages, despite recent research findings.
- (C) It cannot be tested and confirmed until further research on volcanic activity is done.
- (D) It is one plausible explanation, though not the only one, for the ice ages.
- (E) It is not a plausible explanation for the ice ages, although it has opened up promising possibilities for future research.

Application

The author's reaction to the statements about the Milankovitch theory must be based on how the author treats the theory in the passage. The first, second, and third paragraphs describe the theory and the use of a new research method to test the theory. The passage states that data from these tests *have established a strong connection between variations in the Earth's orbit and the periodicity of the ice ages*, suggesting that the author of the passage believes the theory is plausible. In the final paragraph, the author points to other factors that might be involved, suggesting that the theory might not provide a complete explanation.

- A In the last paragraph, the author suggests that because there are still other untested factors that may have effects on climate, other explanations are possible.
- B Though in the last paragraph the author points to other factors that may be involved, these are not presented by the author as indicating limitations that diminish the plausibility of the theory—they are acknowledged merely as possibilities that are not now understood—and nothing else in the passage suggests that the theory is "too limited."

- C The author shows how the theory has been tested; volcanic activity is not part of this theory.
- D **Correct.** The author's presentation of the theory and the tests of the theory show that the author finds the theory plausible; the mention of other factors shows the author does not think that all other explanations have been ruled out, even if they are as yet untested.
- E The theory was a plausible explanation from its beginning, but it was not testable until recently; scientists would be unlikely to try to devise means to test a theory that did not strike them as antecedently plausible.

The correct answer is D.

RC11332-03

480. It can be inferred from the passage that the isotope record taken from ocean sediments would be less useful to researchers if which of the following were true?
- (A) It indicated that lighter isotopes of oxygen predominated at certain times.
- (B) It had far more gaps in its sequence than the record taken from rocks on land.
- (C) It indicated that climate shifts did not occur every 100,000 years.
- (D) It indicated that the ratios of oxygen 16 and oxygen 18 in ocean water were not consistent with those found in fresh water.
- (E) It stretched back for only a million years.

Inference

To make an inference about the isotope record from ocean sediments, examine what the passage says about that record. The third paragraph discusses that record and lists its two advantages. First, it is a global record with *remarkably little variation* in samples from varied locations. Second, it is *more continuous* than the record from rocks. If either of these advantages were not true, then it is logical to infer that the record would be less useful.

- A According to lines 14–16, the lighter isotope does predominate; this is part of the record and does not affect its usefulness.

- B **Correct.** In lines 37–42, the author states that an advantage of the ocean record is that it is *a more continuous record than that taken from rocks on land*. If this were not true, the ocean record would be less useful.
- C If the record were to show that the shifts did not occur every 100,000 years, Milankovitch's theory would be weakened. This impact on the theory does not make the isotope record less useful to researchers. The record is useful precisely because it can offer evidence to confirm or refute such theories.
- D This inconsistency would not affect the usefulness of the ocean-water record. Researchers would simply need to accommodate the fresh-water inconsistency.
- E The record would still be useful. Lines 42–46 attest to the establishment of a pattern based on data from *the past several hundred thousand years*.

The correct answer is B.

RC11332-04

481. According to the passage, which of the following is true of the ratios of oxygen isotopes in ocean sediments?
- (A) They indicate that sediments found during an ice age contain more calcium carbonate than sediments formed at other times.
- (B) They are less reliable than the evidence from rocks on land in determining the volume of land ice.
- (C) They can be used to deduce the relative volume of land ice that was present when the sediment was laid down.
- (D) They are more unpredictable during an ice age than in other climatic conditions.
- (E) They can be used to determine atmospheric conditions at various times in the past.

Supporting ideas

The phrase *according to the passage* suggests that the answer to the question is most likely stated in the passage. Lines 12–14 state that the relative volume of land ice can be deduced from the ratio of oxygen 18 to oxygen 16 in ocean sediments.

- A There is no evidence in the passage about this point.

- B The ocean record is described in lines 38–39 as *more continuous*, so it is unlikely to be less reliable. In any case, reliability is not discussed.
- C **Correct.** Lines 12–14 explain that *the land-ice volume for a given period can be deduced from the ratio of two oxygen isotopes*.
- D There is no evidence in the passage to support this statement.
- E The passage does not discuss the use of this record in determining past atmospheric conditions.

The correct answer is C.

RC11332-05

482. It can be inferred from the passage that precipitation formed from evaporated ocean water has
- (A) the same isotopic ratio as ocean water
- (B) less oxygen 18 than does ocean water
- (C) less oxygen 18 than has the ice contained in continental ice sheets
- (D) a different isotopic composition than has precipitation formed from water on land
- (E) more oxygen 16 than has precipitation formed from fresh water

Inference

Any inference about precipitation from evaporated ocean water needs to be based on what the passage says. Lines 20–22 show that *heavier isotopes tend to be left behind when water evaporates from the ocean surfaces*. Therefore, the evaporated water would contain less oxygen 18 and the remaining ocean water would contain more. It is logical to infer that precipitation formed from this evaporated water would also contain less oxygen 18.

- A Lines 20–24 explain that the water remaining in the ocean after evaporation has more oxygen 18.
- B **Correct.** Since *the heavier isotopes tend to be left behind*, there will be less oxygen 18 in the evaporated water and in the precipitation that forms from it.
- C The passage suggests that the ocean water evaporates and through subsequent precipitation helps form the ice sheets, so the amount of oxygen 18 in the ice sheets should be similar to the amount in the precipitation formed from the evaporated water.

- D The passage does not discuss precipitation formed from water on land.
- E The passage does not discuss precipitation formed from fresh water.

The correct answer is B.

RC11332-06

483. It can be inferred from the passage that calcium carbonate shells
- (A) are not as susceptible to deterioration as rocks
- (B) are less common in sediments formed during an ice age
- (C) are found only in areas that were once covered by land ice
- (D) contain radioactive material that can be used to determine a sediment's isotopic composition
- (E) reflect the isotopic composition of the water at the time the shells were formed

Inference

Any inference about calcium carbonate shells needs to be based on what the passage says about these shells. Lines 24–32 explain the role of these shells in forming sediments and establishing a chronology for ice ages. The shells *were constructed with oxygen atoms drawn from the surrounding ocean*. Lines 29–32 make it clear that if the sediments reveal a higher ratio of oxygen 18, it is because more oxygen 18 had been left behind when the ocean water evaporated and contributed to the growth of continental ice sheets. It can thus be inferred that the shells that make up those sediments must reflect the proportion of oxygen 18 found in the ocean water at the time they were formed.

- A The only mention of rocks in the passage is a comparison of “gappiness” of the rock and sedimentary specimen records in lines 38–39; this information does not allow any firm inference to be made with respect to relative susceptibility to deterioration, though a more continuous record might be the result of less susceptibility to deterioration.
- B The passage does not make any reference to the relative abundance of these shells during ice ages; no such inference can be drawn.

- C The only information in the passage that might support this statement is found in lines 29–32, but that information, about the correlation between oxygen ratios in sediment specimens and land ice, describes a relation that implies nothing about distributions of such specimens.
- D Though the passage does indirectly indicate that the shells contained radioactive material, nothing in the passage suggests that radioactive material is used to determine isotopic composition.
- E **Correct.** The passage explains that oxygen atoms in the surrounding water are one of the building blocks of calcium carbonate shells. The isotopic composition of the surrounding water changes during the ice age cycles, so it is logical that the isotopic composition of the shells will change depending on when they were formed.

The correct answer is E.

Questions 484–489 refer to the passage on page 402.

RC00109-01

484. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- examine two sides of a historiographical debate
 - call into question an author's approach to a historiographical debate
 - examine one author's approach to a historiographical debate
 - discuss two authors' works in relationship to a historiographical debate
 - explain the prevalent perspective on a historiographical debate

Main idea

This question requires understanding what the passage as a whole is attempting to do. The passage opens by introducing two books published in 1984 that both concern the history of women in the United States. The passage then makes it clear that one book deals *directly* (line 15) with the issue of women's status, while the other does not. The passage then goes on to discuss the perspective that each book takes and what each book has to offer for an assessment of women's status in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

- A The two books discussed in the passage do not take different sides on a particular debate but rather are described as being more or less useful to the debate itself.
- B The passage focuses on how two different books contain information useful to a particular historiographical debate but does not call into question the approach of either book.
- C The passage focuses on two authors' works, not one.
- D **Correct.** The passage discusses what two different books have to offer in relation to a particular historiographical debate.
- E The passage does not describe any perspective on a particular historiographical debate as being more prevalent than any other.

The correct answer is D.

RC00109-02

485. The author of the passage mentions the supervision of schools primarily in order to
- remind readers of the role education played in the cultural changes of the nineteenth century in the United States
 - suggest an area in which nineteenth-century American women were relatively free to exercise power
 - provide an example of an occupation for which accurate data about women's participation are difficult to obtain
 - speculate about which occupations were considered suitable for United States women of the nineteenth century
 - illustrate how the answers to questions about women's status depend on particular contexts

Evaluation

Answering this question depends on understanding what role a particular piece of information plays in the passage as a whole. The author implicitly supports Lebsock's contention (beginning at line 20) that different frames of reference can produce different perspectives on the debate about women's status in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The author then summarizes different contexts cited by Lebsock to support the contention about frames of reference. As part of this summary, the author refers to *supervising schools* (lines 24–25) as an example of a job that apparently showed women losing power.

- A The passage does not discuss the role of education in the nineteenth century.
- B The passage does mention some ways in which, according to Lebsock, *women ... gained power* (lines 25–26) in the nineteenth century, but *supervising schools* is not among them.
- C The passage does not discuss the difficulty of obtaining data about particular occupations.
- D The passage makes no judgments about the suitability for women of any jobs in the nineteenth century.
- E **Correct.** The passage mentions supervising schools as part of an illustration of Lebsock's claim that the debate about women's status depends on the context being examined.

The correct answer is E.

RC00109-03

486. With which of the following characterizations of Lebsock's contribution to the controversy concerning women's status in the nineteenth-century United States would the author of the passage be most likely to agree?
- (A) Lebsock has studied women from a formerly neglected region and time period.
 - (B) Lebsock has demonstrated the importance of frame of reference in answering questions about women's status.
 - (C) Lebsock has addressed the controversy by using women's current status as a frame of reference.
 - (D) Lebsock has analyzed statistics about occupations and property that were previously ignored.
 - (E) Lebsock has applied recent historiographical methods to the biography of a nineteenth-century woman.

Supporting ideas

Answering this question requires recognizing information explicitly given in the passage. The passage introduces the work of Lebsock in line 6 and then goes on to describe several characteristics of Lebsock's book. In lines 20–22, the author introduces Lebsock's claim that the historiographical debate about women's status is dependent on frame of reference and calls that claim important; the passage then gives an example showing how frame of reference affects views of women's status. In so doing, the author displays an implicit agreement with Lebsock's discussion on this point.

- A The author of the passage portrays neither the place nor time period that Lebsock focuses on as having been neglected by historians.
- B **Correct.** The author describes as important Lebsock's idea that frame of reference informs the debate about women's status.
- C According to the passage, Lebsock's book deals with women's status in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, not the present status of women.
- D The passage does not mention or imply that Lebsock analyzed statistics in writing her book.
- E Although the passage does describe Lebsock's book as pertaining to an ongoing historiographical debate, it identifies the book's topic as *women in one southern community* (lines 7–8), not the life of a single woman.

The correct answer is B.

RC00109-04

487. According to the passage, Lebsock's work differs from Buel and Buel's work in that Lebsock's work
- (A) uses a large number of primary sources
 - (B) ignores issues of women's legal status
 - (C) refuses to take a position on women's status in the eighteenth century
 - (D) addresses larger historiographical issues
 - (E) fails to provide sufficient material to support its claims

Supporting ideas

This question asks for recognition of information contained in the passage. In the first sentence, the passage states that Buel and Buel's work and Lebsock's work have *contrasting approaches*. The passage then proceeds, using descriptions of each work's approach, to illustrate how the works differ. The passage notes that Buel and Buel's work *makes little effort* to place its biographical subject *in the context of recent historiography on women* (lines 5–6), whereas Lebsock's work attempts *to redirect two decades of historiographical debate about women's status*.

- A Primary sources are not mentioned in the passage in relation to either work discussed.
- B The legal status of women is not mentioned in the passage.
- C Lebsock's work is described in the passage as attempting to redirect the debate about women's status in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- D Correct.** The passage suggests that by not placing its subject's story in the context of historiography, Buel and Buel's work does not therefore address larger historiographical issues, as Lebsock's does.
- E The passage tends to support Lebsock's views and does not refer to any lack of support for the claims made in Lebsock's work.

The correct answer is D.

RC0010905

488. The passage suggests that Lebsock believes that compared to nineteenth-century American women, eighteenth-century American women were
- (A) in many respects less powerful in relation to men
 - (B) more likely to own real estate
 - (C) generally more economically independent
 - (D) more independent in conducting their private lives
 - (E) less likely to work as school superintendents

Inference

This question requires making an inference based on information given in the passage. As part of the passage's description of Lebsock's contribution to the historiographical debate about women's status in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Lebsock's conclusions about women's autonomy are described. As part of this description, the passage cites Lebsock's conclusion that nineteenth-century women lost economic autonomy when compared to eighteenth-century women (lines 17–20).

- A The passage states that in many ways women in the nineteenth century *lost power in relation to men* (line 23), which would imply that in those respects eighteenth-century women had more power in relation to men, not less. The only increase mentioned in nineteenth-century women's power is associated with owning more real estate.

- B The passage states that more nineteenth-century women owned real estate.
- C Correct.** As the passage states, Lebsock concluded that nineteenth-century women lost economic autonomy compared to eighteenth-century women.
- D The passage states that nineteenth-century women gained more independence in their private lives.
- E The passage cites school superintendents as an example of an occupation more likely to be held by eighteenth-century women.

The correct answer is C.

RC0010906

489. The passage suggests that Buel and Buel's biography of Mary Fish provides evidence for which of the following views of women's history?

- (A) Women have lost power in relation to men since the colonial era.
- (B) Women of the colonial era were not as likely to be concerned with their status as were women in the nineteenth century.
- (C) The colonial era was not as favorable for women as some historians have believed.
- (D) Women had more economic autonomy in the colonial era than in the nineteenth century.
- (E) Women's occupations were generally more respected in the colonial era than in the nineteenth century.

Inference

This question requires understanding what the passage implies. The approach that Buel and Buel's work takes is specifically described in lines 3–6 and again in lines 28–34. In lines 29–32, the passage states that Buel and Buel's work *provides ample raw material for questioning the myth ... of a colonial golden age in the eighteenth century*, referring to a myth about women's status. In describing this golden age as a myth fostered by some historians, the passage suggests that this era was not as favorable to women as these historians suggest.

- A The passage describes Lebsock's work as providing such evidence, not Buel and Buel's work.
- B The passage does not pertain to the level of concern women had for their status.

- C **Correct.** The final paragraph of the passage describes Buel and Buel's work as providing material that calls into question claims that the eighteenth century was especially favorable to women.
- D The passage refers to the economic autonomy of women in relation to Lebsack's work, not Buel and Buel's work.
- E The passage does not refer to whether any particular occupations held by women were more respected at one time or another.

The correct answer is C.

Questions 490–492 refer to the passage on page 404.

RC00558-01

490. The passage suggests that WIDC differed from WTUL in which of the following ways?
- (A) WIDC believed that the existing safety regulations were adequate to protect women's health, whereas WTUL believed that such regulations needed to be strengthened.
 - (B) WIDC believed that unions could not succeed in pressuring employers to comply with such regulations, whereas WTUL believed that unions could succeed in doing so.
 - (C) WIDC believed that lead poisoning in white lead factories could be avoided by controlling conditions there, whereas WTUL believed that lead poisoning in such factories could not be avoided no matter how stringently safety regulations were enforced.
 - (D) At the time that the legislation concerning white lead factories was proposed, WIDC was primarily concerned with addressing health conditions in white lead factories, whereas WTUL was concerned with improving working conditions in all types of factories.
 - (E) At the time that WIDC was opposing legislative attempts to restrict women's labor, WTUL had already ceased to do so.

Inference

To answer this question you need to understand the differences between WIDC and WTUL as they are described in the passage. The only information about WTUL in the passage is that it had stopped opposing restrictions on women's labor in the late 1880s, and that, because existing safety regulations were not being enforced, it supported the proposal to prohibit women from working in white lead factories. WIDC, on the other hand, was formed in 1892 specifically to oppose restrictions on women's labor, and it opposed the proposal.

- A According to the passage, WIDC did believe that existing safety regulations, if enforced, could prevent lead poisoning. WTUL may or may not have believed that the safety regulations needed to be strengthened; all the passage states is that WTUL did not believe that the safety regulations were likely to be enforced.
- B The passage states that WTUL believed that because there were no unions to pressure employers, the employers would not comply with safety regulations. The passage does not present any information on which to base a conclusion about WIDC's beliefs regarding union pressure on employers.
- C Based on information in the passage, both WIDC and SPEW believed that enforcing safety regulations could protect women against lead poisoning. WIDC supported SPEW's position on the matter. WTUL believed that safety regulations were unlikely to be enforced because of the lack of unions.
- D The passage states that WIDC viewed the proposal to restrict women's employment in white lead factories as an instance of legislation designed to limit women's work opportunities—precisely the legislation that WIDC was formed to oppose. Thus, WIDC was not primarily concerned with the factories' health conditions.

- E** **Correct.** WIDC began opposing legislative attempts to restrict women's labor in 1892 and continued to do so through at least 1895, when the Home Secretary proposed prohibiting women from working in white lead factories. WTUL stopped opposing restrictions on women's labor in the late 1880s, before WIDC was even founded. Thus, the passage suggests that WTUL had stopped opposing restrictions on women's labor well before WIDC worked to oppose such legislation.

The correct answer is E.

RC0055802

491. Which of the following, if true, would most clearly support the contention attributed to SPEW in lines 17–20?
- (A) Those white lead factories that most strongly enforced regulations concerning worker safety and hygiene had the lowest incidences of lead poisoning among employees.
 - (B) The incidence of lead poisoning was much higher among women who worked in white lead factories than among women who worked in other types of factories.
 - (C) There were many household sources of lead that could have contributed to the incidence of lead poisoning among women who also worked outside the home in the late nineteenth century.
 - (D) White lead factories were more stringent than were certain other types of factories in their enforcement of workplace safety regulations.
 - (E) Even brief exposure to the conditions typically found in white lead factories could cause lead poisoning among factory workers.

Evaluation

This question requires the reader to find a statement that would provide additional support for the contention made in the following statement: *SPEW contended, and WIDC concurred, that controllable conditions in such factories were responsible for the development of lead poisoning.* Information suggesting that when conditions were controlled, lead poisoning was less likely to develop would provide support for SPEW's contention.

- A** **Correct.** If incidences of lead poisoning were low in those factories that enforced hygiene and safety regulations, that would suggest that lead poisoning was not an inevitable result of working in a white lead factory—but rather that lead poisoning was the result of poor hygiene and safety practices.
- B** It would not be particularly surprising for the incidence of lead poisoning to be higher among women working in white lead factories than among women working in other kinds of factories—but such a finding would say nothing about whether controllable conditions had any effect on the development of lead poisoning.
- C** The existence of household sources of lead that might contribute to lead poisoning would weaken, not support, SPEW's contention that controllable factory conditions were responsible for the development of lead poisoning.
- D** If white lead factories enforced workplace safety regulations more stringently than did some other types of factories, it might be the case that SPEW's contention was incorrect: that even controlled conditions could not prevent a high incidence of lead poisoning.
- E** If the conditions typically found in white lead factories were particularly bad with regard to safety and hygiene, it could conceivably be the case that SPEW's contention was true—that is, that the conditions that caused lead poisoning were controllable. But it might also be the case that an uncontrollable aspect of those conditions caused lead poisoning. Thus, this neither supports nor undermines SPEW's contention clearly.

The correct answer is A.

RC0055806

492. The passage is primarily concerned with

- (A) presenting various groups' views of the motives of those proposing certain legislation
- (B) contrasting the reasoning of various groups concerning their positions on certain proposed legislation
- (C) tracing the process whereby certain proposed legislation was eventually enacted

- (D) assessing the success of tactics adopted by various groups with respect to certain proposed legislation
- (E) evaluating the arguments of various groups concerning certain proposed legislation

Main idea

Answering this question depends on identifying the overall point of the passage. The passage is mainly concerned with explaining the reasons behind the positions taken by WIDC and SPEW, which opposed the proposal to enact legislation prohibiting women from holding most white lead factory jobs, and the reasoning of WTUL, which supported the proposal.

- A The passage explains how WIDC viewed the proposal, but it does not indicate what any of the groups believed about the motivations of the Home Secretary, who made the proposal.
- B **Correct.** The passage contrasts the reasoning of the WIDC and SPEW, both of which believed that enforcing safety regulations would make the proposed legislation unnecessary, with the reasoning of WTUL, which thought that safety regulations were unlikely to be enforced and thus supported the proposal.
- C The passage simply states that the proposal was eventually enacted; it does not trace the process by which this occurred.
- D The passage implies that WIDC and SPEW were unsuccessful in their opposition to the proposed legislation, but it identifies only one tactic used in opposition to it: SPEW's attempt to challenge it by investigating the causes of lead poisoning.
- E The passage does not evaluate the groups' arguments concerning the proposed legislation; rather, it presents those arguments without comment on their quality or value.

The correct answer is B.

Questions 493–498 refer to the passage on page 406.

RC00433-02

493. The author of the passage refers to Robert Filmer (see line 9) primarily in order to
- (A) show that Royalist ideology was somewhat more radical than most historians appear to realize
 - (B) qualify the claim that patriarchalism formed the basis of Royalist ideology
 - (C) question the view that most early feminists were associated with the Royalist faction
 - (D) highlight an apparent tension between Royalist ideology and the ideas of early feminists
 - (E) argue that Royalists held conflicting opinions on issues of family organization and women's political rights

Evaluation

This question asks about the role of Filmer in the passage. The author states that Filmer's radical patriarchalism is associated with Royalist ideology and then goes on to define radical patriarchalism as an ideology that asserts the power of the king and the male head of the household. Early feminists, however, questioned the subordination of women in marriage. Thus, there seems to be a conflict between these two sets of ideas.

- A Although the passage refers to Filmer's view as *radical patriarchalism*, it provides no evidence regarding any differences in the degrees to which historians consider that view, or Royalism in general, to be radical.
- B Filmer's work supports the claim that patriarchalism was the basis of Royalist ideology; it does not qualify such a claim.
- C That Filmer's approach was one of radical patriarchalism makes it surprising that early feminists were associated with the Royalist faction, but it does not provide any grounds for questioning whether they were so associated.
- D **Correct.** There is apparent tension between Filmer's radical patriarchalism, if that is indeed essential to Royalist ideology, and the ideas of early feminists, who questioned such patriarchalism.

- E The author refers to Filmer in order to suggest, initially, a uniformity among Royalists regarding family and women; it is only later in the passage that this view becomes more complicated.

The correct answer is D.

RC00433-11

494. The passage suggests which of the following about the seventeenth-century English women mentioned in line 2?
- (A) Their status as forerunners of modern feminism is not entirely justified.
 (B) They did not openly challenge the radical patriarchy of Royalist Filmerian ideology.
 (C) Cavendish was the first among these women to criticize women's subordination in marriage and assert women's equality with men.
 (D) Their views on family organization and women's political rights were diametrically opposed to those of both Royalist and Parliamentarian ideology.
 (E) Historians would be less puzzled if more of them were identified with the Parliamentarian side in the English Civil Wars.

Inference

The first sentence of the passage refers to women who are both regarded as forerunners of modern feminism and identified as Royalists. The passage goes on to suggest that, given Royalist ideology's association with Filmer's radical patriarchy (equating absolute power of the king with absolute power of the male head of household), it is surprising that feminism would find any footing within such an ideology.

- A Nothing in the passage disputes the idea that the seventeenth-century English women in question should be considered the forerunners of modern feminism.
 B Gallagher provides the example of Margaret Cavendish as a writer who did openly challenge radical patriarchy—albeit only in her writings.
 C The passage states that Cavendish had successors among early feminists, but it does not indicate whether she herself was the first seventeenth-century English woman to assert women's equality.

- D The passage does not indicate what the Parliamentarian view of family organization and women's political rights was, so there is no way to determine whether the Royalist forerunners of modern feminism were opposed to that view.

- E **Correct.** The basic puzzle the passage sets out to solve is why the forerunners of modern feminism would have been associated with the Royalist side, which seems to have been based on radical patriarchy. Historians would most likely have been less surprised if these women had been identified with the Parliamentarian side, which presumably did not embrace radical patriarchy.

The correct answer is E.

RC00433-04

495. The passage suggests that Margaret Cavendish's decision to become an author was motivated, at least in part, by a desire to
- (A) justify her support for the Royalist cause
 (B) encourage her readers to work toward eradicating Filmerian patriarchy
 (C) persuade other women to break free from their political and social isolation
 (D) analyze the causes for women's exclusion from the pursuit of power
 (E) create a world over which she could exercise total control

Inference

This question asks about Margaret Cavendish's reasons for becoming an author. The second paragraph describes her as someone who *insisted that she was a self-sufficient being*; she understood that, given the real-world strictures in place, she could achieve this self-sufficiency in her own mind and on paper as a writer. So her decision to become a writer can be inferred to be motivated by her desire to exercise power and control.

- A The passage states that Cavendish justified her being the center of her own universe by invoking the Royalist figure of the absolute monarch; there is no suggestion in the passage that Cavendish felt the need to justify any support for the actual Royalist cause.

- B The passage gives no direct indication that Cavendish was even aware of Filmerian patriarchy.
- C The second paragraph states that Cavendish's idea of absolute singularity carried with it the idea of social and political isolation; Cavendish was most likely not motivated by a desire to persuade other women to break free from such isolation.
- D Cavendish took the exclusion of women from the pursuit of power for granted; the passage does not suggest that she was concerned with its causes.
- E Correct.** According to the passage, Cavendish considered herself a self-sufficient being who was at the center of her own universe; in her writing, she wanted to create a world in which this was also true.

The correct answer is E.

RC00433-08

496. The phrase "a satellite orbiting a dominant male planet" (lines 41–42) refers most directly to
- (A) Cavendish's concept that each woman is a sovereign self
 - (B) the complete political and social isolation of absolute singularity
 - (C) the immaterial world that a writer can create on paper
 - (D) the absolute subordination of women in a patriarchal society
 - (E) the metaphorical figure of the absolute monarch

Evaluation

The phrase in question is *a satellite orbiting a dominant male planet*. The passage states that this was the idea that Cavendish was reacting against; she preferred instead the idea that she was the center of her own universe, her own sovereign, subject to no one.

- A The idea of a satellite orbiting a dominant male planet refers not to Cavendish's idea that each woman is a sovereign self, but rather to the idea directly opposed to that: each woman must submit to a dominant male.

- B A *satellite orbiting a dominant male planet* is by definition not isolated, nor is it singular.
- C According to the passage, Cavendish wished to create her own world as a writer so that she did not have to be a *satellite*.
- D Correct.** The phrase refers to the idea that in a patriarchal society, women are as satellites to men, who are the dominant planets.
- E While radical patriarchy does equate the monarch with the male head of the household, the in question phrase is most directly about the relationship, under patriarchy, between women and men.

The correct answer is D.

RC00433-06

497. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) trace the historical roots of a modern sociopolitical movement
- (B) present one scholar's explanation for a puzzling historical phenomenon
- (C) contrast two interpretations of the ideological origins of a political conflict
- (D) establish a link between the ideology of an influential political theorist and that of a notoriously eccentric writer
- (E) call attention to some points of agreement between opposing sides in an ideological debate

Main idea

This question asks about the passage as a whole. The passage is mainly concerned with outlining Catherine Gallagher's attempt to explain why, given Royalist ideology's apparent association with radical patriarchy, Royalist women offered feminist critiques of women's subordination in marriage and asserted their equality with men.

- A The passage makes no connection between early feminism and its modern form.
- B Correct.** The passage presents a puzzling historical phenomenon, that Royalist women critiqued patriarchy, in the first paragraph, and then presents Catherine Gallagher's explanation for that phenomenon in the second paragraph.

- C While the passage discusses the political conflict between the Royalists and Parliamentarians in the English Civil Wars in the first paragraph, neither this conflict, nor its ideological origins are the focus of the passage. Furthermore, the passage does not offer any interpretations of the origins of the conflict.
- D The passage attempts to unlink the ideology of political theorist Robert Filmer and the eccentric author Margaret Cavendish by suggesting that Filmer's radical patriarchy was not the only way of understanding Royalist ideology. Cavendish provided a different understanding entirely.
- E While both sides of the ideological debate did agree on the absolute monarchy, the passage as a whole does not focus on this agreement, but rather on the disagreement about where, theoretically, the idea of absolute monarchy leads.

The correct answer is B.

RC00433-09

498. Which of the following, if true, would most clearly undermine Gallagher's explanation of the link between Royalism and feminism?
- (A) Because of their privileged backgrounds, Royalist women were generally better educated than were their Parliamentarian counterparts.
- (B) Filmer himself had read some of Cavendish's early writings and was highly critical of her ideas.
- (C) Cavendish's views were highly individual and were not shared by the other Royalist women who wrote early feminist works.
- (D) The Royalist and Parliamentarian ideologies were largely in agreement on issues of family organization and women's political rights.
- (E) The Royalist side included a sizable minority faction that was opposed to the more radical tendencies of Filmerian patriarchy.

Inference

This question asks about how to undermine the way in which Gallagher connects Royalism and feminism. According to Gallagher, Cavendish's work exemplifies the connection between these ideas, because Cavendish took the idea of absolute monarchy and extended that to the idea of absolute self, an idea that should, Cavendish believed, apply to women as well as men.

- A Gallagher's explanation of the link between Royalism and feminism does not depend on the education level of Royalist women relative to Parliamentarian women.
- B Filmer most likely would have been critical of Cavendish's ideas, had he encountered them, but the passage does not indicate that Gallagher's argument had anything to do with whether Filmer read Cavendish's writings.
- C **Correct.** Gallagher uses Cavendish's work to explain how Royalism gave rise to feminism, but if Cavendish's views were completely atypical of other Royalist women, then those views cannot explain the link as Gallagher suggests they do.
- D The passage states in the first paragraph that if the Royalists and Parliamentarians were in agreement *on issues of family organization and women's political rights*, then feminists should have been divided between the two sides—but they were not. So this idea, if true, would undermine that statement, but not Gallagher's argument about the link between Royalists and feminists.
- E If more Royalists were opposed to Filmer's radical patriarchy, then Cavendish's writings would seem to be more representative of tendencies in Royalist ideology, thus making Gallagher's case stronger, not weaker.

The correct answer is C.

Questions 499–503 refer to the passage on page 408.

RC00312-01

499. The passage is primarily concerned with
- (A) identifying two practices in medical research that may affect the accuracy of clinical trials
- (B) describing aspects of medical research that tend to drive up costs
- (C) evaluating an analysis of certain shortcomings of current medical research practices
- (D) describing proposed changes to the ways in which clinical trials are conducted
- (E) explaining how medical researchers have traditionally conducted clinical trials and how such trials are likely to change

Main idea

This question requires an understanding of what the passage as a whole is doing. The passage introduces Frazier and Mosteller as proposing changes to the ways clinical trials in medical research are currently conducted. The rest of the passage then describes these proposed changes together with the support Frazier and Mosteller provide for adopting these changes.

- A The passage identifies practices in medical research to help illustrate the basis for Frazier and Mosteller's proposed changes.
- B The passage mentions medical research costs as one example within the larger description of Frazier and Mosteller's proposed changes.
- C The passage is not concerned with evaluating Frazier and Mosteller's proposed changes.
- D Correct.** The passage describes the changes proposed by Frazier and Mosteller to the way clinical trials are conducted.
- E The passage is not concerned with establishing the likelihood of any changes to the way medical research is conducted.

The correct answer is D.

RC00312-03

500. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about a study of the category of patients referred to in lines 20–22?
- (A) Its findings might have limited applicability.
 - (B) It would be prohibitively expensive in its attempt to create ideal conditions.
 - (C) It would be the best way to sample the total population of potential patients.
 - (D) It would allow researchers to limit information collection without increasing the risk that important variables could be overlooked.
 - (E) Its findings would be more accurate if it concerned treatments for a progressive disease than if it concerned treatments for a nonprogressive disease.

Inference

This question requires drawing an inference from information given in the passage. In describing the proposals put forth by Frazier and Mosteller, the passage states in lines 15–20 that they propose using more patients in clinical trials than are currently being used, and that the trials would thereby obtain *a more representative sample of the total population with the disease under study*. The passage then states that researchers often *restrict* (lines 20–22) their trials to certain types of patients, therefore limiting the applicability of their findings.

- A Correct.** The passage states that the researchers preferred to restrict the types of patients used in their studies, thereby using a less representative sample than if they used a more inclusive group of patients.
- B The passage mentions the added expense of clinical trials only in relation to data storage, collection, and analysis.
- C The passage describes the category of patients referred to as restricted and therefore unrepresentative of the total population.
- D While the passage does mention the amount of data collected about an individual patient, that topic is not connected to the category of patients referred to in lines 20–22.
- E The passage does not suggest that a study using the category of patients referred to would be more effective in investigating progressive diseases.

The correct answer is A.

RC00312-04

501. It can be inferred from the passage that a study limited to patients like those mentioned in lines 20–22 would have which of the following advantages over the kind of study proposed by Frazier and Mosteller?
- (A) It would yield more data and its findings would be more accurate.
 - (B) It would cost less in the long term, though it would be more expensive in its initial stages.
 - (C) It would limit the number of variables researchers would need to consider when evaluating the treatment under study.

- (D) It would help researchers to identify subgroups of patients with secondary conditions that might also be treatable.
- (E) It would enable researchers to assess the value of an experimental treatment for the average patient.

Inference

This question requires understanding what the information in the passage implies. The passage explains that Frazier and Mosteller's proposal involves enrolling more patients in clinical trials (lines 18–19) than is the case with the category of patients referred to. The passage then explains that broadening the range of trial participants would allow an evaluation of particular treatments *under various conditions* and *for different patient subgroups* (line 29). This strongly suggests that limiting the patients used to those described in the referred text would limit the number of variables researchers would need to consider.

- A The passage suggests that not limiting the patients used in clinical trials will yield more data than restricting them will.
- B The passage refers to the costs of clinical trials only as they concern the collection, storage, and analysis of data collected from participants.
- C Correct.** By limiting the patients used to those having the ailment under study, the passage suggests that researchers need to consider fewer variables in their assessment of a treatment.
- D The passage suggests that *not* limiting the types of patients used in clinical trials will better allow researchers to evaluate subgroups.
- E The passage suggests that limiting the types of patients available for clinical trials results in data for specific, rather than average, populations.

The correct answer is C.

RC00312-05

502. The author mentions patients' ages (line 32) primarily in order to
- (A) identify the most critical variable differentiating subgroups of patients
- (B) cast doubt on the advisability of implementing Frazier and Mosteller's proposals about medical research
- (C) indicate why progressive diseases may require different treatments at different stages

- (D) illustrate a point about the value of enrolling a wide range of patients in clinical trials
- (E) substantiate an argument about the problems inherent in enrolling large numbers of patients in clinical trials

Evaluation

Answering this question requires understanding how a particular piece of information functions in the passage as a whole. The passage is concerned with describing the proposals of Frazier and Mosteller. One of these proposals, described in the second paragraph, involves broadening the range of participants used in clinical trials. The passage states that in following this proposal, Frazier and Mosteller suggest that the effectiveness of treatments can be assessed for different patient subgroups. To affirm the value of broadening the range of participants, the passage then cites two examples of criteria by which relevant subgroups might be identified: disease stages and patients' ages.

- A The passage makes no judgment as to the value of the subgroups it refers to in relation to broadened participation in clinical trials.
- B The passage does not call into question the potential effectiveness of Frazier and Mosteller's proposals.
- C The passage's example of patients' ages is not intended to be causally connected to its previous example regarding progressive diseases.
- D Correct.** Patients' ages are referred to in the passage to identify subgroups that could be evaluated if the range of participants in clinical trials were broadened.
- E The passage refers to patients' ages in support of Frazier and Mosteller's proposal that more patients be used in clinical trials.

The correct answer is D.

RC00312-06

503. According to the passage, which of the following describes a result of the way in which researchers generally conduct clinical trials?
- They expend resources on the storage of information likely to be irrelevant to the study they are conducting.
 - They sometimes compromise the accuracy of their findings by collecting and analyzing more information than is strictly required for their trials.
 - They avoid the risk of overlooking variables that might affect their findings, even though doing so raises their research costs.
 - Because they attempt to analyze too much information, they overlook facts that could emerge as relevant to their studies.
 - In order to approximate the conditions typical of medical treatment, they base their methods of information collection on those used by hospitals.

Supporting ideas

This question asks for an identification of specific information given in the passage. The passage describes the proposals of Frazier and Mosteller as attempting to improve the way clinical trials have generally been conducted. In describing how current trials are generally conducted, the passage states that researchers *collect far more background information on patients than is strictly required for their trials* (lines 4–6) and that they therefore escalate the costs of the trials.

- Correct.** The passage states that researchers generally collect more information than they need to perform their clinical trials, which drives up the costs of the trials.
- The passage makes no judgment about the accuracy of the information collected by researchers who currently hold clinical trials.
- The passage states that the risk of overlooking relevant information in clinical trials is *never entirely eliminable* (line 11).
- The passage states that researchers generally collect more information than is relevant, not that they overlook relevant information.
- The passage states that, in general, researchers currently collect more information than hospitals do (line 6).

The correct answer is A.

Questions 504–509 refer to the passage on page 410.

RC00229-01

504. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- assess the validity of a certain view
- distinguish between two phenomena
- identify the causes of a problem
- describe a disturbing trend
- allay concern about a particular phenomenon

Main idea

This question requires understanding, in general terms, the purpose of the passage as a whole. The first paragraph identifies an area of concern: declines in amphibian populations may constitute a crisis, one that indicates humans' catastrophic effects on the environment. The rest of the passage then goes on to evaluate, as the second paragraph states, whether claims of crisis-level extinctions as a result of human activity are valid. In making this evaluation, the passage discusses the possible causes of extinctions, biologists' prioritization of population declines over extinctions, and the fact that we lack extensive long-term data on amphibian populations.

- Correct.** The passage's main purpose is to assess whether the view that humans are causing crisis-level declines in amphibian populations is valid.
- The passage takes care, particularly in the third paragraph, to distinguish between population declines and extinctions, but this is not its primary purpose.
- The passage makes clear that it is difficult to identify the real extent of the problem facing amphibian populations, much less identify its causes.
- The first paragraph notes what may seem to be a disturbing trend—the decline in amphibian populations—but the rest of the passage is concerned not with describing that trend in greater detail, but rather with determining whether it is in fact occurring.

- E While the passage provides possible grounds for concluding that concern about declining amphibian populations is overblown, it concludes by suggesting that we might, because we lack data, doom species and ecosystems to extinction. Thus, the overall purpose is not to allay concern.

The correct answer is A.

RC00229-02

505. It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes which of the following to be true of the environmentalists mentioned in lines 5–6?
- They have wrongly chosen to focus on anecdotal reports rather than on the long-term data that are currently available concerning amphibians.
 - Their recommendations are flawed because their research focuses too narrowly on a single category of animal species.
 - Their certainty that population declines in general are caused by environmental degradation is not warranted.
 - They have drawn premature conclusions concerning a crisis in amphibian populations from recent reports of declines.
 - They have overestimated the effects of chance events on trends in amphibian populations.

Inference

This question asks about the author's view of the environmentalists mentioned in the first paragraph. These environmentalists have claimed, based on amphibian population declines, that the situation is a crisis and that immediate action must be taken. The author, however, states that the declines are only *apparently* drastic and questions whether they are real, thus suggesting that the environmentalists are drawing conclusions in the absence of a complete consideration of the situation.

- The passage indicates that anecdotal reports are insufficient, but so too are other resources. The fourth paragraph of the passage makes clear that there is not enough long-term data available on which to base conclusions about amphibian populations.
- The passage does not indicate that the environmentalists under discussion have conducted research on any animal species.

- C The passage does not indicate that the environmentalists in question hold, with certainty, any particular view regarding population declines in general.
- D **Correct.** The author argues that the recent declines may have several different causes, and that environmentalists have jumped to a conclusion about the cause of the declines as well as their significance.
- E The environmentalists, in attributing population declines to intentional human activity, have more likely underestimated than overestimated the effects of chance events on amphibian populations.

The correct answer is D.

RC00229-03

506. It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes which of the following to be true of the amphibian extinctions that have recently been reported?
- They have resulted primarily from human activities causing environmental degradation.
 - They could probably have been prevented if timely action had been taken to protect the habitats of amphibian species.
 - They should not come as a surprise, because amphibian populations generally have been declining for a number of years.
 - They have probably been caused by a combination of chance events.
 - They do not clearly constitute evidence of general environmental degradation.

Inference

The author suggests throughout the passage that recently reported amphibian extinctions may have several different causes: they may be due to any number of chance events, for example, or may simply be the result of a small population that finds itself unable to continue under difficult conditions, whatever causes those conditions.

- The author states in the second paragraph that extinctions may occur without a proximate cause in human activities and does not make a commitment to any particular explanation of the amphibian extinctions.

- B That chance events can cause extinctions suggests that even if habitats had been protected, extinctions still might have occurred.
- C In the second paragraph, the author says that extinctions *should come as no great surprise*, but this option is imprecise. The amphibian populations have not generally *been declining for a number of years*. The author says in the third paragraph that amphibian populations show strong fluctuations; further, in the fourth paragraph, the author says that there is insufficient long-term data to conclude that amphibian populations have been, or are, in decline.
- D The author suggests that the extinctions may have been caused by chance events, but there is not enough data to know whether or not this is probable.
- E Correct.** The reported extinctions could have resulted from several different causes; thus, they are not clear evidence of general environmental degradation.

The correct answer is E.

RC00229-04

507. According to the passage, each of the following is true of endangered amphibian species EXCEPT:
- (A) They are among the rarest kinds of amphibians.
 - (B) They generally have populations that are small in size.
 - (C) They are in constant danger of extinction.
 - (D) Those with decreasing populations are the most likely candidates for immediate extinction.
 - (E) They are in danger of extinction due to events that sometimes have nothing to do with human activities.

Application

This question asks what the passage does not say is true of endangered amphibian species. The second paragraph discusses endangered species, stating that they are *always rare, almost always small, and, by definition, under constant threat of extinction*, which may be caused by chance events. The possibility of their extinction, the passage states, depends only on the population size, and not whether that population is increasing or decreasing.

- A The second paragraph mentions rarity as a characteristic of endangered amphibian species.
- B According to the second paragraph, endangered amphibian species are generally those of small populations.
- C The second paragraph states that an endangered population is under constant threat of extinction.
- D Correct.** The last sentence of the second paragraph states that the probability of extinction due to chance events is independent of how a population changes in size. Immediate extinction would more likely come from such events, whereas population decline is gradual, even if fairly rapid.
- E Endangered species, according to the second paragraph, may become extinct due to chance events—that is, events that have nothing to do with human activities.

The correct answer is D.

RC00229-05

508. Which of the following most accurately describes the organization of the passage?
- (A) A question is raised, a distinction regarding it is made, and the question is answered.
 - (B) An interpretation is presented, its soundness is examined, and a warning is given.
 - (C) A situation is described, its consequences are analyzed, and a prediction is made.
 - (D) Two interpretations of a phenomenon are described, and one of them is rejected as invalid.
 - (E) Two methods for analyzing a phenomenon are compared, and further study of the phenomenon is recommended.

Evaluation

This question asks about the organization of the passage as a whole. In the first paragraph, the author tells about a situation that has been interpreted in a particular way by environmentalists. The passage then proceeds to consider whether that interpretation is valid, and while it does not come to a definitive conclusion on that point, the final paragraph warns about the possible consequences of not taking the action recommended by the environmentalists.

- A The passage does initially raise a question regarding whether the environmentalists' interpretation of events is valid, but it does not answer that question, for the appropriate long-term data are not available.
- B** **Correct.** The passage presents environmentalists' interpretation of recent news regarding amphibians, then examines the soundness of that interpretation. Finally, the author warns that postponing environmental action may have disastrous consequences.
- C The first paragraph describes a situation of possibly drastic declines in amphibian populations but does not follow this description with an analysis of its consequences.
- D The passage suggests that apparent declines in amphibian populations may or may not constitute a crisis, but it does not reject either idea.
- E While the passage does imply, in its final paragraph, that long-term data on amphibian populations should be collected, the passage does not compare two methods for analyzing amphibian populations or population declines in those populations.

The correct answer is B.

RC00229-06

509. Which of the following best describes the function of the sentence in lines 35–38?

- (A) To give an example of a particular kind of study
- (B) To cast doubt on an assertion made in the previous sentence
- (C) To raise an objection to a view presented in the first paragraph
- (D) To provide support for a view presented in the first paragraph
- (E) To introduce an idea that will be countered in the following paragraph

Evaluation

The sentence in question discusses the way in which anecdotal reports of population decreases cannot help biologists determine whether those decreases are normal fluctuations, take populations to lower levels that are not actually worrisome, or actually threaten extinctions. This indicates that the view mentioned in the

first paragraph—reports of declines indicate a catastrophic crisis—may be mistaken.

- A The sentence does not address a particular kind of study; it objects to the use of anecdotal reports in place of actual study.
- B The previous sentence describes the possibilities referred to in the sentence in question. The sentence does not cast doubt on any of those possibilities.
- C** **Correct.** The view that reports of amphibian population declines indicate a crisis, as presented in the first paragraph, is countered by the objection here that there are several possible causes for population declines, and anecdotal reports cannot distinguish among those possibilities.
- D The first paragraph is concerned with articulating the view that amphibian population declines constitute a crisis. This sentence does not support that view; instead, it offers reason to question it.
- E The sentence introduces the idea that amphibian populations have fluctuated in the past, and the following paragraph supports this idea by stating that several amphibian species that appeared almost extinct in the 1950s and 1960s have recovered. Thus, the paragraph does not counter the sentence.

The correct answer is C.

Questions 510–513 refer to the passage on page 412.

RC00556-03

510. The passage mentions which of the following as a factor that affects the role of *P. ochraceus* as a keystone species within different habitats?
- (A) The degree to which the habitat is sheltered from waves
- (B) The degree to which other animals within a habitat prey on mussels
- (C) The fact that mussel populations are often not dominant within some habitats occupied by *P. ochraceus*
- (D) The size of the *P. ochraceus* population within the habitat
- (E) The fact that there is great species diversity within some habitats occupied by *P. ochraceus*

Supporting idea

This question depends on recognizing what the passage states about the factors affecting *P. ochraceus*'s role as a keystone species, which is different in different habitats. According to the passage, *P. ochraceus* consumes and suppresses mussel populations in some habitats—specifically, those that are wave-exposed—making it a keystone predator in those habitats. But in wave-sheltered habitats, *P. ochraceus* does not play the same role in suppressing mussel populations.

- A **Correct.** The passage clearly states that *P. ochraceus*'s role in wave-exposed habitats differs from its role in wave-sheltered habitats.
- B The passage says that the impact of *P. ochraceus* predation on mussels is not strong in wave-sheltered habitats, but this is not—at least not at all sites—because other animals are preying on the mussels; rather, at least at some sites, it is because mussels are controlled by sand burial.
- C The passage does not suggest that mussel populations are dominant in any habitats occupied by *P. ochraceus*.
- D The size of the *P. ochraceus* population affects the size of the mussel population within wave-exposed habitats, but the passage does not suggest that *P. ochraceus*'s role as a keystone species depends on the size of its population within those habitats.
- E The only other species the passage mentions in conjunction with *P. ochraceus* habitats is the mussel; the passage does not address species diversity in these habitats.

The correct answer is A.

RC00556.04

511. Which of the following hypothetical experiments most clearly exemplifies the method of identifying species' roles that the author considers problematic?
- (A) A population of seals in an Arctic habitat is counted in order to determine whether it is the dominant species in that ecosystem.
 - (B) A species of fish that is a keystone species in one marine ecosystem is introduced into another marine ecosystem to see whether the species will come to occupy a keystone role.

- (C) In order to determine whether a species of monkey is a keystone species within a particular ecosystem, the monkeys are removed from that ecosystem and the ecosystem is then studied.
- (D) Different mountain ecosystems are compared to determine how geography affects a particular species' ability to dominate its ecosystem.
- (E) In a grassland experiencing a changing climate, patterns of species extinction are traced in order to evaluate the effect of climate changes on keystone species in that grassland.

Application

Answering this question depends on recognizing what the author says about identifying species' roles in habitats and then extending that to another situation. The author considers a particular method of studying keystone species problematic: removing a suspected keystone species from its habitat and observing what happens to the ecosystem. The author finds this problematic because interactions among species are complex.

- A The author does not discuss counting the members of a population as a problematic way of determining whether that population is a dominant species.
- B The method that the author finds problematic has to do with observing what happens to an ecosystem when a keystone species is removed from it, not with observing what happens to a different ecosystem when the species is introduced into it.
- C **Correct.** The author states explicitly that removing a species from a habitat in order to determine its keystone status is problematic. Removing the monkeys from their habitat is a clear example of this problematic practice.
- D Comparison of habitats in order to determine geography's effect on a particular species' dominance would most likely find favor with the author, for this is the approach the author seems to advocate in investigating *P. ochraceus*'s keystone status.
- E The author does not discuss tracing patterns of extinction or changing climates in the passage.

The correct answer is C.

RC00556-05

512. Which of the following, if true, would most clearly support the argument about keystone status advanced in the last sentence of the passage (lines 24–31)?
- A species of bat is primarily responsible for keeping insect populations within an ecosystem low, and the size of the insect population in turn affects bird species within that ecosystem.
 - A species of iguana occupies a keystone role on certain tropical islands, but does not play that role on adjacent tropical islands that are inhabited by a greater number of animal species.
 - Close observation of a savannah ecosystem reveals that more species occupy keystone roles within that ecosystem than biologists had previously believed.
 - As a keystone species of bee becomes more abundant, it has a larger effect on the ecosystem it inhabits.
 - A species of moth that occupies a keystone role in a prairie habitat develops coloration patterns that camouflage it from potential predators.

Evaluation

To answer this question, focus on the argument advanced in the last sentence of the passage and identify what information would support that argument. In the last sentence of the passage, the author claims that keystone status depends on context. The author then offers three contextual factors that may affect a species' keystone status: geography, community diversity (i.e., the number of species in a given habitat), and length of species interaction. Evidence supporting this argument would show that context is important to a species' keystone status.

- This scenario does not indicate anything about keystone status; this is simply a description of how species populations in a single ecosystem affect one another.
- Correct.** That the iguana is a keystone species in a location that has limited species diversity but not a keystone species in a location that has greater species diversity suggests that keystone status does indeed depend on context. Thus, this example supports the author's argument in the last sentence of the passage.

- That biologists were mistaken about keystone species in a particular ecosystem does not have a bearing on whether keystone status is context dependent.
- It is not surprising that an increase in a species' population would lead to that species having a larger effect on its ecosystem—but this does not speak directly to the question of whether keystone status itself depends on context.
- A keystone species enhancing its ability to survive in a single ecosystem does not lend any support to the idea that keystone status depends on context. The moth's keystone status would have to undergo some change for this to have a bearing on the question of context.

The correct answer is B.

RC00556-06

513. The passage suggests which of the following about the identification of a species as a keystone species?
- Such an identification depends primarily on the species' relationship to the dominant species.
 - Such an identification can best be made by removing the species from a particular ecosystem and observing changes that occur in the ecosystem.
 - Such an identification is likely to be less reliable as an ecosystem becomes less diverse.
 - Such an identification seems to depend on various factors within the ecosystem.
 - Such an identification can best be made by observing predation behavior.

Inference

Answering this question requires identifying how the passage suggests that keystone species should be identified. The passage identifies a particular way in which keystone status should *not* be determined: removing a species and observing what happens to the ecosystem. The passage also argues that keystone status depends strongly on context: that is, an ecosystem's characteristics, including its geography and inhabitants, determine its keystone species.

- A While the passage uses an example of a keystone species, *P. ochraceus*, which preys on a species that would, in the keystone species' absence, be dominant, there is nothing to suggest that a keystone species *must* have a particular relationship with the dominant, or potentially dominant, species in an ecosystem.
- B The passage explicitly states that this method of identification would be problematic.
- C A reduction in an ecosystem's diversity might alter which species occupy keystone roles in that ecosystem, the passage suggests, but there is no indication that identifying such species would become more difficult.
- D Correct.** If, as the passage suggests, keystone status for any given species depends on the context of the ecosystem in which it lives, then it is likely that identifying keystone species depends strongly on understanding what factors of the ecosystem contribute to creating keystone status. The passage lists such factors as geography, community diversity, and species interaction.
- E While the passage uses a predator, *P. ochraceus*, as its example of a keystone species, there is no indication that predation is an essential component of the actual definition of keystone species (*one whose effects are much larger than would be predicted from its abundance*).

The correct answer is D.

Questions 514–516 refer to the passage on page 414.

RC00073-01

514. According to the passage, the anatomical evidence provided by the preserved soft bodies of conodonts led scientists to conclude that
- conodonts had actually been invertebrate carnivores
 - conodonts' teeth were adapted from protective bony scales
 - conodonts were primitive vertebrate suspension feeders
 - primitive vertebrates with teeth appeared earlier than armored vertebrates
 - scientists' original observations concerning the phosphatic remains of conodonts were essentially correct

Supporting ideas

This question depends on understanding how a particular type of evidence—the preserved soft bodies of conodonts—supports a particular conclusion stated in the passage. The third paragraph makes this relationship explicit, explaining that certain features of conodonts show them to be more primitive than other vertebrates. Further, those features indicate that they came before ostracoderms and other armored jawless fishes. These remains support the conclusion stated in the second paragraph regarding teeth being more primitive than external armor.

- A** The passage states explicitly that conodonts were not invertebrates but rather vertebrates.
- B** This view is attributed to certain traditionalists but is contradicted by other paleontological evidence presented in the second and third paragraphs. According to the third paragraph, the evidence provided by the preserved soft bodies of conodonts undermines this traditional view.
- C** The final sentence of the passage indicates that the evidence in question supports the conclusion that conodonts were predators rather than suspension feeders.
- D Correct.** The third paragraph explains how conodonts' remains support the conclusion that teeth were more primitive than external armor.
- E** The second paragraph explains that originally, scientists thought that early vertebrates were not predators—but the remainder of the passage indicates that this idea is inconsistent with more recent evidence described in the passage.

The correct answer is D.

RC00073-03

515. The second paragraph in the passage serves primarily to
- outline the significance of the 1981 discovery of conodont remains to the debate concerning the development of the vertebrate skeleton
 - contrast the traditional view of the development of the vertebrate skeleton with a view derived from the 1981 discovery of conodont remains

- (C) contrast the characteristics of the ostracoderms with the characteristics of earlier soft-bodied vertebrates
- (D) explain the importance of the development of teeth among the earliest vertebrate predators
- (E) present the two sides of the debate concerning the development of the vertebrate skeleton

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding the second paragraph in the context of the passage as a whole. The second paragraph begins by noting the traditional view of the vertebrate skeleton—that it was a defense against predators—and then goes on to explain that other paleontologists argued against this idea, claiming instead that vertebrates began as predators and that teeth were a more primary feature than external armor.

- A The second paragraph focuses on describing the debate rather than on the distinctive contribution of the 1981 discovery to that debate.
- B The second paragraph does not explicitly indicate whether the opposition to the traditional view originally rested on the 1981 discovery of conodont remains. In fact, the surrounding discussion, in the first and third paragraphs, suggests that the discovery in 1981 turned out to support the opposing view, which some paleontologists already held at that time.
- C The mention of ostracoderms in the second paragraph merely serves to indicate how the traditionalists' arguments might have seemed plausible. The paragraph as a whole is not devoted to contrasting the ostracoderms with earlier soft-bodied vertebrates.
- D The development of teeth figures in the second paragraph, but this development is mentioned first as a feature that some believed to have been adapted from protective scales; only the final sentence of the paragraph connects teeth to early vertebrate predators.

E Correct. According to the passage, the debate concerning the development of the vertebrate skeleton hinges on whether vertebrates began as predators, with teeth, or whether skeletal defenses such as external armor evolved first. The primary purpose of the second paragraph is to distinguish these two sides.

The correct answer is E.

RC00073-08

516. It can be inferred that on the basis of the 1981 discovery of conodont remains, paleontologists could draw which of the following conclusions?

- (A) The earliest vertebrates were sedentary suspension feeders.
- (B) Ostracoderms were not the earliest vertebrates.
- (C) Defensive armor preceded jaws among vertebrates.
- (D) Paired eyes and adaptations for activity are definitive characteristics of vertebrates.
- (E) Conodonts were unlikely to have been predators.

Inference

What could paleontologists conclude, based on the 1981 discovery of conodont remains? That discovery, according to the passage, supported the view of certain paleontologists that the earliest vertebrates were predators with teeth—unlike the ostracoderms, which had no jaws.

- A According to the second paragraph, traditionalists believed that early vertebrates were sedentary suspension feeders. But the 1981 discovery supported instead the hypothesis that early vertebrates were predators instead.
- B **Correct.** According to the third paragraph, the conodonts' body structures indicated that they were more primitive than the ostracoderms, so the ostracoderms must not have been the earliest vertebrates.
- C Traditionalists argued that teeth were adapted from bony scales that provided defensive armor, but the 1981 discovery suggested that teeth preceded such scales.

- D Paleontologists knew prior to the 1981 discovery that paired eyes and other adaptations are characteristics of vertebrates. They used this knowledge to help them interpret the 1981 discovery.
- E The third paragraph indicates that conodonts, given their teeth, were most likely predators.

The correct answer is B.

Questions 517–528 refer to the passage on page 416.

RC00013-01

517. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- (A) advocate a more positive attitude toward technological change
- (B) discuss the implications for employees of the modernization of a telephone exchange
- (C) consider a successful challenge to the constructivist view of technological change
- (D) challenge the position of advocates of technological determinism
- (E) suggest that the social causes of technological change should be studied in real situations

Main idea

This question asks for an assessment of what the passage as a whole is doing. The passage introduces Clark's study as a *solid contribution* (line 3) to the debate between technological determinists and social constructivists. In the second paragraph, Braverman is introduced as holding a position of social constructivism, a position that Clark takes issue with. In the final paragraph, the passage holds that *Clark refutes the extremes of the constructivists* (line 31), and Clark's arguments challenging social constructivism are then described.

- A The passage takes no position on the merits of technological change but is concerned only with the role of such change in society.
- B The passage mentions telephone exchange workers as an example that helps illustrate the more central debate between determinists and constructivists.

- C **Correct.** The passage is mainly concerned with portraying Clark's view as a successful challenge to constructivism.
- D The passage describes Clark's view as a successful challenge to social constructivism, not technological determinism.
- E The passage is concerned with describing a challenge to social constructivism and not with suggesting the context in which technological change ought to be studied.

The correct answer is C.

RC00013-02

518. Which of the following statements about the modernization of the telephone exchange is supported by information in the passage?
- (A) The new technology reduced the role of managers in labor negotiations.
- (B) The modernization was implemented without the consent of the employees directly affected by it.
- (C) The modernization had an impact that went significantly beyond maintenance routines.
- (D) Some of the maintenance workers felt victimized by the new technology.
- (E) The modernization gave credence to the view of advocates of social constructivism.

Supporting ideas

This question requires recognizing information contained in the passage. The passage states in the first paragraph that Clark's study focused on the modernization of a telephone exchange and the effect this had on maintenance work and workers. After describing Braverman's analysis in the second paragraph as being at odds with Clark's views, the passage discusses Clark's views in more detail in the final paragraph. As part of this discussion, the passage notes that Clark shows how a change from *maintenance-intensive electromechanical switches to semielectronic switching systems* at the telephone exchange *altered work tasks, skills, training opportunities, administration, and organization of workers* (lines 42–44). Thus, the passage shows that the modernization of the telephone exchange affected much more than maintenance routines.

- A The passage does not discuss whether new technology reduces the role of managers in labor negotiations.
- B The passage does not discuss the role of employee consent in the modernization of the telephone exchange.
- C **Correct.** The passage states that the modernization of the telephone exchange affected tasks, skills, training, administration, and the organization of workers.
- D The passage does not suggest that maintenance workers felt victimized by the modernization of the telephone exchange.
- E The passage describes modernization as a fact viewable from a perspective of social constructivism or technological determinism, but that does not in itself support either view.

The correct answer is C.

RC00013-03

519. Which of the following most accurately describes Clark's opinion of Braverman's position?
- (A) He respects its wide-ranging popularity.
- (B) He disapproves of its misplaced emphasis on the influence of managers.
- (C) He admires the consideration it gives to the attitudes of the workers affected.
- (D) He is concerned about its potential to impede the implementation of new technologies.
- (E) He is sympathetic to its concern about the impact of modern technology on workers.

Inference

Answering this question requires inferring what the passage's author likely believes. The passage describes Braverman's position as one of mainstream social constructivism (lines 23–24), a position that Clark takes issue with. Although it describes Braverman's position, the rest of the passage is devoted to showing how Clark's position takes issue with Braverman's. In the second paragraph, the passage describes Clark as holding that *technology can be a primary determinant of social and managerial organization* (lines 9–11), which suggests that managers are sometimes subordinate to technological change. In lines 15–17, however, Braverman is described

as holding that *the shape of a technological system is subordinate to the manager's desire to wrest control of the labor process from the workers*, which shows that Clark and Braverman are at odds on this point.

- A Since the passage says that Clark believes an important insight *has been obscured by the recent sociological fashion* that Braverman's views exemplify (lines 11–14), one cannot infer that Clark respects the popularity of Braverman's views.
- B **Correct.** The passage shows that Clark believes managers to have less influence over how technology affects an organization than Braverman claims that they have.
- C The passage does not indicate that Clark admires any aspect of Braverman's position.
- D The passage does not indicate that Clark considers impediments to modernization.
- E The passage does not indicate that Clark is sympathetic to any concerns attributed to Braverman.

The correct answer is B.

RC00013-04

520. The information in the passage suggests that which of the following statements from hypothetical sociological studies of change in industry most clearly exemplifies the social constructivists' version of technological determinism?
- (A) It is the available technology that determines workers' skills, rather than workers' skills influencing the application of technology.
- (B) All progress in industrial technology grows out of a continuing negotiation between technological possibility and human need.
- (C) Some organizational change is caused by people; some is caused by computer chips.
- (D) Most major technological advances in industry have been generated through research and development.
- (E) Some industrial technology eliminates jobs, but educated workers can create whole new skills areas by the adaptation of the technology.

Application

This question requires understanding different points of view discussed in the passage. In the first paragraph, the passage mentions the debate involving technological determinism and social constructivism. In the second and third paragraphs, the passage uses Braverman's analysis to illustrate the social constructivists' position and in the third paragraph suggests that the constructivists are *misrepresenting technological determinism* (line 24). In lines 29–30, the constructivists are reported to hold that technological determinism views technology as *existing outside society, capable of directly influencing skills and work organization*.

- A **Correct.** This statement is consistent with the constructivists' view that technological determinism sees technology as outside of society, influencing workers' skills.
- B The passage states that the constructivists hold that *technological determinists are supposed to believe . . . that machinery imposes appropriate forms of order on society* (lines 25–27), suggesting that no negotiation is present.
- C According to the description of them in the passage, constructivists portray technological determinists as believing that technology, not people, drives organizational change.
- D The passage does not portray either constructivists or determinists as being concerned with technological research and development.
- E The passage does not portray either constructivists or determinists as being concerned with technology-driven job elimination or creation.

The correct answer is A.

RC00013-07

521. The information in the passage suggests that Clark believes that which of the following would be true if social constructivism had not gained widespread acceptance?
- (A) Businesses would be more likely to modernize without considering the social consequences of their actions.
 - (B) There would be greater understanding of the role played by technology in producing social change.

- (C) Businesses would be less likely to understand the attitudes of employees affected by modernization.
- (D) Modernization would have occurred at a slower rate.
- (E) Technology would have played a greater part in determining the role of business in society.

Inference

Answering this question involves understanding a point of view as it is described in the passage. The passage aligns Clark's study closely with the technological determinists, summarizing his view in lines 9–11: *technology can be a primary determinant of social and managerial organization*. In the following sentence, the passage states that Clark believes that *this possibility is obscured by the recent sociological fashion, exemplified by Braverman's analysis* (lines 11–13). After illustrating Braverman's analysis, the passage then states that it represents *social constructivism*.

- A According to the passage, Clark holds that constructivists obscure how modernization might have social consequences.
- B **Correct.** According to the passage, Clark sees constructivism as obscuring the possibility that technology plays a primary role in social change.
- C The passage does not discuss how the attitudes of employees are perceived by their employers.
- D The passage describes a debate about the history and sociology of technology; it does not suggest that sociological analyses affect the pace of modernization.
- E The passage describes a debate about the history and sociology of technology; it does not suggest that sociological analyses affect the role that technology plays in business.

The correct answer is B.

RC00013-05

522. According to the passage, constructivists employed which of the following to promote their argument?
- Empirical studies of business situations involving technological change
 - Citation of managers supportive of their position
 - Construction of hypothetical situations that support their view
 - Contrasts of their view with a misstatement of an opposing view
 - Descriptions of the breadth of impact of technological change

Supporting ideas

Answering this question involves recognizing information given in the passage. The passage indicates that a debate exists between technological determinists and social constructivists, suggesting that these views are in opposition. The passage goes on to state that *constructivists gain acceptance by misrepresenting technological determinism* (lines 23–24). This misrepresentation is presented as the *alternative to constructivism* (lines 27–28), suggesting that constructivists promoted their own view by contrasting it with a misrepresentation of determinists' views.

- The passage mentions empirical studies in relation to Clark's study but not Braverman's analysis.
- The passage does not mention that managers were supportive of any particular point of view within the sociology of technology.
- The passage does not mention any hypothetical situations as being used by the constructivists in support of their view.
- Correct.** The passage indicates that the constructivists have come into fashion by contrasting their own views with a misrepresentation of the views of technological determinists.
- The passage does not describe the constructivists as making determinations regarding the degree of impact that technological change has on social or managerial organization.

The correct answer is D.

RC00013-08

523. The author of the passage uses the expression "are supposed to" in line 25 primarily in order to
- suggest that a contention made by constructivists regarding determinists is inaccurate
 - define the generally accepted position of determinists regarding the implementation of technology
 - engage in speculation about the motivation of determinists
 - lend support to a comment critical of the position of determinists
 - contrast the historical position of determinists with their position regarding the exchange modernization

Evaluation

This question requires understanding how a particular phrase functions in the passage as a whole. In the third paragraph the passage states that *constructivists gain acceptance by misrepresenting technological determinism* (lines 23–24) and follows this claim with an example of this misrepresentation, stating that *technological determinists are supposed to believe, for example* (lines 25–26). This line implies that the constructivist view of the determinists is inaccurate.

- Correct.** The passage uses the expression in part to provide an example of the constructivists' misrepresentation of the determinists.
- The passage indicates that the view attributed to the determinists is a misrepresentation, not one that is generally accepted by determinists.
- The expression in the passage is part of a discussion about the motivation of constructivists, not determinists.
- The expression in the passage is part of a discussion that is critical of the constructivists, not the determinists.
- The passage does not describe either the historical position of determinists or their position on the exchange modernization.

The correct answer is A.

RC00013-05

524. Which of the following statements about Clark's study of the telephone exchange can be inferred from information in the passage?
- Clark's reason for undertaking the study was to undermine Braverman's analysis of the function of technology.
 - Clark's study suggests that the implementation of technology should be discussed in the context of conflict between labor and management.
 - Clark examined the impact of changes in the technology of switching at the exchange in terms of overall operations and organization.
 - Clark concluded that the implementation of new switching technology was equally beneficial to management and labor.
 - Clark's analysis of the change in switching systems applies only narrowly to the situation at the particular exchange that he studied.

Inference

This question requires understanding what the passage implies in its discussion of a point of view. The details of Clark's views are discussed primarily in the final paragraph. The passage states that on an empirical level, Clark demonstrates that technological change regarding switches at the telephone exchange *altered work tasks, skills, training opportunities, administration, and organization of workers* (lines 42–44). The passage goes on to state Clark's contention that these changes even influenced negotiations between management and labor unions.

- The passage indicates that Clark's study addressed the extremes of both technological determinism and social constructivism. It cites Braverman as a proponent of social constructivism but provides no evidence that Clark's motivation in beginning his study was specifically to target an analysis offered by Braverman.
- The passage indicates that Clark attributed some organizational change to the way labor and management negotiated the introduction of technology but does not mention conflict between them.

- C** **Correct.** According to the passage, Clark concludes that changes to the technology of switches had an influence on several aspects of the overall operations and organization of the telephone exchange.
- D** The passage does not indicate that Clark assesses the benefits of technological change to either labor or management.
- E** The passage indicates that Clark believes the change in switching technology influenced many aspects of the overall operations of the telephone exchange.

The correct answer is C.

Questions 525–529 refer to the passage on page 418.

RC00650-02

525. The passage implies that which of the following was a reason that the proportion of verdicts in favor of patentees began to increase in the 1830s?
- Patent applications approved after 1836 were more likely to adhere closely to patent law.
 - Patent laws enacted during the 1830s better defined patent rights.
 - Judges became less prejudiced against patentees during the 1830s.
 - After 1836, litigated cases became less representative of the population of patent disputes.
 - The proportion of patent disputes brought to trial began to increase after 1836.

Inference

The question asks which statement can be reasonably inferred, from information provided in the passage, to be a reason for the increase in proportion of verdicts favoring patentees, starting in the 1830s. The second paragraph argues that what changed in that decade was not judges' attitudes toward patent law, but the types of patent cases that were litigated. It explains that a law passed in 1836 required that, for the first time in U.S. history, applications for patents had to be examined for their adherence to patent law before a patent would be issued. This information implies that patents granted after 1836 were more likely to adhere to patent law and were thus more likely to be upheld in court.

- A **Correct.** The passage implies that patents granted after the 1836 law went into effect were more likely to adhere to patent law.
- B The passage does not indicate that any law mentioned made changes to the definition of patent rights; rather, the passage indicates that the patent system was revised to require that patent applications be reviewed for adherence to existing law.
- C The passage rejects the explanation that judges' attitudes toward patent rights became more favorable.
- D The passage indicates that the population of disputes that were litigated changed after 1836, but it does not suggest that the population of litigated disputes differed from that of patent disputes as a whole.
- E The passage does not indicate any change in the proportion of patent disputes brought to trial.

The correct answer is A.

RC00650-03

526. The passage implies that the scholars mentioned in line 8 would agree with which of the following criticisms of the American patent system before 1830?
- (A) Its definition of property rights relating to inventions was too vague to be useful.
- (B) Its criteria for the granting of patents were not clear.
- (C) It made it excessively difficult for inventors to receive patents.
- (D) It led to excessive numbers of patent-infringement suits.
- (E) It failed to encourage national economic growth.

Inference

This question asks about a statement implied by the passage. The scholars mentioned in line 8 question whether U.S. patent law achieved its goal. That goal is described in the first sentence of the passage: to encourage America's economic growth. Thus, it is reasonable to conclude that the scholars would criticize the pre-1830 patent system for failing to encourage economic growth.

- A The scholars contend that judges rejected patents for arbitrary reasons, not because the definition of property rights was vague.

- B The passage does not indicate that the scholars were critical of the criteria for granting patents.
- C The scholars are concerned with inventors' attempts to protect their patents, not the difficulty of acquiring a patent in the first place.
- D The passage does not imply that the scholars in question believed that too many patent-infringement suits were brought to court, but rather that too few succeeded.
- E **Correct.** The scholars doubt that patent law helped to achieve its goal, which was to encourage economic growth.

The correct answer is E.

RC00650-06

527. It can be inferred from the passage that the frequency with which pre-1830 cases have been cited in court decisions is an indication that
- (A) judicial support for patent rights was strongest in the period before 1830
- (B) judicial support for patent rights did not increase after 1830
- (C) courts have returned to judicial standards that prevailed before 1830
- (D) verdicts favoring patentees in patent-infringement suits did not increase after 1830
- (E) judicial bias against patentees persisted after 1830

Inference

The question asks what is indicated by the frequency with which pre-1830 cases have been cited in court decisions. The second paragraph rejects some scholars' claims that judges prior to the 1830s were *antipatent*, while judges after that time were more accepting of patent rights. The passage supports its critique by pointing out that decisions made by judges before the 1830s have been cited as precedents by later judges just as frequently as post-1830s decisions have been. This implies that later judges' attitudes toward patent rights were similar to those of pre-1830s judges. Thus, there is no reason to believe judges' attitudes toward patent rights changed at that time.

- A The passage argues that judicial support for patents did not change in the 1830s.
- B **Correct.** Pre-1830s court decisions have been cited as frequently as later decisions, suggesting no change in judges' attitudes.
- C The passage does not indicate that judicial standards changed from, and then returned to, those that prevailed before 1830.
- D Although actual numbers of favorable verdicts are not mentioned, the passage indicates that the proportion of verdicts decided in favor of patentees did, in fact, increase beginning in the 1830s.
- E The passage rejects the notion that judges were biased against patentees either before or after 1830.

The correct answer is B.

RC00650-07

528. It can be inferred from the passage that the author and the scholars referred to in line 21 disagree about which of the following aspects of the patents defended in patent-infringement suits before 1830?
- (A) Whether the patents were granted for inventions that were genuinely useful
 - (B) Whether the patents were actually relevant to the growth of the United States economy
 - (C) Whether the patents were particularly likely to be annulled by judges
 - (D) Whether the patents were routinely invalidated for reasons that were arbitrary
 - (E) Whether the patents were vindicated at a significantly lower rate than patents in later suits

Inference

The question depends on recognizing differences between two explanations—one favored by the scholars mentioned in line 21, the other favored by the author—for the frequency with which patents were invalidated in U.S. courts prior to 1830. The first paragraph describes the scholars' view that judges before 1830 were *antipatent* and rejected patentees' claims for *arbitrary reasons*. The author of the passage rejects that view. As an alternate explanation, the author in the second paragraph implies that earlier patents often violated copyright law; this view is supported with reference to an 1836 revision to the patent system which instituted a procedure by which patent applications were inspected to ensure adherence to patent law.

- A The author and the scholars are both focused on protecting inventors' property rights, not with their inventions' utility.
- B Although the passage suggests that the scholars thought America's patent system did not help encourage economic growth, there is no suggestion that either the scholars or the author believes actual patents defended in court were irrelevant to economic growth.
- C Both the scholars and the author believe that patents defended in court prior to 1830 were more likely to be invalidated than were patents in later legal disputes.
- D **Correct.** The scholars claim that judges before 1830 decided against patentees for arbitrary reasons, but the passage suggests that the patents may have been invalidated because they failed to adhere to patent law.
- E Both the scholars and the author accept that patents were upheld in court less often before 1830 than after.

The correct answer is D.

RC00650-08

529. The author of the passage cites which of the following as evidence challenging the argument referred to in lines 14–15?
- (A) The proportion of cases that were decided against patentees in the 1820s
 - (B) The total number of patent disputes that were litigated from 1794 to 1830
 - (C) The fact that later courts drew upon the legal precedents set in pre-1830 patent cases
 - (D) The fact that the proportion of judicial decisions in favor of patentees began to increase during the 1830s
 - (E) The constitutional rationale for the 1836 revision of the patent system

Supporting idea

The question asks what evidence the author brings to bear against the argument referred to in lines 14–15. In the first paragraph, the author summarizes scholars' arguments to the conclusion that judges' attitudes toward patent rights shifted in the 1830s, based on the fact that judges earlier had routinely ruled against patentees in lawsuits whereas judges after that time provided more protection for patent rights. In the second paragraph the author challenges the claim that

judges' attitudes shifted. The author provides evidence that judges after the 1830s cited legal precedents set in pre-1830s cases, suggesting that their views had not changed.

- A The proportion of cases decided against patentees in the 1920s is cited as evidence that supports the scholars' argument in the first paragraph, not as evidence challenging their views.
- B The total number of disputes litigated is not mentioned in the passage.
- C **Correct.** The fact that judges after 1830 cited earlier cases as precedents is used as evidence to challenge scholars' claims that judges' attitudes shifted around 1830.
- D The change in the proportion of decisions in favor of patentees is a fact that both the scholars and the author of the passage attempt to explain.
- E No constitutional rationale for the 1836 law is mentioned in the passage.

The correct answer is C.

Questions 530–536 refer to the passage on page 420.

RC00313-01

530. The author of the passage discusses Krontiris primarily to provide an example of a writer who
- (A) is highly critical of the writings of certain Renaissance women
 - (B) supports Kelly's view of women's status during the Renaissance
 - (C) has misinterpreted the works of certain Renaissance women
 - (D) has rejected the views of both Burckhardt and Kelly
 - (E) has studied Renaissance women in a wide variety of social and religious contexts

Evaluation

This question focuses on the author's reason for mentioning Krontiris's work. The passage states that Krontiris, in her discussion of six Renaissance women writers, is an example of scholars who are optimistic about women's achievements but also suggest that these women faced significant obstacles. She is a writer who, in other words, agrees with neither Kelly's negative views nor Burckhardt's positive approach.

- A The passage indicates that Krontiris uses the Renaissance women writers' works as historical evidence, not that she offered any criticism of the works themselves.
- B Krontiris's work, according to the author, is cautiously optimistic about women's achievements during the Renaissance. This contradicts Kelly's view that the status of women declined during this time.
- C The author suggests that Krontiris may have erred in taking her six subjects as representative of all women during the Renaissance, not that she made any misinterpretations of their actual writing.
- D **Correct.** The author uses Krontiris as an example of those feminist scholars who have rejected the overgeneralized approaches of both Kelly and Burckhardt.
- E The author makes clear that Krontiris's study focuses on literate Renaissance women, who constituted a small minority.

The correct answer is D.

RC00313-02

531. According to the passage, Krontiris's work differs from that of the scholars mentioned in line 12 in which of the following ways?
- (A) Krontiris's work stresses the achievements of Renaissance women rather than the obstacles to their success.
 - (B) Krontiris's work is based on a reinterpretation of the work of earlier scholars.
 - (C) Krontiris's views are at odds with those of both Kelly and Burkhardt.
 - (D) Krontiris's work focuses on the place of women in Renaissance society.
 - (E) Krontiris's views are based exclusively on the study of a privileged group of women.

Supporting idea

This question asks what the passage directly states about the difference between Krontiris's work and the feminist scholars mentioned in the first paragraph. The feminist scholars mentioned in the first paragraph explore differences among Renaissance women, particularly their social status and religion, and thus complicate Burckhardt's and Kelly's generalizations. Krontiris's work, on the other hand, focuses on Renaissance women writers, who are a distinctly privileged and small social group.

- A The second paragraph makes clear that Krontiris addresses the obstacles faced by Renaissance women.
- B The passage does not suggest that Krontiris is reinterpreting or drawing on reinterpretations of the work of earlier scholars.
- C The second paragraph shows that Krontiris's work does complicate both Burckhardt's and Kelly's views, but in this, she is in agreement with the feminist scholars mentioned in the first paragraph.
- D Both Krontiris and the feminist scholars mentioned in the first paragraph are concerned with the place of women in Renaissance society.
- E **Correct.** The feminist scholars mentioned in the first paragraph are concerned with women of different social classes and religions, whereas Krontiris's work focuses on a limited social group.

The correct answer is E.

RC00313-03

532. According to the passage, feminist scholars cite Burckhardt's view of Renaissance women primarily for which of the following reasons?
- (A) Burckhardt's view forms the basis for most arguments refuting Kelly's point of view.
 - (B) Burckhardt's view has been discredited by Kelly.
 - (C) Burckhardt's view is one that many feminist scholars wish to refute.
 - (D) Burckhardt's work provides rich historical evidence of inequality between Renaissance women and men.
 - (E) Burckhardt's work includes historical research supporting the arguments of the feminist scholars.

Supporting idea

This question asks what the passage says explicitly about why feminist scholars reference Burckhardt's view of Renaissance women. The first paragraph states that Burckhardt's view is that Renaissance women enjoyed *perfect equality* with men, and then follows that by noting how feminist scholars have *repeatedly cited* this view to contrast it with extensive evidence of women's inequality during the Renaissance.

- A The passage does not indicate that any feminist scholars cite Burckhardt to refute Kelly's view. It uses Krontiris as an example of scholars who refute Kelly's point of view to a certain degree, but Krontiris does not use Burckhardt's view as her basis for doing so; Krontiris argues against Burckhardt as well.
- B According to the first paragraph, Kelly's work was in certain ways inconsistent with Burckhardt's view, but that is not a reason why Burckhardt's view is cited by feminist scholars. Rather, according to the passage, they cite it in order to argue against it.
- C **Correct.** Many feminist scholars wish to refute Burckhardt's view that Renaissance women and men were equal.
- D As the first paragraph makes clear, Burckhardt's work emphasizes equality, not inequality, between Renaissance women and men.
- E The passage does not discuss the historical research on which Burckhardt based his work.

The correct answer is C.

RC00313-04

533. It can be inferred that both Burckhardt and Kelly have been criticized by the scholars mentioned in line 12 for which of the following?
- (A) Assuming that women writers of the Renaissance are representative of Renaissance women in general
 - (B) Drawing conclusions that are based on the study of an atypical group of women
 - (C) Failing to describe clearly the relationship between social status and literacy among Renaissance women
 - (D) Failing to acknowledge the role played by Renaissance women in opposing cultural stereotypes
 - (E) Failing to acknowledge the ways in which social status affected the creative activities of Renaissance women

Inference

Line 12 refers to feminist scholars who have rejected both Kelly's and Burckhardt's views of the status of Renaissance women. The next sentence states that the feminist scholars use class and religious differences among Renaissance women to argue against Kelly's and Burckhardt's generalizations, which were based on upper-class Italian women.

- A The second paragraph suggests that Krontiris at times conflates Renaissance women writers and women in general, but the passage does not indicate that the feminist scholars believe this of Kelly or Burckhardt.
- B **Correct.** The feminist scholars mentioned study different types of Renaissance women and so reject Kelly's and Burckhardt's conclusions that were based on a group that was not in fact typical.
- C Krontiris, not Kelly and Burckhardt, is the scholar who, according to the passage, fails to address the relationship between literacy and social status.
- D The passage provides no grounds for determining whether Kelly, Burckhardt, or the feminist scholars mentioned in the first paragraph dealt with Renaissance women's opposition to cultural stereotypes; Krontiris's work is concerned with this question.
- E The first paragraph suggests that feminist scholars criticized Kelly and Burckhardt for failing to acknowledge the ways in which social status complicates any generalizations that can be made about Renaissance women's lives, not their creative activities specifically.

The correct answer is B.

RC00313-05

534. The author of the passage suggests that Krontiris incorrectly assumes that
- (A) social differences among Renaissance women are less important than the fact that they were women
 - (B) literacy among Renaissance women was more prevalent than most scholars today acknowledge

- (C) during the Renaissance, women were able to successfully oppose cultural stereotypes relating to gender
- (D) Renaissance women did not face many difficult social obstacles relating to their gender
- (E) in order to attain power, Renaissance women attacked basic assumptions in the ideologies that oppressed them

Inference

The first statement the author makes about Krontiris, in the second paragraph, concerns what the author characterizes as a problem with Krontiris's work. Krontiris takes the Renaissance women writers she studies as representative of all Renaissance women; the author says that designating *women* as the most important grouping fails to consider whether other social differences might make for differences in experience.

- A **Correct.** The author indicates that Krontiris's error lies in assuming that women's identity as women trumps social and other differences.
- B The author does not suggest that Krontiris assumes inappropriate literacy levels among Renaissance women, but rather that Krontiris does not give sufficient consideration to the idea that women who could read and write most likely led lives very different from those of women who could not read and write.
- C The author says that Krontiris suggests that there were many cultural stereotypes that women were not able to oppose effectively.
- D Krontiris, according to the author, acknowledges the many social obstacles faced by women on the basis of their gender.
- E According to the author, Krontiris's concluding remarks suggest that Renaissance women *seldom attacked the basic assumptions in the ideologies that oppressed them*.

The correct answer is A.

RC00313.06

535. The last sentence in the passage serves primarily to
- suggest that Krontiris's work is not representative of recent trends among feminist scholars
 - undermine the argument that literate women of the Renaissance sought to oppose social constraints imposed on them
 - show a way in which Krontiris's work illustrates a "cautiously optimistic" assessment of Renaissance women's achievements
 - summarize Krontiris's view of the effect of literacy on the lives of upper- and middle-class Renaissance women
 - illustrate the way in which Krontiris's study differs from the studies done by Burckhardt and Kelly

Evaluation

The function of the final sentence of the passage is to indicate how Krontiris's work takes neither a completely positive nor completely negative view of Renaissance women's experiences—i.e., how her work is representative of those authors who are cautiously optimistic about the achievements of Renaissance women.

- The passage discusses Krontiris's work as an example of the trend described in the latter part of the first paragraph and mentioned in the first line of the second paragraph. The last sentence in the passage shows that Krontiris's work is in fact representative of recent trends among feminist scholars.
- The last sentence in the passage states that Renaissance women's opposition to cultural stereotypes was circumscribed, but it also suggests that these women did gain some power for themselves. Thus, the sentence does not serve primarily to undermine the argument that the women sought to oppose social constraints.
- Correct.** Krontiris's work illustrates the "cautiously optimistic" view by embracing both the idea that Renaissance women could gain a certain amount of power and the idea that the extent of their opposition was limited.

- The last sentence in the passage summarizes Krontiris's view, but that view does not, according to the passage, take into account the effect of literacy on the members of a particular social class.
- The main function of the final sentence of the passage is to take up the idea of the *cautiously optimistic* assessment offered in the penultimate sentence. This does mark a significant departure from both Burckhardt and Kelly, but the distinction between their work and that of other feminist scholars is marked more clearly earlier in the passage.

The correct answer is C.

RC00313.08

536. The author of the passage implies that the women studied by Krontiris are unusual in which of the following ways?

- They faced obstacles less formidable than those faced by other Renaissance women.
- They have been seen by historians as more interesting than other Renaissance women.
- They were more concerned about recording history accurately than were other Renaissance women.
- Their perceptions are more likely to be accessible to historians than are those of most other Renaissance women.
- Their concerns are likely to be of greater interest to feminist scholars than are the ideas of most other Renaissance women.

Inference

The women Krontiris studied are unusual, the author suggests, because they were literate, thus putting them among the minority of Renaissance women. That they could write, however, means that their written reflections are part of the historical record, whereas the direct impressions of experiences had by Renaissance women who could not write about their lives are lost to history.

- A The author implies that the obstacles faced by Krontiris's subjects may have been different from those faced by other women, not that they were less formidable.
- B The author does not imply that the women studied by Krontiris are seen as more interesting; rather, the author indicates that their work is that which is available for study.
- C The women Krontiris studies were able to record their own history because they, unlike most other Renaissance women, were literate. This does not imply that they were more concerned with recording history accurately.
- D **Correct.** Because Krontiris's subjects were literate, they were able to write down, and thus preserve for historians, their perceptions in a way that most other Renaissance women were not.
- E The author does not suggest that feminist scholars in general are more interested in the concerns of middle- and upper-class literate women than they are with women of other classes.

The correct answer is D.

Questions 537–540 refer to the passage on page 422.

RC00524-02

537. The passage implies which of the following about the five asteroids mentioned in line 12?
- (A) Their rotation rates are approximately the same.
- (B) They have undergone approximately the same number of collisions.
- (C) They are monoliths.
- (D) They are composed of fragments that have escaped the gravity of larger asteroids.
- (E) They were detected only recently.

Inference

In line 12, *five observed asteroids*, refers to the five asteroids whose rotation rates are exceptions to the strict limit on the rate of rotation found in all other observed asteroids. These five asteroids all have diameters smaller than 200 meters.

The passage indicates that if asteroids were all monoliths—that is, single rocks—then their rotation rates would form a bell curve when

graphed, but if asteroids were piles of rubble, the tail of the bell curve indicating very fast rotation rates would be missing. Among asteroids larger than 200 meters, this tail is missing, and only the five asteroids described as exceptions have rotation rates falling at the very high end of the bell curve.

- A All that the passage states about the rotation rates of these five asteroids is that they do not obey a strict limit. The passage does not rule out that their rates of rotation are significantly different from one another.
- B According to the passage, frequent collisions occur among asteroids. But the passage does not suggest that asteroids that are of similar sizes, or that have particularly high rotation rates, will be similar in terms of the number of collisions that they have undergone to reach those distinctive states.
- C **Correct.** The second paragraph states that *most small asteroids* should be monolithic, and the five observed asteroids are all smaller than 200 meters in diameter.
- D The five asteroids are most likely not composed of fragments because, as the passage states, small asteroids should be monoliths.
- E The passage notes that researchers have observed these five asteroids, along with others, but it does not indicate when these asteroids were originally detected.

The correct answer is C.

RC00524-04

538. The discovery of which of the following would call into question the conclusion mentioned in line 16?
- (A) An asteroid 100 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once per week
- (B) An asteroid 150 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of 20 times per hour
- (C) An asteroid 250 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once per week
- (D) An asteroid 500 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once per hour
- (E) An asteroid 1,000 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once every 24 hours

Application

The conclusion that the text in line 16 points to is that asteroids with diameters greater than 200 meters are *multicomponent structures or rubble piles*. To call that conclusion into question, an observation would have to suggest that asteroids larger than 200 meters across are not such multicomponent structures. According to the first paragraph, rubble piles cannot be fast rotators: spinning faster than once every few hours would make them fly apart.

- A Nothing in the passage suggests that the behavior of an asteroid 100 meters in diameter is relevant to a conclusion about the behavior of asteroids greater than 200 meters in diameter.
- B Nothing in the passage suggests that the behavior of an asteroid 150 meters in diameter would have any effect on a conclusion about the constitution of asteroids with diameters greater than 200 meters.
- C An asteroid 250 meters in diameter rotating at a rate of once per week would be rotating at a slow enough rate to hold together a pile of rubble. Thus, this observation would be entirely consistent with the conclusion about asteroids larger than 200 meters in diameter.
- D Correct.** Assuming that an asteroid composed of a pile of rubble is of a great enough density, a rotation rate greater than one revolution every few hours would make it fly apart. So a 500-meter asteroid rotating at a rate of once per hour—that is, faster than the crucial speed—would fly apart if it were not a monolith. The conclusion states that all asteroids larger than 200 meters are multicomponent structures (that is, are not monoliths), so the discovery of a 500-meter asteroid rotating at a rate of once an hour would call into question that conclusion.
- E An asteroid rotating at a rate of once every 24 hours would, regardless of size, be rotating much more slowly than the *once every few hours* that the passage claims would make a pile of rubble of a sufficient density fly apart. So an asteroid with a diameter of 1,000 meters that rotated once per day could be a pile of rubble and not conflict with the conclusion.

The correct answer is D.

RC00524-06

539. According to the passage, which of the following is a prediction that is based on the strength of the gravitational attraction of small asteroids?
- (A) Small asteroids will be few in number.
 - (B) Small asteroids will be monoliths.
 - (C) Small asteroids will collide with other asteroids very rarely.
 - (D) Most small asteroids will have very fast rotation rates.
 - (E) Almost no small asteroids will have very slow rotation rates.

Supporting ideas

Regarding small asteroids, the second paragraph states that they have feeble gravity. Any fragments from impacts would escape that gravity, and thus, the passage states, the small asteroids *should be monolithic*.

- A Small asteroids could be few in number, but the passage does not offer such a prediction.
- B Correct.** This prediction is offered in the second paragraph, based on the fact that small asteroids do not have strong gravitational attraction. Any impact fragments will easily escape the weak gravitational attraction of the small asteroids.
- C The passage discusses large asteroid collisions in more detail than small-asteroid collisions, but it provides no basis for predicting how often large and small asteroids will, comparatively, be involved in such collisions.
- D The first paragraph indicates that the rotation rates of small asteroids can exceed the upper limit on the rotation rates of large asteroids, but it does not indicate that most small asteroids have rotation rates that exceed this upper limit.
- E The passage only indicates that there are few observed exceptions to the upper limit on rotation rates of large asteroids, and these exceptions are all smaller than 200 meters in diameter; the passage does not indicate that there are few small asteroids that have very slow rotation rates.

The correct answer is B.

RC00524-07

540. The author of the passage mentions “escape velocity” (see line 22) in order to help explain which of the following?
- The tendency for asteroids to become smaller rather than larger over time
 - The speed with which impact fragments reassemble when they do not escape an asteroid’s gravitational attraction after a collision
 - The frequency with which collisions among asteroids occur
 - The rotation rates of asteroids smaller than 200 meters in diameter
 - The tendency for large asteroids to persist after collisions

Evaluation

This question asks about the purpose of the author’s use of the phrase *escape velocity* in the second paragraph. The author is discussing what occurs after an asteroid collision, in which a large asteroid might be blasted to bits. The bits, according to the author, will move slower than their *mutual escape velocity*—that is, the speed at which they would have to move to get away from each other and not reassemble, under the influence of gravity, into a rubble pile.

- The author is emphasizing the asteroid bits that do not escape rather than those that do. Asteroids may become smaller over time, but the fact that most bits move slower than their escape velocity would not help to explain this shrinkage.
- That the bits of asteroid move slower than their escape velocity helps explain why the fragments reassemble, but it does not help explain the speed with which they reassemble.
- According to the author, asteroid collisions occur frequently, but the escape velocity of the resulting fragments does not help to explain that frequency.
- The concept of escape velocity may help explain why small asteroids are monoliths, but it has no relevance, at least as far as the passage indicates, to those asteroids’ rotation rates.

- E** **Correct.** After a collision, it is the asteroid fragments’ failure to reach escape velocity that allows the fragments’ gravitational pull to reassemble them into a rubble pile.

The correct answer is E.

Questions 541–543 refer to the passage on page 424.

RC00301-03

541. The author of the passage mentions calculations about tunneling time and barrier thickness in order to
- suggest that tunneling time is unrelated to barrier thickness
 - explain the evidence by which Wigner and Eisenbud discovered the phenomenon of tunneling
 - describe data recently challenged by Raymond Chiao and colleagues
 - question why particles engaged in quantum tunneling rarely achieve extremely high speeds
 - explain the basis for Wigner and Eisenbud’s hypothesis

Evaluation

This question asks why the author discusses calculations about tunneling time and barrier thickness. According to the passage, these calculations provided the grounds for Wigner and Eisenbud’s hypothesis that tunneling particles may travel faster than light.

- The passage states that tunneling time is related to barrier thickness, up to the point at which tunneling time reaches a maximum.
- The passage indicates that the phenomenon of tunneling was noted at least as early as 1932. It provides no evidence that Wigner and Eisenbud discovered it.
- The passage uses Chiao’s work to support the idea that tunneling particles may move faster than light, not challenge it.
- The author describes calculations about tunneling time and barrier thickness in order to explain that particles engaged in quantum tunneling may in fact achieve extremely high speeds, not to explain the rarity of the phenomenon.

- E Correct.** The calculations about tunneling time and barrier thickness supported Wigner and Eisenbud's hypothesis that quantum tunneling could occur at speeds faster than that of light.

The correct answer is E.

RC00301-02

542. The passage implies that if tunneling time reached no maximum in increasing with barrier thickness, then
- tunneling speed would increase with barrier thickness
 - tunneling speed would decline with barrier thickness
 - tunneling speed would vary with barrier thickness
 - tunneling speed would not be expected to increase without limit
 - successful tunneling would occur even less frequently than it does

Inference

The passage states that because tunneling time reaches a maximum, then tunneling speed must increase as barrier thickness increases. But if tunneling time did not reach such a maximum, then speed need not increase without limit; the particle could have as low a speed in thicker barriers as in thinner ones and take longer to tunnel through a barrier.

- If tunneling time could not reach a maximum, then speed might increase, decrease, or remain the same as barrier thickness increases.
- If tunneling time could not reach a maximum, then speed might increase, decrease, or remain the same as barrier thickness increases.
- Tunneling speed could vary with barrier thickness if tunneling time could not reach a maximum, but there is no basis in the passage on which to conclude that this is definitely so.

- D Correct.** The tunneling particle could have as low a speed in thicker barriers as in thinner ones and simply take longer to make its way through a thicker barrier.
- E** The passage states that the probability of successful tunneling declines as the thickness of the barrier increases. However, it does not address the issue of whether the differences in probability of successful tunneling are due to the greater time required to go through thicker barriers.

The correct answer is D.

RC00301-04

543. Which of the following statements about the earliest scientific investigators of quantum tunneling can be inferred from the passage?
- They found it difficult to increase barrier thickness continually.
 - They anticipated the later results of Chiao and his colleagues.
 - They did not suppose that tunneling particles could travel faster than light.
 - They were unable to observe instances of successful tunneling.
 - They made use of photons to study the phenomenon of tunneling.

Inference

This question asks about the earliest investigators of quantum tunneling. The passage notes that quantum tunneling's *extreme rapidity* was observed in 1932; thus, the earliest investigators of this phenomenon knew of its existence at that time. Not until 1955 did Wigner and Eisenbud hypothesize that the particles traveled faster than light. Thus, it is logical to infer that the earliest investigators did not imagine such a speed.

- A There is nothing in the passage to suggest that the earliest investigators of quantum tunneling had difficulty manipulating barrier thickness.
- B The passage states that Chiao and his colleagues measured photons moving at 1.7 times the speed of light—but the passage does not provide evidence that the earliest investigators anticipated such speeds.
- C **Correct.** The passage suggests that prior to 1955, investigators of quantum tunneling had not hypothesized that the particles could travel faster than the speed of light.
- D The passage indicates that by 1932, investigators had noted the rapidity of quantum tunneling; although this does not entail that they observed the phenomenon, it is consistent with their having been able to do so.
- E The passage indicates that Chiao's work involves photons, but it does not indicate the type of particles used or observed by the earliest investigators of the phenomenon.

The correct answer is C.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the explanation described above?

- (A) During the 1980s a growing percentage of college graduates, unable to find jobs requiring a college degree, took unskilled jobs.
- (B) The average age of all employees increased slightly during the 1980s.
- (C) The unemployment rate changed very little throughout most of the 1980s.
- (D) From 1980 to 1990 the difference in average income between employees with advanced degrees and those with bachelor's degrees also increased.
- (E) During the 1980s there were some employees with no college degree who earned incomes comparable to the top incomes earned by employees with a college degree.

CR01239

626. Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

According to the last pre-election poll in Whippleton, most voters believe that the three problems government needs to address, in order of importance, are pollution, crime, and unemployment. Yet in the election, candidates from parties perceived as strongly against pollution were defeated, while those elected were all from parties with a history of opposing legislation designed to reduce pollution. These results should not be taken to indicate that the poll was inaccurate, however, since _____.

- (A) some voters in Whippleton do not believe that pollution needs to be reduced
- (B) every candidate who was defeated had a strong antipollution record
- (C) there were no issues other than crime, unemployment, and pollution on which the candidates had significant differences of opinion
- (D) all the candidates who were elected were perceived as being stronger against both crime and unemployment than the candidates who were defeated

- (E) many of the people who voted in the election refused to participate in the poll

CR01153

627. Manufacturing plants in Arundia have recently been acquired in substantial numbers by investors from abroad. Arundian politicians are proposing legislative action to stop such investment, justifying the proposal by arguing that foreign investors, opportunistically exploiting a recent fall in the value of the Arundian currency, were able to buy Arundian assets at less than their true value.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most serious doubt on the adequacy of the Arundian politicians' justification for the proposed legislation?

- (A) The Arundian government originally welcomed the fall in the value of the Arundian currency because the fall made Arundian exports more competitive on international markets.
- (B) Foreign investors who acquired Arundian manufacturing plants generally did so with no intention of keeping and running those plants over the long term.
- (C) Without the recent fall in the value of the Arundian currency, many of the Arundian assets bought by foreign investors would have been beyond the financial reach of those investors.
- (D) In Concordia, a country broadly similar to Arundia, the share of manufacturing assets that is foreign-controlled is 60 percent higher than it is in Arundia.
- (E) The true value of an investment is determined by the value of the profits from it, and the low value of the Arundian currency has depressed the value of any profits earned by foreign investors from Arundian assets.

CR04964

628. Proposed new safety rules for Beach City airport would lengthen considerably the minimum time between takeoffs from the airport. In consequence, the airport would be able to accommodate 10 percent fewer flights than currently use the airport daily. The city's operating budget depends heavily on taxes generated by tourist spending, and most of the tourists come by plane. Therefore, the proposed new safety rules, if adopted, will reduce the revenue available for the operating budget.

The argument depends on assuming which of the following?

- (A) There are no periods of the day during which the interval between flights taking off from the airport is significantly greater than the currently allowed minimum.
- (B) Few, if any, of the tourists who use Beach City airport do so when their main destination is a neighboring community and not Beach City itself.
- (C) If the proposed safety rules are adopted, the reduction in tourist numbers will not result mainly from a reduction in the number of tourists who spend relatively little in Beach City.
- (D) Increasing the minimum time between takeoffs is the only way to achieve necessary safety improvements without a large expenditure by the city government on airport enhancements.
- (E) The response to the adoption of the new safety rules would not include a large increase in the number of passengers per flight.

CR01096

629. The introduction of new drugs into the market is frequently prevented by a shortage of human subjects for the clinical trials needed to show that the drugs are safe and effective. Since the lives and health of people in future generations may depend on treatments that are currently experimental, practicing physicians are morally in the wrong when, in the absence of any treatment proven to be effective, they fail to encourage suitable patients to volunteer for clinical trials.

Which of the following, if true, casts most doubt on the conclusion of the argument?

- (A) Many drugs undergoing clinical trials are intended for the treatment of conditions for which there is currently no effective treatment.

- (B) Patients do not share the physician's professional concern for public health, but everyone has a moral obligation to alleviate suffering when able to do so.
- (C) Usually, half the patients in a clinical trial serve as a control group and receive a nonactive drug in place of the drug being tested.
- (D) An experimental drug cannot legally be made available to patients unless those patients are subjects in clinical trials of the drug.
- (E) Physicians have an overriding moral and legal duty to care for the health and safety of their current patients.

CR01285

630. As a construction material, bamboo is as strong as steel and sturdier than concrete. Moreover, in tropical areas bamboo is a much less expensive construction material than either steel or concrete and is always readily available. In tropical areas, therefore, building with bamboo makes better economic sense than building with steel or concrete, except where land values are high.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the exception noted above?

- (A) Buildings constructed of bamboo are less likely to suffer earthquake damage than are steel and concrete buildings.
- (B) Bamboo is unsuitable as a building material for multistory buildings.
- (C) In order to protect it from being damaged by termites and beetles, bamboo must be soaked, at some expense, in a preservative.
- (D) In some tropical areas, bamboo is used to make the scaffolding that is used during large construction projects.
- (E) Bamboo growing in an area where land values are increasing is often cleared to make way for construction.

CR00788

631. Newspaper editors should not allow reporters to write the headlines for their own stories. The reason for this is that, while the headlines that reporters themselves write are often clever, what typically makes them clever is that they allude to little-known information that is familiar to the reporter but that never appears explicitly in the story itself.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- (A) The reporter who writes a story is usually better placed than the reporter's editor is to judge what the story's most newsworthy features are.
- (B) To write a headline that is clever, a person must have sufficient understanding of the story that the headline accompanies.
- (C) Most reporters rarely bother to find out how other reporters have written stories and headlines about the same events that they themselves have covered.
- (D) For virtually any story that a reporter writes, there are at least a few people who know more about the story's subject matter than does the reporter.
- (E) The kind of headlines that newspaper editors want are those that anyone who has read a reporter's story in its entirety will recognize as clever.

CR03251

632. Scientists have modified feed corn genetically, increasing its resistance to insect pests. Farmers who tried out the genetically modified corn last season applied less insecticide to their corn fields and still got yields comparable to those they would have gotten with ordinary corn. Ordinary corn seed, however, costs less, and what these farmers saved on insecticide rarely exceeded their extra costs for seed. Therefore, for most feed-corn farmers, switching to genetically modified seed would be unlikely to increase profits.

Which of the following would it be most useful to know in order to evaluate the argument?

- (A) Whether there are insect pests that sometimes reduce feed-corn yields, but against which commonly used insecticides and the genetic modification are equally ineffective
- (B) Whether the price that farmers receive for feed corn has remained steady over the past few years
- (C) Whether the insecticides typically used on feed corn tend to be more expensive than insecticides typically used on other crops

- (D) Whether most of the farmers who tried the genetically modified corn last season applied more insecticide than was actually necessary
- (E) Whether, for most farmers who plant feed corn, it is their most profitable crop

CR07318

633. Debater: The average amount of overtime per month worked by an employee in the manufacturing division of the Haglut Corporation is 14 hours. Most employees of the Haglut Corporation work in the manufacturing division. Furthermore, the average amount of overtime per month worked by any employee in the company generally does not fluctuate much from month to month. Therefore, each month, most employees of the Haglut Corporation almost certainly work at least some overtime.

The debater's argument is most vulnerable to criticism on which of these grounds?

- (A) It takes for granted that the manufacturing division is a typical division of the corporation with regard to the average amount of overtime its employees work each month.
- (B) It takes for granted that if a certain average amount of overtime is worked each month by each employee of the Haglut Corporation, then approximately the same amount of overtime must be worked each month by each employee of the manufacturing division.
- (C) It confuses a claim from which the argument's conclusion about the Haglut Corporation would necessarily follow with a claim that would follow from the argument's conclusion only with a high degree of probability.
- (D) It overlooks the possibility that even if, on average, a certain amount of overtime is worked by the members of some group, many members of that group may work no overtime at all.
- (E) It overlooks the possibility that even if most employees of the corporation work some overtime each month, any one corporate employee may, in some months, work no overtime.

CR05446

634. Proponents of the recently introduced tax on sales of new luxury boats had argued that a tax of this sort would be an equitable way to increase government revenue because the admittedly heavy tax burden would fall only on wealthy people and neither they nor anyone else would suffer any economic hardship. In fact, however, 20 percent of the workers employed by manufacturers of luxury boats have lost their jobs as a direct result of this tax.

The information given, if true, most strongly supports which of the following?

- (A) The market for luxury boats would have collapsed even if the new tax on luxury boats had been lower.
- (B) The new tax would produce a net gain in tax revenue for the government only if the yearly total revenue that it generates exceeds the total of any yearly tax-revenue decrease resulting from the workers' loss of jobs.
- (C) Because many people never buy luxury items, imposing a sales tax on luxury items is the kind of legislative action that does not cost incumbent legislators much popular support.
- (D) Before the tax was instituted, luxury boats were largely bought by people who were not wealthy.
- (E) Taxes can be equitable only if their burden is evenly distributed over the entire population.

CR05191

635. In Wareland last year, 16 percent of licensed drivers under 21 and 11 percent of drivers ages 21–24 were in serious accidents. By contrast, only 3 percent of licensed drivers 65 and older were involved in serious accidents. These figures clearly show that the greater experience and developed habits of caution possessed by drivers in the 65-and-older group make them far safer behind the wheel than the younger drivers are.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) Drivers 65 and older do not, on average, drive very many fewer miles per year than drivers 24 and younger.
- (B) Drivers 65 and older do not constitute a significantly larger percentage of licensed drivers in Wareland than drivers ages 18–24 do.

- (C) Drivers 65 and older are less likely than are drivers 24 and younger to drive during weather conditions that greatly increase the risk of accidents.
- (D) The difference between the accident rate of drivers under 21 and of those ages 21–24 is attributable to the greater driving experience of those in the older group.
- (E) There is no age bracket for which the accident rate is lower than it is for licensed drivers 65 and older.

CR05614

636. In the past the country of Malvernia has relied heavily on imported oil. Malvernia recently implemented a program to convert heating systems from oil to natural gas. Malvernia currently produces more natural gas each year than it uses, and oil production in Malvernian oil fields is increasing at a steady pace. If these trends in fuel production and usage continue, therefore, Malvernian reliance on foreign sources for fuel is likely to decline soon.

Which of the following would it be most useful to establish in evaluating the argument?

- (A) When, if ever, will production of oil in Malvernia outstrip production of natural gas?
- (B) Is Malvernia among the countries that rely most on imported oil?
- (C) What proportion of Malvernia's total energy needs is met by hydroelectric, solar, and nuclear power?
- (D) Is the amount of oil used each year in Malvernia for generating electricity and fuel for transportation increasing?
- (E) Have any existing oil-burning heating systems in Malvernia already been converted to natural-gas-burning heating systems?

CR03618

637. Exposure to certain chemicals commonly used in elementary schools as cleaners or pesticides causes allergic reactions in some children. Elementary school nurses in Renston report that the proportion of schoolchildren sent to them for treatment of allergic reactions to those chemicals has increased significantly over the past ten years. Therefore, either Renston's schoolchildren have been exposed to greater quantities of the chemicals, or they are more sensitive to them than schoolchildren were ten years ago.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) The number of school nurses employed by Renston's elementary schools has not decreased over the past ten years.
- (B) Children who are allergic to the chemicals are no more likely than other children to have allergies to other substances.
- (C) Children who have allergic reactions to the chemicals are not more likely to be sent to a school nurse now than they were ten years ago.
- (D) The chemicals are not commonly used as cleaners or pesticides in houses and apartment buildings in Renston.
- (E) Children attending elementary school do not make up a larger proportion of Renston's population now than they did ten years ago.

CR01854

638. Normally, the pineal gland governs a person's sleep-wake cycle by secreting melatonin in response to the daily cycle of light and darkness as detected by the eye. Nonetheless, many people who are totally blind due to lesions in the visual cortex of the brain easily maintain a 24-hour sleep-wake cycle. So the neural pathway by which the pineal gland receives information from the eye probably does not pass through the visual cortex.

For purposes of evaluating the argument it would be most useful to establish which of the following?

- (A) Whether melatonin supplements help people who have difficulty maintaining a 24-hour sleep cycle to establish such a pattern
- (B) Whether the melatonin levels of most totally blind people who successfully maintain a 24-hour sleep-wake cycle change in response to changes in exposure to light and darkness
- (C) Whether melatonin is the only substance secreted by the pineal gland
- (D) Whether most people who do not have a 24-hour sleep-wake cycle nevertheless have a cycle of consistent duration

- (E) Whether there are any people with normal vision whose melatonin levels respond abnormally to periods of light and darkness

CR00942

639. **In countries where automobile insurance includes compensation for whiplash injuries sustained in automobile accidents, reports of having suffered such injuries are twice as frequent as they are in countries where whiplash is not covered.**

Presently, no objective test for whiplash exists, so it is true that spurious reports of whiplash injuries cannot be readily identified. Nevertheless, these facts do not warrant the conclusion drawn by some commentators that in the countries with the higher rates of reported whiplash injuries, half of the reported cases are spurious. Clearly, **in countries where automobile insurance does not include compensation for whiplash, people often have little incentive to report whiplash injuries that they actually have suffered.**

In the argument given, the two boldfaced portions play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is a claim that the argument disputes; the second is a conclusion that has been based on that claim.
- (B) The first is a claim that has been used to support a conclusion that the argument accepts; the second is that conclusion.
- (C) The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion for which the argument provides further evidence; the second is the main conclusion of the argument.
- (D) The first is a finding whose implications are at issue in the argument; the second is a claim presented in order to argue against deriving certain implications from that finding.
- (E) The first is a finding whose accuracy is evaluated in the argument; the second is evidence presented to establish that the finding is accurate.

CR03859

640. Last year Comfort Airlines had twice as many delayed flights as the year before, but the number of complaints from passengers about delayed flights went up three times. It is unlikely that this disproportionate increase in complaints was rooted in an increase in overall dissatisfaction with the service Comfort Airlines provides, since the airline made a special effort to improve other aspects of its service last year.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the disproportionate increase in customer complaints?

- (A) Comfort Airlines had more flights last year than the year before.
- (B) Last year a single period of unusually bad weather caused a large number of flights to be delayed.
- (C) Some of the improvements that Comfort Airlines made in its service were required by new government regulations.
- (D) The average length of a flight delay was greater last year than it was the year before.
- (E) The average number of passengers per flight was no higher last year than the year before.

CR01337

641. Last year a global disturbance of weather patterns disrupted harvests in many of the world's important agricultural areas. Worldwide production of soybeans, an important source of protein for people and livestock alike, was not adversely affected, however. Indeed, last year's soybean crop was actually slightly larger than average. Nevertheless, the weather phenomenon is probably responsible for a recent increase in the world price of soybeans.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest justification for the attribution of the increase in soybean prices to the weather phenomenon?

- (A) Last year's harvest of anchovies, which provide an important protein source for livestock, was disrupted by the effects of the weather phenomenon.
- (B) Most countries that produce soybeans for export had above-average harvests of a number of food crops other than soybeans last year.
- (C) The world price of soybeans also rose several years ago, immediately after an earlier occurrence of a similar global weather disturbance.
- (D) Heavy rains attributable to the weather phenomenon improved grazing pastures last year,

allowing farmers in many parts of the world to reduce their dependence on supplemental feed.

- (E) Prior to last year, soybean prices had been falling for several years.

CR03541

642. Most of the year, the hermit thrush, a North American songbird, eats a diet consisting mainly of insects, but in autumn, as the thrushes migrate to their Central and South American wintering grounds, they feed almost exclusively on wild berries. Wild berries, however, are not as rich in calories as insects, yet thrushes need to consume plenty of calories in order to complete their migration. One possible explanation is that berries contain other nutrients that thrushes need for migration and that insects lack.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously calls into question the explanation given for the thrush's diet during migration?

- (A) Hermit thrushes, if undernourished, are unable to complete their autumn migration before the onset of winter.
- (B) Insect species contain certain nutrients that are not found in wild berries.
- (C) For songbirds, catching insects requires the expenditure of significantly more calories than eating wild berries does.
- (D) Along the hermit thrushes' migration routes, insects are abundant throughout the migration season.
- (E) There are some species of wild berries that hermit thrushes generally do not eat, even though these berry species are exceptionally rich in calories.

CR01879

643. The kinds of hand and wrist injuries that result from extended use of a computer while maintaining an incorrect posture are common among schoolchildren in Harnville. Computers are important to the school curriculum there, so instead of reducing the amount their students use computers, teachers plan to bring about a sharp reduction in the number of these injuries by carefully monitoring their students' posture when using computers in the classroom.

Which of the following would it be most useful to know in order to assess the likelihood that the teachers' plan will be successful?

- (A) Whether extended use of a computer while maintaining incorrect posture can cause injuries other than hand and wrist injuries

- (B) Whether hand and wrist injuries not caused by computer use are common among schoolchildren in Harnville
- (C) What proportion of schoolchildren in Harnville with hand and wrist injuries use computers extensively outside the classroom
- (D) Whether changes in the curriculum could reduce the schools' dependence on computers
- (E) What proportion of schoolchildren in Harnville already use correct posture while using a computer

CR04718

644. A certain cultivated herb is one of a group of closely related plants that thrive in soil with high concentrations of metals that are toxic to most other plants. Agronomists studying the growth of this herb have discovered that it produces large amounts of histidine, an amino acid that, in test-tube solutions, renders these metals chemically inert. Hence, the herb's high histidine production must be the key feature that allows it to grow in metal-rich soils.

In evaluating the argument, it would be most important to determine which of the following?

- (A) Whether the herb can thrive in soil that does not have high concentrations of the toxic metals
- (B) Whether others of the closely related group of plants also produce histidine in large quantities
- (C) Whether the herb's high level of histidine production is associated with an unusually low level of production of some other amino acid
- (D) Whether growing the herb in soil with high concentrations of the metals will, over time, reduce their concentrations in the soil
- (E) Whether the concentration of histidine in the growing herb declines as the plant approaches maturity

CR01293

645. Many people suffer an allergic reaction to certain sulfites, including those that are commonly added to wine as preservatives. However, since there are several winemakers who add sulfites to none of the wines they produce, people who would like to drink wine but are allergic to sulfites can drink wines produced by these winemakers without risking an allergic reaction to sulfites.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) These winemakers have been able to duplicate the preservative effect produced by adding sulfites by means that do not involve adding any potentially allergenic substances to their wine.
- (B) Not all forms of sulfite are equally likely to produce the allergic reaction.
- (C) Wine is the only beverage to which sulfites are commonly added.
- (D) Apart from sulfites, there are no substances commonly present in wine that give rise to an allergic reaction.
- (E) Sulfites are not naturally present in the wines produced by these winemakers in amounts large enough to produce an allergic reaction in someone who drinks these wines.

CR11447

646. A new law gives ownership of patents—documents providing exclusive right to make and sell an invention—to universities, not the government, when those patents result from government-sponsored university research. Administrators at Logos University plan to sell any patents they acquire to corporations in order to fund programs to improve undergraduate teaching.

Which of the following, if true, would cast the most doubt on the viability of the college administrators' plan described above?

- (A) Profit-making corporations interested in developing products based on patents held by universities are likely to try to serve as exclusive sponsors of ongoing university research projects.
- (B) Corporate sponsors of research in university facilities are entitled to tax credits under new federal tax-code guidelines.
- (C) Research scientists at Logos University have few or no teaching responsibilities and participate little if at all in the undergraduate programs in their field.
- (D) Government-sponsored research conducted at Logos University for the most part duplicates research already completed by several profitmaking corporations.
- (E) Logos University is unlikely to attract corporate sponsorship of its scientific research.

CR01848

647. Since it has become known that **several of a bank's top executives have been buying shares in their own bank**, the bank's depositors, who had been worried by rumors that the bank faced impending financial collapse, have been greatly relieved. They reason that, since top executives evidently have faith in the bank's financial soundness, those worrisome rumors must be false. Such reasoning might well be overoptimistic, however, since **corporate executives have been known to buy shares in their own company in a calculated attempt to dispel negative rumors about the company's health.**

In the argument given, the two boldfaced portions play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first describes evidence that has been taken as supporting a conclusion; the second gives a reason for questioning that support.
- (B) The first describes evidence that has been taken as supporting a conclusion; the second states a contrary conclusion that is the main conclusion of the argument.
- (C) The first provides evidence in support of the main conclusion of the argument; the second states that conclusion.
- (D) The first describes the circumstance that the argument as a whole seeks to explain; the second gives the explanation that the argument seeks to establish.
- (E) The first describes the circumstance that the argument as a whole seeks to explain; the second provides evidence in support of the explanation that the argument seeks to establish.

CR03814

648. Between 1980 and 2000 the sea otter population of the Aleutian Islands declined precipitously. There were no signs of disease or malnutrition, so there was probably an increase in the number of otters being eaten by predators. Orcas will eat otters when seals, their normal prey, are unavailable, and the Aleutian Islands seal population declined dramatically in the 1980s. Therefore, orcas were most likely the immediate cause of the otter population decline.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- (A) The population of sea urchins, the main food of sea otters, has increased since the sea otter population declined.
- (B) Seals do not eat sea otters, nor do they compete with sea otters for food.
- (C) Most of the surviving sea otters live in a bay that is inaccessible to orcas.
- (D) The population of orcas in the Aleutian Islands has declined since the 1980s.
- (E) An increase in commercial fishing near the Aleutian Islands in the 1980s caused a slight decline in the population of the fish that seals use for food.

CR05960

649. Studies in restaurants show that the tips left by customers who pay their bill in cash tend to be larger when the bill is presented on a tray that bears a credit-card logo. Consumer psychologists hypothesize that simply seeing a credit-card logo makes many credit-card holders willing to spend more because it reminds them that their spending power exceeds the cash they have immediately available.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the psychologists' interpretation of the studies?

- (A) The effect noted in the studies is not limited to patrons who have credit cards.
- (B) Patrons who are under financial pressure from their credit-card obligations tend to tip less when presented with a restaurant bill on a tray with a credit-card logo than when the tray has no logo.
- (C) In virtually all of the cases in the studies, the patrons who paid bills in cash did not possess credit cards.
- (D) In general, restaurant patrons who pay their bills in cash leave larger tips than do those who pay by credit card.
- (E) The percentage of restaurant bills paid with a given brand of credit card increases when that credit card's logo is displayed on the tray with which the bill is presented.

CR11633

650. In an experiment, each volunteer was allowed to choose between an easy task and a hard task and was told that another volunteer would do the other task. Each volunteer could also choose to have a computer assign the two tasks randomly. Most volunteers chose the easy task for themselves and under questioning

later said they had acted fairly. But when the scenario was described to another group of volunteers, almost all said choosing the easy task would be unfair. This shows that most people apply weaker moral standards to themselves than to others.

Which of the following is an assumption required by this argument?

- (A) At least some volunteers who said they had acted fairly in choosing the easy task would have said that it was unfair for someone else to do so.
- (B) The most moral choice for the volunteers would have been to have the computer assign the two tasks randomly.
- (C) There were at least some volunteers who were assigned to do the hard task and felt that the assignment was unfair.
- (D) On average, the volunteers to whom the scenario was described were more accurate in their moral judgments than the other volunteers were.
- (E) At least some volunteers given the choice between assigning the tasks themselves and having the computer assign them felt that they had made the only fair choice available to them.

CR08527

651. Country X's recent stock-trading scandal should not diminish investors' confidence in the country's stock market. For one thing, **the discovery of the scandal confirms that Country X has a strong regulatory system**, as the following considerations show. In any stock market, some fraudulent activity is inevitable. If a stock market is well regulated, any significant stock-trading fraud in it will very likely be discovered. This deters potential perpetrators and facilitates improvement in regulatory processes.

In the argument, the portion in boldface plays which of the following roles?

- (A) It is the argument's only conclusion.
- (B) It is a conclusion for which the argument provides support and which itself is used to support the argument's main conclusion.

- (C) It is the argument's main conclusion and is supported by another explicitly stated conclusion for which further support is provided.
- (D) It is an assumption for which no explicit support is provided and is used to support the argument's only conclusion.
- (E) It is a compound statement containing both the argument's main conclusion and an assumption used to support that conclusion.

CR05644

652. **Delta Products Inc. has recently switched at least partly from older technologies using fossil fuels to new technologies powered by electricity.** The question has been raised whether it can be concluded that **for a given level of output Delta's operation now causes less fossil fuel to be consumed than it did formerly**. The answer, clearly, is yes, since the amount of fossil fuel used to generate the electricity needed to power the new technologies is less than the amount needed to power the older technologies, provided level of output is held constant.

In the argument given, the two boldfaced portions play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first identifies the content of the conclusion of the argument; the second provides support for that conclusion.
- (B) The first provides support for the conclusion of the argument; the second identifies the content of that conclusion.
- (C) The first states the conclusion of the argument; the second calls that conclusion into question.
- (D) The first provides support for the conclusion of the argument; the second calls that conclusion into question.
- (E) Each provides support for the conclusion of the argument.

CR00907

653. Theater Critic: The play *La Finestrina*, now at Central Theater, was written in Italy in the eighteenth century. The director claims that this production is as similar to the original production as is possible in a modern theater. Although the actor who plays Harlequin the clown gives a performance very reminiscent of the twentieth-century American comedian Groucho Marx, Marx's comic style was very much within the comic acting tradition that had begun in sixteenth-century Italy.

The considerations given best serve as part of an argument that

- (A) modern audiences would find it hard to tolerate certain characteristics of a historically accurate performance of an eighteenth-century play
- (B) Groucho Marx once performed the part of the character Harlequin in *La Finestrina*
- (C) in the United States the training of actors in the twentieth century is based on principles that do not differ radically from those that underlay the training of actors in eighteenth-century Italy
- (D) the performance of the actor who plays Harlequin in *La Finestrina* does not serve as evidence against the director's claim
- (E) the director of *La Finestrina* must have advised the actor who plays Harlequin to model his performance on comic performances of Groucho Marx

CR07257

654. Although the discount stores in Goreville's central shopping district are expected to close within five years as a result of competition from a SpendLess discount department store that just opened, those locations will not stay vacant for long. In the five years since the opening of Colson's, a nondiscount department store, a new store has opened at the location of every store in the shopping district that closed because it could not compete with Colson's.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- (A) Many customers of Colson's are expected to do less shopping there than they did before the SpendLess store opened.
- (B) Increasingly, the stores that have opened in the central shopping district since Colson's opened have been discount stores.
- (C) At present, the central shopping district has as many stores operating in it as it ever had.

- (D) Over the course of the next five years, it is expected that Goreville's population will grow at a faster rate than it has for the past several decades.
- (E) Many stores in the central shopping district sell types of merchandise that are not available at either SpendLess or Colson's.

CR05685

655. Last year all refuse collected by Shelbyville city services was incinerated. This incineration generated a large quantity of residual ash. In order to reduce the amount of residual ash Shelbyville generates this year to half of last year's total, the city has revamped its collection program. This year city services will separate for recycling enough refuse to reduce the number of truckloads of refuse to be incinerated to half of last year's number.

Which of the following is required for the revamped collection program to achieve its aim?

- (A) This year, no materials that city services could separate for recycling will be incinerated.
- (B) Separating recyclable materials from materials to be incinerated will cost Shelbyville less than half what it cost last year to dispose of the residual ash.
- (C) Refuse collected by city services will contain a larger proportion of recyclable materials this year than it did last year.
- (D) The refuse incinerated this year will generate no more residual ash per truckload incinerated than did the refuse incinerated last year.
- (E) The total quantity of refuse collected by Shelbyville city services this year will be no greater than that collected last year.

CR01801

656. Veterinarians generally derive some of their income from selling several manufacturers' lines of pet-care products. Knowing that pet owners rarely throw away mail from their pet's veterinarian unread, one manufacturer of pet-care products offered free promotional materials on its products to veterinarians for mailing to their clients. Very few veterinarians accepted the offer, however, even though the manufacturer's products are of high quality.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the veterinarians' reaction to the manufacturer's promotional scheme?

- (A) Most of the veterinarians to whom the free promotional materials were offered were already selling the manufacturer's pet-care products to their clients.
- (B) The special promotional materials were intended as a supplement to the manufacturer's usual promotional activities rather than as a replacement for them.
- (C) The manufacturer's products, unlike most equally good competing products sold by veterinarians, are also available in pet stores and in supermarkets.
- (D) Many pet owners have begun demanding quality in products they buy for their pets that is as high as that in products they buy for themselves.
- (E) Veterinarians sometimes recommend that pet owners use products formulated for people when no suitable product specially formulated for animals is available.

CR00778

657. The average hourly wage of television assemblers in Vernland has long been significantly lower than that in neighboring Borodia. Since Borodia dropped all tariffs on Vernlandian televisions three years ago, the number of televisions sold annually in Borodia has not changed. However, recent statistics show a drop in the number of television assemblers in Borodia. Therefore, updated trade statistics will probably indicate that the number of televisions Borodia imports annually from Vernland has increased.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) The number of television assemblers in Vernland has increased by at least as much as the number of television assemblers in Borodia has decreased.
- (B) Televisions assembled in Vernland have features that televisions assembled in Borodia do not have.
- (C) The average number of hours it takes a Borodian television assembler to assemble a television has not decreased significantly during the past three years.

- (D) The number of televisions assembled annually in Vernland has increased significantly during the past three years.
- (E) The difference between the hourly wage of television assemblers in Vernland and the hourly wage of television assemblers in Borodia is likely to decrease in the next few years.

CR05725

658. Guidebook writer: I have visited hotels throughout the country and have noticed that in those built before 1930 the quality of the original carpentry work is generally superior to that in hotels built afterward. Clearly carpenters working on hotels before 1930 typically worked with more skill, care, and effort than carpenters who have worked on hotels built subsequently.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the guidebook writer's argument?

- (A) The quality of original carpentry in hotels is generally far superior to the quality of original carpentry in other structures, such as houses and stores.
- (B) Hotels built since 1930 can generally accommodate more guests than those built before 1930.
- (C) The materials available to carpenters working before 1930 were not significantly different in quality from the materials available to carpenters working after 1930.
- (D) The better the quality of original carpentry in a building, the less likely that building is to fall into disuse and be demolished.
- (E) The average length of apprenticeship for carpenters has declined significantly since 1930.

CR02997

659. Scientists typically do their most creative work before the age of forty. It is commonly thought that this happens because aging by itself brings about a loss of creative capacity. However, studies show that **of scientists who produce highly creative work beyond the age of forty, a disproportionately large number entered their field at an older age than is usual**. Since by the age of forty the large majority of scientists have been working in their field for at least fifteen years, the studies' finding strongly suggests that the real reason why scientists over forty rarely produce highly creative work is not that they have aged but rather that **scientists over forty have generally spent too long in their field**.

In the argument given, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is a claim, the accuracy of which is at issue in the argument; the second is a conclusion drawn on the basis of that claim.
- (B) The first is an objection that has been raised against a position defended in the argument; the second is that position.
- (C) The first is evidence that has been used to support an explanation that the argument challenges; the second is that explanation.
- (D) The first is evidence that has been used to support an explanation that the argument challenges; the second is a competing explanation that the argument favors.
- (E) The first provides evidence to support an explanation that the argument favors; the second is that explanation.

CR03818

660. NorthAir charges low fares for its economy-class seats, but it provides very cramped seating and few amenities. Market research shows that economy passengers would willingly pay more for wider seating and better service, and additional revenue provided by these higher ticket prices would more than cover the additional cost of providing these amenities. Even though NorthAir is searching for ways to improve its profitability, it has decided not to make these improvements.

Which of the following, if true, would most help to explain NorthAir's decision in light of its objectives?

- (A) None of NorthAir's competitors offers significantly better seating and service to economy-class passengers than NorthAir does.
- (B) On many of the routes that NorthAir flies, it is the only airline to offer direct flights.
- (C) A few of NorthAir's economy-class passengers are satisfied with the service they receive, given the low price they pay.
- (D) Very few people avoid flying on NorthAir because of the cramped seating and poor service offered in economy class.
- (E) The number of people who would be willing to pay the high fares NorthAir charges for its business-class seats would decrease if its economy-class seating were more acceptable.

CR00774

661. Which of the following most logically completes the argument given?

Asthma, a chronic breathing disorder, is significantly more common today among adult competitive swimmers than it is among competitive athletes who specialize in other sports. Although chlorine is now known to be a lung irritant and swimming pool water is generally chlorinated, it would be rash to assume that frequent exposure to chlorine is the explanation of the high incidence of asthma among these swimmers, since _____.

- (A) young people who have asthma are no more likely to become competitive athletes than are young people who do not have asthma
- (B) competitive athletes who specialize in sports other than swimming are rarely exposed to chlorine
- (C) competitive athletes as a group have a significantly lower incidence of asthma than do people who do not participate in competitive athletics
- (D) until a few years ago, physicians routinely recommended competitive swimming to children with asthma, in the belief that this form of exercise could alleviate asthma symptoms
- (E) many people have asthma without knowing they have it and thus are not diagnosed with the condition until they begin engaging in very strenuous activities, such as competitive athletics

CR01289

662. In the country of Marut, the Foreign Trade Agency's records were reviewed in 1994 in light of information then newly available about neighboring Goro. The review revealed that in every year since 1963, the agency's projection of what Goro's gross national product (GNP) would be five years later was a serious underestimate. The review also revealed that in every year since 1963, the agency estimated Goro's GNP for the previous year—a Goro state secret—very accurately.

Of the following claims, which is most strongly supported by the statements given?

- (A) Goro's GNP fluctuated greatly between 1963 and 1994.
- (B) Prior to 1995, Goro had not released data intended to mislead the agency in making its five-year projections.
- (C) The amount by which the agency underestimated the GNP it projected for Goro tended to increase over time.
- (D) Even before the new information came to light, the agency had reason to think that at least some of the five-year projections it had made were inaccurate.
- (E) The agency's five-year projections of Goro's GNP had no impact on economic planning in Marut.

CR05082

663. Vargonia has just introduced a legal requirement that student-teacher ratios in government-funded schools not exceed a certain limit. All Vargonian children are entitled to education, free of charge, in these schools. When a recession occurs and average incomes fall, the number of children enrolled in government-funded schools tends to increase. Therefore, though most employment opportunities contract in economic recessions, getting a teaching job in Vargonia's government-funded schools will not be made more difficult by a recession.

Which of the following would be most important to determine in order to evaluate the argument?

- (A) Whether in Vargonia there are any schools not funded by the government that offer children an education free of charge
- (B) Whether the number of qualified applicants for teaching positions in government-funded

schools increases significantly during economic recessions

- (C) What the current student-teacher ratio in Vargonia's government-funded schools is
- (D) What proportion of Vargonia's workers currently hold jobs as teachers in government-funded schools
- (E) Whether in the past a number of government-funded schools in Vargonia have had student-teacher ratios well in excess of the new limit

CR09951

664. In Colorado subalpine meadows, nonnative dandelions co-occur with a native flower, the larkspur. Bumblebees visit both species, creating the potential for interactions between the two species with respect to pollination. In a recent study, researchers selected 16 plots containing both species; all dandelions were removed from eight plots; the remaining eight control plots were left undisturbed. The control plots yielded significantly more larkspur seeds than the dandelion-free plots, leading the researchers to conclude that the presence of dandelions facilitates pollination (and hence seed production) in the native species by attracting more pollinators to the mixed plots.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the researchers' reasoning?

- (A) Bumblebees preferentially visit dandelions over larkspurs in mixed plots.
- (B) In mixed plots, pollinators can transfer pollen from one species to another to augment seed production.
- (C) If left unchecked, nonnative species like dandelions quickly crowd out native species.
- (D) Seed germination is a more reliable measure of a species' fitness than seed production.
- (E) Soil disturbances can result in fewer blooms, and hence lower seed production.

CRI1453

665. An experiment was done in which human subjects recognize a pattern within a matrix of abstract designs and then select another design that completes that pattern. The results of the experiment were surprising. The lowest expenditure of energy in neurons in the brain was found in those subjects who performed most successfully in the experiments.

Which of the following hypotheses best accounts for the findings of the experiment?

- (A) The neurons of the brain react less when a subject is trying to recognize patterns than when the subject is doing other kinds of reasoning.
- (B) Those who performed best in the experiment experienced more satisfaction when working with abstract patterns than did those who performed less well.
- (C) People who are better at abstract pattern recognition have more energy-efficient neural connections.
- (D) The energy expenditure of the subjects' brains increases when a design that completes the initially recognized pattern is determined.
- (E) The task of completing a given design is more capably performed by athletes, whose energy expenditure is lower when they are at rest.

CR01202

666. With seventeen casinos, Moneyland operates the most casinos in a certain state. Although intent on expanding, it was outmaneuvered by Apex Casinos in negotiations to acquire the Eldorado chain. To complete its acquisition of Eldorado, Apex must sell five casinos to comply with a state law forbidding any owner to operate more than one casino per county. Since Apex will still be left operating twenty casinos in the state, it will then have the most casinos in the state.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the prediction?

- (A) Apex, Eldorado, and Moneyland are the only organizations licensed to operate casinos in the state.
- (B) The majority of Eldorado's casinos in the state will need extensive renovations if they are to continue to operate profitably.

- (C) Some of the state's counties do not permit casinos.
- (D) Moneyland already operates casinos in the majority of the state's counties.
- (E) Apex will use funds it obtains from the sale of the five casinos to help fund its acquisition of the Eldorado chain.

CR05093

667. It is widely assumed that people need to engage in intellectual activities such as solving crossword puzzles or mathematics problems in order to maintain mental sharpness as they age. In fact, however, simply talking to other people—that is, participating in social interaction, which engages many mental and perceptual skills—suffices. Evidence to this effect comes from a study showing that the more social contact people report, the better their mental skills.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the force of the evidence cited?

- (A) As people grow older, they are often advised to keep exercising their physical and mental capacities in order to maintain or improve them.
- (B) Many medical conditions and treatments that adversely affect a person's mental sharpness also tend to increase that person's social isolation.
- (C) Many people are proficient both in social interactions and in solving mathematical problems.
- (D) The study did not itself collect data but analyzed data bearing on the issue from prior studies.
- (E) The tasks evaluating mental sharpness for which data were compiled by the study were more akin to mathematics problems than to conversation.

8.5 Answer Key

544. E	575. E	606. C	637. C
545. C	576. D	607. E	638. B
546. E	577. A	608. C	639. D
547. A	578. A	609. E	640. D
548. A	579. B	610. A	641. A
549. B	580. D	611. A	642. C
550. E	581. D	612. E	643. C
551. E	582. E	613. D	644. B
552. C	583. D	614. C	645. E
553. C	584. B	615. C	646. D
554. A	585. C	616. D	647. A
555. E	586. D	617. D	648. C
556. A	587. C	618. D	649. B
557. D	588. E	619. A	650. A
558. B	589. C	620. A	651. B
559. D	590. D	621. D	652. B
560. D	591. A	622. A	653. D
561. C	592. D	623. E	654. B
562. B	593. A	624. E	655. D
563. D	594. C	625. A	656. C
564. D	595. E	626. D	657. C
565. C	596. C	627. E	658. D
566. E	597. B	628. E	659. E
567. B	598. C	629. E	660. E
568. A	599. A	630. B	661. D
569. E	600. A	631. E	662. D
570. B	601. D	632. D	663. B
571. E	602. A	633. D	664. E
572. D	603. C	634. B	665. C
573. E	604. C	635. A	666. A
574. B	605. A	636. D	667. B

CR04964

628. Proposed new safety rules for the Beach City airport would lengthen considerably the minimum time between takeoffs from the airport. In consequence, the airport would be able to accommodate 10 percent fewer flights than currently use the airport daily. The city's operating budget depends heavily on taxes generated by tourist spending, and most of the tourists come by plane. Therefore, the proposed new safety rules, if adopted, will reduce the revenue available for the operating budget.

The argument depends on assuming which of the following?

- (A) There are no periods of the day during which the interval between flights taking off from the airport is significantly greater than the currently allowed minimum.
- (B) Few, if any, of the tourists who use the Beach City airport do so when their main destination is a neighboring community and not Beach City itself.
- (C) If the proposed safety rules are adopted, the reduction in tourist numbers will not result mainly from a reduction in the number of tourists who spend relatively little in Beach City.
- (D) Increasing the minimum time between takeoffs is the only way to achieve necessary safety improvements without a large expenditure by the city government on airport enhancements.
- (E) The response to the adoption of the new safety rules would not include an increase in the number of passengers per flight.

Argument Construction

Situation Proposed safety rules for a city airport would reduce the number of daily flights the airport can accommodate. The city's operating budget depends heavily on taxes generated by tourists, who mostly come by plane. Therefore, adopting the safety rules will result in lower revenue available for the operating budget.

Reasoning *What must be true in order for the cited facts to support the conclusion that the proposed rules would reduce the revenue for the operating budget?* The implicit reasoning is that since the rules would reduce the number of flights that can be accommodated, they would thereby reduce the number of tourists arriving by plane, which in turn would reduce the tax revenue that tourist spending generates for the operating budget. This assumes that the actual number of daily flights would fall along with the number that the airport can accommodate; that fewer daily flights would mean fewer people flying into the airport; that fewer people flying into the airport would mean fewer tourists flying into the airport; that fewer tourists flying into the airport would mean fewer tourists visiting the city; that fewer tourists visiting the city would mean less taxable spending by tourists; and that less taxable spending by tourists would mean less revenue overall for the operating budget.

- A Even if flights depart the airport less frequently during some periods of the day, increasing the minimum time between flights at busy times of day could reduce the total number of daily flights from the airport.
- B Even if half the tourists flying into the airport were bound for other nearby towns, the other half could still spend enough in town to generate lots of revenue for the operating budget.
- C It is possible that most tourists spend relatively little in the city, but a few spend a lot. In that case, even if a reduction in tourist numbers resulted mainly from a declining number of tourists who spend relatively little, it could also greatly reduce the already small number of tourists who spend a lot.
- D This suggests that the proposed rules might be financially better for the city than any alternative way to improve safety, whereas the argument's conclusion is that the proposed rules are financially disadvantageous.
- E **Correct.** If adopting the proposed rules would result in a large increase in the number of passengers per flight, fewer daily flights would not necessarily mean fewer passengers or fewer tourists overall.

The correct answer is E.

CR01096

629. The introduction of new drugs into the market is frequently prevented by a shortage of human subjects for the clinical trials needed to show that the drugs are safe and effective. Since the lives and health of people in future generations may depend on treatments that are currently experimental, practicing physicians are morally in the wrong when, in the absence of any treatment proven to be effective, they fail to encourage suitable patients to volunteer for clinical trials.

Which of the following, if true, casts most doubt on the conclusion of the argument?

- (A) Many drugs undergoing clinical trials are intended for the treatment of conditions for which there is currently no effective treatment.
- (B) Patients do not share the physician's professional concern for public health, but everyone has a moral obligation to alleviate suffering when able to do so.
- (C) Usually, half the patients in a clinical trial serve as a control group and receive a nonactive drug in place of the drug being tested.
- (D) An experimental drug cannot legally be made available to patients unless those patients are subjects in clinical trials of the drug.
- (E) Physicians have an overriding moral and legal duty to care for the health and safety of their current patients.

Argument Evaluation

Situation A shortage of human subjects for clinical trials needed to show that new drugs are safe and effective often prevents those drugs from being introduced into the market. The lives and health of future generations may depend on treatments that are now experimental.

Reasoning *What would cast doubt on the judgment that doctors are morally obligated to encourage their patients to volunteer for clinical trials?* Note that the argument's conclusion, unlike its premises, is a moral judgment. This judgment could be cast into doubt by a moral principle that would be likely to conflict with it under the conditions described. For example, a principle suggesting that it is sometimes morally unacceptable for doctors to encourage their patients to volunteer for clinical trials would also suggest that they are not morally obligated to encourage their patients to volunteer for clinical trials, since anything morally obligatory must also be morally acceptable.

- A If anything, this highlights how important it is to ensure that these drugs undergo clinical trials to benefit future generations, so it supports rather than casts doubt on the argument's conclusion.
- B This suggests that patients are morally obligated to volunteer for clinical trials to help prevent suffering in future generations. If anything, this supports the claim that doctors are morally obligated to encourage their patients to volunteer.
- C The clinical trial will probably not harm any patients in the control group, yet their participation will benefit future generations. So, if anything, this supports the claim that doctors should encourage their patients to volunteer.
- D This legal barrier makes it even more essential for the drugs to undergo clinical trials in order to benefit patients, so it supports rather than casts doubt on the argument's conclusion.
- E **Correct.** Since the experimental drugs' safety is being tested during the trials, the drugs may prove unsafe for subjects in the trials. If doctors have an overriding moral duty to keep their current patients safe, then it may be morally unacceptable for them to encourage those patients to volunteer for the trials.

The correct answer is E.

CR01285

630. As a construction material, bamboo is as strong as steel and sturdier than concrete. Moreover, in tropical areas bamboo is a much less expensive construction material than either steel or concrete and is always readily available. In tropical areas, therefore, building with bamboo makes better economic sense than building with steel or concrete, except where land values are high.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the exception noted above?

- (A) Buildings constructed of bamboo are less likely to suffer earthquake damage than are steel and concrete buildings.
- (B) Bamboo is unsuitable as a building material for multistory buildings.
- (C) In order to protect it from being damaged by termites and beetles, bamboo must be soaked, at some expense, in a preservative.
- (D) In some tropical areas, bamboo is used to make the scaffolding that is used during large construction projects.
- (E) Bamboo growing in an area where land values are increasing is often cleared to make way for construction.

Argument Construction

Situation Bamboo is as strong as steel and sturdier than concrete when used as a construction material. In tropical areas, bamboo is much less expensive and is always readily available.

Reasoning *What explains the exception specified in the conclusion?* The argument's conclusion is that in tropical areas bamboo is a more economical building material than steel or concrete, *except where land values are high*. The information in the passage makes clear why bamboo is a more economical building material in tropical areas than are concrete or steel. So the question is: Why must an exception be made for areas where land values are high? Multistory buildings are particularly desirable in areas where land values are high, but bamboo may not be suitable for such buildings.

- A This explains why bamboo would be preferable to steel or concrete in tropical areas especially prone to earthquakes. However, there is no clear connection to be made between areas where land values are high and areas especially prone to earthquakes.
- B **Correct.** Multistory buildings provide a greater area of floor space for a given site area, and in that sense are more economical. A single-story building with the same floor space will occupy a much bigger site, so the higher the land values, the more likely it is that a multistory building will be built on that land. Thus, given this information, bamboo is less suitable for areas where land values are high.
- C This undermines, to some extent, the claim that bamboo is an economical building material. But it does nothing to explain why it would be less economical specifically in areas where land values are high.
- D This is irrelevant. Bamboo is used to build scaffolding for construction projects and as a building material for permanent structures. There is no way to infer from this that bamboo is less economical specifically in areas where land values are high.
- E The fact that bamboo is cleared from an area to make room for construction in no way implies that bamboo would not be a suitable and economical building material for the area once it has been cleared.

The correct answer is B.

CR00788

631. Newspaper editors should not allow reporters to write the headlines for their own stories. The reason for this is that, while the headlines that reporters themselves write are often clever, what typically makes them clever is that they allude to little-known information that is familiar to the reporter but that never appears explicitly in the story itself.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- (A) The reporter who writes a story is usually better placed than the reporter's editor is to judge what the story's most newsworthy features are.
- (B) To write a headline that is clever, a person must have sufficient understanding of the story that the headline accompanies.
- (C) Most reporters rarely bother to find out how other reporters have written stories and headlines about the same events that they themselves have covered.
- (D) For virtually any story that a reporter writes, there are at least a few people who know more about the story's subject matter than does the reporter.
- (E) The kind of headlines that newspaper editors want are those that anyone who has read a reporter's story in its entirety will recognize as clever.

Argument Evaluation

Situation The headlines newspaper reporters write for their own stories are often clever only because they allude to little-known information that never appears explicitly in the stories themselves.

Reasoning *What would most help the argument support the conclusion that newspaper editors should not allow reporters to write headlines for their own stories?* The argument's only explicit premise is that the headlines newspaper reporters write for their own stories are often clever only because they allude to little-known information that never appears explicitly in the stories themselves. In order for this premise to support the conclusion that newspaper editors should not allow reporters to write their own headlines, it would be helpful to be given a reason why editors should avoid headlines alluding to such little-known information.

- A This suggests that reporters are likely to write better headlines for their stories than editors are, so it weakens the argument that editors should not allow reporters to write their own headlines.
- B Since a reporter who wrote a story is likely to understand that story well, this does not provide a reason why editors should not allow reporters to write their own headlines.
- C If most reporters did what is suggested, they could perhaps hone their headline-writing skills—unless almost all reporters are weak in such skills, as suggested in the given information. The fact that they do not bother to do so may help explain why reporters' headline-writing skills are weak. An explanation of why this is so does not provide additional support for the argument's conclusion.
- D The people who know more about a story's subject matter than the reporter writing the story might be just as likely to see the cleverness of allusions to little-known information as the reporters are. So, to the extent that this is relevant at all, it slightly weakens the argument by suggesting that obscurely clever headlines sometimes function as intended.
- E **Correct.** The argument's explicit premise suggests that typically a reporter's headline for his or her own story cannot be recognized as clever by a reader who has read the whole story. So if editors want headlines that anyone who has read the accompanying stories would recognize as clever, they have a reason not to let reporters write the headlines.

The correct answer is E.

CR03251

632. Scientists have modified feed corn genetically, increasing its resistance to insect pests. Farmers who tried out the genetically modified corn last season applied less insecticide to their corn fields and still got yields comparable to those they would have gotten with ordinary corn. Ordinary corn seed, however, costs less, and what these farmers saved on insecticide rarely exceeded their extra costs for seed. Therefore, for most feed-corn farmers, switching to genetically modified seed would be unlikely to increase profits.

Which of the following would it be most useful to know in order to evaluate the argument?

- (A) Whether there are insect pests that sometimes reduce feed-corn yields, but against which commonly used insecticides and the genetic modification are equally ineffective
- (B) Whether the price that farmers receive for feed corn has remained steady over the past few years
- (C) Whether the insecticides typically used on feed corn tend to be more expensive than insecticides typically used on other crops
- (D) Whether most of the farmers who tried the genetically modified corn last season applied more insecticide than was actually necessary
- (E) Whether, for most farmers who plant feed corn, it is their most profitable crop

Argument Evaluation

Situation Farmers who grew feed corn genetically engineered to be pest resistant got yields comparable to those of farmers growing ordinary feed corn, but did so while using less pesticide. Since the amount saved on pesticide was rarely in excess of the extra costs for the genetically modified corn, most farmers will probably not increase profits by choosing the genetically engineered variety.

Reasoning *Which would be most useful to know in evaluating the argument?* To answer a question such as this, one should look for information that would strengthen or weaken the argument. If one had information that the farmers growing the genetically modified corn could have increased their yields last year at lower cost, this would be helpful in evaluating the argument, because this would show that the argument is weak.

- A It does not matter to the argument whether there are pests against which pesticides and genetic resistance are equally ineffective, because that is compatible with there being pests against which they are not equally effective.
- B Whether prices of feed corn go up or down affects the comparison groups equally.
- C The relative cost of insecticides for other crops has no bearing on the argument because the argument is concerned with only feed corn.
- D **Correct.** This option provides the information that it would be most useful to know in evaluating the argument. It shows that farmers growing genetically modified corn last year could have attained higher profits than they in fact did.
- E The argument concerns only the relative profitability of growing one variety of feed corn versus another.

The correct answer is D.

CR07318

633. Debater: The average amount of overtime per month worked by an employee in the manufacturing division of the Haglut Corporation is 14 hours. Most employees of the Haglut Corporation work in the manufacturing division. Furthermore, the average amount of overtime per month worked by any employee in the company generally does not fluctuate much from month to month. Therefore, each month, most employees of the Haglut Corporation almost certainly work at least some overtime.

The debater's argument is most vulnerable to criticism on which of these grounds?

- (A) It takes for granted that the manufacturing division is a typical division of the corporation with regard to the average amount of overtime its employees work each month.
- (B) It takes for granted that if a certain average amount of overtime is worked each month by each employee of the Haglut Corporation, then approximately the same amount of overtime must be worked each month by each employee of the manufacturing division.
- (C) It confuses a claim from which the argument's conclusion about the Haglut Corporation would necessarily follow with a claim that would follow from the argument's conclusion only with a high degree of probability.
- (D) It overlooks the possibility that even if, on average, a certain amount of overtime is worked by the members of some group, many members of that group may work no overtime at all.
- (E) It overlooks the possibility that even if most employees of the corporation work some overtime each month, any one corporate employee may, in some months, work no overtime.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Most of the employees of the Haglut Corporation work in the manufacturing division, where employees average 14 hours per month in overtime. The average amount of overtime per month for employees at Haglut does not fluctuate much from month to month.

Reasoning *What is the argument's greatest weakness?* The argument's conclusion is that almost certainly each month most of the employees of Haglut work at least some overtime. Answer choice (D) identifies the argument's greatest weakness because it points out how the conclusion of the argument could be false even if all of the supporting information were true. For example, it could be that less than half of the employees work any overtime at all, but those that do work overtime work much more than 14 hours per month.

- A The argument leaves open the possibility that in some divisions of the corporation, the average monthly overtime of its employees is quite different from 14 hours, even if (as the argument states) that average does not change much from month to month.
- B The argument does not assume that there is a monthly amount of overtime worked by each employee of the manufacturing division equivalent to the company-wide average monthly overtime per employee.
- C This does not identify a weakness that can be detected in the argument. Since the claims mentioned here are not specified, the passage provides no evidence that clearly indicates that this type of confusion is playing a role in the argument.
- D **Correct.** The argument ignores the possibility that most of the employees of Haglut work no overtime at all in a particular month—which is quite consistent with the argument's assertion that the average number of monthly overtime hours per employee within the manufacturing division is 14.
- E The possibility described by this is not overlooked by the argument, because this possibility is consistent with the conclusion. It could easily be that most employees of the corporation work some overtime each month—as the conclusion envisions—but that there are always some employees who do not work any overtime.

The correct answer is D.

CR05446

634. Proponents of the recently introduced tax on sales of new luxury boats had argued that a tax of this sort would be an equitable way to increase government revenue because the admittedly heavy tax burden would fall only on wealthy people and neither they nor anyone else would suffer any economic hardship. In fact, however, 20 percent of the workers employed by manufacturers of luxury boats have lost their jobs as a direct result of this tax.

The information given, if true, most strongly supports which of the following?

- (A) The market for luxury boats would have collapsed even if the new tax on luxury boats had been lower.
- (B) The new tax would produce a net gain in tax revenue for the government only if the yearly total revenue that it generates exceeds the total of any yearly tax-revenue decrease resulting from the workers' loss of jobs.
- (C) Because many people never buy luxury items, imposing a sales tax on luxury items is the kind of legislative action that does not cost incumbent legislators much popular support.
- (D) Before the tax was instituted, luxury boats were largely bought by people who were not wealthy.
- (E) Taxes can be equitable only if their burden is evenly distributed over the entire population.

Argument Construction

Situation Proponents of a recently introduced tax on sales of new luxury boats argued that it would be an equitable way to increase government revenue because the tax would fall only on the wealthy and cause no economic hardship. But because of the tax, 20 percent of luxury-boat manufacturing workers have lost their jobs.

Reasoning *What conclusion do the statements about the proponents' argument and the tax's effects support?* Since the tax caused many workers to lose their jobs, apparently the proponents were incorrect in asserting that it would cause no one to suffer any economic hardship. Thus, their justification for concluding that the tax is an equitable way to increase government revenue is factually inaccurate, casting doubt on that conclusion.

- A The passage indicates that the tax directly caused a significant decrease (though not necessarily a collapse) in the market for luxury boats. But the passage contains no evidence about whether such a decrease might not have occurred if the new tax had been somewhat lower.
- B **Correct.** Since the tax caused the workers to lose their jobs, it might have made the government lose revenue from payroll taxes that the laid-off workers would have paid if they had kept their jobs. So if the yearly total revenue generated directly and indirectly by the tax were less than those total yearly payroll taxes and any other tax revenue that was lost as a result of the tax, the tax would have caused a net loss in tax revenue.
- C The passage contains no information about what types of legislative actions cost, or do not cost, incumbent legislators popular support.
- D Although the passage suggests that some of the tax proponents' assumptions were wrong, it contains no information suggesting that those proponents were wrong in thinking that luxury boats are purchased mainly by wealthy people.
- E The passage does not provide any basis for determining what makes a tax equitable or about whether the luxury boat tax is equitable. The tax's proponents evidently felt that a tax whose burden falls only on the wealthy rather than evenly on the entire population can be equitable.

The correct answer is B.

CR05191

635. In Wareland last year, 16 percent of licensed drivers under 21 and 11 percent of drivers ages 21–24 were in serious accidents. By contrast, only 3 percent of licensed drivers 65 and older were involved in serious accidents. These figures clearly show that the greater experience and developed habits of caution possessed by drivers in the 65-and-older group make them far safer behind the wheel than the younger drivers are.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) Drivers 65 and older do not, on average, drive very many fewer miles per year than drivers 24 and younger.
- (B) Drivers 65 and older do not constitute a significantly larger percentage of licensed drivers in Wareland than drivers ages 18–24 do.
- (C) Drivers 65 and older are less likely than are drivers 24 and younger to drive during weather conditions that greatly increase the risk of accidents.
- (D) The difference between the accident rate of drivers under 21 and of those ages 21–24 is attributable to the greater driving experience of those in the older group.
- (E) There is no age bracket for which the accident rate is lower than it is for licensed drivers 65 and older.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Last year in Wareland, a much higher percentage of drivers 24 and under than of drivers 65 and older were in serious accidents.

Reasoning *What must be true for the observation about the accident rates to support the conclusion that the greater experience and caution of drivers 65 and older make them safer behind the wheel than the younger drivers?* Several factors other than greater experience and caution could explain the lower accident rate among the older drivers. For example, the older drivers might simply drive much less than the younger ones, but still get in just as many accidents per mile driven. Or perhaps because the older drivers are more often retired, their schedules less often lead them to drive at times of day when accident rates are greater for everyone. Or they might be more likely to live in rural areas with less traffic and lower accident rates. The argument depends on assuming that none of these factors fully explains the difference in accident rates.

- A **Correct.** Although we are given no information about the possible extent of any difference in average miles driven, the (somewhat vague) information that drivers 65 and older drive *very many fewer miles per year*, on average, than drivers 24 and younger would cast serious doubt on the statistical argument given. The argument assumes that the difference in miles driven is not sufficiently substantial to undermine the argument.
- B The argument is only about the discrepancy between the percentages of the drivers in two specific age groups who were in serious accidents last year. The percentages of licensed drivers who fall in these age groups are irrelevant.
- C Even if drivers 65 and older are just as likely as younger drivers to drive in inclement weather, they may do so far more carefully than the younger drivers, so the older drivers' greater experience and caution could still explain their lower accident rates.
- D Even if greater experience does not explain the difference between the accident rates of the two younger groups of drivers, it might still explain the differences between the accident rate of those two younger groups taken together and that of drivers aged 65 and older.
- E The accident rate could be lower for drivers in late middle age than for those 65 and older because drivers in late middle age are also cautious and experienced, but their reflexes and vision tend to be less impaired. Even if that were true, the experience and caution of the drivers 65 and older might still make them safer than drivers 24 and under.

The correct answer is A.

CR05614

636. In the past the country of Malvernia has relied heavily on imported oil. Malvernia recently implemented a program to convert heating systems from oil to natural gas. Malvernia currently produces more natural gas each year than it uses, and oil production in Malvernian oil fields is increasing at a steady pace. If these trends in fuel production and usage continue, therefore, Malvernian reliance on foreign sources for fuel is likely to decline soon.

Which of the following would it be most useful to establish in evaluating the argument?

- (A) When, if ever, will production of oil in Malvernia outstrip production of natural gas?
- (B) Is Malvernia among the countries that rely most on imported oil?
- (C) What proportion of Malvernia's total energy needs is met by hydroelectric, solar, and nuclear power?
- (D) Is the amount of oil used each year in Malvernia for generating electricity and fuel for transportation increasing?
- (E) Have any existing oil-burning heating systems in Malvernia already been converted to natural-gas-burning heating systems?

Argument Evaluation

Situation Malvernia has relied heavily on imported oil, but recently began a program to convert heating systems from oil to natural gas. Malvernia produces more natural gas than it uses, so it will probably reduce its reliance on imported oils if these trends continue.

Reasoning *Which option provides the information that it would be most useful to know in evaluating the argument?* In other words, we are looking for the option which—depending on whether it was answered yes or no—would either most weaken or most strengthen the argument. The argument indicates that Malvernia will be using less oil for heating and will be producing more oil domestically. But the conclusion that Malvernia's reliance on foreign oil will decline, assuming the current trends mentioned continue, would be seriously undermined if there was something in the works that was bound to offset these trends, for instance, if it turned out that the country's need for oil was going to rise drastically in the coming years.

- A Since both counteract the need for imported oil, it makes little difference to the argument whether domestic oil production exceeds domestic natural gas.
- B Whether there are many countries that rely more on foreign oil than Malvernia would have little impact on whether Malvernia's need for foreign oil can be expected to decline.
- C Since there is no information in the argument about whether Malvernia can expect an increase or decrease from these other energy sources, it does not matter how much they now provide.
- D **Correct.** This option provides the information that it would be most useful to know in evaluating the argument.
- E The argument tells us that a program has begun *recently* to convert heating systems from oil to gas. So, even if no such conversions have been completed, the argument still indicates that they can be expected to occur.

The correct answer is D.

CR03618

637. Exposure to certain chemicals commonly used in elementary schools as cleaners or pesticides causes allergic reactions in some children. Elementary school nurses in Renston report that the proportion of schoolchildren sent to them for treatment of allergic reactions to those chemicals has increased significantly over the past ten years. Therefore, either Renston's schoolchildren have been exposed to greater quantities of the chemicals, or they are more sensitive to them than schoolchildren were ten years ago.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) The number of school nurses employed by Renston's elementary schools has not decreased over the past ten years.
- (B) Children who are allergic to the chemicals are no more likely than other children to have allergies to other substances.
- (C) Children who have allergic reactions to the chemicals are not more likely to be sent to a school nurse now than they were ten years ago.
- (D) The chemicals are not commonly used as cleaners or pesticides in houses and apartment buildings in Renston.
- (E) Children attending elementary school do not make up a larger proportion of Renston's population now than they did ten years ago.

Argument Construction

Situation Some children have allergic reactions to some of the chemicals commonly used in elementary schools as cleaners and pesticides. The number of children sent to elementary school nurses in Renston for allergic reactions to such chemicals has risen significantly over the past ten years.

Reasoning *What must the argument assume?* The argument's conclusion presents just two alternatives: either the children are exposed to more of the chemicals than children in earlier years *or* they are more sensitive. But there is a third possible explanation for the significant increase in school-nurse visits that the school nurses have reported: that children are just more inclined to go to the school nurse when they experience an allergic reaction than were children several years ago. For the conclusion to follow from its premises, the argument must assume that this is not the correct explanation.

- A If the number of elementary school nurses in Renston elementary schools had decreased over the past ten years, that would in no way explain the rise in the proportion of children reporting to school nurses for allergic reactions.
- B Only school-nurse visits for allergic reactions to the cleaners and pesticides used in elementary schools are in question in the argument. Of course there could be school-nurse visits for allergic reactions to other things, but that issue does not arise in the argument.
- C **Correct.** This can be seen by considering whether the argument would work if we assume that this were false, i.e., that a school-nurse visit *is* more likely in such cases. As noted above, this provides an alternative to the two explanations that the conclusion claims are the sole possibilities.
- D This does not need to be assumed by the argument. The argument's conclusion suggests that children may in recent years have had greater exposure to the chemicals, not that this exposure has occurred exclusively in the schools. The argument does not rely on this latter assumption.
- E The argument does not need to make this assumption. The argument is framed in terms of proportions of children having school-nurse visits for certain allergic reactions. *How many* children there are or what proportion such children are of Renston's total population is not directly relevant to the argument.

The correct answer is C.

CR01854

638. Normally, the pineal gland governs a person's sleep-wake cycle by secreting melatonin in response to the daily cycle of light and darkness as detected by the eye. Nonetheless, many people who are totally blind due to lesions in the visual cortex of the brain easily maintain a 24-hour sleep-wake cycle. So the neural pathway by which the pineal gland receives information from the eye probably does not pass through the visual cortex.

For purposes of evaluating the argument it would be most useful to establish which of the following?

- (A) Whether melatonin supplements help people who have difficulty maintaining a 24-hour sleep cycle to establish such a pattern
- (B) Whether the melatonin levels of most totally blind people who successfully maintain a 24-hour sleep-wake cycle change in response to changes in exposure to light and darkness
- (C) Whether melatonin is the only substance secreted by the pineal gland
- (D) Whether most people who do not have a 24-hour sleep-wake cycle nevertheless have a cycle of consistent duration
- (E) Whether there are any people with normal vision whose melatonin levels respond abnormally to periods of light and darkness

Argument Evaluation

Situation Normally, a person's sleep-wake cycle is governed by the pineal gland secreting melatonin in response to the daily cycle of light and darkness as detected by the eye. Yet many people who are totally blind due to lesions of the visual cortex easily maintain a 24-hour sleep-wake cycle.

Reasoning *What additional information would be most helpful in evaluating the argument?* The argument's conclusion is that the neural pathway by which the pineal gland receives information probably does not pass through the visual cortex. This is suggested by the fact that people without a well-functioning visual cortex (e.g., people with a certain type of blindness) can nonetheless maintain a 24-hour sleep-wake cycle. Is it by the pineal gland's secretion of melatonin that they do so? The argument tells us that *normally* (i.e., in sighted people), this is the mechanism for sleep regulation. But the argument depends on assuming that a similar mechanism is operating in people who are blind but have well-regulated sleep cycles. The best choice will be the one that helps us decide whether that assumption is correct.

- A This question would not give us an answer that would help in evaluating the argument. A "no" answer would not clarify whether the pineal gland-melatonin mechanism operates in people who are blind. A "yes" answer would do no better. The question refers only to people who have sleep dysfunctions (which the argument does not address).
- B **Correct.** Answering this question would provide the most useful information for evaluating the argument. A "yes" answer would help confirm a key assumption of the argument: that blind people rely on the pineal gland-melatonin mechanism for sleep regulation. A "no" answer would help disconfirm that assumption.
- C Whether or not there are other substances secreted by the pineal gland makes no difference to the reasoning. The argument relies on the premise that the pineal gland governs the sleep cycle *by secreting melatonin*. For example, if the pineal gland sometimes secreted adrenaline, that would still have no bearing on the argument.
- D The consistency or inconsistency of the duration of some people's sleep patterns has no relevance to the reasoning. Their sleep patterns could be due to any of a number of factors.
- E This does not help, for there could be sighted people whose melatonin levels respond abnormally simply because of a pineal-gland abnormality.

The correct answer is B.

CR00942

639. In countries where automobile insurance includes compensation for whiplash injuries sustained in automobile accidents, reports of having suffered such injuries are twice as frequent as they are in countries where whiplash is not covered. Presently, no objective test for whiplash exists, so it is true that spurious reports of whiplash injuries cannot be readily identified. Nevertheless, these facts do not warrant the conclusion drawn by some commentators that in the countries with the higher rates of reported whiplash injuries, half of the reported cases are spurious. Clearly, in countries where automobile insurance does not include compensation for whiplash, people often have little incentive to report whiplash injuries that they actually have suffered.

In the argument given, the two boldfaced portions play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is a claim that the argument disputes; the second is a conclusion that has been based on that claim.
- (B) The first is a claim that has been used to support a conclusion that the argument accepts; the second is that conclusion.
- (C) The first is evidence that has been used to support a conclusion for which the argument provides further evidence; the second is the main conclusion of the argument.
- (D) The first is a finding whose implications are at issue in the argument; the second is a claim presented in order to argue against deriving certain implications from that finding.
- (E) The first is a finding whose accuracy is evaluated in the argument; the second is evidence presented to establish that the finding is accurate.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Reported whiplash injuries are twice as common in countries where car insurance companies pay compensation for such injuries as they are in countries where insurance companies do not. Although there is no objective test for whiplash, this does not mean, as some suggest, that half of the reports of such injuries are fake. It could simply be that where insurance will not pay for such injuries, people are less inclined to report them.

Reasoning *What roles do the two boldfaced portions play in the argument?* The first portion tells us about the correlation between reported cases of whiplash in countries and the willingness of insurance companies in those countries to compensate for whiplash injuries. The argument next states that whiplash is difficult to objectively verify. The argument then asserts that *although* this last fact, taken together with the first boldfaced portion, has led some to infer that over half of the reported cases in countries with the highest whiplash rates are spurious, such an inference is unwarranted. The second boldfaced portion then helps to explain why such an inference is not necessarily warranted by offering an alternative explanation.

- A The claim made in the first boldfaced portion is never disputed in the argument; at dispute is how to account for the fact that this claim is true. The second is not the argument's conclusion.
- B In a manner of speaking, perhaps, the argument uses the first portion to support its conclusion; but there is no indication that it has been used elsewhere to do so. In any case, the second boldfaced portion is not the argument's conclusion.
- C The first has been used to support a conclusion that the argument *rejects*; the second boldfaced portion is not the argument's conclusion.
- D **Correct.** This option correctly identifies the roles played in the argument by the boldfaced portions.
- E The accuracy of the first boldfaced portion is never questioned in the argument; nor is the second intended to somehow help show that the first is accurate. Rather, the argument assumes that the first portion is accurate.

The correct answer is D.

CR03859

640. Last year Comfort Airlines had twice as many delayed flights as the year before, but the number of complaints from passengers about delayed flights went up three times. It is unlikely that this disproportionate increase in complaints was rooted in an increase in overall dissatisfaction with the service Comfort Airlines provides, since the airline made a special effort to improve other aspects of its service last year.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the disproportionate increase in customer complaints?

- (A) Comfort Airlines had more flights last year than the year before.
- (B) Last year a single period of unusually bad weather caused a large number of flights to be delayed.
- (C) Some of the improvements that Comfort Airlines made in its service were required by new government regulations.
- (D) The average length of a flight delay was greater last year than it was the year before.
- (E) The average number of passengers per flight was no higher last year than the year before.

Argument Construction

Situation Last year Comfort Airlines had twice as many delayed flights as it did the year before, but three times as many passenger complaints about delayed flights. The airline made a special effort to improve other aspects of its service last year.

Reasoning *What could explain why the number of complaints about delayed flights increased disproportionately to the number of delayed flights last year?* In other words, why did the average number of passenger complaints per delayed flight go up last year? One obvious possibility is that the average number of passengers per delayed flight was greater last year than it had been the year before. Another is that the flight delays tended to cause worse problems for passengers last year than they had the year before, so that on average each delay was more upsetting for the passengers.

- A This helps explain why the airline had more delayed flights last year, but not why the increase in complaints about delayed flights was disproportionate to the increase in delayed flights.
- B This helps explain why the airline had more delayed flights last year. But, if anything, the situation should have reduced the number of passenger complaints per delayed flight, since many passengers should have realized that the unusually bad weather was not the airline's fault.
- C If any of the improvements concerned handling of flight delays, for example, and passengers were aware that government regulations addressed this, then passengers might have complained more than previously. But the information we are given here is too general and too vague to explain the disproportionate increase in complaints.
- D **Correct.** Longer flight delays would have more severely inconvenienced passengers and thus would probably have generated more passenger complaints per delay.
- E This rules out the possibility that an increased number of passengers per delayed flight could have caused the disproportionate increase in the number of complaints about delayed flights. But no alternative explanation is offered.

The correct answer is D

CRO1337

641. Last year a global disturbance of weather patterns disrupted harvests in many of the world's important agricultural areas. Worldwide production of soybeans, an important source of protein for people and livestock alike, was not adversely affected, however. Indeed, last year's soybean crop was actually slightly larger than average. Nevertheless, the weather phenomenon is probably responsible for a recent increase in the world price of soybeans.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest justification for the attribution of the increase in soybean prices to the weather phenomenon?

- (A) Last year's harvest of anchovies, which provide an important protein source for livestock, was disrupted by the effects of the weather phenomenon.
- (B) Most countries that produce soybeans for export had above-average harvests of a number of food crops other than soybeans last year.
- (C) The world price of soybeans also rose several years ago, immediately after an earlier occurrence of a similar global weather disturbance.
- (D) Heavy rains attributable to the weather phenomenon improved grazing pastures last year, allowing farmers in many parts of the world to reduce their dependence on supplemental feed.
- (E) Prior to last year, soybean prices had been falling for several years.

Argument Construction

Situation A weather disturbance last year disrupted harvests worldwide but did not reduce production of soybeans, a protein source for both people and livestock. Soybean prices increased nonetheless, likely a result of the weather.

Reasoning *What evidence would suggest that the weather disturbance caused the increase in soybean prices even though it did not reduce soybean production?* Prices tend to increase when the supply of a product falls relative to the demand for the product. But the production of soybeans did not fall. Evidence that the weather disturbance either hindered the global distribution of soybeans or increased global demand for soybeans could support the claim that the weather disturbance caused the increase in soybean prices.

- A **Correct.** If the weather disturbance reduced the anchovy harvest, and anchovies provide protein for livestock just as soybeans do, then more soybeans for livestock feed would be needed to compensate for the lack of anchovies. The resulting increase in demand for soybeans could thus have increased global soybean prices.
- B This is not surprising, given that the weather disturbance did not severely affect the soybean-producing countries, but it does not explain how the weather disturbance could have caused soybean prices to increase.
- C The rise in soybean prices after the earlier weather disturbance could easily have been a coincidence. Or, unlike last year's disturbance, the earlier disturbance could have reduced soybean production.
- D This suggests that demand for soybeans should have fallen as a result of the weather disturbance, so it does not explain why soybean prices rose.
- E If soybean prices were unusually low for some temporary reason when the weather disturbance occurred, they might have been likely to rise back to normal levels even without the weather disturbance.

The correct answer is A.

CR03541

642. Most of the year, the hermit thrush, a North American songbird, eats a diet consisting mainly of insects, but in autumn, as the thrushes migrate to their Central and South American wintering grounds, they feed almost exclusively on wild berries. Wild berries, however, are not as rich in calories as insects, yet thrushes need to consume plenty of calories in order to complete their migration. One possible explanation is that berries contain other nutrients that thrushes need for migration and that insects lack.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously calls into question the explanation given for the thrush's diet during migration?

- (A) Hermit thrushes, if undernourished, are unable to complete their autumn migration before the onset of winter.
- (B) Insect species contain certain nutrients that are not found in wild berries.
- (C) For songbirds, catching insects requires the expenditure of significantly more calories than eating wild berries does.
- (D) Along the hermit thrushes' migration routes, insects are abundant throughout the migration season.
- (E) There are some species of wild berries that hermit thrushes generally do not eat, even though these berry species are exceptionally rich in calories.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Hermit thrushes are songbirds that usually eat insects but switch to eating berries when migrating. The thrushes need lots of calories to migrate, but berries contain fewer calories than insects do. Perhaps the berries contain nutrients that insects do not provide.

Reasoning *What would cast doubt on the claim that the thrushes switch to berries because berries contain nutrients that insects lack and that the thrushes need for their migration? Evidence that berries do not contain such nutrients or that thrushes do not decrease their net calorie consumption by eating berries would cast doubt on the proposed explanation. So would any evidence that supported an alternative explanation for the diet change during migration—for example, seasonal or regional differences in the amount or quality of berries or insects available for the thrushes to consume.*

- A Even if thrushes need to be well-nourished to finish migrating before winter, extra nutrients found in berries but not insects might help provide the nourishment they need.
- B Even if insects contain *certain nutrients* not found in wild berries, those specific nutrients may not be the ones the thrushes need for their migration.
- C **Correct.** This suggests that the thrushes might gain more net calories from eating berries than from eating insects, which could explain why they switch to eating berries even if the berries contain no extra nutrients.
- D By ruling out a lack of insects to eat while migrating as an alternative explanation for why the thrushes switch to eating berries, this would support the proposed explanation.
- E The calorie-rich species of berries the thrushes do not eat might be poisonous or indigestible for them, even if the species of berries the thrushes do eat contain nutrients they need to migrate.

The correct answer is C.

CR01879

643. The kinds of hand and wrist injuries that result from extended use of a computer while maintaining an incorrect posture are common among schoolchildren in Harnville. Computers are important to the school curriculum there, so instead of reducing the amount their students use computers, teachers plan to bring about a sharp reduction in the number of these injuries by carefully monitoring their students' posture when using computers in the classroom.

Which of the following would it be most useful to know in order to assess the likelihood that the teachers' plan will be successful?

- (A) Whether extended use of a computer while maintaining incorrect posture can cause injuries other than hand and wrist injuries
- (B) Whether hand and wrist injuries not caused by computer use are common among schoolchildren in Harnville
- (C) What proportion of schoolchildren in Harnville with hand and wrist injuries use computers extensively outside the classroom
- (D) Whether changes in the curriculum could reduce the schools' dependence on computers
- (E) What proportion of schoolchildren in Harnville already use correct posture while using a computer

Evaluation of a Plan

Situation Hand and wrist injuries from using computers while maintaining poor posture are common among schoolchildren in Harnville. Teachers plan to greatly reduce the number of such injuries by monitoring their students' posture while the students use computers in the classroom.

Reasoning *What would be most helpful to know to determine the likelihood that the teachers' plan will succeed?* The primary concern is the *posture* students adopt while using computers. To succeed, the teachers' plan must reduce the time students spend with poor posture while using computers and reduce it enough to greatly reduce the number of injuries. To know how likely this is, it would help to know how effectively the teachers will be able to monitor and improve their students' posture inside the classroom. But how many of the students use computers *outside of school* while maintaining poor posture and how often do they do so? If many students do so quite often, they may develop hand and wrist injuries regardless of what happens in school.

- A The teachers do not plan to reduce any injuries other than hand and wrist injuries, so whether computer use with poor posture causes any such other injuries is irrelevant to the likelihood that their plan will produce its intended effect.
- B The plan being discussed concerns only the reduction of hand and wrist injuries caused specifically by computer use with poor posture, so the frequency of hand and wrist injuries from other causes is irrelevant to the likelihood that the plan will produce its intended effect.
- C **Correct.** If the students' school use of computers is a large part of their overall computer use, any retraining that accompanies the monitoring might have some effect on their posture and related injury rates overall. However, the greater the proportion of children with hand and wrist injuries who use computers extensively outside the classroom, the more children are likely to keep developing the injuries regardless of any monitoring at school, so the less effective the teachers' plan involving only computer use at school is likely to be.
- D Knowing whether this is the case might help in developing a potential alternative to the teachers' plan, but if it did, this would not help significantly toward assessing the likelihood that the actual plan will succeed. The teachers' actual plan involves monitoring computer use in school without reducing such use. Other possible means of achieving the plan's goal are not part of the plan and are therefore irrelevant to the likelihood that the teachers' actual plan will succeed.
- E The passage indicates that the proportion of the schoolchildren maintaining poor posture while using computers is high enough for many to develop hand and wrist injuries as a result. Whatever the exact proportion is, the teachers' plan may or may not succeed in reducing it.

The correct answer is C.

CR04718

644. A certain cultivated herb is one of a group of closely related plants that thrive in soil with high concentrations of metals that are toxic to most other plants. Agronomists studying the growth of this herb have discovered that it produces large amounts of histidine, an amino acid that, in test-tube solutions, renders these metals chemically inert. Hence, the herb's high histidine production must be the key feature that allows it to grow in metal-rich soils.

In evaluating the argument, it would be most important to determine which of the following?

- (A) Whether the herb can thrive in soil that does not have high concentrations of the toxic metals
- (B) Whether others of the closely related group of plants also produce histidine in large quantities
- (C) Whether the herb's high level of histidine production is associated with an unusually low level of production of some other amino acid
- (D) Whether growing the herb in soil with high concentrations of the metals will, over time, reduce their concentrations in the soil
- (E) Whether the concentration of histidine in the growing herb declines as the plant approaches maturity

Argument Evaluation

Situation A certain herb and closely related species thrive in soil full of metals toxic to most plants. The herb produces much histidine, which makes those metals chemically inert. Histidine production, therefore, is largely what accounts for the herb's thriving in metal-rich soils.

Reasoning *What evidence would help determine whether the herb's histidine production is what enables it to thrive in metal-rich soils?* The argument is that since the herb's histidine chemically neutralizes the metals that are toxic to most plants, it must explain why the herb can thrive in metal-rich soils. To evaluate this argument, it would be helpful to know about the relationship between other closely related plant species' histidine production and the ability to thrive in metal-rich soils. It would also be helpful to know about any other factors that might plausibly explain why the herb can thrive in those soils.

- A Whether or not the herb thrives in metal-free soils, histidine production could enable it to thrive in soils that contain toxic metals.
- B **Correct.** If the closely related plants do not produce much histidine, whatever other factor allows them to thrive in metal-rich soils would likely account for why the herb thrives in those soils as well.
- C The given information suggests no particular reason to suppose that a low level of some unspecified amino acid would enable a plant to thrive in metal-rich soils.
- D The herb might absorb metals from any metal-rich soil it grows in, regardless of why it thrives in that soil.
- E Whether or not histidine concentrations in the herb decline as it approaches maturity, there could still be enough histidine in the growing herb to neutralize the metals and explain why it can grow in metal-rich soil.

The correct answer is B.

CR01293

645. Many people suffer an allergic reaction to certain sulfites, including those that are commonly added to wine as preservatives. However, since there are several winemakers who add sulfites to none of the wines they produce, people who would like to drink wine but are allergic to sulfites can drink wines produced by these winemakers without risking an allergic reaction to sulfites.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) These winemakers have been able to duplicate the preservative effect produced by adding sulfites by means that do not involve adding any potentially allergenic substances to their wine.
- (B) Not all forms of sulfite are equally likely to produce the allergic reaction.
- (C) Wine is the only beverage to which sulfites are commonly added.
- (D) Apart from sulfites, there are no substances commonly present in wine that give rise to an allergic reaction.
- (E) Sulfites are not naturally present in the wines produced by these winemakers in amounts large enough to produce an allergic reaction in someone who drinks these wines.

Argument Construction

Situation People who are allergic to certain sulfites can avoid risking an allergic reaction by drinking wine from one of the several producers that does not add sulfites.

Reasoning *On what assumption does the argument depend?* Drinking wine to which no sulfites have been *added* will not prevent exposure to sulfites if, for instance, sulfites occur naturally in wines. In particular, if the wines that do not have sulfites added have sulfites present naturally in quantities sufficient to produce an allergic reaction, drinking these wines will not prevent an allergic reaction. The argument therefore depends on assuming that this is not the case.

- A The argument does not require this because the conclusion does not address allergic reactions to substances other than sulfites.
- B The argument specifically refers to “certain sulfites” producing allergic reactions. It is entirely compatible with certain other forms of sulfites not producing allergic reactions in anyone.
- C This is irrelevant. The argument does not claim that one can avoid having an allergic reaction to sulfites *from any source* just by restricting one’s wine consumption to those varieties to which no sulfites have been added.
- D Once again, the argument’s conclusion does not address allergic reactions to substances other than sulfites in wine.
- E **Correct.** The argument relies on this assumption.

The correct answer is E.

CR11447

646. A new law gives ownership of patents—documents providing exclusive right to make and sell an invention—to universities, not the government, when those patents result from government-sponsored university research. Administrators at Logos University plan to sell any patents they acquire to corporations in order to fund programs to improve undergraduate teaching.

Which of the following, if true, would cast the most doubt on the viability of the college administrators' plan described above?

- (A) Profit-making corporations interested in developing products based on patents held by universities are likely to try to serve as exclusive sponsors of ongoing university research projects.
- (B) Corporate sponsors of research in university facilities are entitled to tax credits under new federal tax-code guidelines.
- (C) Research scientists at Logos University have few or no teaching responsibilities and participate little if at all in the undergraduate programs in their field.
- (D) Government-sponsored research conducted at Logos University for the most part duplicates research already completed by several profit-making corporations.
- (E) Logos University is unlikely to attract corporate sponsorship of its scientific research.

Evaluation of a Plan

Situation Universities own the patents resulting from government-sponsored research at their institutions. One university plans to sell its patents to corporations to fund a program to improve teaching.

Reasoning *Which point casts doubt on the university's plan?* The university's plan assumes there will be a market for its patents, and that the corporations will want to buy them. What might make this untrue? If some of the corporations have already done the same or similar research, they will not be prospective buyers of the university's patents.

- A This point is irrelevant to the plan to sell patents in order to fund a program.
- B The university plans to sell the patents to the corporations, not to invite the corporations to sponsor research.
- C This point is irrelevant to the university's plan to sell off patents since the plan does not specify that the research scientists will be involved in the programs to improve undergraduate teaching.
- D **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a factor that casts doubt on the university's plan to sell its patents to corporations.
- E The plan concerns selling patents resulting from government-sponsored research, not attracting corporate sponsorship for research.

The correct answer is D.

CRO1848

647. Since it has become known that **several of a bank's top executives have been buying shares in their own bank**, the bank's depositors, who had been worried by rumors that the bank faced impending financial collapse, have been greatly relieved. They reason that, since top executives evidently have faith in the bank's financial soundness, those worrisome rumors must be false. Such reasoning might well be overoptimistic, however, since **corporate executives have been known to buy shares in their own company in a calculated attempt to dispel negative rumors about the company's health**.

In the argument given, the two boldfaced portions play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first describes evidence that has been taken as supporting a conclusion; the second gives a reason for questioning that support.
- (B) The first describes evidence that has been taken as supporting a conclusion; the second states a contrary conclusion that is the main conclusion of the argument.
- (C) The first provides evidence in support of the main conclusion of the argument; the second states that conclusion.
- (D) The first describes the circumstance that the argument as a whole seeks to explain; the second gives the explanation that the argument seeks to establish.
- (E) The first describes the circumstance that the argument as a whole seeks to explain; the second provides evidence in support of the explanation that the argument seeks to establish.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Top executives at a bank that has been rumored to be in financial trouble have been buying shares in the bank. Bank depositors see this as a good sign, because they believe that it indicates that the executives have faith in the bank. However, corporate executives sometimes do this just to dispel rumors about a company's health.

Reasoning *What is the role that the two boldfaced portions play in the argument?* The first boldfaced portion states that bank executives are buying bank shares, which the passage indicates is taken by bank depositors to be evidence of the executives' faith in the bank. The passage then tells us what some have inferred from this, and finally offers in the second boldfaced statement evidence that undermines this inference.

- A **Correct.** This option correctly identifies the roles played by the boldfaced portions.
- B This correctly describes the first statement's role, but the second statement is not offered as a conclusion—no evidence is given for it; rather it is evidence for something else.
- C The second statement is not offered as a conclusion; no evidence is given for it.
- D The second statement is not itself offered as an explanation of why these bank executives are investing in the bank; if it were, that would mean that the bank executives are doing so *because* corporate executives are known to do such things in a calculated effort to dispel worries. Furthermore the argument does not conclude that this other explanation (which the boldfaced portion points to) is correct, only that the one inferred by depositors may not be.
- E The argument is not so much seeking to establish an explanation of its own as it is trying to undermine that inferred by the depositors.

The correct answer is A.

CR03814

648. Between 1980 and 2000 the sea otter population of the Aleutian Islands declined precipitously. There were no signs of disease or malnutrition, so there was probably an increase in the number of otters being eaten by predators. Orcas will eat otters when seals, their normal prey, are unavailable, and the Aleutian Islands seal population declined dramatically in the 1980s. Therefore, orcas were most likely the immediate cause of the otter population decline.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- (A) The population of sea urchins, the main food of sea otters, has increased since the sea otter population declined.
- (B) Seals do not eat sea otters, nor do they compete with sea otters for food.
- (C) Most of the surviving sea otters live in a bay that is inaccessible to orcas.
- (D) The population of orcas in the Aleutian Islands has declined since the 1980s.
- (E) An increase in commercial fishing near the Aleutian Islands in the 1980s caused a slight decline in the population of the fish that seals use for food.

Argument Evaluation

Situation A sea otter population declined even though there were no signs of disease or malnutrition. The local seal population also declined. Orcas eat otters when seals are unavailable, and thus are probably the cause of the decline in the otter population.

Reasoning *What would be evidence that predation by orcas reduced the sea otter population?* Disease and malnutrition are ruled out as alternative explanations of the decline in the sea otter population. The argument could be further strengthened by casting doubt on other possible explanations, such as predation by other animals, or by presenting observations that predation of otters by orcas would help to explain.

- A Regardless of whether or not orcas ate the sea otters, the sea urchin population would most likely have increased when the population of sea otters preying on them decreased.
- B Because the seal population declined during the initial years of the otter population decline, predation by and competition with seals were already implausible explanations of the otter population decline.
- C **Correct.** Orcas eating most of the accessible otters could plausibly explain this observation, which therefore provides additional evidence that orca predation reduced the sea otter population.
- D If the orca population declined at the same time as the sea otter population, it would be less likely that increasing predation by orcas reduced the otter population.
- E Since the sea otters showed no signs of malnutrition, they were probably getting enough fish. But if they were not, commercial fishing rather than orcas might have caused the otter population decline.

The correct answer is C.

CR05960

649. Studies in restaurants show that the tips left by customers who pay their bill in cash tend to be larger when the bill is presented on a tray that bears a credit-card logo. Consumer psychologists hypothesize that simply seeing a credit-card logo makes many credit-card holders willing to spend more because it reminds them that their spending power exceeds the cash they have immediately available.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the psychologists' interpretation of the studies?

- (A) The effect noted in the studies is not limited to patrons who have credit cards.
- (B) Patrons who are under financial pressure from their credit-card obligations tend to tip less when presented with a restaurant bill on a tray with a credit-card logo than when the tray has no logo.
- (C) In virtually all of the cases in the studies, the patrons who paid bills in cash did not possess credit cards.
- (D) In general, restaurant patrons who pay their bills in cash leave larger tips than do those who pay by credit card.
- (E) The percentage of restaurant bills paid with a given brand of credit card increases when that credit card's logo is displayed on the tray with which the bill is presented.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Studies have found that restaurant customers give more generous tips when their bills are brought on trays bearing a credit-card logo. Psychologists speculate that this is because the logo reminds customers of their ability to spend more money than they have.

Reasoning *Which of the options most helps to support the psychologists' explanation of the studies?* The psychologists' hypothesis is that the credit-card logos on the trays bring to the minds of those who tip more the fact that they have more purchasing power than merely the cash that they have at hand. This explanation would not be valid even if those people who are *not* reminded of their own excess purchasing power—if in fact they have any such power—when they see such a logo nonetheless tip more in such trays. Thus, if restaurant patrons who are under financial pressure from their credit-card obligations do not tip more when their bills are presented on trays bearing credit-card logos, then the psychologists' interpretation of the studies is supported.

- A This undermines the psychologists' interpretation, for it shows that the same phenomenon occurs even when the alleged cause has been removed.
- B **Correct.** This option identifies the result that would most strengthen the psychologists' interpretation.
- C This undermines the psychologists' interpretation by showing that the same phenomenon occurs even when the alleged cause has been removed; patrons cannot be reminded of something that is not there.
- D To the extent that this bears on the interpretation of the study, it weakens it. Patrons *using* credit cards are surely aware that they have credit, and yet they spend *less* generously.
- E This does not support the idea that being reminded that one has a credit card induces one to be *more generous*, only that it induces one to *use* that credit card.

The correct answer is B.

CR11633

650. In an experiment, each volunteer was allowed to choose between an easy task and a hard task and was told that another volunteer would do the other task. Each volunteer could also choose to have a computer assign the two tasks randomly. Most volunteers chose the easy task for themselves and under questioning later said they had acted fairly. But when the scenario was described to another group of volunteers, almost all said choosing the easy task would be unfair. This shows that most people apply weaker moral standards to themselves than to others.

Which of the following is an assumption required by this argument?

- (A) At least some volunteers who said they had acted fairly in choosing the easy task would have said that it was unfair for someone else to do so.
- (B) The most moral choice for the volunteers would have been to have the computer assign the two tasks randomly.
- (C) There were at least some volunteers who were assigned to do the hard task and felt that the assignment was unfair.
- (D) On average, the volunteers to whom the scenario was described were more accurate in their moral judgments than the other volunteers were.
- (E) At least some volunteers given the choice between assigning the tasks themselves and having the computer assign them felt that they had made the only fair choice available to them.

Argument Construction

Situation In an experiment, most volunteers chose to do an easy task themselves and leave a hard task for someone else. They later said they had acted fairly, but almost all volunteers in another group to which the scenario was described said choosing the easy task would be unfair, indicating that most people apply weaker moral standards to themselves.

Reasoning *What must be true in order for the facts presented to support the conclusion that most people apply weaker moral standards to themselves than to others?* One set of volunteers said they had acted fairly in taking the easy task, whereas different volunteers said that doing so would be unfair. In neither case did any of the volunteers actually judge their own behavior differently from how they judged anyone else's. So the argument implicitly infers from the experimental results that most of the volunteers would judge their own behavior differently from someone else's if given the chance. This inference assumes that the volunteers in the second group would have applied the same moral standards that those in the first group did if they had been in the first group's position, and vice versa.

- A **Correct.** If none of the volunteers who said their own behavior was fair would have judged someone else's similar behavior as unfair, then their relaxed moral judgment of themselves would not suggest that they applied weaker moral standards to themselves than to others.
- B Even if this is so, the experimental results could still suggest that the volunteers would apply weaker moral standards to themselves than to others.
- C The argument would be equally strong even if volunteers who were assigned the hard task did not know that someone else had gotten an easier task—or even if no volunteers were actually assigned the hard task at all.
- D Even if the moral standards applied by the volunteers who judged themselves were as accurate as those applied by the volunteers to whom the scenario was described, the former standards were still weaker.
- E Even if all the volunteers in the first group had felt that all the choices available to them would have been fair for them to make personally, they might have applied stricter moral standards to someone else in the same position.

The correct answer is A.

CR08527

651. Country X's recent stock-trading scandal should not diminish investors' confidence in the country's stock market. For one thing, **the discovery of the scandal confirms that Country X has a strong regulatory system**, as the following considerations show. In any stock market, some fraudulent activity is inevitable. If a stock market is well regulated, any significant stock-trading fraud in it will very likely be discovered. This deters potential perpetrators and facilitates improvement in regulatory processes.

In the argument, the portion in boldface plays which of the following roles?

- (A) It is the argument's only conclusion.
- (B) It is a conclusion for which the argument provides support and which itself is used to support the argument's main conclusion.
- (C) It is the argument's main conclusion and is supported by another explicitly stated conclusion for which further support is provided.
- (D) It is an assumption for which no explicit support is provided and is used to support the argument's only conclusion.
- (E) It is a compound statement containing both the argument's main conclusion and an assumption used to support that conclusion.

Argument Construction

Situation Country X recently had a stock-trading scandal.

Reasoning *What role does the statement that the scandal's discovery confirms that Country X has a strong regulatory system play in the argument?* In the sentence containing the boldface statement, the phrase *For one thing* indicates that the statement is being used to justify the claim in the preceding sentence. Thus, the boldface statement must support that preceding sentence as a conclusion. Directly after the boldface statement, the phrase *as the following considerations show* indicates that the subsequent sentences are being used to support the boldface statement. Thus, the boldface statement is a conclusion supported by the sentences following it, and this statement itself supports the sentence preceding it, which must be the argument's main conclusion.

- A As explained above, the boldface statement supports the claim in the preceding sentence, so it cannot be the argument's only conclusion.
- B **Correct.** As explained above, the boldface statement is supported by the statements following it and in turn is used to support the argument's main conclusion in the statement preceding it.
- C As explained above, the boldface statement cannot be the argument's main conclusion, because it supports a further conclusion presented in the sentence preceding it.
- D As explained above, the sentences following the boldface statement are the explicit support provided for it.
- E As explained above, the argument's main conclusion is stated only in the first sentence, which precedes the boldface statement. It is not repeated anywhere in the boldface statement.

The correct answer is B.

CR05644

652. **Delta Products Inc. has recently switched at least partly from older technologies using fossil fuels to new technologies powered by electricity.** The question has been raised whether it can be concluded that **for a given level of output Delta's operation now causes less fossil fuel to be consumed than it did formerly.** The answer, clearly, is yes, since the amount of fossil fuel used to generate the electricity needed to power the new technologies is less than the amount needed to power the older technologies, provided level of output is held constant.

In the argument given, the two boldfaced portions play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first identifies the content of the conclusion of the argument; the second provides support for that conclusion.
- (B) The first provides support for the conclusion of the argument; the second identifies the content of that conclusion.
- (C) The first states the conclusion of the argument; the second calls that conclusion into question.
- (D) The first provides support for the conclusion of the argument; the second calls that conclusion into question.
- (E) Each provides support for the conclusion of the argument.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Delta switched from technologies using fossil fuels to ones using electricity. It has been asked whether this results in less fossil fuel used per level of output. The answer is that it does.

Reasoning *What roles do the two boldfaced portions play in the argument?* The first boldfaced statement is simply asserted by the passage. But the second boldfaced statement, when it is first introduced, is not asserted to be true, but rather is identified as something that might be inferred from the first statement. By the end of the passage the argument concludes that the second statement is true.

- A This option simply reverses the roles that the statements play in the argument.
- B **Correct.** This option identifies the roles the boldfaced portions play.
- C Nothing in the passage is intended to support the first statement; and the second statement is not supposed to call the first into question.
- D This correctly identifies the role of the first statement, but the second boldfaced portion does not call the argument's conclusion into question—it is part of a sentence that refers to the question whether that conclusion can be drawn from the first statement.
- E Again, this is only half right. The second boldfaced portion is not offered as support for the conclusion; if it were offered as such support, the argument would be guilty of circular reasoning, since the second boldfaced portion states exactly what the argument concludes.

The correct answer is B.

CR00907

653. Theater Critic: The play *La Finestrina*, now at Central Theater, was written in Italy in the eighteenth century. The director claims that this production is as similar to the original production as is possible in a modern theater. Although the actor who plays Harlequin the clown gives a performance very reminiscent of the twentieth-century American comedian Groucho Marx, Marx's comic style was very much within the comic acting tradition that had begun in sixteenth-century Italy.

The considerations given best serve as part of an argument that

- (A) modern audiences would find it hard to tolerate certain characteristics of a historically accurate performance of an eighteenth-century play
- (B) Groucho Marx once performed the part of the character Harlequin in *La Finestrina*
- (C) in the United States the training of actors in the twentieth century is based on principles that do not differ radically from those that underlay the training of actors in eighteenth-century Italy
- (D) the performance of the actor who plays Harlequin in *La Finestrina* does not serve as evidence against the director's claim
- (E) the director of *La Finestrina* must have advised the actor who plays Harlequin to model his performance on comic performances of Groucho Marx

Argument Construction

Situation The director of the local production of *La Finestrina* says it is as similar to the original production as is possible in a modern theater. The actor playing Harlequin gives a performance reminiscent of Groucho Marx, whose comic style falls within an acting tradition which began in sixteenth-century Italy.

Reasoning *For which of the options would the consideration given best serve as an argument?* The actor's performance was reminiscent of someone who fell within a tradition going back to sixteenth-century Italy. The play was written, and therefore was likely first performed, in eighteenth-century Italy. All of this suggests that there could be a similarity between the performances of Harlequin in the local production and in the original production. While the two performances *might* have been quite dissimilar, there is nothing *here* that supports that.

- A Regardless of how plausible this option might be on its own merits, the passage provides no support for it because the passage provides no information about the characteristics of a historically accurate performance of an eighteenth-century play.
- B The passage neither says this nor implies it.
- C The passage says nothing about the training of actors, so this option would be supported by the passage only in a very roundabout, indirect way.
- D Correct.** This is the option that the considerations most support.
- E That the performance reminded the theater critic of Groucho Marx hardly shows that the similarity was intentional, let alone that it was at the director's instruction.

The correct answer is D.

CR07257

654. Although the discount stores in Goreville's central shopping district are expected to close within five years as a result of competition from a SpendLess discount department store that just opened, those locations will not stay vacant for long. In the five years since the opening of Colson's, a nondiscount department store, a new store has opened at the location of every store in the shopping district that closed because it could not compete with Colson's.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- (A) Many customers of Colson's are expected to do less shopping there than they did before the SpendLess store opened.
- (B) Increasingly, the stores that have opened in the central shopping district since Colson's opened have been discount stores.
- (C) At present, the central shopping district has as many stores operating in it as it ever had.
- (D) Over the course of the next five years, it is expected that Goreville's population will grow at a faster rate than it has for the past several decades.
- (E) Many stores in the central shopping district sell types of merchandise that are not available at either SpendLess or Colson's.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Due to competition from a recently opened SpendLess discount department store, discount stores in Goreville's central shopping district are expected to close within five years. But those locations will not be vacant long, for new stores have replaced all those that closed because of the opening five years ago of a Colson's nondiscount department store.

Reasoning *The question is which option would most weaken the argument?* The arguer infers that stores that leave because of the SpendLess will be replaced in their locations by other stores because that is what happened after the Colson's department store came in. Since the reasoning relies on a presumed similarity between the two cases, any information that brings to light a relevant dissimilarity would weaken the argument. If the stores that were driven out by Colson's were replaced mostly by discount stores, that suggests that the stores were replaced because of a need that no longer exists after the opening of SpendLess.

- A The fact that Colson's may be seeing fewer customers does not mean that the discount stores that close will not be replaced; they might be replaced by stores that in no way compete with Colson's or SpendLess.
- B **Correct.** This option most seriously weakens the argument.
- C If anything, this strengthens the argument by indicating that Goreville's central shopping district is thriving.
- D This, too, strengthens the argument because one is more likely to open a new store in an area with a growing population.
- E Because this statement does not indicate whether any of these stores that offer goods not sold at SpendLess or Colson's will be among those that are closing, it is not possible to determine what effect it has on the strength of the argument.

The correct answer is B.

CR05685

655. Last year all refuse collected by Shelbyville city services was incinerated. This incineration generated a large quantity of residual ash. In order to reduce the amount of residual ash Shelbyville generates this year to half of last year's total, the city has revamped its collection program. This year city services will separate for recycling enough refuse to reduce the number of truckloads of refuse to be incinerated to half of last year's number.

Which of the following is required for the revamped collection program to achieve its aim?

- (A) This year, no materials that city services could separate for recycling will be incinerated.
- (B) Separating recyclable materials from materials to be incinerated will cost Shelbyville less than half what it cost last year to dispose of the residual ash.
- (C) Refuse collected by city services will contain a larger proportion of recyclable materials this year than it did last year.
- (D) The refuse incinerated this year will generate no more residual ash per truckload incinerated than did the refuse incinerated last year.
- (E) The total quantity of refuse collected by Shelbyville city services this year will be no greater than that collected last year.

Argument Construction

Situation To cut in half the residual ash produced at its incinerator, the city will separate for recycling enough refuse to cut in half the number of truckloads of refuse going to the incinerator.

Reasoning *Which option is required if the city's revamped collection program is to achieve its aim?* Cutting the number of truckloads of refuse in half must reduce the amount of residual ash to half last year's level. But if removal of the recycled refuse does not proportionately reduce the amount of ash, this will not happen. So if the amount of residual ash produced per truckload increases after recycling, then the amount of ash produced will not be cut in half by cutting in half the number of truckloads.

- A This merely indicates that no further reduction of ash through recycling could be achieved this year; it indicates nothing about how much the ash will be reduced.
- B This suggests a further benefit from recycling, but does not bear on the amount of ash that will be produced.
- C Since no information is provided about how much, if any, recyclable materials were removed from the refuse last year, this does not affect the reasoning.
- D **Correct.** This states a requirement for the collection program to achieve its aim.
- E This is not a requirement because even if the city collects more refuse this year, it could still cut in half the amount of residual ash by cutting in half the number of truckloads going to the incinerator.

The correct answer is D.

CR01801

656. Veterinarians generally derive some of their income from selling several manufacturers' lines of pet-care products. Knowing that pet owners rarely throw away mail from their pet's veterinarian unread, one manufacturer of pet-care products offered free promotional materials on its products to veterinarians for mailing to their clients. Very few veterinarians accepted the offer, however, even though the manufacturer's products are of high quality.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the veterinarians' reaction to the manufacturer's promotional scheme?

- (A) Most of the veterinarians to whom the free promotional materials were offered were already selling the manufacturer's pet-care products to their clients.
- (B) The special promotional materials were intended as a supplement to the manufacturer's usual promotional activities rather than as a replacement for them.
- (C) The manufacturer's products, unlike most equally good competing products sold by veterinarians, are also available in pet stores and in supermarkets.
- (D) Many pet owners have begun demanding quality in products they buy for their pets that is as high as that in products they buy for themselves.
- (E) Veterinarians sometimes recommend that pet owners use products formulated for people when no suitable product specially formulated for animals is available.

Evaluation of a Plan

Situation Veterinarians generally derive some income from selling various manufacturers' pet-care products, but very few veterinarians accepted free promotional materials from one such manufacturer to mail to their clients.

Reasoning *What would most help explain why so few veterinarians accepted the free promotional materials to mail to their clients?* The passage says that veterinarians generally derive income from selling pet-care products, which suggests that it should have been in many veterinarians' financial interest to accept and mail out the free promotional materials to increase sales. Any evidence that mailing out these specific promotional materials from this manufacturer would not actually have been in many veterinarians' financial interest could help explain why so few veterinarians accepted the materials.

- A This suggests that most of the veterinarians should have had a financial interest in accepting and mailing out the promotional materials in order to increase their sales of the manufacturer's products.
- B Even if the promotional materials supplemented the manufacturer's usual promotional activities, they could still have increased the veterinarians' sales of the manufacturer's products and thus generated more income for the veterinarians.
- C **Correct.** If this manufacturer's products are available in pet stores and supermarkets but most other products sold by veterinarians are not, then distributing the manufacturer's promotional materials could have encouraged customers to buy this manufacturer's products from pet stores and supermarkets rather than to buy competing products from the veterinarians. Thus, the veterinarians may have been concerned that the promotions would reduce their profits.
- D The passage says the manufacturer's products are of high quality, so we have no reason to suppose that clients' demand for quality products would discourage veterinarians from accepting the manufacturer's promotional materials.
- E Presumably the manufacturer's products are specially formulated for pets, so any products veterinarians recommend only when no specially formulated pet-care products are available would not reduce the veterinarians' interest in promoting the manufacturer's products.

The correct answer is C.

CR00778

657. The average hourly wage of television assemblers in Vernland has long been significantly lower than that in neighboring Borodia. Since Borodia dropped all tariffs on Vernlandian televisions three years ago, the number of televisions sold annually in Borodia has not changed. However, recent statistics show a drop in the number of television assemblers in Borodia. Therefore, updated trade statistics will probably indicate that the number of televisions Borodia imports annually from Vernland has increased.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) The number of television assemblers in Vernland has increased by at least as much as the number of television assemblers in Borodia has decreased.
- (B) Televisions assembled in Vernland have features that televisions assembled in Borodia do not have.
- (C) The average number of hours it takes a Borodian television assembler to assemble a television has not decreased significantly during the past three years.
- (D) The number of televisions assembled annually in Vernland has increased significantly during the past three years.
- (E) The difference between the hourly wage of television assemblers in Vernland and the hourly wage of television assemblers in Borodia is likely to decrease in the next few years.

Argument Construction

Situation Television assemblers in Vernland are paid less than those in neighboring Borodia. The number of televisions sold in Borodia has not dropped since its tariffs on Vernlandian TVs were lowered three years ago, but the number of TV assemblers in Borodia has. So TV imports from Vernland have likely increased.

Reasoning *What assumption does the argument depend on?* The fact that fewer individuals in Borodia are working as TV assemblers is offered as evidence that TV imports from Vernland into Borodia have likely increased. That piece of evidence is relevant *only* as an indication that the number of TVs being produced within Borodia has decreased. But a drop in the number of TV assemblers does not indicate a drop in the number of TVs being assembled *if* the number of TVs an average assembler puts together has increased. Thus, the argument must be assuming that the average time it takes an assembler to put together a TV has not significantly decreased.

- A The argument does not rely on any information about the number of television assemblers in Vernland nor for that matter on the number of TVs assembled in Vernland.
- B The argument need not assume there is any difference in the features of the TVs produced in the two countries. Increased sales of Vernlandian TVs in Borodia could be due to any number of other reasons, such as price or quality.
- C **Correct.** This option states an assumption on which the argument depends.
- D The argument does not depend upon this being so: Vernland's domestic TV sales (or perhaps its exports to countries other than Borodia) may have decreased by more than its imports into Borodia have increased.
- E The argument's conclusion addresses what *has* happened; the argument in no way relies on any assumptions about what may or may not happen in the coming years.

The correct answer is C.

CR05725

658. Guidebook writer: I have visited hotels throughout the country and have noticed that in those built before 1930 the quality of the original carpentry work is generally superior to that in hotels built afterward. Clearly carpenters working on hotels before 1930 typically worked with more skill, care, and effort than carpenters who have worked on hotels built subsequently.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the guidebook writer's argument?

- (A) The quality of original carpentry in hotels is generally far superior to the quality of original carpentry in other structures, such as houses and stores.
- (B) Hotels built since 1930 can generally accommodate more guests than those built before 1930.
- (C) The materials available to carpenters working before 1930 were not significantly different in quality from the materials available to carpenters working after 1930.
- (D) The better the quality of original carpentry in a building, the less likely that building is to fall into disuse and be demolished.
- (E) The average length of apprenticeship for carpenters has declined significantly since 1930.

Argument Evaluation

Situation The original carpentry in hotels built before 1930 shows superior care, skill, and effort to that in hotels built after 1930. This leads to the conclusion that carpenters working on hotels before 1930 were superior in skill, care, and effort to those that came after.

Reasoning *Which option most seriously weakens the argument?* The argument draws an inference from a comparison between carpentry in hotels of different eras to a judgment about the carpenters working on hotels in those eras. One way to weaken this inference is by finding some way in which the carpentry in the hotels may be unrepresentative of the skill, care, and effort of the carpenters working in the eras. The comparison is between the carpentry evident in hotels of the two eras *that still exist*. Thus, if there is some reason to think that hotels with good carpentry survive longer than those with bad carpentry, then still-existing hotels from the older era will have disproportionately more good carpentry, even assuming no difference between the skill, care, and effort of the carpenters from the two eras.

- A This option applies equally to both eras, so it has no bearing on the argument.
- B It is not clear whether carpenters working on larger hotels would exercise more, less, or the same skill and care as those working on smaller hotels; thus this option does not weaken the argument.
- C The argument does not rely, even implicitly, on there being any difference in the quality of materials used in the two eras, so it does not weaken the argument to point out that no such difference exists.
- D **Correct.** This weakens the reasoning in the argument by showing a respect in which the comparison between *existing* hotels is unrepresentative.
- E The longer a carpenter works as an apprentice, the more skill he or she is apt to have upon becoming a full-fledged carpenter. So this option would tend to slightly strengthen rather than weaken the argument.

The correct answer is D.

CR02997

659. Scientists typically do their most creative work before the age of forty. It is commonly thought that this happens because aging by itself brings about a loss of creative capacity. However, studies show that **of scientists who produce highly creative work beyond the age of forty, a disproportionately large number entered their field at an older age than is usual**. Since by the age of forty the large majority of scientists have been working in their field for at least fifteen years, the studies' finding strongly suggests that the real reason why scientists over forty rarely produce highly creative work is not that they have aged but rather that **scientists over forty have generally spent too long in their field**.

In the argument given, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- (A) The first is a claim, the accuracy of which is at issue in the argument; the second is a conclusion drawn on the basis of that claim.
- (B) The first is an objection that has been raised against a position defended in the argument; the second is that position.
- (C) The first is evidence that has been used to support an explanation that the argument challenges; the second is that explanation.
- (D) The first is evidence that has been used to support an explanation that the argument challenges; the second is a competing explanation that the argument favors.
- (E) The first provides evidence to support an explanation that the argument favors; the second is that explanation.

Argument Evaluation

Situation It is generally thought that the reason scientists tend to do their most creative work before age forty is that creative capacity declines with age. Yet those scientists who do creative work after forty tend, disproportionately, to have started their careers in science later in life. So a better explanation is that many scientists over forty have just been at it too long.

Reasoning *What roles do the two portions of the argument that are in boldface play?* The argument describes a phenomenon and what is commonly thought to explain it. Then, the first boldfaced statement introduces evidence that suggests that there may be another explanation. After this evidence is further developed, the argument then concludes that there is indeed a better explanation for the phenomenon; that explanation is stated in the second boldfaced portion.

- A The accuracy of the first statement is never called into question by the argument; rather, it is relied upon as the basis for the argument's conclusion.
- B The first statement is not an objection against the position the argument defends; instead, it is a basis for that position.
- C The first statement is not used to support a position the argument challenges, and the second statement is the explanation the argument supports, not the one it challenges.
- D The second statement is indeed an explanation that the argument favors; but the first statement is not used to support a competing explanation that the argument challenges.
- E **Correct.** This option correctly identifies the roles played by the boldfaced portions of the argument.

The correct answer is E.

CR03818

660. NorthAir charges low fares for its economy-class seats, but it provides very cramped seating and few amenities. Market research shows that economy passengers would willingly pay more for wider seating and better service, and additional revenue provided by these higher ticket prices would more than cover the additional cost of providing these amenities. Even though NorthAir is searching for ways to improve its profitability, it has decided not to make these improvements.

Which of the following, if true, would most help to explain NorthAir's decision in light of its objectives?

- (A) None of NorthAir's competitors offers significantly better seating and service to economy-class passengers than NorthAir does.
- (B) On many of the routes that NorthAir flies, it is the only airline to offer direct flights.
- (C) A few of NorthAir's economy-class passengers are satisfied with the service they receive, given the low price they pay.
- (D) Very few people avoid flying on NorthAir because of the cramped seating and poor service offered in economy class.
- (E) The number of people who would be willing to pay the high fares NorthAir charges for its business-class seats would decrease if its economy-class seating were more acceptable.

Evaluation of a Plan

Situation Market research shows that improving some amenities for economy-class passengers would allow NorthAir to raise its economy ticket prices more than enough to cover the additional cost of providing those amenities. But NorthAir has decided not to improve those amenities, even though it is looking for ways to improve its profitability.

Reasoning *What would most help explain why NorthAir decided not to improve the seating and other amenities, even though the resulting increase in economy-class ticket prices would more than cover the expense?* NorthAir is looking for ways to improve its profitability. Making improvements that would increase ticket prices enough to generate more revenue than they cost should improve profitability, other things being equal. But if improving the amenities would generate side effects that reduced profitability, those side effects would provide a good reason for NorthAir's decision not to improve the amenities and hence would help explain why NorthAir made that decision.

- A The passage says that for NorthAir, the cost of providing better economy seating and other amenities would be more than met by the increased revenue from the higher ticket prices that passengers would be willing to pay. This could give NorthAir a competitive edge, with improved profitability.
- B Even if NorthAir faces little or no competition on certain routes, offering extra amenities might increase passengers' interest in flying those routes. It might also lead passengers to choose NorthAir on other routes that competing airlines also serve. Both of these effects could improve NorthAir's profitability.
- C Even if a few NorthAir economy passengers would not pay more for extra amenities, the market research indicates that most of them would, so offering the amenities could still improve NorthAir's profits attributable to economy-class seating.
- D This suggests that improving the amenities would not increase the total number of NorthAir passengers. But improving the amenities might still enable the airline to increase its ticket prices per passenger enough to improve its profitability.
- E **Correct.** This suggests that improving the economy-class amenities would reduce NorthAir's revenue from sales of business-class tickets, which are likely much more expensive than economy-class tickets. This reduction in revenue could be enough to reduce NorthAir's total profitability despite the increased revenue from economy-class ticket sales.

The correct answer is E.

CR00774

661. Which of the following most logically completes the argument given?

Asthma, a chronic breathing disorder, is significantly more common today among adult competitive swimmers than it is among competitive athletes who specialize in other sports. Although chlorine is now known to be a lung irritant and swimming pool water is generally chlorinated, it would be rash to assume that frequent exposure to chlorine is the explanation of the high incidence of asthma among these swimmers, since _____.

- (A) young people who have asthma are no more likely to become competitive athletes than are young people who do not have asthma
- (B) competitive athletes who specialize in sports other than swimming are rarely exposed to chlorine
- (C) competitive athletes as a group have a significantly lower incidence of asthma than do people who do not participate in competitive athletics
- (D) until a few years ago, physicians routinely recommended competitive swimming to children with asthma, in the belief that this form of exercise could alleviate asthma symptoms
- (E) many people have asthma without knowing they have it and thus are not diagnosed with the condition until they begin engaging in very strenuous activities, such as competitive athletics

Argument Construction

Situation Asthma is more common among competitive swimmers than among other competitive athletes. Chlorine is a lung irritant generally present in swimming pool water.

Reasoning *What would cast doubt on the hypothesis that exposure to chlorine in swimming pools accounts for the high incidence of asthma among adult competitive swimmers?* Evidence of any other factor that would provide an alternative explanation of why asthma is more common among adult competitive swimmers than among other competitive athletes would make it rash to assume that frequent exposure to chlorine explains the high incidence of asthma among these swimmers, so a statement providing such evidence would logically fill in the blank at the end of the passage to complete the argument.

- A This might help explain why competitive athletes in general are not especially likely to have asthma, but it does not explain why adult competitive swimmers are more likely to have asthma than other competitive athletes are.
- B This provides additional evidence that exposure to chlorine explains why adult competitive swimmers are more likely to have asthma than other competitive athletes are, so it does not cast doubt on that hypothesis.
- C A lower incidence of asthma among competitive athletes than among nonathletes does not help explain the higher incidence of asthma among adult competitive swimmers than among other competitive athletes.
- D Correct.** Routinely encouraging children with asthma to take up competitive swimming would likely have made the proportion of adult competitive swimmers with asthma exceed the proportion of other competitive athletes with asthma, even if chlorine in swimming pool water never causes asthma in swimmers.
- E This might help explain why people with asthma are just as likely as other people to become competitive athletes, but it does not help explain why adult competitive swimmers are more likely to have asthma than other competitive athletes are.

The correct answer is D.

CR01289

662. In the country of Marut, the Foreign Trade Agency's records were reviewed in 1994 in light of information then newly available about neighboring Goro. The review revealed that in every year since 1963, the agency's projection of what Goro's gross national product (GNP) would be five years later was a serious underestimate. The review also revealed that in every year since 1963, the agency estimated Goro's GNP for the previous year—a Goro state secret—very accurately.

Of the following claims, which is most strongly supported by the statements given?

- (A) Goro's GNP fluctuated greatly between 1963 and 1994.
- (B) Prior to 1995, Goro had not released data intended to mislead the agency in making its five-year projections.
- (C) The amount by which the agency underestimated the GNP it projected for Goro tended to increase over time.
- (D) Even before the new information came to light, the agency had reason to think that at least some of the five-year projections it had made were inaccurate.
- (E) The agency's five-year projections of Goro's GNP had no impact on economic planning in Marut.

Argument Construction

Situation A review in 1994 revealed that every year since 1963, Marut's Foreign Trade Agency had seriously underestimated what Goro's GNP would be five years later, but accurately estimated what Goro's GNP had been the previous year.

Reasoning *What conclusion do the stated facts most strongly support?* Goro's GNP in each year at least from 1969 through 1993 had been seriously underestimated by the agency five years in advance, yet was then accurately estimated by the agency one year after the fact. It follows that for each of these years, the agency's earlier projection of Goro's GNP must have been much lower than its later estimate.

- A This is not supported by the information given. The fact that the agency consistently underestimated each year's GNP in its five-year projections and then correctly estimated it after the fact does not indicate that Goro's GNP fluctuated greatly.
- B This is not supported by the information given. The reason the agency's five-year projections were inaccurate might well have been that Goro deliberately released data intended to mislead the agency in making those projections.
- C This is not supported by the information given. The fact that the underestimates remained large throughout the years in question does not indicate that the underestimates increased over time.
- D **Correct.** As explained above, for many years there were serious discrepancies between the agency's five-year projections of Goro's GNP and its retrospective estimates of each previous year's trade. In any year at least from 1970 through 1993, these discrepancies, if noticed, would have given the agency reason to doubt some of the five-year projections.
- E This is not supported by the information given. Even though at least some of the five-year projections were eventually known to be serious underestimates, they could still have affected Marut's economic planning. The economic planners might have retained an unreasonable faith in the accuracy of the most recent projections.

The correct answer is D.

CR05082

663. Vargonia has just introduced a legal requirement that student-teacher ratios in government-funded schools not exceed a certain limit. All Vargonian children are entitled to education, free of charge, in these schools. When a recession occurs and average incomes fall, the number of children enrolled in government-funded schools tends to increase. Therefore, though most employment opportunities contract in economic recessions, getting a teaching job in Vargonia's government-funded schools will not be made more difficult by a recession.

Which of the following would be most important to determine in order to evaluate the argument?

- (A) Whether in Vargonia there are any schools not funded by the government that offer children an education free of charge
- (B) Whether the number of qualified applicants for teaching positions in government-funded schools increases significantly during economic recessions
- (C) What the current student-teacher ratio in Vargonia's government-funded schools is
- (D) What proportion of Vargonia's workers currently hold jobs as teachers in government-funded schools
- (E) Whether in the past a number of government-funded schools in Vargonia have had student-teacher ratios well in excess of the new limit

Argument Evaluation

Situation During a recession, the number of children in government-funded schools in Vargonia tends to increase. Vargonian children are entitled to a free education in these schools. A new law requires student-teacher ratios in these schools to remain below a certain limit.

Reasoning *Which of the five questions would provide us with the best information for evaluating the argument?* The argument's conclusion is that recessions do not make teaching jobs in Vargonia's government-funded schools harder to get. During recessions, the reasoning goes, more students will enroll in Vargonia's government-funded schools than in nonrecession times. Implicit in the argument is the thought that, because the new law sets an upper limit on the average number of students per teacher, schools that get an influx of new students would have to hire more teachers. During a recession, however, there might be much more competition in the labor market for teachers because many more qualified people are applying for teaching jobs.

- A This information is not significant in the context of the argument, which does not need to assume that only government-funded schools provide free education.
- B **Correct.** Getting an answer to this question would provide us with specific information useful in evaluating the argument. A "yes" answer to this question would suggest that competition for teaching jobs in Vargonian government-funded schools would be keener during recessions. A "no" answer would suggest that the level of competition would decrease during recessions.
- C Discovering the current student-teacher ratio in Vargonia's schools would be of no value, by itself, in evaluating the argument. We do not know what the new upper limit on the student-teacher ratio is, and we do not know whether Vargonia is currently in a recession.
- D Finding out whether the proportion this refers to is 1 percent, for example, or 4 percent, would tell us nothing about whether getting teaching jobs at government-funded schools in Vargonia becomes more difficult during a recession. Among other things, we do not know whether Vargonia is currently in a recession, and we do not know what proportion of Vargonia's workers would be qualified candidates for teaching jobs.
- E This is of no relevance in evaluating the argument because, presumably, the new limit on student-teacher ratios will be complied with. Thus, even if student-teacher ratios in the past would have exceeded the new limit, the argument concerns whether, *in the future*, getting a teaching job in Vargonia's government-funded schools will be made more difficult by a recession.

The correct answer is B.

CR09951

664. In Colorado subalpine meadows, nonnative dandelions co-occur with a native flower, the larkspur. Bumblebees visit both species, creating the potential for interactions between the two species with respect to pollination. In a recent study, researchers selected 16 plots containing both species; all dandelions were removed from eight plots; the remaining eight control plots were left undisturbed. The control plots yielded significantly more larkspur seeds than the dandelion-free plots, leading the researchers to conclude that the presence of dandelions facilitates pollination (and hence seed production) in the native species by attracting more pollinators to the mixed plots.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the researchers' reasoning?

- (A) Bumblebees preferentially visit dandelions over larkspurs in mixed plots.
- (B) In mixed plots, pollinators can transfer pollen from one species to another to augment seed production.
- (C) If left unchecked, nonnative species like dandelions quickly crowd out native species.
- (D) Seed germination is a more reliable measure of a species' fitness than seed production.
- (E) Soil disturbances can result in fewer blooms, and hence lower seed production.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Bumblebees visit both larkspur and dandelions in certain meadows. A study found that more larkspur seeds were produced in meadow plots in which both larkspur and dandelions grew than in similar plots from which all dandelions had been removed. The researchers inferred that dandelions facilitate larkspur pollination.

Reasoning *What evidence would cast the most doubt on the inference from the study's findings to the conclusion that dandelions facilitate larkspur pollination by attracting more pollinators?* The argument assumes that the only relevant difference between the two types of plots was whether dandelions were present. Evidence that the plots differed in some other way that could provide a plausible alternative explanation of why more larkspur seeds were produced in the plots with dandelions would weaken the argument.

- A This would suggest that the larkspur pollination should have been lower in the plots with dandelions, so it does not provide a plausible alternative explanation for the study's findings.
- B This is fully compatible with the claim that the dandelions attracted more pollinators to the mixed plots, and it would also help to support the argument's conclusion that dandelions facilitated larkspur pollination in those plots.
- C Although this suggests that the mixed plots won't remain mixed for long, it does not provide a plausible alternative explanation for the study's finding that larkspur seed production was higher in the mixed plots.
- D The argument is not about how fit larkspurs are as a species, but about why they produced different numbers of seeds in the different plots.
- E **Correct.** This provides a plausible alternative explanation for why larkspur seed production was lower in the plots from which dandelions had been removed, since digging them out would have disturbed the soil.

The correct answer is E.

CR11453

665. An experiment was done in which human subjects recognize a pattern within a matrix of abstract designs and then select another design that completes that pattern. The results of the experiment were surprising. The lowest expenditure of energy in neurons in the brain was found in those subjects who performed most successfully in the experiments.

Which of the following hypotheses best accounts for the findings of the experiment?

- (A) The neurons of the brain react less when a subject is trying to recognize patterns than when the subject is doing other kinds of reasoning.
- (B) Those who performed best in the experiment experienced more satisfaction when working with abstract patterns than did those who performed less well.
- (C) People who are better at abstract pattern recognition have more energy-efficient neural connections.
- (D) The energy expenditure of the subjects' brains increases when a design that completes the initially recognized pattern is determined.
- (E) The task of completing a given design is more capably performed by athletes, whose energy expenditure is lower when they are at rest.

Argument Construction

Situation Experimental subjects worked with pattern recognition and completion. The subjects who performed best showed the lowest expenditure of energy in neurons in the brain.

Reasoning *Which hypothesis best accounts for the findings?* In order to account for the findings, the hypothesis must suggest a plausible link between successful performance and the energy expenditure of neurons in the brain. Consider each answer choice, and evaluate its plausibility and logic. Where is there a reasonably direct relationship between the given factors and the conclusion that is drawn? Understand that hypotheses based on factors not included in the experiment cannot be used to account for the findings.

- A The experiment did not compare types of reasoning so this hypothesis does not account for the results.
- B No information is provided about subjects' satisfaction, so this hypothesis is not warranted.
- C **Correct.** This statement properly identifies a hypothesis that connects subjects' performance with their energy expenditure and so could account for the experiment's results.
- D The most successful subjects would presumably not have completed fewer patterns than average, so the posited increase in energy would likely lead to higher energy expenditures for them, not lower.
- E No information is offered on the subjects, so no hypothesis about athletes is warranted.

The correct answer is C.

CR01202

666. With seventeen casinos, Moneyland operates the most casinos in a certain state. Although intent on expanding, it was outmaneuvered by Apex Casinos in negotiations to acquire the Eldorado chain. To complete its acquisition of Eldorado, Apex must sell five casinos to comply with a state law forbidding any owner to operate more than one casino per county. Since Apex will still be left operating twenty casinos in the state, it will then have the most casinos in the state.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the prediction?

- (A) Apex, Eldorado, and Moneyland are the only organizations licensed to operate casinos in the state.
- (B) The majority of Eldorado's casinos in the state will need extensive renovations if they are to continue to operate profitably.
- (C) Some of the state's counties do not permit casinos.
- (D) Moneyland already operates casinos in the majority of the state's counties.
- (E) Apex will use funds it obtains from the sale of the five casinos to help fund its acquisition of the Eldorado chain.

Argument Evaluation

Situation Moneyland operates seventeen casinos, the most in a certain state, and is intent on expanding. Another operator, Apex Casinos, is acquiring the Eldorado casino chain, but must sell five casinos to comply with a state law forbidding any owner to operate more than one casino per county. After these transactions, Apex will operate twenty casinos in the state.

Reasoning *What observation would cast the most doubt on the prediction that Apex will have the most casinos in the state after the transactions?* Apex will operate twenty casinos, whereas Moneyland now operates just seventeen, and no one else operates even that many. It follows that Apex will operate more casinos after its transactions than Moneyland or any other one owner now operates. However, if Moneyland also acquires three or more casinos during the transactions, then Apex will not have the most casinos in the state afterward. Thus, any observation suggesting that Moneyland is about to acquire several casinos would undermine the prediction.

- A **Correct.** Since Apex is acquiring Eldorado, Moneyland and Apex will be the only remaining licensed casino operators in the state. Therefore, Moneyland is the only likely buyer for the five casinos Apex needs to sell. So Moneyland is likely to acquire the five casinos during the sale and end up with twenty-two casinos—more than Apex.
- B This does not undermine the prediction. Even if the Eldorado casinos cannot operate profitably for long without extensive renovations, Apex will still have twenty casinos immediately after its transactions.
- C This supports rather than undermines the prediction. If fewer counties permit casinos, there will be fewer opportunities for Moneyland or any other operator to acquire more casinos to surpass the twenty Apex will own.
- D This supports rather than undermines the prediction. If Moneyland's seventeen casinos are in most of the state's counties already, then there are fewer counties in which Moneyland could acquire additional casinos to surpass the twenty Apex will own.
- E This supports rather than undermines the prediction. Apex's use of the funds from selling the five casinos to acquire the Eldorado chain will not help anyone else to acquire more casinos to surpass the twenty Apex will own.

The correct answer is A.

CR05093

667. It is widely assumed that people need to engage in intellectual activities such as solving crossword puzzles or mathematics problems in order to maintain mental sharpness as they age. In fact, however, simply talking to other people—that is, participating in social interaction, which engages many mental and perceptual skills—suffices. Evidence to this effect comes from a study showing that the more social contact people report, the better their mental skills.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the force of the evidence cited?

- (A) As people grow older, they are often advised to keep exercising their physical and mental capacities in order to maintain or improve them.
- (B) Many medical conditions and treatments that adversely affect a person's mental sharpness also tend to increase that person's social isolation.
- (C) Many people are proficient both in social interactions and in solving mathematical problems.
- (D) The study did not itself collect data but analyzed data bearing on the issue from prior studies.
- (E) The tasks evaluating mental sharpness for which data were compiled by the study were more akin to mathematics problems than to conversation.

Argument Evaluation

Situation A study shows that the more social contact people report, the better their mental skills are, so engaging in social interaction is sufficient for maintaining mental sharpness.

Reasoning *What would suggest that the study does not establish the truth of the conclusion?* The study shows a correlation between mental sharpness and social interaction but does not indicate why this correlation exists. Evidence that mental sharpness contributes to social interaction or that some third factor affects both mental sharpness and social interaction, could provide an alternative explanation for the correlation and thus cast doubt on the explanation that social interaction contributes to mental sharpness.

- A People are often wrongly advised to do things that are not actually beneficial. And even if exercising mental capacities does help to maintain them, the passage says that social interaction provides such exercise.
- B **Correct.** This provides evidence that the correlation observed in the study results from mental sharpness facilitating social interaction, in which case the study results do not indicate that social interaction facilitates mental sharpness.
- C This would be expected, given the argument's conclusion that social interaction helps to maintain better mental skills overall.
- D A study that analyzes data from prior studies can provide evidence just as well as a study that collects its own data can.
- E The argument's conclusion would be compatible with this observation, and would then suggest that social interaction contributes to the mental sharpness needed for tasks similar to math problems.

The correct answer is B.

9.0 Sentence Correction

9.0 Sentence Correction

Sentence correction questions appear in the Verbal section of the GMAT® exam. The Verbal section uses multiple-choice questions to measure your ability to read and comprehend written material, to reason and evaluate arguments, and to correct written material to express ideas effectively in standard written English. Because the Verbal section includes passages from several different content areas, you may be generally familiar with some of the material; however, neither the passages nor the questions assume detailed knowledge of the topics discussed. Sentence correction questions are intermingled with critical reasoning and reading comprehension questions throughout the Verbal section of the test. You will have 65 minutes to complete the Verbal section or about 1½ minutes to answer each question.

Sentence correction questions present a statement in which words are underlined. The questions ask you to select the best expression of the idea or relationship described in the underlined section from the answer options. The first answer choice always repeats the original phrasing, whereas the other four provide alternatives. In some cases, the original phrasing is the best choice. In other cases, the underlined section has obvious or subtle errors that require correction. These questions require you to be familiar with the stylistic conventions and grammatical rules of standard written English and to demonstrate your ability to improve incorrect or ineffective expressions. Sentence correction questions may include English-language idioms, which are standard constructions not derived from the most basic rules of grammar and vocabulary, but idioms are not intended to measure any specialized knowledge of colloquialisms or regionalisms.

You should begin these questions by reading the sentence carefully. Note whether there are any obvious grammatical errors as you read the underlined section. Then read the five answer choices carefully. If there was a subtle error you did not recognize the first time you read the sentence, it may become apparent after you have read the answer choices. If the error is still unclear, see whether you can eliminate some of the answers as being incorrect. Remember that in some cases, the original selection may be the best answer.

9.1 Some Comments About How It Works

Sentence Correction questions require a good understanding of how the conventions of standard written English can be used for effective communication. However, that understanding does not have to come from extensive explicit training in grammar and usage or from knowledge of specialized linguistic terminology. Many people may have the needed insights without being able to explain them in technical terms. Analogously, without knowing the scientific name of baker's yeast or the chemistry of the Maillard reaction, a talented baker or food critic may be able to tell whether a loaf of bread was properly prepared. This is not to say that explicit training in grammar and usage is unhelpful. As an adjunct to critical reading and writing experience, it can be a useful approach to developing insights into good written communication. It is good to be cautious, though; books and websites offering advice about how to write may occasionally stipulate outmoded or idiosyncratic rules that are not generally followed in effective professional writing.

The problems posed in Sentence Correction take a different approach and fall within a different domain from those in the other Verbal Section types. But like those other types, they test skills of critical reasoning, problem solving, and reading comprehension. Sentence Correction tasks can be aptly thought of as requiring detective work. A key part of this work consists in understanding the differences among formulations offered in the answer choices and in seeing that some do not make sense when they are plugged into the larger sentence. In this way, the Sentence Correction questions pose some of the most refined and closely targeted reading comprehension tasks in the GMAT exam. To see why certain

wordings do not work, you will need to use critical analysis, forming hypotheses about what the writer is trying to express and being ready to revise the hypotheses as you read through the answer choices.

The more difficult questions are not essentially designed to test for knowledge of rules or facts that are harder to learn or that require more technical training. Difficulty often stems from complexity and subtlety among the interconnected parts of the sentence and involves critical application of principles that all astute users of English should understand. Sentence Correction tasks are puzzles of a sort, but they are not merely arbitrarily contrived. Typically, the incorrect answer choices represent flaws that even an experienced writer might introduce by temporarily losing track of the structure of a sentence or by accidentally moving a piece of text to an unintended position.

Sometimes you may be able to think of a wording that works better than any of the options presented, but the task is to find the most effective of the available choices within the parameters of the problem posed. In writing, there are almost always tradeoffs. For example, conciseness is sometimes the enemy of precision and adequate specificity. Certain types of redundancy can be annoying and can make the writer seem inept, but other types of repetition and paraphrasing can improve readability and comprehension. Language serves many purposes, not all of which are cooperative or directly informative. In sincere straightforwardly informative writing—although not in all advertising, entertainment, and poetry—one should minimize ambiguity, yet in the end every sentence is at least somewhat open to multiple interpretations. Because one can never absolutely eliminate the risk of unintended interpretations, Sentence Correction answers should minimize that risk relative to the context, setting, and ordinary assumptions about the intent of the writer. It is safe to assume that any GMAT Sentence Correction sentence you encounter will be intended to sincerely inform, instruct, or inquire, rather than to parody bad writing, confuse the reader, or provoke laughter, outrage, or derision.

You will not be expected to take sides in contentious controversies about grammar, usage, or style or to apply rules that are widely regarded as highly pedantic or outdated. A few of these are mentioned in the discussions of the specific categories that follow.

9.2 The Eight Sentence Correction Categories

The problems to be solved in Sentence Correction questions are classified into eight grammar and usage categories. Each incorrect answer choice contains a flaw in at least one of these categories, and some span two or more categories. Each test contains questions representing a wide range of different types of problems. In the answer explanations in section 9.9, the categories shown in the heading for each question are the most salient, but many of the questions contain problems in other categories as well. Although these eight categories represent the full range of Sentence Correction problems, the discussions within each category below are not exhaustive and are not intended as a comprehensive guide to English grammar and usage. For each category, the discussion aims to provide a general understanding of the kinds of reasoning that may be involved in solving Sentence Correction problems of that type.

Agreement

Effective verbal communication requires clarity about how the elements of a sentence relate to one another. The conventions of agreement help maintain such clarity; constructions that violate these conventions can be confusing or even nonsensical. There are two types of agreement: subject-verb agreement and agreement of terms that have the same referent.

Subject-verb agreement: Singular subjects take singular verbs, whereas plural subjects take plural verbs. Standard contemporary English makes few distinctions in verb form among persons and numbers,

but most English verbs do have a distinct present-tense form for third person singular, and *to be* has distinctive forms for first person singular (*am, was*).

Examples:

Correct: “I **walk** to the store.”

Incorrect: “I **walks** to the store.”

Correct: “Each of the circuits **has** its own switch.”

Incorrect: “Each of the circuits **have** its own switch.”

Correct: “The masses **have** spoken.”

Incorrect: “The masses **has** spoken.”

Agreement between terms that have the same referent: A pronoun that stands for another element in the discourse—a noun, a noun phrase, or another pronoun—must agree with its antecedent in person, number, and gender. Where a noun or noun phrase has the same referent as another noun or noun phrase, the two terms should agree in number.

Examples:

Correct: “When **you** dream, **you** are usually asleep.”

Incorrect: “When **one** dreams, **you** are usually asleep.”

The incorrect version is by no means ungrammatical, but it is puzzling and appears not to be intended to mean what it literally says. Thus, it is also a matter of logical predication and rhetorical construction, categories that are discussed under those headings below.

Correct: “I threw away the banana and the mango because **they were** both spoiled.”

Incorrect: “I threw away the banana and the mango because **it was** both spoiled.”

Correct: “The engineers are **friends** of mine.”

Incorrect: “The engineers are **a friend** of mine.”

Almost all educated users of English have internalized the conventions of agreement, yet we all occasionally make mistakes of this sort by accident or because we lose track of the structure of our wording. Keep in mind that as you evaluate different wording choices, context is vitally important. We can see immediately that an entire clause consisting of the words “*You* is working” would be incorrect. On the other hand, that same sequence of words is correct in the following sentence: “The team member who used to assist *you* is working on a different project now.” This is easy to see, but doing so depends on recognizing that the subject of *is* is not *you* but rather the entire noun phrase preceding the verb. This recognition may be either intuitive or based on explicit analysis.

Similarly, no one would seriously claim that the plural *they* should stand for the singular noun *proposal*, but one might more easily overlook the failure of agreement in the following sentence: “From among the six submitted proposals, *they* chose number four, believing that *they* could be more easily implemented than the other five.” Many readers may see the problem quickly, but in doing so *they* are noting some complex features of the sentence structure. In principle, *they* could refer to the six proposals or to those who chose from among them, but neither of those tentative interpretations makes sense. Here the reasoning overlaps with that involved in the category of logical predication. The choosers are not the sorts of things that could be implemented, and the comparative phrase *than the other five* rules out the hypothesis that the antecedent of *they* is the plural *six submitted proposals*. Changing *they* to *it* resolves the discrepancy by using a pronoun that clearly has the singular noun phrase *number four* as its antecedent.

Some complicating factors to consider:

When analyzing potential agreement issues in Sentence Correction, keep in mind that not all cases conform obviously and straightforwardly to the most basic rules of agreement. Here are a few special considerations. These are not intended to be exhaustive.

Quantities and quantifying phrases: In some cases, formally plural quantities may take plural verbs, and in other cases they are construed as singular. For example, “Six dollars were withdrawn from the box, one at a time” is correct, but so is “Six dollars is a high price for that.”

Quantifying phrases (such as *a number of* and *a percentage of*) often function as subject modifiers in what could appear to be a subject position. In such cases, they are treated similarly to numbers. “A large proportion of the trees are flowering” is essentially like “Three of the trees are flowering.” In other cases, similar phrases function as subjects. Consider, for example, the following correct phrases: “a small percentage of our profits is reinvested” and “a small percentage of our employees oppose the new plan.”

As a pronoun, *each* is singular, distributing individually to the members of the set or collection referred to, as illustrated in “Each of the circuits has its own switch.” When *each* is used as an adjective before a noun, the noun is singular (“Each machine has been inspected”), but in the predicate position *each* modifies the entire plural collection (“The machines have each been inspected”).

Plurals that appear singular: All English users are aware that for some words the plural is the same as the singular (*sheep* and *deer*, for example), but there are subtle cases, as when a formally singular noun referring to a group or culture is construed as plural. No simple rule governs the use of such terms; one can say, for example, “the British are” or “the Inuit are” but not “the German are” or “the Cuban are.” *Police* is plural, but many similar group words, such as *navy*, are typically construed as singular.

Collective nouns construed as singular or plural: Many nouns referring to groups of people or collections of things have a singular form (team, choir, platoon, crew, assembly, for example). In some editorial styles—and especially in British usage—these can sometimes be construed as plural. This occurs where the writer’s intention is to distribute the predicate to the individual members of the group rather than to refer to the group as a single abstract entity. Thus, one may say “the staff are working in small groups” but also “the staff is larger than it used to be.”

Plurals construed as singular: Some formally plural nouns, such as *news*, are construed as singular in normal usage. A title that has a plural form (such as *The Grapes of Wrath*) takes a singular verb if it refers to a single work, and some names of organizations or political entities may be construed as singular even though they have a plural form. For example, the phrase *the Cayman Islands* may be singular when referring to the country as a political entity and plural when referring to the islands as multiple pieces of land.

Singular verbs that could appear plural: For most English verbs (with the notable exception of *to be*), the infinitive is the same as the present plural, and the present subjunctive for all persons is the same as the infinitive. Furthermore, the singular past subjunctive is the same as the plural. Thus, there is a risk that at first glance a correct verb form used with a singular subject may appear plural. “The researcher suspend further testing” and “I were you” would be incorrect as complete sentences, but in the following sentences they are in the subjunctive mood and are correct: “We considered it imperative that the researcher suspend further testing.” “I wouldn’t do that if I were you.” As a complete sentence, “The mayor attend the hearings” would be incorrect, but in the sentence, “In none of these cases will either the councilor or the mayor attend the hearings,” the verb form is correct; it is an infinitive preceded by the auxiliary verb *will*.

Some issues that are not tested:

The following are a few examples of issues that are outside the scope of the agreement-related Sentence Correction questions.

Especially in informal discourse, the plural pronoun *they* and related forms *them*, *their*, and *theirs* are sometimes used as nonspecific, genderless ways of referring to a singular person. Consider, for example, “Somebody left their notebook on the conference room table.” The reasoning surrounding such usage and the alternatives (*he*, *she*, *she or he*, *she/he*) is complex and evolving. You should not expect to see questions that require you to judge which usage is preferable.

Although you should be able to recognize commonly used irregular plurals or special classes of plurals (such as *phenomena*, *cacti*, *genera*), you will not be asked to correct an improper plural spelling. For example, you will not be asked to correct “the genuses are” to “the genera are.”

You will also not be expected to know whether certain highly technical terms or local organization names take singular or plural verbs and pronouns unless the context makes it clear whether they are singular or plural. For example, those who are very familiar with the Centers for Disease Control (a U.S. government organization) will know that it is normally referred to in the singular, but others would not be able to determine this merely from seeing the name.

Diction

Sentences that are structurally well formed can still be confusing, or can make the writer seem inept, if the words are not chosen appropriately and effectively. Effective diction involves using the right part of speech and observing other conventions regarding which words to use in which contexts. Word choices involving agreement and verb form may also be thought of partly as matters of diction, but they are treated separately under the Agreement and Verb Form headings. The diction issues you may encounter in Sentence Correction are too many and varied to list here, but here are a few salient categories into which risks of ineffective diction may fall:

Parts of speech: Even accomplished writers sometimes accidentally use an inappropriate part of speech, such as an adjective where an adverb is needed or a preposition where a conjunction is needed.

Examples:

Correct: “I could **easily** tell that the cat was friendly.”

Incorrect: “I could **easy** tell that the cat was friendly.”

Correct: “The concerto was **beautiful**.”

Incorrect: “The concerto was **beautifully**.”

Pronoun cases: Pronouns should be in the right case. A writer might compromise clarity by using a subject form of a pronoun as an object or vice versa or a reflexive pronoun in a nonreflexive context.

Examples:

Correct: “**She** and her friend were walking in the park.”

Incorrect: “**Her** and her friend were walking in the park.”

Correct: “We sent an email to **them**.”

Incorrect: “We sent an email to **they**.”

Correct: “I gave **him** a good performance rating.”

Incorrect: “I gave **himself** a good performance rating.”

Counting and quantifying: Although the conventions for quantification of mass nouns and count nouns have some subtle complexities, keep in mind the general rule that mass nouns are quantified by an amount, whereas count nouns are quantified by numbers or by words (such as *many*) that indicate multiple units. Except in certain technical mathematical contexts, *less* and *least* are typically reserved for comparisons of amount or degree, whereas *fewer* and *fewest* express comparisons of number. However, *more* and *most* are used for both comparisons of number and comparisons of degree. *Both* is appropriate only in referring to two entities or qualities.

Examples:

Correct: “We bought only a **small amount of** rice.” “She wished me **much happiness**.”

Incorrect: “We bought only **a few** rice.” “She wished me **many happinesses**.”

Correct: “**Fewer** deliveries arrived today than yesterday.”

Incorrect: “**Less** deliveries arrived today than yesterday.”

Correct: “**All five of the** trees in the garden need pruning.”

Incorrect: “**Both of the five** trees in the garden need pruning.”

Prepositions: Subtle differences of relationship are often expressed by different prepositions that function similarly to one another. Consider, for example, in/into/within, to/toward, on/onto/above, through/throughout, beside/besides, beside/along/against, and on/over/above.

Examples:

Correct: “We were standing **beside** the river.”

Incorrect: “We were standing **besides** the river.”

The incorrect version can also be thought of as displaying a problem of logical predication in that it appears to say illogically that the river was also standing.

Correct: “The editor was sitting **in** his office all afternoon.”

Incorrect: “The editor was sitting **into** his office all afternoon.”

Word choices that are inherently very simple and obvious can become a little more difficult in complex settings, and a Sentence Correction answer choice that appears appropriate on its own may not work when plugged into the larger sentence. In isolation, “distributed throughout” is recognizable as a standard phrase, but in the following sentence it does not make sense: “The computers were distributed throughout the generosity of a group of donors.” Replacing *throughout* with *through* solves the problem. The issue here is a matter not only of diction but also of logical predication: the wording causes the sentence to make an illogical claim about the computers.

“We were confident” is fine as a freestanding sentence, but it is nonsense in the following context: “The lawyer who consulted with we were confident that we could negotiate a settlement.” This displays combined problems of diction (*with we*), agreement (the plural *were* with the singular subject *lawyer*), and grammatical construction. “Us was confident” is strange out of context, but substituting *us was* for the offending part of the sentence solves the problem: “The lawyer who consulted with us was confident that we could negotiate a settlement.”

Some complicating factors to consider:

The following are only a few examples of the types of subtleties and complexities that may be involved in deciding what words are appropriate.

Potentially misleading grammatical constructions: In some contexts, a verb might superficially appear to require an adverb in the predicate position when in fact a predicate adjective is appropriate. For example, it is correct to say “the surface feels rough” rather than “the surface feels roughly.” “The animal does not smell well” means something very different from “the animal does not smell good.” Both can be correct depending on what the writer wants to convey.

Words ending in *ing* that are derived from verbs (such as *going*, *assessing*, and *hurting*) can often be either gerunds or participles. Generally, in carefully crafted formal writing, a pronoun or noun that modifies a gerund will be possessive (“The schedule depends on our receiving the materials on time,” not “depends on us receiving”). However, in similar constructions the *ing* word is intended as a participle with the noun or pronoun as its subject. This can be seen in the following two examples: (1) “I was concerned about my friend’s lying on the ground.” Here the focus of the concern is on the situation the friend was in. (2) “I was concerned about my friend lying on the ground.” In this case, the writer may intend the focus to be explicitly on the friend who was in that situation.

Words with multiple functions: In English, almost any noun can function as an adjective. Nouns that function also as verbs are well known (as in “she chaired the meeting” or “he tabled the motion”), but words that are not normally used as verbs can also be pressed into special service as verbs on an ad hoc basis. One could say, for example, “She plans to greenhouse her tender plants when the weather turns cold.” Some words regularly function as both adjectives and adverbs. One can say, for example, both “This is a hard job” and “We are working hard.” Likewise, *fast* is used correctly as both adjective and adverb in the following sentence: “This is not usually a fast train, but it is moving fast at this moment.”

Considerations in applying between and among: *Among* is generally not appropriate for relationships that involve only two entities. It is standard to say “the distance between my house and yours,” not “the distance among my house and yours.” *Among* is usually needed instead of *between* for relationships involving more than two entities, but there are exceptions. *Between* is sometimes the more accurate preposition to use where the relationship holds, independently, between each member of the group and some other member. Thus, for example, it would be appropriate to say, “In planning your trip to the five destinations, consider the distances between cities and the driving conditions you may encounter.”

Some issues that are not tested:

The following are a few examples of issues that are outside the scope of the diction-related Sentence Correction questions.

Which/that: Some American publishers have adopted the convention that *which*, used as a relative pronoun, should always be nonrestrictive and should be replaced with *that* in restrictive contexts (as in “laws which have been repealed are no longer enforced” versus “laws that have been repealed are no longer enforced”). You should not expect to see questions for which the deciding factor is merely whether the writer adheres to this convention.

Object words with to be: Some usage advisors prescribe the use of nominative (subject) pronouns in both the subject position and the object position with the verb *to be*. According to this convention, “If I were her, I would be happy to accept the job” is incorrect; it should be “If I were she, I would be happy to accept the job.” In some contexts, this latter form of expression could seem annoyingly stilted and pedantic and thus could violate other standards of effective expression. You should not expect to see questions for which the deciding factor is merely whether the writer adheres to this convention.

Slang, archaic diction, and words that are distinctively regional or limited to certain subsets of English: You will not be expected, for example, to correct *thou* or *you-all* to *you*, to understand that *skint* could be

paraphrased as *lacking resources*, to judge whether *mickle* is a synonym of *muckle* or whether either of these should be paraphrased with *large*, or to understand that *give* (a test) in some usages is synonymous with *take* (a test) in others.

Variant forms and spellings: You will not be asked to choose between variant forms that have the same function and meaning. Some examples of such variant pairs are: *whilst/while*, *toward/towards*, *until/till*, and *outward/outwards*.

Grammatical Construction

Many issues of agreement, verb form, parallelism, diction, and idiom can be described as matters of grammar, but those categories by no means cover the full range of grammar-related tasks in Sentence Correction. The Grammatical Construction category concerns issues of grammar that are not treated elsewhere in this classification scheme. For the most part, these are matters of syntax—the ways in which the elements of a sentence are arranged. Effective communication depends on shared understandings between the writer and reader about how the relative positions of words and phrases help convey meaning. A series of words and punctuation marks that does not follow predictable conventions of syntax can be puzzling, annoying, or even incomprehensible. Here are a few major principles guiding effective grammatical construction:

Complete structure: In English, a well-formed sentence or independent clause needs both a subject and a predicate containing a main verb.

Examples:

- Correct: “The shipping **company promised that** the package would be delivered on time.”
 Incorrect: “The shipping **company that** the package would be delivered on time.”

Here the main subject, *the shipping company*, has no verb; the only verb phrase, *would be delivered*, has *the package* as its subject and is embedded in the clause beginning with *that*.

Correct: “**In any case, the contract is** acceptable.”

Incorrect: “**In any case is** acceptable.” In this incorrect example, there is no discernible subject.

Correct: “**Rushing to defend its nest, the swan** pecked at the intruder.”

Incorrect: “**Rushing to defend its nest. The swan** pecked at the intruder.”

The first part of this incorrect example represents a stereotypical variety of incompletely formed sentence known as a sentence fragment. Sentence fragments are punctuated as sentences but are grammatically incomplete and often seem to be left stranded from a preceding or following sentence.

Clear and correct linkages and punctuation: For clarity of meaning, the elements of a sentence need to be linked to, and separated from, one another with standard punctuation and with appropriate links such as conjunctions and relative pronouns.

Examples:

- Correct: “The cupboard **contained two boxes of tea, a bag of rice, and a jar of pickles.**”
 Incorrect: “The cupboard **contained two boxes of tea a bag of rice, and contained a jar of pickles.**”

In this case, the structure is both ungrammatical and confusingly nonparallel. Issues of the latter type are discussed under the Parallelism heading below.

Correct: "The weather yesterday was **hot, and there were** thunderstorms in the evening."
 Incorrect: "The weather yesterday was **hot there were** thunderstorms in the evening."

Correct: "We should cancel the **cricket match; the rain will continue** all afternoon."
 Incorrect: "We should cancel the **cricket match the rain will continue**, all afternoon."

Proper ordering of words and phrases: A sentence whose components do not follow standard conventions for English governing the sequence of parts can be confusing and can make the writer appear unfamiliar with the language.

Examples:

Correct: "The director's name is Juan."
 Incorrect: "Is Juan, the director's name."

Correct: "The geranium has outgrown its pot and will need to be transplanted to a larger container."
 Incorrect: "Outgrown its pot to a larger container and the geranium will need to be transplanted."

Correct: "Please call me tomorrow to discuss the contract."
 Incorrect: "To discuss me please the contract tomorrow call."

This is an extreme case of obviously ungrammatical word arrangement. Incoherent word sequences such as this are sometimes described as "word salad." To the extent that this example makes any sense, it also appears illogically to be asking someone to telephone a contract and thus displays a problem of logical predication (discussed later under that heading).

To see how an answer choice affects a sentence's grammatical construction, you may need to analyze the relationship between widely separated parts. Consider the sentence, "If you clean the filter before it becomes so clogged that it impedes the flow can prevent costly repairs in the long run." It is important to see that the main verb phrase is *can prevent*; the intervening verbs are embedded in the clause modifying *clean the filter*. The opening phrase, *if you clean . . .* is not grammatically structured to function as a subject, but if that phrase is replaced with *cleaning*, the sentence becomes well-formed and makes sense: "Cleaning the filter before it becomes so clogged that it impedes the flow can prevent costly repairs in the long run." The problem with *if you clean* involves both grammatical construction and verb form (discussed later under that heading).

Consider also the following ungrammatical sentence: "The headphones provided with the audio player that **although she bought them last year, they never worked.**" The phrase "she bought last year never worked" would be ungrammatical in isolation, but if substituted for the boldface phrase, it makes the sentence grammatically correct: "The headphones provided with the audio player that **she bought last year never worked.**" The crucial relationship here is between the opening words (*the headphones*) and the final phrase of the sentence.

Some complicating factors to consider:

Idiomatic constructions: Some idiomatic wording formats, especially those that use parallel structure to express comparisons, are widely treated as well-formed sentences even though they do not follow the basic conventions of grammatical construction. Some examples are: "The greater the thread count, the higher the price." "Better a small nutritious meal than a large unwholesome one." "Here today, gone tomorrow."

Inverted structures: In contemporary English, standard sentence structure puts subjects ahead of their verbs, but there are many exceptions for special purposes, including some quotations, negative constructions, and questions. Each of the following is readily recognizable as a well-formed sentence: “Tell me about it,” said his uncle.” “Were you at the meeting?” “In neither case could I find the needed information.”

Elliptical constructions: In informal contexts and in many formal contexts where economy of words and smoothness of flow are key considerations, certain sentence elements may be omitted when the writer’s intent is entirely clear without them. For example, *that* is often omitted at the start of a relative clause, as in “The film I saw last night was boring” or “I was afraid they might be angry.” It is also often considered acceptable to omit infinitive verbs in some cases to avoid awkward repetition, with the preposition *to* left dangling, as in “I reviewed the report even though I didn’t want to.”

Some issues that are not tested:

The following are a few examples of issues that are outside the scope of the grammatical-construction-related Sentence Correction questions.

Fragments that function as complete sentences in special contexts: A group of words that has no subject or no verb can sometimes stand as a well-formed sentence. “No” can be a complete sentence in answer to a stated or hypothetical question, as can “The one on the left.” Similarly, a clause beginning with a conjunction and not followed by any other clause can sometimes be an acceptable sentence, as, for example, “Because the delivery was late.” Exclamations such as “Not again!” are also complete and well formed in special contexts. You should not expect to see a Sentence Correction question that appears likely to be drawn from a context in which it is intended to function in any of these ways or as a headline, title, or line of poetry.

Punctuation as editorial style: You will need to judge issues of punctuation only insofar as they involve standard conventions that make a difference for the meaning and coherence of the sentence. Beyond the basic grammatical principles, some punctuation conventions vary by region or academic discipline, are matters of pure style, or are determined by publishers or editors for their own purposes. You will not need to judge, for example, whether a comma should be inside or outside a closing quotation mark, whether emphasis should be indicated by italics, or whether an apostrophe should be inserted before the *s* in a plural non-word such as *IOUs/IOU’s* or *1980s/1980’s*.

Idiom

Idioms are standard forms of expression that consist of ordinary words but whose uses cannot be inferred from the meanings of their component parts or the basic conventions of grammar and usage. There is ultimately no logical reason why English speakers say “on average” rather than “at average” or “depending on” rather than “depending from.” This is simply how we do things. Thus, knowing idiomatic constructions is rather like knowing vocabulary words. Accidentally using the wrong combination of words in an idiomatic construction or structuring a phrase in an unidiomatic way can make it difficult for readers to discern the writer’s intended meaning. Here are a few major categories of idiomatic wording issues that you may encounter in Sentence Correction:

Prepositions with abstract concepts: For abstract concepts, there is no top, bottom, inside, or outside, yet with these we often use the same prepositions that denote spatial relationships between concrete objects. There are some patterns, but for the most part knowing which preposition to use with which abstract noun or verb depends on familiarity. The idiomatic pairings of prepositions with abstract concepts are far too many and varied to list here. A few illustrations are: *in love*, *different from* (also different *to* in British usage), *in a while*, *on guard*, *at work*.

Examples:

Correct: "With regard to your party invitation, I may not be able to go, because I will be **on call** at the clinic that evening."

Incorrect: "On regard with your party invitation, I may not be able to go, because I will be **in call** at the clinic that evening."

Correct: "The cost of the repairs will **depend on** what clever solutions the contractors **come up with**."

Incorrect: "The cost of the repairs will **depend from** what clever solutions the contractors **come out through**."

Correlatives: Certain standard correlative structures provide economical ways of expressing relationships between concepts. For example, it can be more efficient to say "Neither she nor he is going" than to say "He is not going, and she is also not going." However, if such structures are not skillfully handled in accordance with standard conventions, they can be puzzling and misleading. Other examples of such idiomatic correlative structures are *as . . . as*, *more/less/greater/smaller/etc. . . . than*, and *not only . . . but also*.

Examples:

Correct: "Neither the pomegranates **nor** the melons have arrived yet from the vendor."

Incorrect: "Neither the pomegranates have arrived yet **neither** the melons from the vendor."

Correct: "She was almost **as** sure that if we installed this system it would fail **as** that we would need some such system."

Incorrect: "She was almost **as** sure that if we installed this system it would fail **than** that we would need some such system."

Correct: "The prolonged drought is stressing **not only** the rabbits **but also** the wallabies."

Incorrect: "The prolonged drought is stressing the rabbits, **not** the wallabies **just only**."

Verb phrases: Many combinations of verbs with adverbs or prepositions, or with both adverbs and prepositions, have conventional meanings that do not follow directly from the meanings of their component parts. These include such phrases as *give up*, *give up on*, *come through with*, *come up*, *come up with*, *come down with*, *do without*, *have at*, *get over*, *get on with*, *go through*, *go through with*, and *get through with*. Similarly, there are many idiomatic combinations of verb and object, such as *have had it*, *make waves*, *make one's mark*, and *put one's finger on*.

Examples:

Correct: "The investigator has **given up on** determining what **happened to** the missing funds."

Incorrect: "The investigator has **given through over** determining what **happened on** the missing funds."

Correct: "When they checked the patient's temperature, it **turned out** that he was **running a fever**."

Incorrect: "When they checked the patient's temperature, it **veered off** that he was **doing a fever**."

Pronouns with no reference: English requires stated subjects in most sentences with active verb forms. Where there is no real subject, one uses specific referentless placeholder pronouns: *it* and *there*.

Examples:

Correct: "**It was raining** yesterday."

Incorrect: "**They were raining** yesterday."

Correct: “**There are** several reasons to prefer this theory over the proposed alternative.”
 Incorrect: “**Several reasons are** to prefer this theory over the proposed alternative.”

Compound modifiers: Some adverbs and adjectives are idiomatically built out of multiple words. A few examples are: *all in all*, *by and by*, *by and large*, *on the whole*, *through and through*, *on the up and up*, and *on the other hand* (sometimes, but not always, correlated with *on the one hand*).

Examples:

Correct: “She listened to the radio **off and on** throughout the day.”
 Incorrect: “She listened to the radio **off but again on** throughout the day.”

Correct: “You wondered whether anyone would mention you at the meeting; **in fact**, two people **did so**.”
 Incorrect: “You wondered whether anyone would mention you at the meeting; **in the fact**, two people **did thus and so**.”

Idiom-related problems do not always involve identifying malformed idioms. Sometimes the crucial insight may involve determining which of multiple idiomatic meanings is intended or whether a phrase should be treated as an idiom or a non-idiom. The meaning of the sentence “She asked for information **on** purpose of the order I had submitted” is unclear. However, a plausible hypothesis is that the writer meant to say “information *on* the purpose,” with *on* serving as an informal equivalent of *regarding*. On that reading, the apparent use of the idiom *on purpose* results from an accidental juxtaposition of the two words. Substituting a phrase such as *regarding the* for the boldface word *on* can turn this into a meaningful, well-formed sentence: “She asked for information **regarding the** purpose of the order I had submitted.”

In the following sentence, *as long as* could appear at first glance to refer to a length of time: “We should be able to restart our assembly line tomorrow **as long as receiving** the replacement parts today.” However, on that interpretation the temporal relationship does not make sense. The sentence can be made coherent by replacing *receiving* with *we receive*, but doing so requires reinterpreting the phrase *as long as* so that it functions as an idiom equivalent to *provided that*. The sentence then becomes “We should be able to restart our assembly line tomorrow **as long as we receive** the replacement parts today.”

Some complicating factors to consider:

Here are just a few of the many subtleties that one may encounter in judging whether idiomatic usages are correct and effective:

Similar phrases often have very different idiomatic uses and meanings; consider, for example, *come through with*, *come down with*, and *come up with*. Some idiomatic preposition-plus-noun phrases have alternate forms. For example, it is correct to say either “with regard to” or “in regard to.” Many idiomatic phrases have multiple meanings, which are not always similar. For example, *come out with* in some contexts means *express* and in others *publish* or *begin marketing*.

For many idiomatic expressions, there are special exceptions to the standard forms. For example, *not only . . . but* phrases are standardly completed with *also*, but there are special cases in which *also* is unnecessary or misleading. This can be seen in the following sentence: “Surprisingly, the endangered species was found not only at the lowest elevations but throughout the entire valley.” If the lowest elevations referred to are in the valley, *but also* would misleadingly seem to indicate that the entire valley was a separate category rather than a more general category encompassing the lower elevations.

Words that form standard pairs, such as *neither* and *nor*, often have other meanings and uses as well. In some contexts, *neither* or *nor* might appear at first glance to need the other term. However, *neither* often

occurs as an adjective (as in “neither book has been opened”), a pronoun (as in “neither of them has been opened”), or a freestanding clause negator (as in “My supervisor is not fond of filing reports, but neither am I”). Similarly, *nor* can occur without *neither* (as in “None of the strata in the escarpment were fractured in the earthquake, nor were any of the exposed formations displaced”).

Some issues that are not tested:

GMAT Sentence Correction questions neither assess nor presuppose knowledge of obsolete forms of idiomatic expression, highly specialized technical jargon, distinctive dialect constructions, or slang idioms that have not become standard forms of expression.

Logical Predication

Correct grammar is by no means the only type of structural relationship that matters for effective communication. Logical relationships among sentence elements are also crucial. A writer may accidentally structure a completely grammatical sentence in a way that has unintended meanings or implications. Issues of logical predication intersect with all the other categories discussed here and are involved in many of the Sentence Correction questions. Here are a few ways in which they may occur:

Position and scope of modifiers: Modifiers should be positioned so it is clear what word or words they are meant to modify. If modifiers are not positioned clearly, they can cause illogical references or comparisons or otherwise distort the meaning of the sentence.

Examples:

Correct: “I put **the cake that I baked** by the door.”

Incorrect: “I put the cake by **the door that I baked**.”

Although the better-worded version contains the potentially ambiguous phrase *I baked by the door*, the meaning is made clear by the fact that *put the cake* requires completion by an indication of where or how the cake was put. Therefore, *by the door* binds to the verb *put*.

Correct: “**Concerned that the snake might be venomous, the workers** left it in the crate untouched.”

Incorrect: “**Concerned that it might be venomous, the snake** was left untouched by **the workers in the crate**.”

Pronoun-antecedent relationships: A misplaced pronoun can bind to the wrong noun, pronoun, or noun phrase and thus create an unintended meaning.

Examples:

Correct: “The baker informed the customers **that the cakes were moldy** and would have to be discarded.”

Incorrect: “The baker informed **the customers that they were moldy** and the cakes would have to be discarded.”

Correct: “**After reviewing** the report from the consultants, **the company** may consider changing the logo.”

Incorrect: “**After it has reviewed** the report from the consultants, **the logo** may be considered for changing by the company.”

Compatibility of concepts: Careless wording can cause a predicate to say something inconsistent with the nature of the subject and vice versa.

Examples:

Correct: “The **three types** of wildlife most often seen in the park are sparrows, mallards, and squirrels, **in that order.**”

Incorrect: “The **single** most often **type** of wildlife seen in the park is the sparrow, the mallard, and the squirrel, **in that order.**”

Correct: “Stock prices **rose** abruptly today **to an all-time high.**”

Incorrect: “Stock prices **dropped** abruptly today **to an all-time high.**”

Ellipses and extraneous elements: Omission of a crucial word or phrase or inclusion of an extraneous element can shift the subject to an unintended element while leaving the sentence grammatically well formed. Accidents of this sort can also make an unintended noun or pronoun the subject or object of a verb.

Examples:

Correct: “Work on the stadium renovations **is temporarily** at a standstill.”

Incorrect: “Work on the stadium renovations **is temporarily** a standstill.”

Here the omission of *at* causes the sentence to make an illogical claim about the work (that it is a standstill).

Correct: “**The car was traveling** slowly along the highway.”

Incorrect: “**The car's speed was traveling** slowly along the highway.”

The redundant reference to speed causes this sentence to say, absurdly, that the speed was traveling along the highway.

Reversed relationships: An unintended meaning can result from accidentally or misguidedly reversing a relationship between sentence elements.

Examples:

Correct: “Last week’s unusually high sales of electric fans can almost certainly be **blamed on** the unseasonably hot weather.”

Incorrect: “Last week’s unusually high sales of electric fans can almost certainly be **blamed for** the unseasonably hot weather.”

This also involves an issue of idiomatic usage of prepositions (discussed under the Idiom category above).

Correct: “**Forecasters said the cold front** will move through the region tomorrow.”

Incorrect: “**Forecasters, said the cold front,** will move through the region tomorrow.”

Ambiguous words and phrases: Writers should be cautious in using words or phrases that have multiple standard meanings. Often the context makes it clear which meaning is intended, but sometimes it does not. Paraphrasing to rule out unwanted meanings can sometimes require adding words or increasing the structural complexity of a sentence.

Examples:

Correct: “She has studied Greek and **speaks** that language **in addition to** Gujarati.”

Incorrect: “She has studied Greek and **speaks it as well as** Gujarati.”

As well as is an entirely acceptable equivalent of *and also* or *in addition to*, but it can be an unfortunate choice of words for a context in which *well* makes perfect sense as an evaluative judgment. Since there is no firm basis for deciding which way the latter version is intended, an alternate correct version could be “She has studied Greek and speaks it as well as she speaks Gujarati.”

Correct: “Although visitors **are not permitted to** enter the loading docks, they **might** occasionally wander into the area.”

Incorrect: “Although visitors **may not** enter the loading docks, they **may** occasionally wander into the area.”

Here again, there is no firm basis for deciding which way the latter version is intended. In the incorrect version, both occurrences of *may* could mean either *are permitted to* or *might*.

Few incorrect answers in actual Sentence Correction questions will be as easy to dismiss as the most obvious of these illustrative examples. Most logical predication decisions will require careful analysis of the relationships between the answer choice and the nonunderlined portions of the sentence. Be alert for all types of problematic relationships among sentence parts, not just for stereotypical dangling modifiers.

Some complicating factors to consider:

Given that all Sentence Correction questions are presented out of context, there may be no basis for certainty about which of several possible interpretations the writer intended to convey. You will not be given multiple equally good versions of a sentence and asked to guess which one accurately represents the writer’s true intention. In principle, almost any illogically constructed sentence could be intended to convey a bizarre meaning. One could hypothesize that the writer of the first example under *Position and scope of modifiers* really did intend to say that she or he had baked the door. Even on that hypothesis, the most reasonable judgment for Sentence Correction purposes would be that the sentence is poorly constructed. A careful writer who wants to convey a straightforward message should make it clear that the unusual meaning is the intended one instead of leading the reader to believe that she or he is ineptly trying to convey the more plausible meaning.

Some issues that are not tested:

Occasionally, you may find a poorly worded version of a sentence amusing. However, you should not expect to see Sentence Correction sentences that can be most charitably interpreted as jokes. Among the answer choices, there will always be a serious way of resolving ambiguities and illogical meanings.

Parallelism

Words or phrases that have similar roles in a sentence should be treated in ways that make the similarity clear. This often requires ensuring that parallel clauses have parallel structure, that verbs having the same function are in the same form, and that elements within the scope of a modifier all relate to the modifier in the same way. Here are some major categories in which parallelism can be an issue:

Elements of a series: Where the elements of a series all have the same role or function, they should be in parallel form.

Examples:

Correct: “I **ate** supper, **went** for a walk, and then **visited** some friends.”

Incorrect: “I **ate** supper, then **walking**, and then **visitation** of some friends.”

Correct: “She tackled the problem **calmly, efficiently, and analytically.**”

Incorrect: “She tackled the problem **calmly, by being efficient in tackling it, and was analytic.**”

In both these examples, the nonparallel version is also awkward and wordy. Problems of these types are further discussed under the category of rhetorical construction.

Correlations and comparisons: The sides of a correlative structure often need parallel treatment to make the relationship clear and accurate.

Examples:

Correct: “We are neither **planning to** hire any new developers nor **trying to** find ways to reduce the workloads of the current staff.”

Incorrect: “We are planning neither **to hire** any new developers nor **attempts at finding ways to** reduce workloads of the current staff.”

Correct: “We were impressed not only **by the** beauty of the inlets and beaches but also **by the** diversity of the plant life.”

Incorrect: “We were impressed not only **by the** beauty of the inlets and beaches but also **the diversity of** the plant life **impressed us.**”

Issues of scope and repetition of elements: To determine what elements of a sentence should be made parallel to each other, it is sometimes necessary to determine how much of the wording should fall within the scope of a verb, preposition, or modifier. The scope may determine which elements need to be in parallel form and whether certain elements need to be repeated. Issues of this type overlap with those illustrated above.

Examples:

Correct: “He mended the torn fabric with **a needle and thread.**”

Incorrect: “He **mended** the torn fabric **with a needle and mended** it **with thread.**”

Assuming that the needle and thread were used together as a unit, the repetition of *with* misrepresents the relationship. In the correct version, the parallelism is between the two nouns, which are both within the scope of *mended with*. In the incorrect version, the parallelism is between the two verb phrases *mended with . . .* and *mended with . . .*

Correct: “He **punched holes** in the decoration **with a needle** and **tied** it to the lamp **with thread.**”

Incorrect: “He **punched holes** in and **tied** the decoration to the lamp **with a needle and thread.**”

Correct: “The house that was **on fire** was **on the list** of historically significant buildings.”

Incorrect: “The house was **on fire and the list** of historically significant buildings.”

On functions so differently in the two phrases that it makes no sense to subsume both the fire and the list under a single occurrence of the preposition. Therefore, we need the repetition of *on*.

Correct: “The mixture contains **dates, raisins, and figs.**”

Incorrect: “The mixture **contains** dates, **contains** raisins, and **contains** figs.”

The correct version has a parallelism among the three objects of the verb *contains*. In the incorrect version, the verb is awkwardly repeated, creating an unnecessary parallelism among three verb phrases. This also displays a problem of rhetorical construction.

Corresponding series: Where the elements of one series are supposed to correspond to those of another series, the order of elements in each series should parallel the order of elements in the other. This parallelism can help prevent confusion about how the two series relate to each other without using cumbersome repetition.

Example:

Correct: "Last week we had four meetings, of which the **first, second, and third** were on **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday** and the last on Friday."

Incorrect: "Last week we had four meetings, of which the last was on Friday, with the **first, second, and third** being on **Thursday, Tuesday, and Wednesday**."

Grammatical considerations: Some requirements of parallelism, including some of those illustrated above, are also requirements of grammatical construction.

Examples:

Correct: "If **the warranty has expired, we will have to pay** for the repairs."

Incorrect: "If **the warranty has expired, our paying** for the repairs."

In the correct version, the two sides of the conditional are parallel in that each is a complete clause with a subject and predicate.

Correct: "**The shipping delays** and **the two-day closure** have caused a backlog of orders."

Incorrect: "**The shipping delays** and **we were closed** for two days have caused a backlog of orders."

To function properly as subjects of *have caused*, both of the stated causes need to be in the form of noun phrases.

Some complicating factors to consider:

Problems of idiomatic structure and of logical predication sometimes involve parallelism as well.

The following sentence displays all three: "Not only the CEO, and also the executive vice president's proposed policies, have been distributed to the relevant people in middle management." In presenting a faulty parallelism between the *not only* term and the *and also* term, it appears illogically to claim that the CEO has been distributed. It also falls short of the clarity that could be achieved with a more standardly idiomatic *not only . . . but also* structure.

Agreement, as discussed under that heading above, represents a special kind of parallelism. For example, where a singular noun and a pronoun refer to the same thing, the two terms should be parallel in both being singular, and when a verb has a plural subject, the two should be parallel in both being plural. However, in the Sentence Correction classification scheme, agreement is treated as a distinct category. Thus, agreement-related answer explanations in section 9.9 of this book will not automatically carry the parallelism label as well.

Some issues that are not tested:

Sentence Correction questions do not require decisions about purely aesthetic or decorative types of parallelism. For example, you will not be asked to decide whether a rhymed pair such as *highways and byways* would be preferable to another phrase that is equivalent in meaning and function.

Rhetorical Construction

A sentence that is grammatically and idiomatically correct and conforms to good standards of parallelism and logical predication may still be unclear or annoying or may appear ineptly written. Rhetorical construction problems arise in many ways, including the following.

Economy of wording: Superfluous words or unneeded punctuation, pointless redundancies, or convoluted structures that do not enhance precision and adequacy of detail can make a sentence confusing or simply annoying.

Examples:

Correct: “Bananas are almost always harvested green and allowed to ripen in transit or on supermarket shelves.”

Incorrect: “With regard to the ways in which people harvest bananas, people almost always harvest such fruits—fruits of the banana variety—in a green condition, and since the thus-harvested bananas have a low ripeness level, people allow these unripe future-delectable-golden morsels to do their ripening while traveling ensconced in cargo devices after harvest, or even when, after transit, they have landed serenely on supermarket shelves.”

Correct: “We will carefully review your memo and let you know whether we are interested in the solutions you propose.”

Incorrect: “We will ‘review’—i.e., carefully scrutinize—your memo submitted, letting you know, vis-à-vis the memo’s contained proposal details, whether there is interest, on our part, or not, in those.”

Precision and adequacy of detail: Wording that is too vague, sparse, indeterminate, or incomplete can fail to effectively communicate the intended message. Precision often requires the inclusion of details and qualifying phrases. How much specificity and qualification are required depends on the purpose of the communication. Scientific and legal contexts, for example, often require far more precision than do casual communications between friends.

Examples:

Correct: “In medical diagnosis, influenza can be understood as an acute respiratory infection caused by any of the influenza viruses.”

Incorrect: “In medical diagnosis, influenza can be understood as when a virus affects you.”

Correct: “The contractor shall deliver the completed materials, as defined in Section 5 of this agreement, no later than the thirtieth calendar day after the date on which the signed and ratified contract is distributed to the contracting parties.”

Incorrect: “The contractor shall finish taking the actions for relevant agreement sections in a month of distribution and related events.”

The latter version of this sentence is indisputably badly constructed and very vague. The judgment that the former version is acceptable is based on the adequacy of the wording for the apparently intended purpose, but there is no way to tell, without background information, whether it refers to the right agreement section or delivery deadline.

Active and passive voice: The better-worded version of the “banana” sentence above uses passive verbs (*are harvested and [are] allowed*). Passive voice is a means of bringing the object of a verb into the subject position. It can sometimes be more straightforward and economical than active voice where the cause of an effect is unknown or irrelevant. However, passive-voice constructions are often objectionably vague, awkward, or indirect.

Examples:

Correct: "We **had** lunch in the hotel and then **spent** the afternoon **looking** at paintings and sculptures in the museum."

Incorrect: "Lunch **was had** in the hotel **by** us before the afternoon **was spent** in the museum where there were paintings and sculptures **being looked at**."

Correct: "The fruits **are left** to dry for two weeks and then **collected**, **sorted**, and **packaged** for shipment."

Incorrect: "**Relevant people leave** the fruits to dry for two weeks, and then **people, devices, and systems collect** and sort them and package them before **someone or something ships** them."

Other types of awkwardness and inelegance: Problems of rhetorical construction take many different forms, some of which do not fall neatly into standard categories.

Examples:

Correct: "As expected, she did the job very well."

Incorrect: "Expectedly, the goodness of her doing the job was considerable."

Correct: "She hoped that humans would be able to explore some of the planets in other solar systems."

Incorrect: "Her hope was for other solar systems' planets' possible human exploration."

Some complicating factors to consider:

Because rhetorical construction is one of the points tested in Sentence Correction, some people might be tempted to guess that shorter answer choices are a safer bet than longer ones. Wordiness is a stereotypical feature of some inelegant writing, and teachers and writing coaches often emphasize conciseness as a goal. Conversely, some might guess that a longer version or one with more qualifiers and caveats is more likely correct. No such guessing strategy is justified. Sentence Correction questions are designed to represent a wide range of issues. Highly professional expert question writers and test assemblers would be extremely unlikely to create predictable patterns that could be exploited in guessing. There is simply no substitute for careful analysis and understanding of the content of each question and answer choice.

Some issues that are not tested:

Sentence Correction questions do not require judgments about rhetorical appropriateness that depend on knowledge of highly technical or specialized vocabulary or syntax. Similarly, you should not expect to see questions for which the deciding factor is merely whether the writer uses jargon or buzzwords. For example, you would not be asked to determine whether *contact* might be preferable to *reach out to*—or whether *sunsetting* might be an effective substitute for *phasing out*—in a sentence such as: "I will reach out to various stakeholders to leverage decisions about the timeframe for phasing out the product."

Verb Form

Verbs should be in the right tenses and moods and should have the right relationships to other verbs. Uses of infinitives and participles should follow standard conventions so that the intended meanings are clear. Some of the problems posed in Sentence Correction questions involve choices among verb tenses, but many are concerned with other verb-form issues. Here are some categories in which verb-form problems may occur:

Temporal relationships: Because Sentence Correction questions are presented without any context, it is sometimes impossible to tell when they were written or whether the events they refer to were in the

past, present, or future from the writer's point of view. Therefore, to the extent that verb tenses are at issue, they are often a matter of internal coherence of the parts of the sentence.

Examples:

Correct: "Chili peppers **belong** to the Solanaceae family of flowering plants."

Incorrect: "Chili peppers **are belonging** to the Solanaceae family of flowering plants."

The present progressive form is used unidiomatically in the incorrect version. That form indicates that the event or condition referred to is ongoing at the time of writing and may not continue. The simple present form *belong* is coherent with the permanence and timelessness of the stated fact.

Correct: "I am looking forward to my stay in Tianjin, a city that I **have never visited** before."

Incorrect: "I am looking forward to my stay in Tianjin, a city that I **will never visited** before."

In the correct version, the present perfect form *have never visited* effectively describes the writer's relationship to unspecified times in the past. In the incorrect version, the future form *will* is incompatible with the past-looking perspective indicated by *before* and *visited*.

Correct: "When the researcher **begins** the next phase of the experiment, she **will have been working** on the experiment for six weeks."

Incorrect: "When the researcher **will begin** the next phase of the experiment, she **had been working** on the experiment for six weeks."

The simple present, as used in the correct version, is the appropriate way in English to express a future event on which another future event is predicated. One could similarly use the present perfect *has begun*, which would have a slightly different nuance of meaning. In the incorrect version, *when . . . will begin* is unidiomatic, and the past perfect *had been working* makes no sense in this future context.

Correct: "When I **arrived** at the office, my colleagues **had** already **left**."

Incorrect: "When I **arrived** at the office, my colleagues **will** already **have been leaving**."

In the correct version, the past perfect form *had left* clearly indicates that the action of leaving was already completed at the past time referred to by the simple past form *arrived*. In the incorrect version, the future perfect progressive form makes no sense in relation to the overall past setting established by the verb *arrived*.

Conditionals and subjunctives: Conditional verb forms referring to conjectural or counterfactual events are typically created with the auxiliary *would*. *Would* constructions often require the antecedent (the "if" clause) to be in subjunctive form, but subjunctives have other purposes as well. Although English uses subjunctives less commonly than do some other languages, such forms are sometimes needed to clarify the meaning of a sentence. They appear in prescriptive and conjectural contexts and make no commitment to whether an action will occur. Consider the difference between the following two sentences: "It is important that he eats high-calorie meals." "It is important that he eat high-calorie meals." The former presupposes that the person actually does eat such meals, and it says that the fact that he does so is important. Using the subjunctive form, the latter prescribes his eating high-calorie meals but makes no commitment to whether he actually does so. For some persons and tenses, the subjunctive is indistinguishable from the past or some other indicative forms.

Examples:

Correct: "If the piano **needed** tuning, I would pay to have that done, but I don't believe it needs tuning."

Incorrect: "When the piano **will need** tuning, I would pay to have that done, but I don't believe it needs tuning."

Correct: “**Were** the piano out of tune, **I would pay** to have it tuned.”

Incorrect: “**The piano be** out of tune, **I pay** to have it tuned.”

Correct: “If the piano **is** out of tune, **I will pay** to have it tuned.”

Incorrect: “If the piano **were** out of tune, **I am going to pay** to have it tuned.”

Auxiliary verbs.: English uses auxiliary verbs for many purposes, some of which are mentioned in the discussions of temporal relationships and conditionals above. For effective communication, the use of auxiliary verbs should conform to standard conventions.

Examples:

Correct: “**Does the professor teach** that course often?”

Incorrect: “**Teaches** the professor that course often?”

In contemporary English, interrogative forms of most verbs are created using appropriate forms of the auxiliary verb *to do*. The simple inversion of subject and verb seen in the incorrect version is an obsolete form.

Correct: “We **cannot** find the website you recommended.”

Incorrect: “We **do not can** find the website you recommended.”

Can is a modal verb whose negative and interrogative forms are not created with *do*. Furthermore, *can* is one of a few verbs that have no infinitive form; its infinitive is expressed by a phrase such as *to be able*.

Correct: “The new book **might** turn out **to be** a best seller.”

Incorrect: “The new book **might will** turn out **being** a best seller.”

Treatment of participles, gerunds, and infinitives: Present participles (such as *finding* and *taking*) are used with the verb *to be* to express progressive verb forms (*is finding*, *had been taking*). They also function as modifiers in phrases such as “he bought the book, hoping he would like it” and as nouns in phrases such as “his buying the book was unexpected.” When used as nouns, they are known as gerunds. Past participles (such as *found* and *taken*) are used with the verb *to have* to express perfect verb forms (*has found*, *will have taken*). They also function as adjectives in phrases such as “the book published last year” and “the plant is withered.” The infinitive form is used for verbs that are modified by other verbs. With some modifying verbs, the infinitive must be preceded by *to*. With other verbs (certain modal and auxiliary verbs) it must not. With yet others (such as *help*, *go*, and *need*) it can be used either with or without *to*. Infinitives can be treated as nouns, serving as subjects or objects of verbs, as in “to laugh at one’s own mistakes can be therapeutic.”

Examples:

Correct: “**Having** nowhere else to go, **I wandered** through the airport all day.”

Incorrect: “**My having** nowhere else to go **wandered** through the airport all day.”

In that the incorrect version makes *having* the subject of *wandered*, it also exemplifies a problem of logical predication (discussed under that heading above).

Correct: “**Widely disliked**, the software went unused.”

Incorrect: “**To have widely disliked it**, the software went unused.”

Like the one above, this example contains a problem of both verb form and logical predication.

Correct: “You **must make** the reservation at least two days in advance.”

Incorrect: “You **must to make** the reservation at least two days in advance.”

Correct: “My colleague **went to find** another microphone.”

Incorrect: “My colleague **went find** another microphone.”

Although such expressions as *go find* and *go get* are standard, they are unidiomatic in affirmative past tenses, which require the preposition *to* with the infinitive (“went to find”).

Some complicating factors to consider:

English verb forms and surrounding idiomatic wording conventions have many peculiarities and nuances. The following are reminders of just a few such complications.

It is important to keep in mind that the subtleties of how English tenses are used cannot always be inferred from the names of the tenses. For example, in some other European languages, actions that are currently occurring are indicated by the simple present tense. English typically uses the present progressive form for that purpose, as in “The dog is barking” or “The car is running.” The simple present tense in English is typically reserved instead for events and conditions that occur at indefinite or unspecified times or that recur, as in “Dogs bark for various reasons” or “The car runs on unleaded fuel.”

“Going to (do or happen)” is a standard way of expressing the future tense, but unlike in French, there is no parallel form “coming from (doing or happening).” To indicate that an action was recently completed, English uses the idiom *has/have/had just*, as in “I had just finished composing the email.”

The preposition *to* has many different uses in combination with verbs. These differences can sometimes lead to ambiguous constructions and potential confusion. Stereotypically, *to* before a verb is thought of as an infinitive marker, but it can also indicate purpose or intention. Thus, for example, “I need your truck to haul the boxes” is indeterminate between two meanings. More precise expressions of these could be “I need your truck so that I can haul the boxes” and “It is essential for me that your truck haul the boxes.” The latter may seem very formal but could be appropriate where precision is needed. *To* with a verb can also be prescriptive, as in “The borrower is to pay a fine if the materials are not returned by the due date,” or simply predictive, as in “The visitors are to arrive soon.” It can even express a past tense in a construction such as “but I was never to see him again” or “she was the last one to leave the building.”

Shall also has multiple meanings. As a simple future-tense indicator, it is an alternative to *will* for first person verbs (“I shall tell you about it tomorrow”). However, it can also be used prescriptively, similarly to *must*, as in “The borrower shall pay a fine if the materials are not returned by the due date.”

Some issues that are not tested:

You may hear that some usage advisors object to placing anything between *to* and an infinitive verb, as in “to finally reach the destination.” You should not expect to see Sentence Correction questions for which the deciding factor is merely whether the writer follows this advice. However, you might encounter a sentence that is awkward and unclear because too many words—or words that would go better elsewhere—are crammed in between the preposition and the verb. This occurs in the following sentence: “I try to remember to scrupulously every day before I leave work log off my computer.” This is an issue of general unclarity and inelegance falling under the heading of rhetorical construction, and not a mere case of “split infinitive.”

9.3 Study Suggestions

There are two basic ways you can study for sentence correction questions:

- **Read material that reflects standard usage.**

One way to gain familiarity with the basic conventions of standard written English is simply to read. Suitable material will usually be found in good magazines and nonfiction books, editorials in outstanding newspapers, and the collections of essays used by many college and university writing courses.

- **Review basic rules of grammar and practice with writing exercises.**

Begin by reviewing the grammar rules laid out in this chapter. Then, if you have school assignments (such as essays and research papers) that have been carefully evaluated for grammatical errors, it may be helpful to review the comments and corrections.

9.4 What Is Measured

Sentence correction questions test three broad aspects of language proficiency:

- **Correct expression**

A correct sentence is grammatically and structurally sound. It conforms to all the rules of standard written English, including noun-verb agreement, noun-pronoun agreement, pronoun consistency, pronoun case, and verb tense sequence. A correct sentence will not have dangling, misplaced, or improperly formed modifiers; unidiomatic or inconsistent expressions; or faults in parallel construction.

- **Effective expression**

An effective sentence expresses an idea or relationship clearly and concisely as well as grammatically. This does not mean that the choice with the fewest and simplest words is necessarily the best answer. It means that there are no superfluous words or needlessly complicated expressions in the best choice.

- **Proper diction**

An effective sentence also uses proper diction. (Diction refers to the standard dictionary meanings of words and the appropriateness of words in context.) In evaluating the diction of a sentence, you must be able to recognize whether the words are well chosen, accurate, and suitable for the context.

9.5 Test-Taking Strategies

1. **Read the entire sentence carefully.**

Try to understand the specific idea or relationship that the sentence should express.

2. **Evaluate the underlined passage for errors and possible corrections before reading the answer choices.**

This strategy will help you discriminate among the answer choices. Remember, in some cases the underlined passage is correct.

3. Read each answer choice carefully.

The first answer choice always repeats the underlined portion of the original sentence. Choose this answer if you think that the sentence is best as originally written, but do so *only after* examining all the other choices.

4. Try to determine how to correct what you consider to be wrong with the original sentence.

Some of the answer choices may change things that are not wrong, whereas others may not change everything that is wrong.

5. Make sure that you evaluate the sentence and the choices thoroughly.

Pay attention to general clarity, grammatical and idiomatic usage, economy and precision of language, and appropriateness of diction.

6. Read the whole sentence, substituting the choice that you prefer for the underlined passage.

A choice may be wrong because it does not fit grammatically or structurally with the rest of the sentence. Remember that some sentences will require no correction. When the given sentence requires no correction, choose the first answer.

9.6 The Directions

These are the directions that you will see for sentence correction questions when you take the GMAT exam. If you read them carefully and understand them clearly before going to sit for the test, you will not need to spend too much time reviewing them once you are at the test center and the test is under way.

Sentence correction questions present a sentence, part or all of which is underlined. Beneath the sentence, you will find five ways of phrasing the underlined passage. The first answer choice repeats the original underlined passage; the other four are different. If you think the original phrasing is best, choose the first answer; otherwise, choose one of the others.

This type of question tests your ability to recognize the correctness and effectiveness of expression in standard written English. In choosing your answer, follow the requirements of standard written English; that is, pay attention to grammar, choice of words, and sentence construction. Choose the answer that produces the most effective sentence; this answer should be clear and exact, without awkwardness, ambiguity, redundancy, or grammatical error.

SC04331

747. Researchers studying the brain scans of volunteers who pondered ethical dilemmas have found that the basis for making tough moral judgments is emotion, not logic or analytical reasoning.
- the brain scans of volunteers who pondered ethical dilemmas have found that the basis for making tough moral judgments is
 - the brain scans of volunteers who pondered ethical dilemmas and found the basis to make tough moral decisions to be
 - the brain scans of volunteers pondering ethical dilemmas and found that the basis for making tough moral decisions is
 - volunteers' brain scans while pondering ethical dilemmas have found the basis to make tough moral judgments to be
 - volunteers' brain scans while they pondered ethical dilemmas have found that the basis for making tough moral judgments is

SC02060

748. Rivaling the pyramids of Egypt or even the ancient cities of the Maya as an achievement, the army of terra-cotta warriors created to protect Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor, in his afterlife is more than 2,000 years old and took 700,000 artisans more than 36 years to complete.
- the army of terra-cotta warriors created to protect Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor, in his afterlife is more than 2,000 years old and took 700,000 artisans more than 36 years to complete
 - Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor, was protected in his afterlife by an army of terra-cotta warriors that was created more than 2,000 years ago by 700,000 artisans who took more than 36 years to complete it
 - it took 700,000 artisans more than 36 years to create an army of terra-cotta warriors more than 2,000 years ago that would protect Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor, in his afterlife
 - more than 2,000 years ago, 700,000 artisans worked more than 36 years to create an army of terra-cotta warriors to protect Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor, in his afterlife
 - more than 36 years were needed to complete the army of terra-cotta warriors that 700,000 artisans created 2,000 years ago to protect Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor, in his afterlife

SC03675

749. In California, a lack of genetic variation in the Argentine ant has allowed the species to spread widely; due to their being so genetically similar to one another, the ants consider all their fellows to be a close relative and thus do not engage in the kind of fierce intercolony struggles that limits the spread of this species in its native Argentina.
- due to their being so genetically similar to one another, the ants consider all their fellows to be a close relative and thus do not engage in the kind of fierce intercolony struggles that limits
 - due to its being so genetically similar, the ant considers all its fellows to be a close relative and thus does not engage in the kind of fierce intercolony struggles that limit
 - because it is so genetically similar, the ant considers all its fellows to be close relatives and thus does not engage in the kind of fierce intercolony struggles that limits
 - because they are so genetically similar to one another, the ants consider all their fellows to be close relatives and thus do not engage in the kind of fierce intercolony struggles that limit
 - because of being so genetically similar to one another, the ants consider all their fellows to be a close relative and thus do not engage in the kind of fierce intercolony struggles that limits

SC07758

750. Next month, state wildlife officials are scheduled to take over the job of increasing the wolf population in the federally designated recovery area, the number of which will however ultimately be dictated by the number of prey in the area.
- area, the number of which will however
 - area; the size of the population, however, will
 - area, however the number of wolves will
 - area; the number of which will, however,
 - area, when the size of the population will, however,

SC02710

751. About 5 million acres in the United States have been invaded by leafy spurge, a herbaceous plant from Eurasia with milky sap that gives mouth sores to cattle, displacing grasses and other cattle food and rendering rangeland worthless.
- States have been invaded by leafy spurge, a herbaceous plant from Eurasia with milky sap that gives mouth sores to cattle, displacing grasses and other cattle food and rendering

- (B) States have been invaded by leafy spurge, a herbaceous plant from Eurasia, with milky sap, that gives mouth sores to cattle and displaces grasses and other cattle food, rendering
- (C) States have been invaded by leafy spurge, a herbaceous plant from Eurasia having milky sap that gives mouth sores to cattle and displacing grasses and other cattle food, rendering
- (D) States, having been invaded by leafy spurge, a herbaceous plant from Eurasia with milky sap that gives mouth sores to cattle, displaces grasses and other cattle food, and renders
- (E) States, having been invaded by leafy spurge, a herbaceous plant from Eurasia that has milky sap giving mouth sores to cattle and displacing grasses and other cattle food, rendering

SC01445

752. While it costs about the same to run nuclear plants as other types of power plants, it is the fixed costs that stem from building nuclear plants that makes it more expensive for them to generate electricity.

- (A) While it costs about the same to run nuclear plants as other types of power plants, it is the fixed costs that stem from building nuclear plants that makes it more expensive for them to generate electricity.
- (B) While the cost of running nuclear plants is about the same as for other types of power plants, the fixed costs that stem from building nuclear plants make the electricity they generate more expensive.
- (C) Even though it costs about the same to run nuclear plants as for other types of power plants, it is the fixed costs that stem from building nuclear plants that makes the electricity they generate more expensive.
- (D) It costs about the same to run nuclear plants as for other types of power plants, whereas the electricity they generate is more expensive, stemming from the fixed costs of building nuclear plants.
- (E) The cost of running nuclear plants is about the same as other types of power plants, but the electricity they generate is made more expensive because of the fixed costs stemming from building nuclear plants.

SC03207

753. The 32 species that make up the dolphin family are closely related to whales and in fact include the animal known as the killer whale, which can grow to be 30 feet long and is famous for its aggressive hunting pods.
- (A) include the animal known as the killer whale, which can grow to be 30 feet long and is
- (B) include the animal known as the killer whale, growing as big as 30 feet long and
- (C) include the animal known as the killer whale, growing up to 30 feet long and being
- (D) includes the animal known as the killer whale, which can grow as big as 30 feet long and is
- (E) includes the animal known as the killer whale, which can grow to be 30 feet long and it is

SC06611

754. The first trenches that were cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence for centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East that were arising simultaneously with but independently of the more celebrated city-states of southern Mesopotamia, in what is now southern Iraq.

- (A) that were cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence for centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East that were arising simultaneously with but
- (B) that were cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, yields strong evidence that centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East were arising simultaneously with but also
- (C) having been cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence that centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East were arising simultaneously but
- (D) cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, yields strong evidence of centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East arising simultaneously but also
- (E) cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence that centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East arose simultaneously with but

SC02317

755. Companies are relying more and more on networked computers for such critical tasks as inventory management, electronic funds transfer, and electronic data interchange, in which standard business transactions are handled via computer rather than on paper.

- (A) in which standard business transactions are handled via computer rather than on paper
- (B) where computers handle standard business transactions rather than on paper
- (C) in which computers handle standard business transactions instead of on paper
- (D) where standard business transactions are handled, not with paper, but instead via computer
- (E) in which standard business transactions are being handled via computer, in place of on paper

SC07231

756. Combining enormous physical strength with higher intelligence, the Neanderthals appear as equipped for facing any obstacle the environment could put in their path, but their relatively sudden disappearance during the Paleolithic era indicates that an inability to adapt to some environmental change led to their extinction.

- (A) appear as equipped for facing any obstacle the environment could put in their path,
- (B) appear to have been equipped to face any obstacle the environment could put in their path,
- (C) appear as equipped to face any obstacle the environment could put in their paths,
- (D) appeared as equipped to face any obstacle the environment could put in their paths,
- (E) appeared to have been equipped for facing any obstacle the environment could put in their path,

SC02135

757. To map Earth's interior, geologists use a network of seismometers to chart seismic waves that originate in the earth's crust and ricochet around its interior, most rapidly traveling through cold, dense regions and slower through hotter rocks.

- (A) interior, most rapidly traveling through cold, dense regions and slower
- (B) interior, which travel most rapidly through cold, dense regions, and more slowly
- (C) interior, traveling most rapidly through cold, dense regions and more slowly

- (D) interior and most rapidly travel through cold, dense regions, and slower
- (E) interior and that travel most rapidly through cold, dense regions and slower

SC02470

758. Prices at the producer level are only 1.3 percent higher now than a year ago and are going down, even though floods in the Midwest and drought in the South are hurting crops and therefore raised corn and soybean prices.

- (A) than a year ago and are going down, even though floods in the Midwest and drought in the South are hurting crops and therefore raised
- (B) than those of a year ago and are going down, even though floods in the Midwest and drought in the South are hurting crops and therefore raising
- (C) than a year ago and are going down, despite floods in the Midwest and drought in the South, and are hurting crops and therefore raising
- (D) as those of a year ago and are going down, even though floods in the Midwest and drought in the South hurt crops and therefore raise
- (E) as they were a year ago and are going down, despite floods in the Midwest and drought in the South, and are hurting crops and therefore raising

SC07117

759. Fossils of the arm of a sloth found in Puerto Rico in 1991, and dated at 34 million years old, made it the earliest known mammal of the Greater Antilles Islands.

- (A) sloth found in Puerto Rico in 1991, and dated at 34 million years old, made it the earliest known mammal of
- (B) sloth, that they found in Puerto Rico in 1991, has been dated at 34 million years old, thus making it the earliest mammal known on
- (C) sloth that was found in Puerto Rico in 1991, was dated at 34 million years old, making this the earliest known mammal of
- (D) sloth, found in Puerto Rico in 1991, have been dated at 34 million years old, making the sloth the earliest known mammal on
- (E) sloth which, found in Puerto Rico in 1991, was dated at 34 million years old, made the sloth the earliest known mammal of

SC01550

760. Recently physicians have determined that stomach ulcers are not caused by stress, alcohol, or rich foods, but a bacterium that dwells in the mucous lining of the stomach.
- (A) not caused by stress, alcohol, or rich foods, but
 (B) not caused by stress, alcohol, or rich foods, but are by
 (C) caused not by stress, alcohol, or rich foods, but by
 (D) caused not by stress, alcohol, and rich foods, but
 (E) caused not by stress, alcohol, and rich foods, but are by

SC05848

761. The eyes of the elephant seal adapt to darkness more quickly than any other animal yet tested, thus allowing it to hunt efficiently under the gloomy conditions at its feeding depth of between 300 and 700 meters.
- (A) The eyes of the elephant seal adapt to darkness more quickly than any other animal yet tested, thus allowing it
 (B) The eyes of the elephant seal adapt to darkness more quickly than does any other animal yet tested, allowing them
 (C) The eyes of the elephant seal adapt to darkness more quickly than do those of any other animal yet tested, allowing it
 (D) Because they adapt to darkness more quickly than any other animal yet tested, the eyes of the elephant seal allow it
 (E) Because the eyes of the elephant seal adapt to darkness more quickly than do those of any other animal yet tested, it allows them

SC01068

762. A mutual fund having billions of dollars in assets will typically invest that money in hundreds of companies, rarely holding more than one percent of the shares of any particular corporation.
- (A) companies, rarely holding more than one percent
 (B) companies, and it is rare to hold at least one percent or more
 (C) companies and rarely do they hold more than one percent
 (D) companies, so that they rarely hold more than one percent
 (E) companies; rarely do they hold one percent or more

SC08083

763. Positing an enormous volcanic explosion at the end of the Permian period would explain the presence of a buried crater, account for the presence of the element iridium (originating deep within the earth), and the presence of quartz having been shattered by high-impact shock waves.
- (A) account for the presence of the element iridium (originating deep within the earth), and the presence of quartz having been
 (B) of the element iridium (originating deep within the earth), and of quartz
 (C) the element iridium (originating deep within the earth), and explain the presence of quartz having been
 (D) the presence of the element iridium (originating deep within the earth), and explain the presence of quartz
 (E) explain the element iridium (originating deep within the earth), and the presence of quartz

SC01561

764. The 19-year-old pianist and composer performed his most recent work all over Europe, Asia, and North America last year, winning prestigious awards in both London as well as Tokyo for his achievement at so young an age, and he is hoping to continue composing now that he has returned to Chicago.
- (A) winning prestigious awards in both London as well as Tokyo for his achievement at so young an age, and he is hoping
 (B) winning prestigious awards both in London and Tokyo for his achievement at such a young age, and hoping
 (C) having won prestigious awards both in London and Tokyo for his achievement at so young an age, hoping
 (D) winning prestigious awards in both London and Tokyo for his achievement at such a young age, and he hopes
 (E) having won prestigious awards both in London as well as Tokyo for his achievement at so young an age, and he hopes

SC01474

765. Starfish, with anywhere from five to eight arms, have a strong regenerative ability, and if one arm is lost it quickly replaces it, sometimes by the animal overcompensating and growing an extra one or two.
- (A) one arm is lost it quickly replaces it, sometimes by the animal overcompensating and
 (B) one arm is lost it is quickly replaced, with the animal sometimes overcompensating and
 (C) they lose one arm they quickly replace it, sometimes by the animal overcompensating,
 (D) they lose one arm they are quickly replaced, with the animal sometimes overcompensating,
 (E) they lose one arm it is quickly replaced, sometimes with the animal overcompensating,
- SC04249
766. In 2000, a mere two dozen products accounted for half the increase in spending on prescription drugs, a phenomenon that is explained not just because of more expensive drugs but by the fact that doctors are writing many more prescriptions for higher-cost drugs.
- (A) a phenomenon that is explained not just because of more expensive drugs but by the fact that doctors are writing
 (B) a phenomenon that is explained not just by the fact that drugs are becoming more expensive but also by the fact that doctors are writing
 (C) a phenomenon occurring not just because of drugs that are becoming more expensive but because of doctors having also written
 (D) which occurred not just because drugs are becoming more expensive but doctors are also writing
 (E) which occurred not just because of more expensive drugs but because doctors have also written

SC05393

767. Similar to other early Mississippi Delta blues singers, the music of Robert Johnson arose from an oral tradition beginning with a mixture of chants, fiddle tunes, and religious music and only gradually evolved into the blues.
- (A) Similar to other early Mississippi Delta blues singers, the music of Robert Johnson arose from an oral tradition beginning with
 (B) Similar to that of other early Mississippi Delta blues singers, Robert Johnson made music that arose from an oral tradition that began with

- (C) As with other early Mississippi Delta blues singers, Robert Johnson made music that arose from an oral tradition beginning as
 (D) Like other early Mississippi Delta blues singers, Robert Johnson's music arose from an oral tradition beginning with
 (E) Like the music of other early Mississippi Delta blues singers, the music of Robert Johnson arose from an oral tradition that began as

SC03805

768. Thelonious Monk, who was a jazz pianist and composer, produced a body of work both rooted in the stride-piano tradition of Willie (The Lion) Smith and Duke Ellington, yet in many ways he stood apart from the mainstream jazz repertory.
- (A) Thelonious Monk, who was a jazz pianist and composer, produced a body of work both rooted
 (B) Thelonious Monk, the jazz pianist and composer, produced a body of work that was rooted both
 (C) Jazz pianist and composer Thelonious Monk, who produced a body of work rooted
 (D) Jazz pianist and composer Thelonious Monk produced a body of work that was rooted
 (E) Jazz pianist and composer Thelonious Monk produced a body of work rooted both

SC06898

769. Nobody knows exactly how many languages there are in the world, partly because of the difficulty of distinguishing between a language and the sublanguages or dialects within it, but those who have tried to count typically have found about five thousand.
- (A) and the sublanguages or dialects within it, but those who have tried to count typically have found
 (B) and the sublanguages or dialects within them, with those who have tried counting typically finding
 (C) and the sublanguages or dialects within it, but those who have tried counting it typically find
 (D) or the sublanguages or dialects within them, but those who tried to count them typically found
 (E) or the sublanguages or dialects within them, with those who have tried to count typically finding

SC08719

770. Although a number of excellent studies narrate the development of domestic technology and its impact on housewifery, these works do not discuss the contributions of the women employed by manufacturers and utility companies as product demonstrators and publicists, who initially promoted new and unfamiliar technology to female consumers.

- (A) by manufacturers and utility companies as product demonstrators and publicists,
- (B) to be product demonstrators and publicists by manufacturers and utility companies,
- (C) to demonstrate and publicize their products by manufacturers and utility companies
- (D) by manufacturers and utility companies to be demonstrators and publicists of their products
- (E) by manufacturers and utility companies to demonstrate and publicize their products

SC01577

771. The absence from business and financial records of the nineteenth century of statistics about women leave us with no record of the jobs that were performed by women and how they survived economically.

- (A) from business and financial records of the nineteenth century of statistics about women leave us with no record of the jobs that were performed by women and
- (B) from business and financial records of statistics about women from the nineteenth century leave us with no record of what jobs women performed or
- (C) of statistics for women from business and financial records in the nineteenth century leaves us with no record of either the jobs that women were performing and of
- (D) of statistics on women from business and financial records in the nineteenth century leave us with no record of the jobs that women performed or of
- (E) of statistics about women from business and financial records of the nineteenth century leaves us with no record of either what jobs women performed or

SC02138

772. Heating-oil prices are expected to be higher this year than last because refiners are paying about \$5 a barrel more for crude oil than they were last year.

- (A) Heating-oil prices are expected to be higher this year than last because refiners are paying about \$5 a barrel more for crude oil than they were

- (B) Heating-oil prices are expected to rise higher this year over last because refiners pay about \$5 a barrel for crude oil more than they did
- (C) Expectations are for heating-oil prices to be higher this year than last year's because refiners are paying about \$5 a barrel for crude oil more than they did
- (D) It is the expectation that heating-oil prices will be higher for this year over last because refiners are paying about \$5 a barrel more for crude oil now than what they were
- (E) It is expected that heating-oil prices will rise higher this year than last year's because refiners pay about \$5 a barrel for crude oil more than they did

SC01443

773. Even though Clovis points, spear points with longitudinal grooves chipped onto their faces, have been found all over North America, they are named for the New Mexico site where they were first discovered in 1932.

- (A) Even though Clovis points, spear points with longitudinal grooves chipped onto their faces, have been found all over North America, they are named for the New Mexico site where they were first discovered in 1932.
- (B) Although named for the New Mexico site where first discovered in 1932, Clovis points are spear points of longitudinal grooves chipped onto their faces and have been found all over North America.
- (C) Named for the New Mexico site where they have been first discovered in 1932, Clovis points, spear points of longitudinal grooves chipped onto the faces, have been found all over North America.
- (D) Spear points with longitudinal grooves that are chipped onto the faces, Clovis points, even though named for the New Mexico site where first discovered in 1932, but were found all over North America.
- (E) While Clovis points are spear points whose faces have longitudinal grooves chipped into them, they have been found all over North America, and named for the New Mexico site where they have been first discovered in 1932.

SC04408

774. Heavy commitment by an executive to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes it likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.
- (A) Heavy commitment by an executive to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes it likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.
- (B) An executive who is heavily committed to a course of action, especially one that worked well in the past, makes missing signs of incipient trouble or misinterpreting ones likely when they do appear.
- (C) An executive who is heavily committed to a course of action is likely to miss or misinterpret signs of incipient trouble when they do appear, especially if it has worked well in the past.
- (D) Executives' being heavily committed to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes them likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpreting them when they do appear.
- (E) Being heavily committed to a course of action, especially one that has worked well in the past, is likely to make an executive miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.

SC06740

775. According to recent studies comparing the nutritional value of meat from wild animals and meat from domesticated animals, wild animals have less total fat than do livestock fed on grain and more of a kind of fat they think is good for cardiac health.
- (A) wild animals have less total fat than do livestock fed on grain and more of a kind of fat they think is
- (B) wild animals have less total fat than livestock fed on grain and more of a kind of fat thought to be
- (C) wild animals have less total fat than that of livestock fed on grain and have more fat of a kind thought to be
- (D) total fat of wild animals is less than livestock fed on grain and they have more fat of a kind thought to be
- (E) total fat is less in wild animals than that of livestock fed on grain and more of their fat is of a kind they think is

SC03292

776. Yellow jackets number among the 900 or so species of the world's social wasps, wasps living in a highly cooperative and organized society where they consist almost entirely of females—the queen and her sterile female workers.
- (A) wasps living in a highly cooperative and organized society where they consist almost entirely of
- (B) wasps that live in a highly cooperative and organized society consisting almost entirely of
- (C) which means they live in a highly cooperative and organized society, almost all
- (D) which means that their society is highly cooperative, organized, and it is almost entirely
- (E) living in a society that is highly cooperative, organized, and it consists of almost all

SC02539

777. Before 1988, insurance companies in California were free to charge whatever rates the market would bear, needing no approval from regulators before raising rates.
- (A) needing no approval from regulators before raising
- (B) and it needed no approval by regulators before raising
- (C) and needing no approval from regulators before they raised
- (D) with approval not needed by regulators before they raised
- (E) with no approval needed from regulators before the raising of

SC01022

778. Marconi's conception of the radio was as a substitute for the telephone, a tool for private conversation; instead, it is precisely the opposite, a tool for communicating with a large, public audience.
- (A) Marconi's conception of the radio was as a substitute for the telephone, a tool for private conversation; instead, it is
- (B) Marconi conceived of the radio as a substitute for the telephone, a tool for private conversation, but which is
- (C) Marconi conceived of the radio as a tool for private conversation that could substitute for the telephone; instead, it has become

- (D) Marconi conceived of the radio to be a tool for private conversation, a substitute for the telephone, which has become
- (E) Marconi conceived of the radio to be a substitute for the telephone, a tool for private conversation, other than what it is,

SC02611

779. Because there are provisions of the new maritime code that provide that even tiny islets can be the basis for claims to the fisheries and oil fields of large sea areas, they have already stimulated international disputes over uninhabited islands.
- (A) Because there are provisions of the new maritime code that provide that even tiny islets can be the basis for claims to the fisheries and oil fields of large sea areas, they have already stimulated
- (B) Because the new maritime code provides that even tiny islets can be the basis for claims to the fisheries and oil fields of large sea areas, it has already stimulated
- (C) Even tiny islets can be the basis for claims to the fisheries and oil fields of large sea areas under provisions of the new maritime code, already stimulating
- (D) Because even tiny islets can be the basis for claims to the fisheries and oil fields of large sea areas under provisions of the new maritime code, this has already stimulated
- (E) Because even tiny islets can be the basis for claims to the fisheries and oil fields of large sea areas under provisions of the new maritime code, which is already stimulating

SC02576

780. Unlike the automobile company, whose research was based on crashes involving sport utility vehicles, the research conducted by the insurance company took into account such factors as a driver's age, sex, and previous driving record.
- (A) company, whose research was based on
- (B) company, which researched
- (C) company, in its research of
- (D) company's research, having been based on
- (E) company's research on

SC12131

781. Gusty westerly winds will continue to usher in a seasonably cool air mass into the region, as a broad area of high pressure will build and bring fair and dry weather for several days.
- (A) to usher in a seasonably cool air mass into the region, as a broad area of high pressure will build and
- (B) ushering in a seasonably cool air mass into the region and a broad area of high pressure will build that
- (C) to usher in a seasonably cool air mass to the region, a broad area of high pressure building, and
- (D) ushering a seasonably cool air mass in the region, with a broad area of high pressure building and
- (E) to usher a seasonably cool air mass into the region while a broad area of high pressure builds, which will

SC02008

782. With the patience of its customers and with its network strained to the breaking point, the on-line service company announced a series of new initiatives trying to relieve the congestion that has led to at least four class-action lawsuits and thousands of complaints from frustrated customers.
- (A) the patience of its customers and with its network strained to the breaking point, the on-line service company announced a series of new initiatives trying to relieve
- (B) the patience of its customers and its network strained to the breaking point, the on-line service company announced a series of new initiatives that try to relieve
- (C) its network and the patience of its customers strained to the breaking point, the on-line service company announced a series of new initiatives to try to relieve
- (D) its network and with the patience of its customers strained to the breaking point, the on-line service company announced a series of new initiatives to try relieving
- (E) its network and its customers' patience strained to the breaking point, the on-line service company announced a series of new initiatives to try relieving

SC02094

783. November is traditionally the strongest month for sales of light trucks, but sales this past November, even when compared with sales in previous Novembers, accounted for a remarkably large share of total vehicle sales.

- (A) but sales this past November, even when compared with sales in previous Novembers,
- (B) but even when it is compared with previous Novembers, this past November's sales
- (C) but even when they are compared with previous Novembers, sales of light trucks this past November
- (D) so that compared with previous Novembers, sales of light trucks this past November
- (E) so that this past November's sales, even compared with previous Novembers' sales,

SC05760

784. Most of the country's biggest daily newspapers had lower circulation in the six months from October 1995 through March 1996 than a similar period a year earlier.

- (A) a similar period
- (B) a similar period's
- (C) in a similar period
- (D) that in a similar period
- (E) that of a similar period

SC01714

785. Mauritius was a British colony for almost 200 years, excepting for the domains of administration and teaching, the English language was never really spoken on the island.

- (A) excepting for
- (B) except in
- (C) but except in
- (D) but excepting for
- (E) with the exception of

SC04853

786. Although appearing less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins, heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year—they are often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises—heirlooms are more flavorful and thus in increasing demand.

- (A) Although appearing less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins, heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year

- (B) Although heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year, appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins
- (C) Although they appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins, heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year
- (D) Grown from seeds saved during the previous year, heirloom tomatoes appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins
- (E) Heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year, although they appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins

SC01987

787. The World Wildlife Fund has declared that global warming, a phenomenon most scientists agree to be caused by human beings in burning fossil fuels, will create havoc among migratory birds by altering the environment in ways harmful to their habitats.

- (A) a phenomenon most scientists agree to be caused by human beings in burning fossil fuels,
- (B) a phenomenon most scientists agree that is caused by fossil fuels burned by human beings,
- (C) a phenomenon that most scientists agree is caused by human beings' burning of fossil fuels,
- (D) which most scientists agree on as a phenomenon caused by human beings who burn fossil fuels,
- (E) which most scientists agree to be a phenomenon caused by fossil fuels burned by human beings,

SC02216

788. The largest of all the planets, not only is Jupiter three times so massive as Saturn, the next larger planet, but also possesses four of the largest satellites, or moons, in our solar system.

- (A) not only is Jupiter three times so massive as Saturn, the next larger
- (B) not only is Jupiter three times as massive as Saturn, the next largest
- (C) Jupiter, not only three times as massive as Saturn, the next largest

- (D) Jupiter not only is three times as massive as Saturn, the next largest
 (E) Jupiter is not only three times so massive as Saturn, the next larger

SC01587

789. While many of the dinosaur fossils found recently in northeast China seem to provide evidence of the kinship between dinosaurs and birds, the wealth of enigmatic fossils seem more likely at this stage that they will inflame debates over the origin of birds rather than settle them.

- (A) seem more likely at this stage that they will inflame debates over the origin of birds rather than
 (B) seem more likely that it will inflame debates over the origin of birds at this stage than
 (C) seems more likely to inflame debates on the origin of birds at this stage rather than
 (D) seems more likely at this stage to inflame debates over the origin of birds than to
 (E) seems more likely that it will inflame debates on the origin of birds at this stage than to

SC01622

790. Found only in the Western Hemisphere and surviving through extremes of climate, hummingbirds' range extends from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, from sea-level rain forests to the edges of Andean snowfields and ice fields at altitudes of 15,000 feet.

- (A) Found only in the Western Hemisphere and surviving through extremes of climate, hummingbirds' range extends
 (B) Found only in the Western Hemisphere, hummingbirds survive through extremes of climate, their range extending
 (C) Hummingbirds, found only in the Western Hemisphere and surviving through extremes of climate, with their range extending
 (D) Hummingbirds, found only in the Western Hemisphere and surviving through extremes of climate, their range extends
 (E) Hummingbirds are found only in the Western Hemisphere, survive through extremes of climate, and their range extends

SC01761

791. She was less successful after she had emigrated to New York compared to her native Germany, photographer Lotte Jacobi nevertheless earned a small group of discerning admirers, and her photographs were eventually exhibited in prestigious galleries across the United States.

- (A) She was less successful after she had emigrated to New York compared to
 (B) Being less successful after she had emigrated to New York as compared to
 (C) Less successful after she emigrated to New York than she had been in
 (D) Although she was less successful after emigrating to New York when compared to
 (E) She had been less successful after emigrating to New York than in

SC02259

792. Scientists have recently found evidence that black holes—regions of space in which matter is so concentrated and the pull of gravity so powerful that nothing, not even light, can emerge from them—probably exist at the core of nearly all galaxies and the mass of each black hole is proportional to its host galaxy.

- (A) exist at the core of nearly all galaxies and the mass of each black hole is proportional to
 (B) exist at the core of nearly all galaxies and that the mass of each black hole is proportional to that of
 (C) exist at the core of nearly all galaxies, and that the mass of each black hole is proportional to
 (D) exists at the core of nearly all galaxies, and that the mass of each black hole is proportional to that of
 (E) exists at the core of nearly all galaxies and the mass of each black hole is proportional to that of

SC02346

793. The use of lie detectors is based on the assumption that lying produces emotional reactions in an individual that, in turn, create unconscious physiological responses.

- (A) that, in turn, create unconscious physiological responses
 (B) that creates unconscious physiological responses in turn
 (C) creating, in turn, unconscious physiological responses
 (D) to create, in turn, physiological responses that are unconscious
 (E) who creates unconscious physiological responses in turn

SC04213

794. Australian embryologists have found evidence that suggests that the elephant is descended from an aquatic animal, and its trunk originally evolving as a kind of snorkel.
- that suggests that the elephant is descended from an aquatic animal, and its trunk originally evolving
 - that has suggested the elephant descended from an aquatic animal, its trunk originally evolving
 - suggesting that the elephant had descended from an aquatic animal with its trunk originally evolved
 - to suggest that the elephant had descended from an aquatic animal and its trunk originally evolved
 - to suggest that the elephant is descended from an aquatic animal and that its trunk originally evolved

SC01957

795. Most efforts to combat such mosquito-borne diseases like malaria and dengue have focused either on the vaccination of humans or on exterminating mosquitoes with pesticides.
- like malaria and dengue have focused either on the vaccination of humans or on exterminating
 - like malaria and dengue have focused either on vaccinating of humans or on the extermination of
 - as malaria and dengue have focused on either vaccinating humans or on exterminating
 - as malaria and dengue have focused on either vaccinating of humans or on extermination of
 - as malaria and dengue have focused on either vaccinating humans or exterminating

SC02344

796. Among the Tsonga, a Bantu-speaking group of tribes in southeastern Africa, dance teams represent their own chief at the court of each other, providing entertainment in return for food, drink, and lodging.
- the court of each other, providing entertainment in return for
 - the court of another and provide entertainment in return for
 - the court of the other, so as to provide entertainment as a return on
 - each other's court, entertainment being provided in return for
 - another's court and provide entertainment as a return on

SC06633

797. Almost like clones in their similarity to one another, the cheetah species' homogeneity makes them especially vulnerable to disease.
- the cheetah species' homogeneity makes them especially vulnerable to disease
 - the cheetah species is especially vulnerable to disease because of its homogeneity
 - the homogeneity of the cheetah species makes it especially vulnerable to disease
 - homogeneity makes members of the cheetah species especially vulnerable to disease
 - members of the cheetah species are especially vulnerable to disease because of their homogeneity

SC04330

798. As sources of electrical power, windmills now account for only about 2,500 megawatts nationwide, but production is almost expected to double by the end of the year, which would provide enough electricity for 1.3 million households.
- almost expected to double by the end of the year, which would provide
 - almost expected that it will double by the end of the year, thus providing
 - expected that it will almost double by the end of the year to provide
 - expected almost to double by the end of the year and thus to provide
 - expected almost to double by the end of the year, which would thus be providing

SC03154

799. While most of the earliest known ball courts in Mesoamerica date to 900–400 B.C., waterlogged latex balls found at El Manati and representations of ballplayers painted on ceramics found at San Lorenzo attest to the fact that the Mesoamerican ballgame was well established by the mid-thirteenth century B.C.
- waterlogged latex balls found at El Manati and representations of ballplayers painted on ceramics found at San Lorenzo attest
 - waterlogged latex balls found at El Manati and the painting of representations of ballplayers on ceramics found at San Lorenzo attests
 - waterlogged latex balls found at El Manati and ceramics painted with representations of ballplayers found at San Lorenzo attests

- (D) the finding of waterlogged latex balls at El Manati and the painting of representations of ballplayers on ceramics found at San Lorenzo attests
(E) the finding of waterlogged latex balls at El Manati and of representations of ballplayers painted on ceramics at San Lorenzo attest

SC04899

800. As criminal activity on the Internet becomes more and more sophisticated, not only are thieves able to divert cash from company bank accounts, they can also pilfer valuable information such as business development strategies, new product specifications, and contract bidding plans, and sell the data to competitors.

- (A) they can also pilfer valuable information such as business development strategies, new product specifications, and contract bidding plans, and sell
(B) they can also pilfer valuable information that includes business development strategies, new product specifications, and contract bidding plans, and selling
(C) also pilfering valuable information including business development strategies, new product specifications, and contract bidding plans, selling
(D) but also pilfer valuable information such as business development strategies, new product specifications, and contract bidding plans to sell
(E) but also pilfering valuable information such as business development strategies, new product specifications, and contract bidding plans and selling

SC05785

801. Last week local shrimpers held a news conference to take some credit for the resurgence of the rare Kemp's ridley turtle, saying that their compliance with laws requiring that turtle-excluder devices be on shrimp nets protect adult sea turtles.

- (A) requiring that turtle-excluder devices be on shrimp nets protect
(B) requiring turtle-excluder devices on shrimp nets is protecting
(C) that require turtle-excluder devices on shrimp nets protect

- (D) to require turtle-excluder devices on shrimp nets are protecting
(E) to require turtle-excluder devices on shrimp nets is protecting

SC03752

802. A ruined structure found at Aqaba, Jordan, was probably a church, as indicated in its eastward orientation and by its overall plan, as well as artifacts, such as glass oil-lamp fragments, found at the site.

- (A) A ruined structure found at Aqaba, Jordan, was probably a church, as indicated in its eastward orientation and by its overall plan, as well as
(B) A ruined structure found at Aqaba, Jordan, once probably being a church, was indicated by its eastward orientation, overall plan, and
(C) Indicating that a ruined structure found at Aqaba, Jordan, was probably a church were its eastward orientation and overall plan, but also the
(D) A ruined structure found at Aqaba, Jordan, was probably a church, as indicates its eastward orientation and overall plan, as well as the
(E) That a ruined structure found at Aqaba, Jordan, was probably a church is indicated by its eastward orientation and overall plan, as well as by the

SC04343

803. In the major cities of industrialized countries at the end of the nineteenth century, important public places such as theaters, restaurants, shops, and banks had installed electric lighting, but electricity was in less than 1 percent of homes, where lighting was still provided mainly by candles or gas.

- (A) electricity was in less than 1 percent of homes, where lighting was still
(B) electricity was in less than 1 percent of homes and lighting still
(C) there had been less than 1 percent of homes with electricity, where lighting was still being
(D) there was less than 1 percent of homes that had electricity, having lighting that was still
(E) less than 1 percent of homes had electricity, where lighting had still been

SC02965

804. By 1999, astronomers had discovered 17 nearby stars that are orbited by planets about the size of Jupiter.
- had discovered 17 nearby stars that are orbited by planets
 - had discovered 17 nearby stars with planets orbiting them that were
 - had discovered that there were 17 nearby stars that were orbited by planets
 - have discovered 17 nearby stars with planets orbiting them that are
 - have discovered that 17 nearby stars are orbited by planets

SC01647

805. Although she was considered among her contemporaries to be the better poet than her husband, later Elizabeth Barrett Browning was overshadowed by his success.
- Although she was considered among her contemporaries to be the better poet than her husband, later Elizabeth Barrett Browning was overshadowed by his success.
 - Although Elizabeth Barrett Browning was considered among her contemporaries as a better poet than her husband, she was later overshadowed by his success.
 - Later overshadowed by the success of her husband, Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poetry had been considered among her contemporaries to be better than that of her husband.
 - Although Elizabeth Barrett Browning's success was later overshadowed by that of her husband, among her contemporaries she was considered the better poet.
 - Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poetry was considered among her contemporaries as better than her husband, but her success was later overshadowed by his.

SC01618

806. In no other historical sighting did Halley's Comet cause such a worldwide sensation as did its return in 1910–1911.
- did its return in 1910–1911
 - had its 1910–1911 return
 - in its return of 1910–1911
 - its return of 1910–1911 did
 - its return in 1910–1911

SC04836

807. Rock samples taken from the remains of an asteroid about twice the size of the 6-mile-wide asteroid that eradicated the dinosaurs has been dated to be 3.47 billion years old and thus is evidence of the earliest known asteroid impact on Earth.
- has been dated to be 3.47 billion years old and thus is
 - has been dated at 3.47 billion years old and thus
 - have been dated to be 3.47 billion years old and thus are
 - have been dated as being 3.47 billion years old and thus
 - have been dated at 3.47 billion years old and thus are

9.8 Answer Key

668. A	703. E	738. B	773. A
669. D	704. C	739. A	774. E
670. B	705. B	740. E	775. B
671. B	706. D	741. B	776. B
672. D	707. A	742. A	777. A
673. C	708. E	743. A	778. C
674. D	709. A	744. E	779. B
675. D	710. E	745. C	780. E
676. D	711. E	746. E	781. E
677. B	712. E	747. A	782. C
678. B	713. D	748. A	783. A
679. D	714. E	749. D	784. C
680. C	715. C	750. B	785. C
681. E	716. D	751. B	786. B
682. E	717. D	752. B	787. C
683. A	718. C	753. A	788. D
684. D	719. C	754. E	789. D
685. E	720. B	755. A	790. B
686. C	721. B	756. B	791. C
687. B	722. D	757. C	792. B
688. C	723. E	758. B	793. A
689. D	724. D	759. D	794. E
690. E	725. C	760. C	795. E
691. B	726. C	761. C	796. B
692. B	727. E	762. A	797. E
693. E	728. B	763. B	798. D
694. C	729. C	764. D	799. A
695. C	730. E	765. B	800. A
696. A	731. E	766. B	801. B
697. B	732. C	767. E	802. E
698. E	733. A	768. D	803. A
699. C	734. C	769. A	804. A
700. D	735. B	770. A	805. D
701. A	736. E	771. E	806. C
702. B	737. A	772. A	807. E

SC05201

684. Cost cutting and restructuring has allowed the manufacturing company to lower its projected losses for the second quarter, and they are forecasting a profit before the end of the year.

- (A) has allowed the manufacturing company to lower its projected losses for the second quarter, and they are forecasting
- (B) has allowed for the manufacturing company to lower its projected losses in the second quarter and to forecast
- (C) have allowed that the manufacturing company can lower the projected losses for the second quarter, and to forecast
- (D) have allowed the manufacturing company to lower its projected second-quarter losses and to forecast
- (E) have allowed for the manufacturing company to lower the projected losses in the second quarter, as well as forecasting

Agreement; Idiom; Verb Form

The point of the sentence is to explain the two main effects of the changes made by the company. However, the singular verb *has allowed* does not agree with the compound subject *cost cutting and restructuring*, which are far more plausibly understood as two actions rather than as two facets of a single action. In principle, *the manufacturing company* could be construed as plural (referring collectively to the decision makers and spokespeople who are projecting losses and forecasting a profit), but the plural pronoun *they* does not agree with the earlier *its*, which treats the antecedent as singular.

- A The singular verb *has allowed* does not agree with the compound subject *cost cutting and restructuring*; the plural pronoun *they* does not agree with the intended singular antecedent *company*.
- B The singular verb *has allowed* does not agree with the compound subject *cost cutting and restructuring*; *allowed for* is not the correct idiom.
- C *Allowed that* is not the correct idiom; *can lower* and *to forecast* are not grammatically parallel.
- D **Correct.** The sentence uses the correct subject-verb combination *cost cutting*

and restructuring have allowed; the two occurrences of the pronoun *its* agree with each other in treating their antecedent *company* as singular; and the two effects *to lower* and *to forecast* are parallel and idiomatic.

- E *Allowed for* is not the correct idiom; *to lower* and *as well as forecasting* are not parallel.

The correct answer is D.

SC13010

685. The Life and Casualty Company hopes that by increasing its environmental fund reserves to \$1.2 billion, that it has set aside enough to pay for environmental claims and no longer has to use its profits and capital to pay those claims bit by bit, year by year.

- (A) that it has set aside enough to pay for environmental claims and no longer has
- (B) enough has been set aside with which environmental claims can be paid and it will have no longer
- (C) it has set aside enough for payment of environmental claims and thus no longer having
- (D) enough has been set aside to pay for environmental claims, thus no longer having
- (E) it has set aside enough to pay for environmental claims and will no longer have

Grammatical Construction; Logical Predication

All predicates need a proper logical subject. Here, the relevant predicates are the verbs *increase*, *set aside*, and *have*. With *it* as the subject for *set aside*—referring back to the Life and Casualty Company—all three verbs should have this as their understood subject. With a different subject for *set aside*, at least one of the other verbs lacks a proper logical subject. Also, this sentence uses the word *that* after *hope* to start the subordinate clause, but then incorrectly repeats the *that* after the initial adverbial phrase (*by increasing . . . billion*). Only the first *that* is grammatically correct.

- A The additional *that* makes the sentence ungrammatical. Also, because in this context the hope is forward-looking (*bit by bit, year by year*), it would be preferable to use the

- future tense, *will no longer have to*, instead of the present *no longer has to*.
- B With *enough* as the subject of *set aside*, the next subject (*it*) is naturally interpreted as *enough*, but this is not a logical choice for the subject of *use*.
- C The phrase *no longer having* is ungrammatical when connected to the rest of the sentence by *and*, which should connect two regular clauses; *no longer having . . .* is a mere phrase, not a clause, and *no longer has* would be correct.
- D For *no longer having*, illogically, the implied subject is *enough*; the implied subject, instead, should be the company referred to at the beginning of the sentence.
- E **Correct.** There is only one *that*, and *will no longer have to use* has its proper logical subject (*it*) from the clause preceding it.

The correct answer is E.

SC03079

686. Like ancient Egyptian architectural materials that were recycled in the construction of ancient Greek Alexandria, so ancient Greek materials from the construction of that city were reused in subsequent centuries by Roman, Muslim, and modern builders.
- (A) Like ancient Egyptian architectural materials that were recycled in the construction of
- (B) Like recycling ancient Egyptian architectural materials to construct
- (C) Just as ancient Egyptian architectural materials were recycled in the construction of
- (D) Just as they recycled ancient Egyptian architectural materials in constructing
- (E) Just like ancient Egyptian architectural materials that were recycled in constructing

Diction; Parallelism

When two situations are asserted to be similar, the proper way to express this is with the paired expressions *just as . . . so . . .*, not *like . . . so*. Moreover, the two compared situations should be expressed as clauses, not as noun phrases. Thus the clause *ancient Egyptian architectural materials were recycled . . .* is correct, as opposed to a noun phrase like *ancient Egyptian architectural materials that were recycled . . .*

- A *Just as* and a following clause with a passive verb are preferred, but instead this option has *like* and a following noun phrase (*ancient Egyptian materials . . .*). It appears, somewhat implausibly, to say that the ancient Greek materials were similar to the earlier ancient Egyptian ones in that both were used by Roman, Muslim, and modern builders.
- B *Just as* and a following clause with a passive verb are preferred, but instead this option has *like* and a following noun phrase (*recycling ancient Egyptian materials . . .*). It appears illogically to say that the action of recycling was similar to the ancient Greek materials in that both were reused in subsequent centuries.
- C **Correct.** The expressions *just as* and *so* are paired to link the two clauses in parallel, and both clauses use the passive construction.
- D *Just as* is used to connect two clauses, which is good, but the first clause employs the active construction rather than the preferred passive, so there is a failure of parallelism. Also, it is unclear what *they* refers to. The sentence appears to say illogically that some unidentified group's action of recycling was similar to the ancient Greek materials' being reused.
- E *Just as* introducing a clause with a passive verb is preferable, but this sentence uses *like* and a following noun phrase (*ancient Egyptian materials . . .*). It appears, somewhat implausibly, to say that the ancient Greek materials were similar to the earlier ancient Egyptian ones in that both were used by Roman, Muslim, and modern builders.

The correct answer is C.

SC09877

687. Especially in the early years, new entrepreneurs may need to find resourceful ways, like renting temporary office space or using answering services, that make their company seem large and more firmly established than they may actually be.
- (A) that make their company seem large
- (B) to make their companies seem larger
- (C) thus making their companies seem larger
- (D) so that the companies seem larger
- (E) of making their company seem large

Grammatical Construction; Diction

The clause beginning with *that* suggests that a company can be made to seem better than it actually is. The comparison signaled by *than* appears to be intended to apply to both the size of the company and the degree to which the company is firmly established. In that case, it is a mistake to use *large* instead of *larger*. If, on the other hand, *large* is not intended to be part of the comparison, it would be better to clarify this by separating the two topics in a construction such as *make their company seem large and also make it seem more firmly established...* The phrase *resourceful ways* suggests purpose, so *ways* should connect with *to* or *of*, rather than a *that* clause to capture the intended meaning.

- A *Large* is the incorrect form to express comparison; it should be *larger*; the *that* clause does not adequately capture the idea of purpose implicit in *ways*. The singular *company* does not agree with the plural pronoun *they*. Thus, the sentence either commits an agreement mistake or illogically says that entrepreneurs need to find ways to make themselves seem large and more firmly established.
- B **Correct.** *Larger* is the correct form to express the comparative meaning, and *to* correctly follows *way*. *Companies* agrees with the plural *they*.
- C The phrase beginning *thus making* does not capture the idea of purpose implicit in *ways*.
- D Clauses beginning *so that* can express purpose, but do not fit with *ways* in the manner required here: *to* or *of* is needed after *ways*.
- E *Large* is the incorrect form to express comparison; it should be *larger*. The singular *company* does not agree with the plural pronoun *they*. Thus, the sentence either commits an agreement mistake or illogically says that entrepreneurs need to find ways to make themselves seem large and more firmly established.

The correct answer is B.

SC01975

688. Unlike the nests of leaf cutters and most other ants, situated underground or in pieces of wood, raider ants make a portable nest by entwining their long legs to form “curtains” of ants that hang from logs or

boulders, providing protection for the queen and the colony larvae and pupae.

- (A) the nests of leaf cutters and most other ants,
- (B) the nests of leaf cutters and most other ants, which are
- (C) leaf cutters and most other ants, whose nests are
- (D) leaf cutters and most other ants in having nests
- (E) those of leaf cutters and most other ants with nests

Logical Predication

As worded, this sentence draws a contrast between raider ants and the nests of leaf cutters and most other ants. The appropriate contrast would be with leaf cutters and most other ants themselves, not their nests.

- A As indicated above, the appropriate contrast is between raider ants and other kinds of ants (namely leaf cutters and most ants). As worded, this version of the sentence says something obviously true: of course the nests of leaf cutters and most other ants do not make portable nests.
- B Like (A), this sentence compares nests with raider ants. Also, the referent of the relative pronoun *which* is ambiguous, possibly modifying *ants*, and possibly modifying *nests*.
- C **Correct.** This version correctly draws the contrast between raider ants and other kinds of ants. Furthermore, unlike in (B) and (D), it is clear here that *situated underground or in pieces of wood* applies to the nests of leaf cutters and most other ants.
- D This sentence correctly compares leaf cutters and other ants with raider ants, but the prepositional phrase *in having nests* suggests that it is raider ants, not leaf cutters and most other ants, that have nests situated underground or in pieces of wood; however, the rest of the sentence indicates that in fact raider ants' nests are not situated in such locations.
- E The referent of *those* is unclear; presumably it refers to *nests*, but grammatically it has no clear antecedent. If it is taken to refer to *nests*, *those* creates an illogical comparison with *raider ants*.

The correct answer is C.

SC04452

689. Turtles, like other reptiles, can endure long fasts, in their ability to survive on weekly or even monthly feedings; however, when food is readily available, they may eat frequently and grow very fat.

- (A) fasts, in their ability to survive
- (B) fasts, having their ability to survive
- (C) fasts, due to having the ability of surviving
- (D) fasts because they are able to survive
- (E) fasts because of having the ability of surviving

Idiom; Diction

To express why turtles can endure long fasts—their ability to survive on only occasional feedings—it is clearer and more idiomatic to use *because* than to use *in* or *having*. Also, the noun *ability* here requires *to* introducing a noun phrase denoting the nature of the ability.

- A *In* does not express the causal relationship clearly, whereas *because* does.
- B *Having* does not express the causal relationship clearly.
- C *Ability of* is incorrect; *ability* must be followed by *to* in order to express the intended meaning. *Due to having the ability* is awkward, nonstandard, and unnecessarily wordy.
- D **Correct.** This option uses *because* to express the causal relation and uses *to* after *ability*.
- E *Ability of* is incorrect; *ability* must be followed by *to* in order to express the intended meaning. *Because of having the ability* is awkward, nonstandard, and unnecessarily wordy.

The correct answer is D.

SC02025

690. Thai village crafts, as with other cultures, have developed through the principle that form follows function and incorporate readily available materials fashioned using traditional skills.

- (A) as with
- (B) as did those of
- (C) as they have in
- (D) like in
- (E) like those of

Logical Predication; Diction; Verb Form

The phrase *as with other cultures* is initially confusing given that no culture has been specifically mentioned; Thai village culture is indirectly referenced by the mention of *Thai village crafts*, so perhaps that is what is meant. But then, looking at the phrase in context, it becomes clear that the sentence is intended to indicate that the *crafts* of other cultures are similar in certain ways to Thai village crafts. Thus, the sentence should say *those of other cultures*. Furthermore, the use here of *as with* is questionable. To do the job it is supposed to do here (to indicate that the crafts of Thai villages are like the crafts of other cultures in a particular way), *as with* should be at the beginning of the sentence: *As with the crafts of other cultures, Thai village crafts have developed. . .* Alternatively, *like* could be used here instead of *as with*.

- A The appropriate comparison is between Thai village crafts and those (i.e., crafts) of other cultures, not the other cultures themselves. Additionally, *like* would be more appropriate here than *as with*.
- B The verb form here is incorrect. *[D]id* is not parallel to *have* later in the sentence. The phrase *as have those of other cultures* would be parallel, but it is in the wrong position. To be correct, it would need to occur after the main verb is introduced: *Thai village crafts have developed, as have those of other cultures, . . .*
- C The use of the pronoun *they* is inaccurate; the reader is likely to take its antecedent to be *Thai village crafts*, not *crafts*. Furthermore, even if the pronoun here were not problematic, if the construction *as they have in other cultures* is used, it should occur after the main verb (*have developed*) is introduced.
- D The comparative term *like* compares two nouns or noun phrases, but in this version of the sentence, *like* compares a noun (*crafts*) with a prepositional phrase (*in other cultures*).
- E **Correct.** *[T]hose of other cultures* clearly refers to the crafts of other cultures; *like* is appropriate for making a comparison between two sorts of things (*crafts*).

The correct answer is E.

SC01554

691. To estimate the expansion rate of the universe is a notoriously difficult problem because there is a lack of a single yardstick that all distances can be measured by.
- (A) To estimate the expansion rate of the universe is a notoriously difficult problem because there is a lack of a single yardstick that all distances can be measured by.
 - (B) Estimating the expansion rate of the universe is a notoriously difficult problem because there is no single yardstick by which all distances can be measured.
 - (C) Because there is a lack of a single yardstick to measure all distances by, estimating the expansion rate of the universe is a notoriously difficult problem.
 - (D) A notoriously difficult problem is to estimate the expansion rate of the universe because a single yardstick is lacking by which all distances can be measured.
 - (E) It is a notoriously difficult problem to estimate the expansion rate of the universe because by no single yardstick can all distances be measured.

Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication

The sentence seeks to explain the difficulty of estimating the expansion rate of the universe and uses a *because*-clause to present the explanation. Issues in the given sentence include the following: is the infinitive verb form *to estimate* best here? And is there a more straightforward and more readable way to express the explanation?

- A The wording with the infinitive verb form *to estimate* is less than ideal here (as opposed to *how to estimate*, for example). The phrase *there is a lack of a single yardstick* is wordy. The placement of the preposition *by* so far from the relative pronoun it governs (*that*) is unnecessarily awkward.
- B **Correct.** Use of the verbal noun *estimating* is acceptable here. The phrase *there is no single yardstick* is much more direct and readable than *there is a lack of a single yardstick*. The preposition *by* is adjacent to *which*, the relative pronoun that it governs.
- C The phrase *there is a lack of a single yardstick* is wordy. The placement of the preposition *by* at the end of the phrase *a single yardstick to measure all distances by* is unnecessarily

awkward, in that it separates *by* from the noun that it is meant to govern.

- D Compared with the given sentence, this sentence involves a reordering of the ideas and a shifting of emphases in a way that is confusing. For example, is this sentence to be understood as citing one instance of “a notoriously difficult problem”? This was not the purpose of the given sentence. In addition, the phrase *to estimate* is less clear than would be *how to estimate*. Finally, the wide separation of the *because*-clause from the reference to difficulty produces a sentence that is unnecessarily awkward, if not incoherent (for example, structurally it seems to make the adverbial *because*-clause modify the verb *estimate*). Contrast this with the given sentence, where the *because*-clause is placed adjacent to the phrase *difficult problem*.
- E The phrase *to estimate* is less clear than would be *how to estimate*. The *because*-clause, which is meant to explain why estimating the expansion rate of the universe is difficult, is too widely separated from the reference to difficulty. In the *because*-clause, the inversion of the normal subject-verb order is unnecessarily awkward.

The correct answer is B.

SC01059

692. The Commerce Department reported that the nation's economy grew at a brisk annual pace of 3.7 percent in the second quarter, but that while businesses were expanding their production, unsold goods piled up on store shelves as consumer spending is slowed sharply.
- (A) unsold goods piled up on store shelves as consumer spending is slowed sharply
 - (B) unsold goods were piling up on store shelves as consumer spending slowed sharply
 - (C) unsold goods had piled up on store shelves with a sharp slowing of consumer spending
 - (D) consumer spending was slowing sharply, with the piling up of unsold goods on store shelves
 - (E) consumer spending has slowed sharply, with unsold goods piling up on store shelves

Verb Form; Rhetorical Construction

The sentence summarizes a government report about four business and economic processes

occurring over a single quarter: economic growth, increasing production, unsold goods accumulating in retail stores, and a sharp slowing in consumer spending. A problem in the verb *is slowed* is use of the passive form, which in this context is awkward and unidiomatic. It is also present tense, whereas *piled up* is simple-past tense—a breach of proper tense sequence.

- A This fails because of the inappropriate and in context unidiomatic use of the passive voice. Also, *piled up* does not clearly indicate a process.
- B **Correct.** The verb *were piling up* correctly indicates a process as opposed to a single event; with the *as*-clause, the verb *slowed* indicates a process simultaneous with another process (and, implicitly, contributing to it).
- C The verb *had piled up* suggests an event that occurred before businesses were expanding their production, even though the *while*-clause indicates that the piling-up occurred simultaneously with that expansion.
- D The import of the *with*-phrase is insufficiently clear. It could be read as indicating that the piling-up was also slowing. But this reading fails to capture the idea of a causal relationship implicitly conveyed in the given sentence.
- E The verb *has slowed* suggests a process that occurred in the recent past and impinges on the present (not necessarily in “the second quarter”). The verb tense does not match the verb tense *were expanding* in the *while*-clause, and does not convey simultaneity with the expansion referred to.

The correct answer is B.

SC01470

693. Thomas Mann's novel Doctor Faustus offers an examination not only of how difficult it is to reconcile reason, will, and passion together in any art form, but also a skillfully navigated exploration of the major concerns of modernism.

- (A) an examination not only of how difficult it is to reconcile reason, will, and passion together in any art form, but
- (B) an examination not only about the difficulty of reconciling reason, will, and passion in any art form, and

- (C) not only an examination of how difficult it is to reconcile reason, will, and passion in any art form, and
- (D) not only an examination about the difficulty with reconciling reason, will, and passion together in any art form, but
- (E) not only an examination of the difficulty of reconciling reason, will, and passion in any art form, but

Grammatical Construction; Idiom

The sentence, in its most correct form, would use the structure *not only ... but also* ... to coordinate parallel references to an “examination” and to an “exploration.” However, the given sentence errs in placing the phrase *not only* after the first of the items meant to be coordinated. This impairs the required parallelism and the grammatical structure of the sentence as a whole—as if the “examination” referred to was not only an examination of the difficulty of a certain reconciliation but was also an examination of a skillfully navigated exploration. This does not seem to be the intended meaning, and if it were, the latter *of*, not included, would be required.

- A In addition to the structural problem already noted, the word *together* is superfluous because its meaning is already included in *reconcile*.
- B The word *examination* should be followed in this context by the preposition *of* rather than by *about*. The coordinate conjunction *and* is unidiomatic, given the earlier occurrence of *not only*.
- C The coordinate conjunction *and* is unidiomatic in this context, given the earlier occurrence of *not only*.
- D The prepositions *about* and *with* are unidiomatic here (as opposed to *of/in* both cases). As noted earlier, *together* is superfluous with *reconcile*.
- E **Correct.** The coordination of the parallel reference to an examination and an exploration is successfully executed here using the structure *not only ... but also*.

The correct answer is E.

SC00981

694. According to a recent study, retirees in the United States are four times more likely to give regular financial aid to their children as to receive it from them.
- (A) retirees in the United States are four times more likely to give regular financial aid to their children as
 - (B) retirees in the United States are four times as likely to give regular financial aid to their children as it is for them
 - (C) retirees in the United States are four times more likely to give regular financial aid to their children than
 - (D) it is four times more likely for retirees in the United States to give regular financial aid to their children than they are
 - (E) it is four times as likely that retirees in the United States will give their children regular financial aid as they are

Diction; Parallelism

The sentence notes a difference, for retirees in the United States, between the likelihood that they will give regular financial aid to their children and the likelihood that they will receive regular financial aid from their children. The elements of the comparison need to be expressed in parallel and in a proper construction.

- A This sentence improperly implements the construction *four times more likely to X than to Y*, with *X* corresponding to *give regular financial aid to their children* and *Y* corresponding to *receive it from them*. Instead of the word *than* that would be used in this construction, the sentence improperly uses *as*.
- B This sentence, like sentence A, improperly uses *as*. It also lacks parallelism, because *to give regular financial aid to their children* is not parallel to *it is for them to receive it from them*.
- C **Correct.** This sentence resolves both of the issues discussed in connection with sentences A and B. In addition to properly using *than* in the construction *four times more likely to X than to Y*, the sentence properly lists in parallel the two elements being compared—*to give regular financial aid to their children* and *to receive it from them*.

- D This sentence, in addition to being somewhat more wordy than necessary, lacks parallelism. The phrase *to give regular financial aid to their children* is not parallel to *they are to receive it from them*. The words *they are* in the second phrase are superfluous and make the sentence more difficult to read than necessary, and can simply be removed.
- E This sentence is hard to parse and lacks parallelism. It is difficult to see what two phrases represent the elements to be compared and thus what needs to be parallel with what. This makes the sentence difficult to read.

The correct answer is C.

SC04093

695. Discussion of greenhouse effects have usually had as a focus the possibility of Earth growing warmer and to what extent it might, but climatologists have indicated all along that precipitation, storminess, and temperature extremes are likely to have the greatest impact on people.
- (A) Discussion of greenhouse effects have usually had as a focus the possibility of Earth growing warmer and to what extent it might,
 - (B) Discussion of greenhouse effects has usually had as its focus whether Earth would get warmer and what the extent would be,
 - (C) Discussion of greenhouse effects has usually focused on whether Earth would grow warmer and to what extent,
 - (D) The discussion of greenhouse effects have usually focused on the possibility of Earth getting warmer and to what extent it might,
 - (E) The discussion of greenhouse effects has usually focused on whether Earth would grow warmer and the extent that is,

Agreement; Parallelism

The sentence contrasts climatologists' views concerning greenhouse effects with other views that emphasize global warming. The main subject of the sentence is *discussion . . .*, which is singular, so the main verb should be singular. The two things that are said to be the focus of discussion should be in parallel form.

- A The plural verb *have . . . had* does not agree with the singular subject *discussion*. The phrases *the possibility . . . warmer* and *to what . . . might* are not parallel.

- B The verb form *has had as its focus* is unnecessarily wordy; the noun clauses are parallel in form, but it is not clear what *the extent* refers to.
- C **Correct.** This has correct subject-verb agreement, eliminates the wordiness of the original sentence, and the phrases *whether . . . warmer* and *to what extent* are parallel.
- D The singular subject *discussion* does not agree with the plural verb *have focused*. *The possibility of . . .* is not parallel with *to what extent . . .*
- E The two phrases following *on* are not in parallel form. What *that* refers to in *the extent that is* is unclear.

The correct answer is C.

SC02102

696. In the seventh century B.C., the Roman alphabet was adapted from the Etruscan alphabet, which in turn had been adapted in the previous century from a western Greek alphabet, which itself had been adapted earlier in the same century from the Phoenician alphabet.

- (A) which itself had been adapted earlier
 (B) adapting itself earlier
 (C) itself being adapted earlier
 (D) having been earlier adapted itself
 (E) earlier itself having been adapted

Rhetorical Construction; Verb Form; Logical Predication

This sentence describes a string of adaptations of the alphabet, tracing back from the seventh century BC through two points in the eighth century BC. Because the latest of the three adaptations is temporally located in past tense, earlier adaptations should be located in the past perfect tense.

- A **Correct.** This sentence is properly constructed and uses the appropriate verb forms for the relationships among the events that it describes.
- B It is unclear what the participial phrase *adapting itself earlier . . .* refers to. The present participle could be used for an event that was simultaneous with, or part of, the event mentioned before the underlined portion. However, it is inappropriate for describing an event

that took place even earlier than the seventh century BC, which has already been designated in the sentence as past tense. The reflexive form *adapting itself* is nonsensical in this sentence.

- C The present tense of the reflexive participial phrase is inappropriate for describing an event prior to the seventh century BC, given that the seventh century BC has already been designated in the sentence as past tense.
- D Without commas around *itself*, the pronoun appears to be reflexive. The combination of passive and reflexive then makes no sense. If *itself* is intended simply for emphasis, rather than as a reflexive pronoun, it would be preferable, in this context, to set it off with commas. But if it were intended in that way, it would seem to refer to the Roman alphabet, and the claim made in the sentence would be confusing and nearly nonsensical. This modifier is confusingly placed before the designation of time (*in the same century*) and source (*from the Phoenician alphabet*).
- E The adverb *earlier* is misplaced before the pronoun *itself*; it should be immediately before the phrase *in the same century*.

The correct answer is A.

SC09185

697. The foundation works to strengthen local and regional agricultural markets and cooperating with governments, improving access for farmers for productive resources such as land and credit.

- (A) cooperating with governments, improving access for farmers for
 (B) cooperates with governments to improve access for farmers to
 (C) cooperate with governments for improvements of access for farmers to
 (D) cooperate with governments and improve accessibility for farmers for their
 (E) in cooperation with governments to improve access for farmers for

Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction

As written, this sentence does not clearly indicate whether *and* is intended to conjoin two things that the foundation does (working

to strengthen markets and cooperating with governments) or two things that the foundation works to accomplish (strengthening markets and cooperating with governments). The latter is less plausible because of the redundancy of *works to cooperate*. In the former, the proper verb form, parallel with the present-tense *works*, would be *cooperates*. In the latter, the proper verb form, parallel with the infinitive *to strengthen*, would be *to cooperate* or simply *cooperate*. Only one of the answer choices resolves the uncertainty of meaning in a coherent and well-formed way.

- A *Cooperating* is incorrect, since it is not in the same form as either *works* or *to strengthen*.
- B **Correct.** This version correctly represents the foundation's two actions by putting the verbs *works* and *cooperates* in parallel form. *Cooperates . . . to improve* is the most concise phrasing to express the purpose of improving access.
- C *Cooperate . . . for improvements of access for farmers* is awkwardly phrased and unnecessarily wordy.
- D *Cooperate . . . and improve accessibility for farmers* is awkwardly phrased and unnecessarily wordy.
- E *In cooperation* destroys the parallelism required by *works to*: there should be a verb following *works to*, not this prepositional phrase.

The correct answer is B.

SC07338

698. A professor at the university has taken a sabbatical to research on James Baldwin's books that Baldwin wrote in France while he was living there.
- (A) on James Baldwin's books that Baldwin wrote in France while he was living there
 - (B) about the books James Baldwin wrote in France
 - (C) into James Baldwin's books written while in France
 - (D) on the books of James Baldwin, written while he lived in France
 - (E) the books James Baldwin wrote while he lived in France

Diction; Rhetorical Construction

The phrasing of this sentence is wordy and redundant: *books that Baldwin wrote in France while he was living there* could more concisely be

expressed with *books James Baldwin wrote while he lived in France*. The verb *research* requires a direct object, not a preposition followed by its object.

- A *On* incorrectly follows *to research*, and *books that Baldwin wrote in France while he was living there* includes redundant information.
- B *About* incorrectly follows *to research*.
- C *Into* incorrectly follows *to research*. Given this sentence structure, *while in France* seems to say, illogically, that the books were written while they were in France.
- D *On* incorrectly follows *to research*; also, there is no need to make *written while he lived in France* into an independent phrase instead of a relative clause.
- E **Correct.** *Research* takes a direct object, which describes the books directly without redundancy.

The correct answer is E.

SC01506

699. Researchers now regard interferon as not a single substance, but it is rather a biological family of complex molecules that play an important, though not entirely defined, role in the immune system.
- (A) as not a single substance, but it is rather a biological family of complex molecules that play
 - (B) as not a single substance but as a biological family of complex molecules playing
 - (C) not as a single substance but as a biological family of complex molecules that play
 - (D) not to be a single substance but rather a biological family of complex molecules playing
 - (E) not as a single substance but instead as being a biological family of complex molecules that play

Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction

This sentence draws a contrast between how interferon is and is not regarded by researchers. However, the two parts of the contrast are not expressed in parallel form since the first is a prepositional phrase (*as not a single substance*), and the second is a clause (*it is rather a biological family*). Furthermore, the wording *regard interferon as not* is awkward and confusing. For clarity and proper parallelism, the contrast should be constructed using the expression *not as X but as Y*, where *X* and *Y* are both noun phrases.

- A The contrast is not expressed using parallel grammatical structure, and *regard interferon as not* is awkward and confusing.
- B The wording *regard interferon as not* is awkward and confusing and violates proper parallelism.
- C **Correct.** The contrast is expressed using the parallel structure *not as a single substance but as a biological family*.
- D The main defect here is that *regard interferon not to be a single substance* is unidiomatic; *regard . . . as . . .* is the correct form; and completing the parallelism correctly would require the repetition of *as*, in the phrase *but rather as . . .*
- E The contrast is not expressed using parallel grammatical structure since *a single substance* is a noun phrase, while *being a biological family* is a participial phrase; omitting the unnecessary words *being* and *instead* would improve the sentence.

The correct answer is C.

SC01018

700. The remarkable similarity of Thule artifacts throughout a vast region can, in part, be explained as a very rapid movement of people from one end of North America to the other.

- (A) The remarkable similarity of Thule artifacts throughout a vast region can, in part, be explained as
- (B) Thule artifacts being remarkably similar throughout a vast region, one explanation is
- (C) That Thule artifacts are remarkably similar throughout a vast region is, in part, explainable as
- (D) One explanation for the remarkable similarity of Thule artifacts throughout a vast region is that there was
- (E) Throughout a vast region Thule artifacts are remarkably similar, with one explanation for this being

Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction; Rhetorical Construction

The intended meaning of the sentence is that the rapid movement of people across North America is one explanation of the *similarity of Thule artifacts throughout a vast region*. As worded, however, the sentence is illogical: The sentence indicates that the similarity in artifacts was a rapid movement of people, which makes no sense.

Instead of equating similarity with movement, the sentence needs to identify this movement of people as a cause of similarity among artifacts.

- A As worded, this version of the sentence makes the illogical statement that the similarity among artifacts is explainable *as a very rapid movement*. It should specify that the similarity of artifacts may be a consequence of the rapid population movement.
- B This version of the sentence is syntactically awkward, and leaves unclear what the main subject, *one explanation*, is supposed to be an explanation of.
- C Like (A), this version of the sentence equates the similarity of artifacts with the movement of people, when a causal connection is what is intended.
- D **Correct.** This version adequately expresses the intended causal connection.
- E This version is awkward, introducing the causal connection with the unnecessarily wordy and indirect string of prepositional phrases, *with one explanation for this. . . .*

The correct answer is D.

SC01490

701. Between 14,000 and 8,000 b.c. the ice cap that covered northern Asia, Europe, and America began to melt, uncovering vast new areas that were to be occupied by migrating peoples moving northward.

- (A) began to melt, uncovering vast new areas that were to be occupied
- (B) began melting, to uncover vast new areas to be occupied
- (C) began, by melting, to uncover vast new areas for occupation
- (D) began, after melting, uncovering vast new areas which are to be occupied
- (E) would begin to uncover, through melting, vast new areas for occupation

Verb Form; Logical Predication

The sentence explains what happened when an ice cap *began to melt*. The participial phrase *uncovering vast new areas* succinctly describes the immediate effects of the melting. The verb form *were to be occupied* is used to indicate that occupation would take place at a time in the future from the time of the melting.

- A **Correct.** The sentence succinctly expresses immediate and future effects of the melting of an ice cap.
- B The infinitive *to uncover* incorrectly implies that the ice cap melted for the purpose of uncovering new areas.
- C Since *melting* is what caused new areas to be uncovered, that word should be part of the main verb, not placed in the nonrestrictive prepositional phrase *by melting*.
- D It does not make sense to say that the ice cap *began . . . uncovering* new areas *after* it had melted—since the ice cap no longer existed in the areas where it had melted.
- E Since *melting* is what caused new areas to be uncovered, that word should be part of the main verb, not placed in the nonrestrictive prepositional phrase *through melting*.

The correct answer is A.

SC01472

702. Bengal-born writer, philosopher, and educator Rabindranath Tagore had the greatest admiration for Mohandas K. Gandhi the person and also as a politician, but Tagore had been skeptical of Gandhi's form of nationalism and his conservative opinions about India's cultural traditions.
- (A) for Mohandas K. Gandhi the person and also as a politician, but Tagore had been
- (B) for Mohandas K. Gandhi as a person and as a politician, but Tagore was also
- (C) for Mohandas K. Gandhi not only as a person and as a politician, but Tagore was also
- (D) of Mohandas K. Gandhi as a person and as also a politician, but Tagore was
- (E) of Mohandas K. Gandhi not only as a person and as a politician, but Tagore had also been

Rhetorical Construction; Parallelism

This sentence describes the writer and philosopher Tagore's two types of feelings for Gandhi. The underlined part of the sentence has to express correctly the time line of these two feelings (they happened simultaneously). The underlined part also has to express the correct relationship between the complements of admiration and skepticism.

- A To maintain parallelism, it is important for two conjoined phrases to be of the same grammatical type. Thus, it is appropriate to conjoin *Gandhi the person and the politician*, or *Gandhi as a person and as a politician*, but it is nonstandard in English to mix and match. In addition, the use of the past perfect tense *had been* places the skepticism earlier on the time line than the admiration, which is misleading.
- B **Correct.** This version correctly conjoins two parallel phrases, *Gandhi as a person and as a politician*, and, in using two simple past tenses to introduce the two emotions, marks them as holding at the same time.
- C The phrase *not only X but also Y* matches the meaning of this sentence: Tagore had not only admiration but also skepticism. However *not only* has to precede *admiration* for this rhetorical construction to be parallel.
- D The noun *admiration* as it is positioned in this sentence should take the preposition *for*, not *of*, since it refers to a person. The adverb *also* is redundant because it expresses the same meaning as the conjunction *and*.
- E As in (D), the noun *admiration* should take the preposition *for*. As in (C), the rhetorical structure of *not only X but also Y* is violated. Finally, the use of the past perfect tense *had been* is misleading with respect to the time line.

The correct answer is B.

SC04704

703. Traffic safety officials predict that drivers will be equally likely to exceed the proposed speed limit as the current one.
- (A) equally likely to exceed the proposed speed limit as
- (B) equally likely to exceed the proposed speed limit as they are
- (C) equally likely that they will exceed the proposed speed limit as.

- (D) as likely that they will exceed the proposed speed limit as
 (E) as likely to exceed the proposed speed limit as they are

Idiom; Parallelism

This sentence reports on a prediction that compares the likelihood of drivers exceeding a proposed new speed limit with the likelihood of drivers exceeding the current speed limit. The idiom *as x as y*, rather than the incorrect form *equally . . . as*, should be used to express the comparison.

- A *Equally likely . . . as* is not an idiomatic form of comparison.
 B This also offers a nonidiomatic form of comparison.
 C The comparison is expressed nonidiomatically. Also, *the drivers will be equally likely* should be followed by *to exceed* rather than *by that they will exceed*. The resulting sentence is wordy and structurally flawed.
 D The resulting sentence is wordy and structurally flawed. The idiomatic phrase *as x as y* is somewhat in use, but *as likely that they* is awkward, and the comparison is unclear and not parallel.
 E **Correct.** The idiomatic phrase *as x as y* is properly used, and the comparison is clear and parallel.

The correct answer is E.

SC04562

704. Written early in the French Revolution, Mary Wollstonecraft's A Vindication of the Rights of Man (1790) and A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792) attributed Europe's social and political ills to be the result of the dominance of aristocratic values and patriarchal hereditary privilege.

- (A) Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Man* (1790) and *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) attributed Europe's social and political ills to be the result of
 (B) Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Man* (1790) and *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) attributed Europe's social and political ills to result from

- (C) Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Man* (1790) and *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) attributed Europe's social and political ills to
 (D) in *A Vindication of the Rights of Man* (1790) and *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), Mary Wollstonecraft attributed Europe's social and political ills to have been the result of
 (E) Mary Wollstonecraft, in *A Vindication of the Rights of Man* (1790) and *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), attributed Europe's social and political ills to

Logical Predication; Idiom

The phrase at the beginning needs a subject for *written*; most logically here it would be the books mentioned written by Mary Wollstonecraft; any other main-clause subject is therefore incorrect. The verb *attribute* idiomatically requires the preposition *to* followed by a noun phrase, not the infinitive marker *to* followed by a verb.

- A The main subject is correctly predicated of *written*, but *attribute* is incorrectly followed by the infinitive *to* plus a verb (*be*).
 B The main subject is correctly predicated of *written*, but *attribute* is incorrectly followed by the infinitive *to* plus a verb (*result*).
 C **Correct.** The main subject is correctly predicated of *written*, and *attribute* is correctly followed by the preposition *to*.
 D The subject of the main clause is *Mary Wollstonecraft*, and so this phrase is illogically forced to be taken as the subject of *written*. Also, *attribute* is incorrectly followed by *to* plus a verb (*have been*).
 E The subject of the main clause is *Mary Wollstonecraft*, and so this phrase is illogically forced to be taken as the subject of *written*.

The correct answer is C.

SC01498

705. Using study groups managed by the principal popular organizations and political parties, the Swedish public was informed by the government about energy and nuclear power.

- (A) the Swedish public was informed by the government about energy and nuclear power
- (B) the government informed the Swedish public about energy and nuclear power
- (C) energy and nuclear power information was given to the Swedish public by the government
- (D) information about energy and nuclear power was given to the Swedish public by the government
- (E) the public of Sweden was given energy and nuclear power information by the government

Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

This sentence tries to describe a situation in which the government used study groups to inform the Swedish public. Therefore, it is incorrect to use *the Swedish public* as the subject of *inform* in this sentence, because doing so in this case illogically makes *the Swedish public* the subject of *using* as well. Additionally, *inform* is a more concise and direct way to express the idea in *give information*.

- A Using *the Swedish public* as the subject of the main clause incorrectly makes it the subject of *using* as well.
- B **Correct.** Using *the government* as the main subject correctly allows it to count as the subject of *using*; *inform* is a concise phrasing for the main action of the sentence.
- C Energy and nuclear power information does not work as the subject of the main clause, since this also, illogically, makes it the subject of *using*. Also, this phrase delays the reader's understanding of the important noun *information* (a clearer phrasing is *information about energy and nuclear power*) and employs *give information* rather than the more concise *inform*.
- D Energy and nuclear power information does not work as the main clause subject, since this also, illogically, makes it the subject of *using*. In addition, this version awkwardly uses *give information to* instead of the more concise *inform*.

- E *The public of Sweden* is awkward compared to *the Swedish public*, and in any case is illogically taken as the subject of using; *given . . . information* could be phrased more concisely with *inform*.

The correct answer is B.

SC07446

706. The use of the bar code, or Universal Product Code, which was created in part to enable supermarkets to process customers at a faster rate, has expanded beyond supermarkets to other retail outlets and have become readily accepted despite some initial opposition when it was first introduced in 1974.

- (A) have become readily accepted despite some initial opposition when it was first introduced in 1974
- (B) has become readily accepted despite some initial opposition when they were first introduced in 1974
- (C) have become readily accepted despite some initial opposition when first introduced in 1974
- (D) has become readily accepted despite some initial opposition when the bar code was first introduced in 1974
- (E) bar codes have become readily accepted despite some initial opposition when it was first introduced in 1974

Agreement; Rhetorical Construction

The subject of this sentence is *the use of the bar code*, the main noun of which is the singular *use*; thus, the corresponding main verb should be in the singular form *has*, not the plural *have*. The actual subject for this verb is merely understood, but when it is present, any pronoun that refers back to it must agree with it in number.

- A The verb form *have* does not agree with the sentence's subject. The referent of *it* is potentially unclear.
- B *Has* is correct; however, the rest of its clause is badly worded, because its subject *they* does not clearly refer back to the singular *Universal Product Code* (or *bar code*); a better choice is *it*.
- C The plural *have* does not agree with the singular subject *use*.
- D **Correct.** The verb is in the correct form *has*, and using *bar code* as the last clause's subject avoids an agreement problem.

- E Restating the subject as the plural *bar codes* allows the following verb to be *have*, but it is then incorrect to use *it* later in the sentence, since *it* does not agree in number with *bar codes*.

The correct answer is D.

SC01595

707. Normally a bone becomes fossilized through the action of groundwater, which permeates the bone, washes away its organic components, and replaces them with minerals.

- (A) which permeates the bone, washes away its organic components, and replaces them
- (B) which permeates the bone, washes away its organic components, and those are replaced
- (C) which permeates the bone, washing away its organic components, to be replaced
- (D) permeating the bone, washing away its organic components, to be replaced
- (E) permeating the bone, washing away its organic components and replacing them

Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction

The sentence explains the process by which groundwater produces fossilization of bones. The grammatically correct sentence describes a series of three stages in the process.

- A **Correct.** Three parallel verbal phrases—*permeates ..., washes ..., and replaces ...*—are correctly coordinated within a relative clause that has *which* as its subject referring to *groundwater*.
- B The third component of the series, *and those are replaced*, is nonparallel, and therefore incorrect. This renders the sentence ungrammatical.
- C This lacks the appropriate parallelism; based on structure, the phrase *to be replaced ...* should modify *which*, a relative pronoun referring to *groundwater*. But this would not express the thought intended in the given sentence, which indicates that organic components are replaced.
- D The participles *permeating* and *washing away* should, based on structure, have the subject of the sentence, *a bone*, as their

implicit subject. But this produces nonsense. It is unclear what the phrase *to be replaced* modifies: based on the intended meaning, it should be *its organic components*, but the structure does not indicate this, given that the subject of the sentence is *a bone*.

- E The three participles *permeating*, *washing away*, and *replacing* have the subject of the sentence (*a bone*) as their implicit subject. This produces nonsense. Also, any three-element series must have a comma immediately following each of its first two elements.

The correct answer is A.

SC04416

708. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had long been expected to announce a reduction in output to bolster sagging oil prices, but officials of the organization just recently announced that the group will pare daily production by 1.5 million barrels by the beginning of next year, but only if non-OPEC nations, including Norway, Mexico, and Russia, were to trim output by a total of 500,000 barrels a day.

- (A) year, but only if non-OPEC nations, including Norway, Mexico, and Russia, were to trim output
- (B) year, but only if the output of non-OPEC nations, which includes Norway, Mexico, and Russia, is trimmed
- (C) year only if the output of non-OPEC nations, including Norway, Mexico, and Russia, would be trimmed
- (D) year only if non-OPEC nations, which includes Norway, Mexico, and Russia, were trimming output
- (E) year only if non-OPEC nations, including Norway, Mexico, and Russia, trim output

Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication

The underlined part of this sentence deals with the conditions under which OPEC members will lower their own oil production by 1.5 million barrels by the beginning of next year. The important thing to notice here is the following logical relation: *X will do something only if Y does something else*.

- A This version has redundant words, *were to* in front of *trim*, that do not add anything more in meaning. Furthermore, *were to trim* is not the proper verb form to accompany *will pare*. The addition of *but* before *only* is also redundant.

- B This version uses the passive construction in the conditional clause *only if the output ... is trimmed*. This use of the passive voice makes this sentence vague; it is now unclear who needs to trim the output of non-OPEC nations. Finally, the addition of *but* before *only* is redundant.
- C As in (B), this version also introduces vagueness by using the passive construction. In addition, *would* in front of the passive verb *be trimmed* is redundant.
- D This version uses an active verb, but in the past progressive form, *were trimming*. The progressive tense denotes actions in progress, so its use is not normally warranted in conditional sentences such as this one.
- E **Correct.** This version uses the correct and most concise conditional structure, without redundancies.

The correct answer is E.

SC01507

709. Over the past ten years cultivated sunflowers have become a major commercial crop, second only to soybeans as a source of vegetable oil.

- (A) second only to soybeans as a source of vegetable oil
- (B) second in importance to soybeans only as a source of vegetable oil
- (C) being second in importance only to soybeans as a source of vegetable oil
- (D) which, as a source of vegetable oil, is only second to soybeans
- (E) as a source of vegetable oil only second to soybeans

Rhetorical Construction; Idiom

The sentence makes the point that cultivated sunflowers are the second largest source of vegetable oil, soybeans alone being larger. Where *only* is placed in the sentence greatly affects the sense.

- A **Correct.** The placement of *only* allows the sentence to correctly express the thought that cultivated sunflowers rank second as a source of vegetable oil, with soybeans alone ranking first.

- B The placement of *only* creates an ambiguity: does it modify *soybeans* or the phrase *as a source of vegetable oil*? In the latter case, the sense would be that being a source of vegetable oil is the only respect in which soybeans are more important than sunflower seeds. However, this does not seem to be the intended sense of the given sentence. The phrase *in importance* is unnecessary and would make the sentence wordy.
- C The word *being* and the phrase *in importance* are unnecessary and make the sentence wordy.
- D The phrase *only second to soybeans* appears to minimize the importance, initially suggested, of sunflowers' being second to soybeans as a source of vegetable oil.
- E The word *only* is misplaced, given the intended sense, and it is unclear whether it modifies the phrase *as a source of vegetable oil*, or the phrase *second to soybeans*. In either case it fails to capture the sense of the given sentence.

The correct answer is A.

SC00985

710. Not trusting themselves to choose wisely among the wide array of investment opportunities on the market, stockbrokers are helping many people who turn to them to buy stocks that could be easily bought directly.

- (A) stockbrokers are helping many people who turn to them to buy stocks that could be easily
- (B) stockbrokers are helping many people who are turning to them for help in buying stocks that they could easily have
- (C) many people are turning to stockbrokers for help from them to buy stocks that could be easily
- (D) many people are turning to stockbrokers for help to buy stocks that easily could have been
- (E) many people are turning to stockbrokers for help in buying stocks that could easily be

Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction; Verb Form

This sentence is intended to be about people who, because they do not trust themselves to make wise investment decisions, turn to stockbrokers for advice. As the sentence is worded, however, it is stockbrokers who do not trust themselves to

choose wisely. The sentence is made even more incomprehensible by the peculiar placement of the adverbs in the phrase, *could be easily bought directly*.

- A This version of the sentence incorrectly identifies the subject described by the opening modifier as *stockbrokers*; the adverb *easily* is misplaced in the phrase *could be easily bought*.
- B As in (A), the opening clause illogically modifies *stockbrokers* rather than *many people*. The tense of the verb phrase *could easily have bought* does not match the tense of *are helping* earlier in the main clause.
- C Although the opening modifier is correctly attached to *people* rather than *stockbrokers*, the sentence is unnecessarily wordy (*for help from them*).
- D *To buy* is not idiomatic in this context—*in buying* would be correct—and the tense of the verb *could have been* does not match the tense of the verb earlier in the clause; the point is not that people are turning to stockbrokers for help in buying stocks that at some earlier time could have been bought directly, but rather that the stocks could be bought by the people directly at the very time they are seeking help from the stockbrokers.
- E **Correct.** The opening clause correctly modifies *many people*, and the adverb is correctly placed.

The correct answer is E.

SC01007

711. In the 1940s popular magazines in the United States began to report on the private lives of persons from the entertainment industry, in despite of the fact that they previously had featured individuals in business and politics.
- (A) in despite of the fact that they previously had featured individuals
 - (B) in spite of the fact previously that these publications featured articles on those
 - (C) whereas previously there were those individuals featured in articles
 - (D) whereas previously those individuals they featured were
 - (E) whereas previously these publications had featured articles on individuals

Idiom; Parallelism; Logical Predication

The sentence compares the reporting by popular magazines in the 1940s to the reporting by these magazines before the 1940s. Whereas previously the publications featured articles on people in business and politics, in the 1940s the magazines began to report on the private lives of persons in the entertainment industry. The two elements being compared should be described clearly and in a parallel fashion.

- A This sentence appears to misuse the *in spite of* idiom by using *despite* instead of *spite*. The use of *despite* is incorrect. Furthermore, although we can discern what the pronoun *they* is meant to refer to, the sentence would be easier to read if *these publications* were used in place of *they*.
- B The word *previously*, which is misplaced in this sentence, should be between *publications* and *featured*, and perhaps preceded with *had*. The wording of the relevant portion of the sentence would thus be *fact that these publications had previously featured*. Furthermore, although we can discern what (or who) *those in business and politics* is meant to refer to, more specific wording would have made this phrase in the sentence easier to read. For example, we could substitute *individuals* for *those*.
- C In this sentence, the phrase, *there were those individuals featured in articles in business and politics* is an assertion that individuals thus featured existed. Although we can guess that the writer would have meant to indicate that it was the magazines that were doing the featuring, the sentence fails to make this point clear. The sentence thus lacks clarity.
- D This sentence may present an improvement over sentences A, B, and C. However, the sentence would be more readable if the phrase *those individuals they featured* was made parallel with the corresponding portion of the other element of the comparison. For example, *they featured those individuals* would be parallel with *popular magazines ... began to report on the private lives of persons ...* It would also help if *they* were replaced with a more specific term such as *the magazines*.

- E Correct.** This sentence is clear and relatively easy to read.

The correct answer is E.

SC04770

712. In the early part of the twentieth century, many vacationers found that driving automobiles and sleeping in tents allowed them to enjoy nature close at hand and tour at their own pace, with none of the restrictions of passenger trains and railroad timetables or with the formalities, expenses, and impersonality of hotels.
- (A) with none of the restrictions of passenger trains and railroad timetables or with the
 (B) with none of the restrictions of passenger trains, railroad timetables, nor
 (C) without the restrictions of passenger trains and railroad timetables nor
 (D) without the restrictions of passenger trains and railroad timetables or with the
 (E) without the restrictions of passenger trains and railroad timetables or the

Rhetorical Construction; Diction

The sentence lays out some advantages that car travel and tent camping were perceived to offer over rail travel. The sentence attempts to describe these advantages in terms of the absence of any of a series of annoyances accompanying rail travel. But the sentence fails because of the mismatch between *with none of . . .* and *or with . . .*. One way to successfully convey the intended meaning is to use the preposition *without* governing all the items in the series, expressed as nouns or noun phrases.

- A By using *none of . . .* to introduce the first drawback of rail travel, and *or* to introduce the rest of them, this sentence suggests that the presence of drawbacks on the final list is an alternative to the absence of *restrictions*.
 B *With none . . . nor . . .* is nonidiomatic (as opposed to *neither . . . nor . . .*).
 C The structure *without . . . nor . . .* in the way used here is nonidiomatic. The negative *without* governs the whole list of drawbacks at the end of the sentence.
 D The coupling of *without* and *or with* is confusing, suggesting, as in (A), that the drawbacks on the final list are an alternative to the absence of *restrictions*.

- E Correct.** The sentence is unambiguous and constructed in a way that *without* clearly distributes over all the items in the series.

The correct answer is E.

SC04760

713. Over the next few years, increasing demands on the Chattahoochee River, which flows into the Apalachicola River, could alter the saline content of Apalachicola Bay, which would rob the oysters there of their flavor, and to make them decrease in size, less distinctive, and less in demand.
- (A) which would rob the oysters there of their flavor, and to make them decrease in size,
 (B) and it would rob the oysters there of their flavor, make them smaller,
 (C) and rob the oysters there of their flavor, making them decrease in size,
 (D) robbing the oysters there of their flavor and making them smaller,
 (E) robbing the oysters there of their flavor, and making them decrease in size,

Category

The sentence claims that demands for river water may change the saline content of the bay, possibly altering the flavor and size of oysters there and diminishing the oysters' marketability. The sentence is not parallel. It should read *which would rob the oysters . . . and make them decrease* to be parallel and grammatical. The series of three phrases after *make them* that describes what will happen to the oysters also needs to be parallel.

- A The referent of the relative pronoun, *which*, is ambiguous; the two effects of altered saline content are not expressed in parallel form, with a relative clause expressing the first effect, and an infinitive phrase expressing the second.
 B The referent of the pronoun *it* is ambiguous. Also, the effects of the bay's altered saline content are not expressed in parallel form—the first being an independent clause and the second a verb phrase.
 C The comma before the conjunction *and* signals that an independent clause will follow *and*, but a verb phrase follows instead. The series of phrases following *making them* lacks appropriate parallelism.

- D **Correct.** The potential effects on the oysters are expressed by two parallel participial phrases, the second of which lists three adjectives correctly in a series.
- E The series of phrases following *making them* lacks appropriate parallelism.

The correct answer is D.

SC01469

714. Elizabeth Barber, the author of both *Prehistoric Textiles*, a comprehensive work on cloth in the early cultures of the Mediterranean, and also of Women's Work, a more general account of early cloth manufacture, is an expert authority on textiles in ancient societies.
- (A) also of *Women's Work*, a more general account of early cloth manufacture, is an expert authority on
- (B) also *Women's Work*, a more general account of cloth manufacture, is an expert authority about
- (C) of *Women's Work*, a more general account about early cloth manufacture, is an authority on
- (D) of *Women's Work*, a more general account about early cloth manufacture, is an expert authority about
- (E) *Women's Work*, a more general account of early cloth manufacture, is an authority on

Rhetorical Construction; Idiom; Parallelism

Using a lot of parenthetical elements, this sentence communicates the main idea that Elizabeth Barber is an authority on textiles in ancient societies. It is the main rhetorical goal of the sentence to position the parenthetical elements so that they do not obscure the main idea. The parenthetical descriptions need to be streamlined enough to be informative, but not too long. In addition, several versions repeat *of* before the title *Women's Work* and doing so makes the sentence unparallel; the first *of* comes before *both* and so should distribute over both clauses.

- A The use of *also of* before *Women's Work* is redundant and unparallel. It is sufficient to connect the two book titles like this: *both X and Y*. The meanings of the two nouns *expert* and *authority* largely overlap, so there is no need to modify one with the other.
- B The use of *also before Women's Work* is redundant. It is sufficient to connect the two book titles like this: *both X and Y*. The meanings of the two nouns *expert* and

authority largely overlap, so there is no need to modify one with the other. Finally, the noun *authority* takes the preposition *on*, not *about*.

- C As in (A), repeating the preposition *of* before *Women's Work* makes the sentence unparallel. The noun *account* takes the preposition *of*, not *about*.
- D As in (A) and (C), repeating the preposition *of* before *Women's Work* makes the sentence unparallel. The noun *account* takes the preposition *of*, not *about*. It is redundant to modify *authority* with *expert* because they express the same idea. Finally, the noun *authority* takes the preposition *on*, not *about*.
- E **Correct.** This version is parallel, uses the most concise structure of the parenthetical descriptions, eschews the redundant modification of *authority*, and employs the correct prepositions.

The correct answer is E.

SC00994

715. Digging in sediments in northern China, evidence has been gathered by scientists suggesting that complex life-forms emerged much earlier than they had previously thought.
- (A) evidence has been gathered by scientists suggesting that complex life-forms emerged much earlier than they had
- (B) evidence gathered by scientists suggests a much earlier emergence of complex life-forms than had been
- (C) scientists have gathered evidence suggesting that complex life-forms emerged much earlier than
- (D) scientists have gathered evidence that suggests a much earlier emergence of complex life-forms than that which was
- (E) scientists have gathered evidence which suggests a much earlier emergence of complex life-forms than that

Logical Predication; Modification

In principle, the relationship described in the first part of the underlined portion could be expressed with *scientists* as the subject (*scientists gathered evidence*) or with *evidence* as the subject (*evidence was gathered by scientists*). The latter construction could be effective in some contexts, but here its

relationship to the rest of the sentence appears to commit the writer to the claim that the evidence was digging in China.

- A This version has a dangling participle, *digging*. . . *Digging in sediments in northern China* must modify *scientists*, not *evidence*. The passive structure of the main clause also creates an inadvertent distance between the words *evidence* and *suggesting*. Furthermore, the dependent clause starting with *suggesting* may be construed with either the evidence or the scientists, which makes this version unnecessarily ambiguous.
- B This version has a dangling participle, *digging*. . . *Digging in sediments in northern China* must modify *scientists*, not *evidence*.
- C **Correct.** Choosing *scientists* as the subject of *gathered*, this version corrects the dangling participle. It also uses a parallel active form of the verb *emerge*, and does not use redundant material.
- D In this context it would be preferable to use a verb (*emerged*). The phrasing used here (*suggests a much earlier emergence of*) sounds more stilted and is less clear and direct. In addition, inserting *that which* before *previously thought* is not only redundant but incorrect English.
- E The problems described in (D) above are also in evidence here.

The correct answer is C.

SC01521

716. Employing many different techniques throughout his career, Michelangelo produced a great variety of art works, including paintings, for example, in the Sistine Chapel, to sculpture, for example, the statue of David.

- (A) including paintings, for example, in the Sistine Chapel, to sculpture, for example,
- (B) including paintings, for example, in the Sistine Chapel, to sculpture, like
- (C) including paintings, such as those in the Sistine Chapel, and sculpture, as
- (D) ranging from paintings, such as those in the Sistine Chapel, to sculpture, such as
- (E) ranging from paintings, such as in the Sistine Chapel, and sculpture, such as

Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction

This sentence names painting and sculpture as two of the many kinds of art created by Michelangelo and provides examples of his work in those two art forms. Although the two sets of examples are expressed in parallel form, the position of the phrase *for example* that introduces them creates a choppy and awkward sentence since it must be surrounded by commas. A more concise way to construct parallel sets of examples is to express each using a phrase introduced by *such as*.

- A The sentence is choppy and awkward due to the twofold use of the phrase *for example*, which must be surrounded by commas. The preposition *to*, in context, suggests a range, but it would then be needed to be preceded by *from*.
- B The examples of art are not in parallel form since the first is introduced by *for example* followed by the prepositional phrase *in the Sistine Chapel*, and the second is introduced by the prepositional phrase *like* . . . The preposition *to* is unidiomatic and awkwardly used here.
- C The examples of art are not in parallel form since the first is introduced by *such as*, and the second is introduced by *as*.
- D **Correct.** The examples of art are in parallel form, each introduced with the words *such as*.
- E Although the examples of art are both introduced by *such as*, the form is not parallel since the first is a prepositional phrase (*in the Sistine Chapel*) and the second is a noun phrase (*the statue of David*).

The correct answer is D.

SC04798

717. Outlining his strategy for nursing the troubled conglomerate back to health, the chief executive's plans were announced on Wednesday for cutting the company's huge debt by selling nearly \$12 billion in assets over the next 18 months.

- (A) executive's plans were announced on Wednesday for cutting the company's huge debt by selling nearly \$12 billion in assets over the next 18 months
- (B) executive's plans, which are to cut the company's huge debt by selling nearly \$12 billion in assets over the next 18 months, were announced on Wednesday

- (C) executive's plans for cutting the company's huge debt by selling nearly \$12 billion in assets over the next 18 months were announced on Wednesday
- (D) executive announced plans Wednesday to cut the company's huge debt by selling nearly \$12 billion in assets over the next 18 months
- (E) executive announced plans Wednesday that are to cut the company's huge debt by selling nearly \$12 billion in assets over the next 18 months

Logical Predication; Verb Form

In this sentence, the opening dependent clause beginning *Outlining his strategy* is a dangling modifier. Furthermore, the verb form for *announce* should make it clear that the chief executive is doing the announcing. In addition, *to cut* is a clearer phrase than *for cutting* in this sentence.

- A The subject of the opening clause should be *executive*, not *plans*. The passive verb form *were announced* suggests that someone other than the chief executive is outlining the strategy. Putting the phrase *were announced* between *plans* and *for cutting* makes it somewhat unclear whether *for cutting ...* is intended to modify *announced* or *plans*.
- B In addition to having a dangling modifier and the wrong form of the verb *announce*, this sentence is made less clear by separating the subject and verb with the long clause beginning with *which are*.
- C This version has the same issues as in (A) and (B) and is made less clear by separating the subject and verb with the long clause beginning with *for cutting*.
- D **Correct.** The opening clause properly modifies *chief executive* and the verb form *announced* makes it clear that the chief executive is doing the announcing.
- E Although the opening clause correctly modifies *chief executive* in this version, the words *that are* are extraneous and also suggest that the plans themselves are doing the cutting and selling.

The correct answer is D.

SC03181

718. It is called a sea, but the landlocked Caspian is actually the largest lake on Earth, which covers more than four times the surface area of its closest rival in size, North America's Lake Superior.

- (A) It is called a sea, but the landlocked Caspian is actually the largest lake on Earth, which covers
- (B) Although it is called a sea, actually the landlocked Caspian is the largest lake on Earth, which covers
- (C) Though called a sea, the landlocked Caspian is actually the largest lake on Earth, covering
- (D) Though called a sea but it actually is the largest lake on Earth, the landlocked Caspian covers
- (E) Despite being called a sea, the largest lake on Earth is actually the landlocked Caspian, covering

Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction

The topic of this sentence is a single large body of water, the Caspian Sea. The wording needs to make it clear that being *the largest lake on Earth* and *covering more than four times the surface area of ... Lake Superior* are both predicated of this one subject.

- A The referent of *which* is unclear. Grammatically, its antecedent cannot be *the landlocked Caspian*, so it must be either *Earth* or *the largest lake on Earth*. The latter is a little odd, because the sentence has already said that the lake in question is the Caspian, so one would expect *and* instead of *which*. For these reasons and because *Earth* immediately precedes *which*, the sentence appears to say, illogically, that Earth covers more than four times the surface area of Lake Superior.
- B As in (A), this appears to say, illogically, that Earth covers more than four times the surface area of Lake Superior.
- C **Correct.** The wording is direct, unambiguous, and grammatically correct.
- D The structure here is grammatically incoherent.
- E *Despite being called a sea* indicates, somewhat illogically, that the largest lake being called a sea would lead one to expect it not to be the Caspian. This makes little sense, especially to those who are familiar with the name *Caspian Sea*.

The correct answer is C.

SC04422

719. According to a recent study of consumer spending on prescription medications, increases in the sales of the 50 drugs that were advertised most heavily accounts for almost half of the \$20.8 billion increase in drug spending last year, the remainder of which came from sales of the 9,850 prescription medicines that companies did not advertise or advertised very little.
- (A) heavily accounts for almost half of the \$20.8 billion increase in drug spending last year, the remainder of which came
 (B) heavily were what accounted for almost half of the \$20.8 billion increase in drug spending last year; the remainder of the increase coming
 (C) heavily accounted for almost half of the \$20.8 billion increase in drug spending last year, the remainder of the increase coming
 (D) heavily, accounting for almost half of the \$20.8 billion increase in drug spending last year, while the remainder of the increase came
 (E) heavily, which accounted for almost half of the \$20.8 billion increase in drug spending last year, with the remainder of it coming

Grammatical Construction; Verb Form

The sentence indicates that according to research, increases in sales of the relatively small number of the most heavily advertised drugs accounted for nearly half of last year's total increase in drug spending. The sentence is flawed because of subject-verb disagreement, and an ambiguity in the referent of *which*.

- A The singular verb form *accounts* fails to agree in number with the plural subject *increases*. What the relative pronoun *which* refers to is unclear; to make clear sense, it should refer to *the . . . increase*.
 B The phrase *were what accounted* is unnecessarily wordy; the semicolon before *the remainder* signals that a complete clause will follow, but what follows is not a complete clause.
 C **Correct.** The sentence is clear and grammatically correct. The subject and verb agree.
 D In the resulting sentence, no main verb follows the main subject *increases*.
 E The resulting sentence lacks a main verb for the main subject *increases*.

The correct answer is C.

SC00971

720. Technically, “quicksand” is the term for sand that is so saturated with water as to acquire a liquid's character.
- (A) that is so saturated with water as to acquire a liquid's character
 (B) that is so saturated with water that it acquires the character of a liquid
 (C) that is saturated with water enough to acquire liquid characteristics
 (D) saturated enough with water so as to acquire the character of a liquid
 (E) saturated with water so much as to acquire a liquid character

Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication

The statement provides a definition of the term *quicksand* as sand that has been saturated with water to a certain degree. Many of the flaws in the incorrect options have to do with how this degree of saturation is described.

- A The matter of degree in this option is introduced with the word *so*, which is used to indicate that the relevant degree of saturation will be specified with a clause that states a condition—a statement that includes both a subject and a verb—that implies a certain degree of saturation. Lacking a subject, this sentence fails to state a clear condition.
 B **Correct.** In this option, the clause introduced with *that* contains a proper statement—with both a subject and verb—which implies a degree of saturation with water. This option thus has none of the flaws discussed in connection with option A.
 C In this option, we might immediately note that the word (adjective) *enough*, which qualifies the word *water* is misplaced. In English (with, as almost always, exceptions), qualifiers of nouns are generally placed before the noun. In this case, it should be *enough water*.
 D The words *so as* make this option a poor choice. In the case of option D, if we cut out “*so as*” and write, “*quicksand* is the term for sand saturated enough to acquire the character of a liquid”, then our statement would be much improved. However, as it stands, option D is at best awkward.

- E We might immediately note that this option is awkward—*so much* qualifies *saturated*, yet it is placed after the word *water*, well after *saturated*. This makes the statement unnecessarily difficult to read. A modification of this part of the sentence so as to read *saturated so much with water* would be an improvement. Furthermore, as discussed in connection with options A and B, option E would be better if *as to acquire a liquid character* were replaced with *that it acquires a liquid character* (or, as in B, *that it acquires the character of a liquid*).

The correct option is B.

SC01056

721. Along the major rivers that traverse the deserts of northeast Africa, the Middle East, and northwest India, the combination of a reliable supply of water and good growing conditions both encouraged farming traditions that, in places, endure in at least 6,000 years.
- (A) good growing conditions both encouraged farming traditions that, in places, endure in
 (B) good growing conditions encouraged farming traditions that have, in places, endured for
 (C) of good growing conditions have encouraged farming traditions that, in places, endured for
 (D) of good growing conditions both encouraged farming traditions that have, in places, endured
 (E) of good growing conditions encouraged farming traditions that have, in places, been enduring for

Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The time line of this sentence, captured by the use of verb tenses, is of utmost importance. A combination of factors (in the past) encouraged farming traditions that are still with us today. The conditions for the use of the present perfect tense *have endured* are in place.

- A The word *both* repeats the meaning of *combination* and is thus redundant. The use of the present tense (*endure*) is not justified by the time line of the whole sentence. The correct preposition for this type of construction is *for* (an amount of time), not *in*.
 B **Correct.** This version correctly employs the present perfect tense with the appropriate adverbial *for at least 6,000 years*.

- C The repetition of the preposition *of* before *good growing conditions* makes no sense. It seems to indicate that there is both a combination of a reliable supply of water and a combination of good growing conditions.
 D The preposition *of* should not be repeated in front of *good growing conditions*. The word *both* repeats the meaning of *combination* and is thus redundant.
 E The preposition *of* should not be repeated in front of *good growing conditions*. The use of the present perfect progressive *have been enduring* is not grammatically incorrect, but it is rhetorically inappropriate and sounds exaggerated.

The correct answer is B.

SC01612

722. Despite its covering the entire planet, Earth has a crust that is not seamless or stationary, rather it is fragmented into mobile semirigid plates.

- (A) Despite its covering the entire planet, Earth has a crust that is not seamless or stationary, rather it is
 (B) Despite the fact that it covers the entire planet, Earth's crust is neither seamless nor is it stationary, but is
 (C) Despite covering the entire planet, Earth's crust is neither seamless nor is it stationary, but rather
 (D) Although it covers the entire planet, Earth's crust is neither seamless nor stationary, but rather
 (E) Although covering the entire planet, Earth has a crust that is not seamless or stationary, but

Idiom; Parallelism; Logical Predication

A dangling modifier is an error in sentence structure whereby a participle is associated with a word other than the one intended or with no particular word at all. In this sentence, *Earth* is the closest word to the participial clause, and so the latter means that Earth is covering the entire planet (itself), which is a contradiction.

- A This version has a dangling participle. The addition of *it is* before *fragmented* is unwarranted and makes the sentence ungrammatical. *Neither ... nor ... but rather* would make the intended relationship among *seamless*, *stationary*, and *fragmented* clearer and more precise than *not ... or ... rather*.

- B Parallel structure is disrupted by the addition of *is it* after *nor* and by the addition of *is* after *but*.
- C Parallel structure is disrupted by the addition of *is it* after *nor*.
- D Correct.** *Despite* and *although* are very close in meaning. However, *despite* is a preposition and needs to be followed by a noun or noun phrase, while *although* is a conjunction and should be followed by a finite clause. This version uses *although* correctly. The parallel structure is also clear and correct.
- E *Although* is a conjunction and should be followed by a finite clause with a subject, not by a participle. In addition, the first clause represents a dangling modifier. Omitting *rather* from the parallel structure *neither X nor Y but rather Z* is possible, but not optimal.

The correct answer is D.

SC07232

723. At the end of 2001, motion picture industry representatives said that there were about a million copies of Hollywood movies available online and expected piracy to increase with high-speed Internet connections that become more widely available.

- (A) online and expected piracy to increase with high-speed Internet connections that become more widely available
- (B) online and expect the increase of piracy with the wider availability of high-speed Internet connections
- (C) online, and they expect more piracy to increase with the wider availability of high-speed Internet connections
- (D) online, and that they expected the increase of piracy as high-speed Internet connections would become more widely available
- (E) online, and that they expected piracy to increase as high-speed Internet connections became more widely available

Rhetorical Construction; Grammatical Construction

Every clause needs a subject, either an overt subject or an understood subject (whose interpretation can come from a coordinated clause or some other nearby clause). In this sentence, the clause containing *expected* lacks a clear subject.

The intended subject is *motion picture industry representatives*, but to clearly indicate that, the subject should either be repeated or be replaced with the pronoun *they*. Furthermore, *piracy to increase with high-speed Internet connections that become more widely available* is awkward, and it fails to clearly communicate the idea that piracy will increase as a result of high-speed Internet connections becoming available.

- A The second clause is awkward and unclear; there is no clear subject for *expected*.
- B There is no clear subject for *expect*.
- C It is redundant to use both *more* and *increase*.
- D This wording makes the meaning very unclear. *They expected the increase in piracy* appears to refer to a particular (past) increase, but this does not clearly make sense with the ensuing use of the conditional verb form *would become*, which is inappropriate here.
- E Correct.** In this version the verb *expect* has an overt subject, and the following phrasing clearly indicates that the expected increase in piracy is the result of high-speed Internet connections becoming more widely available.

The correct answer is E.

SC14066

724. Making things even more difficult has been general market inactivity lately, if not paralysis, which has provided little in the way of pricing guidance.

- (A) has been general market inactivity lately, if not paralysis, which has provided
- (B) there is general market inactivity, if not paralysis, lately it has provided
- (C) general market inactivity, if not paralysis, has lately provided
- (D) lately, general market inactivity, if not paralysis, has provided
- (E) is that lately general market inactivity, if not paralysis, which provides

Grammatical Construction; Rhetorical Construction

This sentence uses a special inverted structure, putting the predicate (*Making things even more difficult*) before the verb (*has been*) and the

subject. In this construction, the subject (*general market inactivity*) can be directly compared with *paralysis*. Such contrasts are best made using phrases that are adjacent, not separated by other material (here, the adverb *lately*). If a more normal clause structure is used, *making things even more difficult* becomes a modifier, not the main predicate, so it should be clearly set off from the rest of the clause with a comma.

- A This inverted structure makes *general market activity* the subject of *Making things even more difficult*. This would be legitimate by itself, but it requires *general market inactivity* to be next to both *if not paralysis* (for contrast) and *which* (marking a relative clause modifying *inactivity*). It cannot be next to both of these simultaneously.
- B This is a run-on sentence, with two independent clauses (*Making things even more difficult there is general market inactivity, if not paralysis, and lately it has provided little in the way of pricing guidance*) conjoined merely by a comma, rather than by a coordinating conjunction, such as and. Also, the initial topic phrase (*Making things even more difficult*) is awkward without a following comma.
- C The initial topic phrase (*Making things even more difficult*) should be followed by a comma.
- D **Correct.** The topic phrase (*Making things even more difficult*) is properly separated from the subject by a comma, and *inactivity* and *if not paralysis* are adjacent for the clearest connection between them.
- E This is a sentence fragment.

The correct answer is D.

SC01946

725. Ryūnosuke Akutagawa's knowledge of the literatures of Europe, China, and that of Japan were instrumental in his development as a writer, informing his literary style as much as the content of his fiction.
- (A) that of Japan were instrumental in his development as a writer, informing his literary style as much as
 - (B) that of Japan was instrumental in his development as a writer, and it informed both his literary style as well as

- (C) Japan was instrumental in his development as a writer, informing both his literary style and
- (D) Japan was instrumental in his development as a writer, as it informed his literary style as much as
- (E) Japan were instrumental in his development as a writer, informing both his literary style in addition to

Logical Predication; Agreement

When a verb follows a complex noun phrase made up of several parts, it agrees with the first noun in the phrase. In this case, *knowledge of the literatures of Europe, China, and Japan* is a singular noun and the correct verb form is *was*, not *were*. The various parts of an enumeration have to be alike: *the literatures of Europe, China, and Japan*. The logical relationship between the predicates is important.

- A This version of the sentence violates the correct subject-verb agreement, and the correct structure of enumeration is disrupted by the addition of *that of* in front of *Japan*.
- B The correct structure of enumeration is disrupted by the addition of *that of* in front of *Japan*. *Both ... as well as ...* is incorrect usage.
- C **Correct.** The structure of the enumeration (*Europe, China, and Japan*) as well as the conjunction structure (*both X and Y*) are correct. The logical relationships among the parts of the sentence are clearly expressed.
- D This phrasing makes it unclear what the writer is claiming. It appears to indicate that the effect of Akutagawa's knowledge on his development as a writer was due to the fact that both of the aspects of his writing were influenced to the same extent. However, it is implausible to suppose that this is what the writer intends. Furthermore, the comparison is ambiguous: did his knowledge inform his style as much as it informed the content, or did it inform his style as much as the content informed his style?
- E The subject-verb agreement in this version is incorrect. *Both X in addition to Y* is incorrect usage.

The correct answer is C.

SC01973

726. According to scientists who monitored its path, an expanding cloud of energized particles ejected from the Sun recently triggered a large storm in the magnetic field that surrounds Earth, which brightened the Northern Lights and also possibly knocking out a communications satellite.
- (A) an expanding cloud of energized particles ejected from the Sun recently triggered a large storm in the magnetic field that surrounds Earth, which brightened the Northern Lights and also possibly knocking
 (B) an expanding cloud of energized particles ejected from the Sun was what recently triggered a large storm in the magnetic field that surrounds Earth, and it brightened the Northern Lights and also possibly knocked
 (C) an expanding cloud of energized particles ejected from the Sun recently triggered a large storm in the magnetic field that surrounds Earth, brightening the Northern Lights and possibly knocking
 (D) a large storm in the magnetic field that surrounds Earth, recently triggered by an expanding cloud of energized particles, brightened the Northern Lights and it possibly knocked
 (E) a large storm in the magnetic field surrounding Earth was recently triggered by an expanding cloud of energized particles, brightening the Northern Lights and it possibly knocked

Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction; Verb Form

The timing and logical relationships among the events described in this sentence are of utmost importance. The scientists monitored a cloud ejected from the Sun. The cloud triggered a large storm, whose consequences were the brightening of the Northern Lights and the possible knocking out of a satellite. The latter two events are in a conjunction, so they should be represented by similar verb forms.

- A In this context, the shift in verb form from *which brightened* to *and also possibly knocking* is ungrammatical. The two verbs should be in the same verb form for parallel construction.
 B *X was what triggered Y* is wordy and awkward, and its meaning is unclear in this context. Given the most plausible intended meaning of the sentence, the two conjunctions *and ... and ...* in the last clause

are redundant. The comma after *Earth* turns the final part of the sentence into an independent clause, and it is unclear whether this is part of what the scientists claimed or a separate claim made by the writer.

- C **Correct.** The conjoined elements are of parallel forms, and the logical relations between the events are clear and concisely communicated.
 D The wording in this answer choice makes the intended meaning unclear. The information that the cloud particles were ejected from the Sun is lost. The sentence is ungrammatical; the second conjoined main verb, *knocked*, needs no pronoun subject *it* because its subject is *a large storm*.
 E The wording in this answer choice makes the intended meaning unclear. The information that the cloud particles were ejected from the Sun is lost. The two conjoined verbs are of different form; the second conjoined verb includes an unnecessary pronoun subject.

The correct answer is C.

SC01033

727. Because many of Australia's marsupials, such as the koala, are cute and cuddly, as well as being biologically different than North American marsupials, they have attracted a lot of attention after their discovery in the 1700s.

- (A) being biologically different than North American marsupials, they have attracted a lot of attention after
 (B) being biologically different from North American marsupials, they attracted a lot of attention since
 (C) biologically different than North American marsupials, they attracted a lot of attention since
 (D) biologically different than North American marsupials, they have attracted a lot of attention after
 (E) biologically different from North American marsupials, they have attracted a lot of attention since

Verb Form; Parallelism

In seeking to explain why Australian marsupials have attracted much attention in North America, the sentence ascribes two attributes to them:

they differ biologically from North American marsupials and seem friendly and appealing. The structure *are ... as well as ...* is used to coordinate the description of the two properties—but incorrectly, because the insertion of *being* impairs the required parallelism: *are cute and cuddly* is not parallel to *[are] being biologically different*. Also, there is a lack of fit between the verb form *have attracted* and the preposition *after*.

- A The phrase *cute and cuddly* is adjectival, as is *biologically different ...*; adding the word *being* is not useful and impairs parallelism. The verb form *have attracted* suggests a process continuing from some point in the past, but the word *after* is most naturally read as indicating the time of a single event relative to an earlier point in time.
- B The word *being* is superfluous here. The word *since* indicates continuation over a past period, whereas the verb *attracted* indicates a single event occurring within a period.
- C The word *being* is superfluous here and impairs parallelism. The verb *attracted*, indicating a single event, does not match the use of the word *since*, which indicates a continuing duration relative to the time of an earlier event.
- D The verb *have attracted*, indicating continuation, does not match the use of the word *after*, which is appropriate in order to give the time of a single event relative to an earlier point in time.
- E **Correct.** The superfluous word *being* is omitted, preserving the parallelism between the two adjectival phrases in the description of the attribute following *as well as*. The preposition *since* is the appropriate usage with the verb form *have attracted*.

The correct answer is E.

SC02448

728. Having been named for a mythological nymph who cared for the infant Jupiter, the asteroid named Ida, in the middle of the belt of asteroids that orbit the Sun between Mars and Jupiter, was discovered in 1884.

- (A) Having been named for a mythological nymph who cared for the infant Jupiter, the asteroid named Ida, in the middle of the belt of asteroids that orbit the Sun between Mars and Jupiter, was discovered in 1884.

- (B) Discovered in 1884, the asteroid Ida, named for a mythological nymph who cared for the infant Jupiter, is in the middle of the belt of asteroids that orbit the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- (C) In the middle of the belt of asteroids that orbit the Sun between Mars and Jupiter, the asteroid Ida, discovered in 1884 and named for a mythological nymph who cared for the infant Jupiter.
- (D) The asteroid Ida, named for a mythological nymph who cared for the infant Jupiter and discovered in 1884, is in the middle of the belt of asteroids to orbit the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- (E) Ida, an asteroid discovered in 1884 and which was named for a mythological nymph who cared for the infant Jupiter, is in the middle of the belt of asteroids to orbit the Sun between Mars and Jupiter

Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction

This sentence describes a discovery that occurred in 1884 and provides some additional information about the object that was discovered. The most effectively worded answer choice opens with a past-participial phrase (*discovered ...*) describing the subject of the sentence, *the asteroid Ida*. Ida's discovery is logically prior to its naming, described in a second past, following the subject (*named ...*). The sentence is then completed with a present tense linking verb *is + prepositional phrase* to explain Ida's location.

- A Opening with a past perfect passive verb, *Having been named*, this version of the sentence illogically suggests that being named for a mythological nymph preceded the discovery of Ida.
- B **Correct.** This version is clear, logically coherent, and grammatically correct.
- C This version of the sentence is ungrammatical; it has no main verb for the subject *the asteroid Ida*.
- D The sequence of events is obscured by the placement of *named* before *discovered* in the compound participial phrases. The infinitive form *to orbit* is ungrammatical in place of the relative clause.

- E This sentence awkwardly attempts to use a compound conjunction *and* to join the past participle phrase *discovered in 1884* with the relative clause *which was named. . .*. The infinitive form *to orbit* is ungrammatical in place of the relative clause.

The correct answer is B.

SC01077

729. Many utilities obtain most of their electric power from large coal and nuclear operations at costs that are sometimes two to three times higher as that of power from smaller, more efficient plants that can both make use of waste heat and take advantage of the current abundance of natural gas.

- (A) two to three times higher as that of power from smaller, more efficient plants that can both
 (B) higher by two to three times as that from smaller, more efficient plants that both can
 (C) two to three times higher than those for power from smaller, more efficient plants that can both
 (D) between two to three times higher as those for power from smaller, more efficient plants that both can
 (E) between two to three times higher than from smaller, more efficient plants that they can both

Grammatical Construction; Diction

The sentence compares utilities' high costs of power obtained from large producers with the costs of power obtained from smaller, more economic producers. The comparative form *higher* must be followed by the preposition *than*, not by *as*. The sentence uses the plural *costs*; therefore, the singular pronoun *that* in the phrase *as that of power from ...* incorrectly refers to a plural antecedent *costs*. An issue that arises in some of the five choices concerns the placing of *both* in a *both ... and ...* construction that is meant to indicate parallelism between the clauses *that make use of ...* and *[that] take advantage of ...*.

- A As indicated, the use of *as* with *higher* in the comparison between costs is incorrect. Use of the singular pronoun *that* to refer to the plural *costs* is incorrect.
 B The phrase *higher by two to three times* is unclear, and the use of *as* is unidiomatic here. Also, *higher as* is incorrect.

- C **Correct.** The comparative *higher* is correctly followed by *than*. The plural pronoun *those* is correctly used to refer back to *costs*. The placement of *both* indicates correctly the parallel clauses.

- D The phrase *higher as* is unidiomatic. The placement of *both* is ambiguous: either suggesting that the number of "more efficient plants" is just two, or that the verb *can* is not to be read as going along with *take* (this reading would create a grammatical-construction flaw, and render *take advantage ... gas* into a sentence fragment).
 E This omits a pronoun that would refer back to *costs* and so fails to capture the comparison intended in the given sentence. It compares the costs of power from large plants with power from smaller plants, i.e., it nonsensically compares costs with power.

The correct answer is C.

SC01523

730. When viewed from the window of a speeding train, the speed with which nearby objects move seems faster than that of more distant objects.

- (A) the speed with which nearby objects move seems faster than that of
 (B) the speed that nearby objects move seems faster than for
 (C) the speed of nearby objects seems faster than
 (D) nearby objects' speeds seem to be faster than those of
 (E) nearby objects seem to move at a faster speed than do

Logical Predication; Parallelism

The intended meaning of the sentence is easily discerned: objects viewed from a speeding train seem to move faster than more distant objects. However, the sentence is defective in structure. One problem is that the participle *viewed* seems to apply to the subject of the main clause, the noun phrase *the speed with which nearby objects move*. Since this produces nonsense, the sentence needs to be reshaped. Comparing the speed of nearby objects with the speed of more distant objects would ideally be done with parallelism in phrasing, but that is lacking in the given sentence.

- A The subject of the main clause should be *nearby objects* and not *the speed with which nearby objects move*, given the participle in the *when*-clause.
- B The phrase *the speed ... move* is erroneously made the subject of the main clause, but the phrase contains an additional problem: structurally it makes the relative pronoun *that* the object of the verb *move*.
- C The phrase *the speed ... objects* is erroneously made the subject of the main clause.
- D The phrase *nearby objects' speeds* is erroneously made the subject of the main clause.
- E **Correct.** The phrase *nearby objects* is correctly made the subject of the verb *seem*, and this fits with the participle in the *when*-clause. Additionally, there is a strict parallelism between *nearby objects* and *more distant objects*, which are being compared with respect to their apparent speed.

The correct answer is E.

SC01487

731. The English physician Edward Jenner found that if experimental subjects were deliberately infected with cowpox, which caused only a mild illness, they are immune from smallpox.

- (A) which caused only a mild illness, they are immune from
- (B) causing only a mild illness, they become immune from
- (C) which causes only a mild illness, they are immune to
- (D) causing only a mild illness, they became immune from
- (E) which caused only a mild illness, they would become immune to

Verb Form

This sentence describes the result of infecting volunteers with cowpox. A conditional verb form is used to describe the cowpox infection: *if experimental subjects were deliberately infected*. The sentence then incorrectly uses simple present tense for the effects of that infection: *they are immune*. However, since the effects are dependent on an action that may or may not occur, the correct way to express those effects is by using another conditional verb form: *they would become immune*.

- A The effects of a conditional situation are incorrectly expressed using the simple present tense verb *are*.
- B The participle *causing* suggests that infecting the subjects with cowpox caused a mild illness only in some of the cases—but this does not seem to be the intended meaning. The effects of a conditional situation are incorrectly expressed using the simple present tense verb *become*. The preposition *from* is incorrect with *immune*; it should be *to*.
- C The effects of a conditional situation are incorrectly expressed using the simple present tense verb *are*.
- D See above the comment on *causing* in (B). The effects of a conditional situation are incorrectly expressed using the simple past tense verb *became*. The preposition with *immune* should be *to*.
- E **Correct.** The effects of a conditional situation are correctly expressed using the conditional verb *would become*. The preposition *to* (rather than *from*) is correct with *immune*.

The correct answer is E.

SC00989

732. The final decades of the twentieth century not only saw an explosion of the literary production among women, but there was also an intense interest in the lives and works of women writers.

- (A) not only saw an explosion of the literary production among women, but there was also
- (B) not only saw an explosion of literary production in women, but there was also
- (C) saw not only an explosion of literary production among women, but also
- (D) saw not only an explosion of the literary production by women, but it also saw
- (E) saw not only an explosion of literary production by women, but also saw

Parallelism; Diction

The sentence, about twentieth century literary production by women and the interest in women writers, contains a common type of construction that requires parallelism.

- A The predicate of this sentence begins with what would be the first part of the construction *not only saw ... but also saw*. In this construction, *not also saw* would be parallel with *but also saw*, thus allowing for a statement that is easy for a human to process. However, instead of *but also saw*, the sentence uses *but there was also*. The sentence thus lacks parallelism and is unnecessarily difficult to read.
- B This sentence has the same flaw as does sentence A with respect to *but there was also*. Furthermore, the use of *in* in *production in women* is incorrect and should be replaced with *among*.
- C **Correct.** This sentence correctly uses, after the main verb *saw*, the construction *not only ... but also*. It also uses *among* as suggested for sentence B.
- D The portion of this sentence that follows the main verb *saw* starts with what would be the construction *not only ... but also*. However, instead of *but also*, the sentence uses *but it also saw*. This is incorrect on various grounds. First, the portion is in the predicate and it is clear what the subject is. The pronoun *it*, which refers to the subject, is thus unnecessary. Second, because it fails to correctly follow the construction *not only ... but also*, the sentence lacks parallelism.
- E The main flaw in this sentence is the inclusion of *saw* after *also*. This use of *saw* is redundant and lacks parallelism.

The correct answer is C.

SC01070

733. Covering 71 percent of Earth's surface, the oceans play an essential role in maintaining the conditions for human existence on land, moderating temperature by the absorption of heat and carbon dioxide, and giving pure water back to the atmosphere through evaporation.

- (A) Covering 71 percent of Earth's surface, the oceans play an essential role in maintaining the conditions for human existence on land, moderating
- (B) Covering 71 percent of Earth's surface and playing an essential role in maintaining the conditions for human existence on land, the oceans moderate

- (C) The oceans cover 71 percent of Earth's surface and play an essential role in maintaining conditions for human existence on land, and by moderating
- (D) The oceans cover 71 percent of Earth's surface, play an essential role in maintaining the conditions for human existence on land, and moderate
- (E) The oceans cover 71 percent of Earth's surface, playing an essential role in maintaining the conditions for human existence on land, and they moderate

Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction; Grammatical Construction

This sentence about the essential role oceans play in maintaining conditions for human existence on land begins with a participial phrase describing the vastness of the oceans, followed by the main clause (*oceans play an essential role ...*). The object, *role*, is modified by a prepositional phrase that indicates what kind of role the oceans play (it plays a role *in maintaining the conditions for human existence on land*). This statement about the ocean's role in maintaining terrestrial conditions is elucidated by two parallel participial phrases that describe the oceans, explaining how they maintain conditions essential for human existence on land (*moderating ... and giving ...*).

- A **Correct.** This version of the sentence effectively conveys the means by which the ocean plays an essential role in maintaining the conditions for human existence on land, using parallel verb forms.
- B This version of the sentence is ungrammatical; *and giving ...* suggests that this is part of a series of participial phrases, but it is not.
- C The conjunction followed by a prepositional phrase *and by moderating ...* anticipates a new subject—an agent that does something by moderating—but this subject never appears.
- D This version of the sentence is structured as a series of verbs—*cover*, *play*, and *moderate*—all describing things the oceans do; the final participial phrase *giving ... water ...* violates the parallel structure set up in the sentence.
- E This version of the sentence correctly makes *playing an essential role ...* a function of the oceans' coverage of Earth's surface, but the introduction of a new main verb

moderate fails to indicate that what follows (moderating temperature and returning pure water) identifies the role oceans play in maintaining conditions for human existence on land. Furthermore, the participial phrase *and giving pure water . . .* violates the parallel structure set up by the series of main verbs that appear earlier in this version of the sentence.

The correct answer is A.

SC01037

734. The Eastern State Penitentiary was established in 1822 by reformers advocating that prisoners be held in solitary confinement and hard labor so as to reform them.

- (A) advocating that prisoners be held in solitary confinement and hard labor so as to reform them
- (B) who were advocating prisoners to be held in solitary confinement and hard labor for their reform
- (C) advocating solitary confinement and hard labor as the means to reform prisoners
- (D) who advocated solitary confinement and hard labor for the means of prisoner reform
- (E) advocating as the means for prisoner reform solitary confinement and hard labor

Idiom; Rhetorical Construction

The sentence describes an effect—reform of prisoners—that those who founded a prison in 1822 hoped would result from two types of punishment they advocated. The phrase *held in solitary confinement and hard labor* is problematic because *held in hard labor* is nonidiomatic. The adverbial phrase *so as to reform them* is wordy; it is also grammatically problematic because the subject of the passive-voice verb is *prisoners*, whereas the implicit subject of the verb *to reform* is presumably the punishments or the prison staff.

- A This is wordy, unidiomatic, and grammatically flawed, as explained.
- B An alternative wording *that prisoners be held . . .* would be much clearer and less awkward; the phrase *advocating prisoners . . .* makes it misleadingly appear that *prisoners* is the object of *advocating*. As indicated, the phrase *held in solitary confinement and hard labor* is unidiomatic.

C **Correct.** The wording here conveys the intended meaning correctly and idiomatically, as well as with clarity and brevity. It indicates that reform of prisoners is the hoped-for result of the advocated punishments.

- D The phrase *for the means of prisoner reform* is wordy and unidiomatic and conveys no clear meaning. For example, is it intended to suggest that prisoner reform is a means to something else? Probably not. Is it intended to suggest that the two punishment types are means to reform? If so, then *as* would work much better than *for*.
- E The insertion of *as the means for prisoner reform* placed before (rather than after) *confinement and hard labor*—the object of the verb *advocating*—renders the resulting sentence unnecessarily awkward.

The correct answer is C.

SC03288

735. Some anthropologists believe that the genetic homogeneity evident in the world's people is the result of a “population bottleneck”—at some time in the past our ancestors suffered an event, greatly reducing their numbers and thus our genetic variation.

- (A) at some time in the past our ancestors suffered an event, greatly reducing their numbers
- (B) that at some time in the past our ancestors suffered an event that greatly reduced their numbers
- (C) that some time in the past our ancestors suffered an event so that their numbers were greatly reduced,
- (D) some time in the past our ancestors suffered an event from which their numbers were greatly reduced
- (E) some time in the past, that our ancestors suffered an event so as to reduce their numbers greatly,

Grammatical Construction; Parallelism

The underlined part of this sentence is an explanatory rewording of the clause that follows *believe*. *Scientists believe that X*—[in other words,] *that Y*. In this construction, X and Y are parallel clauses.

- A The omission of *that* after the dash makes the function of the final clause unclear. The structure makes that clause appear to be an awkward and rhetorically puzzling separate assertion that the writer has appended to the prior claim about what the anthropologists believe. The agent or cause of *reducing* is unclear.
- B **Correct.** Repetition of *that* effectively signals the paraphrasing of the belief.
- C The preposition *at* before *some time* is missing; without *at* the adverb *sometime* would be needed instead of this two-word noun phrase. The modifier of *event* is expressed with a wordy passive construction, which destroys the parallelism between it and what follows.
- D Repetition of *that* signals the paraphrasing of the belief and is therefore needed. The preposition *at* before *some time* is missing. The modifier of *event* is expressed with a wordy passive construction, which destroys the parallelism between it and what follows.
- E *That* is repeated in the paraphrase, but in the wrong place. A possible, and absurd, reading of this version is that our ancestors suffered an event in order to willfully reduce their own numbers and thus our genetic variation.

The correct answer is B.

SC01493

736. Through experimenting designed to provide information that will ultimately prove useful in the treatment of hereditary diseases, mice have received bone marrow transplants that give them a new gene.

- (A) Through experimenting designed to provide information that will ultimately prove
- (B) Through experiments designed to provide information ultimately proving
- (C) In experimentation designed to provide information that ultimately proves
- (D) In experimenting designed to provide information ultimately proving
- (E) In experiments designed to provide information that will ultimately prove

Rhetorical Construction; Diction

The sentence reports that mice received a new gene by means of a bone marrow transplant, in the context of experiments aimed at improving treatment of hereditary disease. Issues arise concerning use of the preposition *through*, use of the verb form *experimenting*, and use of certain forms of the verb *prove*. The hoped-for result is more clearly expressed by the future tense *will ... prove* than by other forms of the verb.

- A The verb form *experimenting* is inappropriate here because it seems to have *mice* as its implicit subject, which would be nonsensical, presuming scientists ran the experiment. The preposition *through* awkwardly signals that the experiments were the means by which—rather than the context in which—the bone marrow transplants were administered.
- B The use of *through* is awkward for the reason already indicated. Compared with *will ... prove*, the present participle *proving* less clearly signals the prospective nature of the experimenters' goal.
- C The word *experimentation*, because it can simply mean “trying out new things or ideas,” is unnecessarily imprecise compared with *experiments*. The present tense *prove* does not clearly signal the prospective nature of the experimenters' goal.
- D The use of the verbal noun *experimenting* is less idiomatic than *experiments*. Compared with *will ... prove*, the present participle *proving* less clearly signals the prospective nature of the experimenters' goal.
- E **Correct.** The use of the preposition *in*, the word *experiments*, and the future *will ... prove* create a sentence that avoids some of the potential problems identified.

The correct answer is E.

SC01603

737. The United Parcel Service plans to convert its more than 2,000 gasoline-powered trucks in the Los Angeles area to run on cleaner-burning natural gas.
- (A) to convert its more than 2,000 gasoline-powered trucks in the Los Angeles area to
- (B) to convert its more than 2,000 trucks in the Los Angeles area that are powered by gasoline to

SC02443

- (C) on converting its more than 2,000 gasoline-powered trucks in the Los Angeles area that will
 (D) for its more than 2,000 gasoline-powered trucks in the Los Angeles area to convert to
 (E) that its more than 2,000 trucks in the Los Angeles area that are powered by gasoline will convert to

Verb Form; Logical Predication

The sentence reports a company's plan to convert certain of its trucks to run on natural gas. Issues to note include: what construction should follow the verb *plan* and how the class of trucks that are to be converted is described.

- A** **Correct.** The planned action is described by the infinitive form *to convert*. Of the company's trucks, those in question are specified by the adjective *gasoline-powered* and by the adjectival phrase *in the Los Angeles area*. The goal of the conversion is given by the infinitive verbal phrase *to run ... gas*.
- B** The introduction of the relative clause *that are powered by gasoline* is unnecessarily awkward, especially because the relative pronoun *that* is not adjacent to its antecedent *trucks*.
- C** The construction *plans on converting ...* is not a standard form, even if sometimes used informally. The future tense in the relative clause *that will run ...* does not clearly specify that the trucks' running on natural gas is the goal of the planned conversion.
- D** This fails to capture the thought in the given sentence, which indicates that the company plans to convert the trucks, rather than (as here) the trucks converting. In this version, *to convert* is being used intransitively (without an object), with its implicit subject being the noun phrase *its more than ... area*, which refers to the trucks.
- E** This refers to a plan that the trucks will convert (where *convert* is used intransitively), rather than to a plan to convert the trucks. This intransitive use makes no sense in the context. The introduction of the relative clause *that are powered by gasoline* is unnecessarily awkward.

The correct answer is A.

738. Foraging at all times of the day and night, but interspersing their feeding with periods of rest that last between one and eight hours, a sperm whale could eat so much as a ton of squid a day.

- (A) between one and eight hours, a sperm whale could eat so
 (B) between one and eight hours, sperm whales can eat as
 (C) between one to eight hours, sperm whales could eat as
 (D) from one to eight hours, sperm whales could eat so
 (E) from one to eight hours, a sperm whale can eat so

Agreement; Diction

Although this sentence, as presented, uses the conditional or past verb form *could*, it is more plausibly intended to make a general statement about the actual behavior of a species, a statement that holds in the present day. For that purpose, the present indicative *can* is preferable. *So much as* is not the correct wording to express the upper level of a variable amount; *as much as* should be used instead. Also, although the singular *a sperm whale* can be used to refer to sperm whales generally, the plural *their* needs to refer to the plural *sperm whales*.

- A** This sentence incorrectly uses *so*. Also, the plural *their* does not agree with the singular *sperm whale*.
- B** **Correct.** Both *can* and *as* are used; also, *sperm whales* agrees with the plural *their*.
- C** *To* is the wrong word to use with *between*. The proper construction would be *between ... and* or *from ... to*.
- D** This sentence incorrectly uses *so*.
- E** *So* is not the correct form; also the use of the singular *a sperm whale* does not agree with the plural *their*.

The correct answer is B.

SC14796

739. In some types of pine tree, a thick layer of needles protects the buds from which new growth proceeds; consequently they are able to withstand forest fires relatively well.

- (A) a thick layer of needles protects the buds from which new growth proceeds; consequently they are able to withstand forest fires relatively well

- (B) a thick needle layer protects buds from where new growth proceeds, so that they can withstand forest fires relatively well
- (C) a thick layer of needles protect the buds from which new growth proceeds; thus, they are able to withstand relatively well any forest fires
- (D) since the buds from which new growth proceeds are protected by a thick needle layer, consequently they can therefore withstand forest fires relatively well
- (E) because the buds where new growth happens are protected by a thick layer of needles, they are able to withstand forest fires relatively easily as a result

Grammatical Construction; Rhetorical Construction

This sentence is fine as written. It uses the correct *from which* to introduce the relative clause modifying *buds* and avoids redundant expressions of causation, such as *consequently . . . therefore*, or *because . . . as a result*.

- A **Correct.** The relative clause starting with *from which* is in the correct form, and the causality is expressed efficiently and clearly with one word, *consequently*.
- B In this context, *needle layer* is less precise than the more standard *layer of needles*, which makes it clear that the layer is composed of needles rather than being, for example, a layer of a needle. *From where* is not the correct form, because it is redundant in using two words that express the idea of location (*from* and *where*) instead of one.
- C The short direct object *any forest fires* is separated from its verb *withstand* by an adverb phrase; this word order is awkward, and is acceptable only with very long direct objects and in some cases where there is no other reasonable way to eliminate ambiguity.
- D This version is unnecessarily redundant in expressing causation, using all of *since*, *consequently*, and *therefore*. As in answer choice B, *layer of needles* would be more precise than *needle layer*.
- E This version is unnecessarily redundant in expressing causation, using both *because* and *as a result*.

The correct answer is A.

SC08577

740. The tourism commission has conducted surveys of hotels in the most popular resorts, with the ultimate goal of reducing the guests who end up expressing overall dissatisfaction with the service in the hotels.
- (A) with the ultimate goal of reducing the guests who end up expressing overall dissatisfaction with the service in the hotels
 - (B) with the goal to ultimately reduce the number of guests who end up expressing overall dissatisfaction with the hotels' service
 - (C) ultimately with the goal to reduce expressions of overall dissatisfaction by the guests with the hotel service
 - (D) in an ultimate attempt to reduce the number of guests that ends up expressing overall dissatisfaction with the hotels' service
 - (E) with the ultimate goal of reducing the number of guests who express overall dissatisfaction with the hotels' service

Verb Form; Rhetorical Construction

This sentence seems to be saying something absurd: that the goal is to reduce the guests themselves, instead of to reduce the **number** of guests or the expressions of dissatisfaction. It is also awkward in introducing the superfluous *end up*; but at least, if it does so, the correct form to agree with the subject *guests* is *end up*, not *ends up*, which is used in answer choice D. In general, direct modifiers (such as *with the (hotel) service*) should not be separated from the word they modify (such as *dissatisfaction*) if possible.

- A *Reducing the guests* is clearly not the intent of the sentence; it should be phrased as reducing the number of guests or the expressions of dissatisfaction.
- B *With the goal to ultimately reduce* is awkward and unidiomatic.
- C *With the hotel service* should be placed next to *dissatisfaction*; also, *ultimately with the goal* is awkward, better phrased as *with the ultimate goal*.
- D The relative clause *that ends up . . .* modifies the plural *guests* (not, in this context, *number*), so the correct verb form is *end up*.

- E** **Correct.** The *with* phrase is concise, and it is the number of guests, not the guests themselves, that is to be reduced. *With the hotel's service* is adjacent to *dissatisfaction*. Also, in the relative clause starting with *who*, the implicit subject of *express* is *guests*, so this verb correctly agrees with its subject.

The correct answer is E.

SC01607

741. A new study suggests that the conversational pace of everyday life may be so brisk it hampers the ability of some children for distinguishing discrete sounds and words and, the result is, to make sense of speech.

- (A) it hampers the ability of some children for distinguishing discrete sounds and words and, the result is, to make
- (B) that it hampers the ability of some children to distinguish discrete sounds and words and, as a result, to make
- (C) that it hampers the ability of some children to distinguish discrete sounds and words and, the result of this, they are unable to make
- (D) that it hampers the ability of some children to distinguish discrete sounds and words, and results in not making
- (E) as to hamper the ability of some children for distinguishing discrete sounds and words, resulting in being unable to make

Rhetorical Construction; Parallelism; Diction

The sentence describes a hypothesized causal series: The fast conversational pace impairs children's ability to distinguish individual sounds and words, and this, in turn, impairs their ability to make sense of speech. These two consequences, both impaired abilities, are most clearly and efficiently expressed in parallel infinitive phrases (*to distinguish* and *to make*). The explanatory phrase *as a result* before the second infinitive clarifies the sequence. The term *ability* should be followed by the preposition *to*, not *for*.

- A *For* is the wrong preposition to follow *ability*; the phrase *and, the result is,* introduces a new clause which indicates that children's inability to distinguish sounds enables them to make sense of speech.

- B** **Correct.** The two abilities hampered by the fast pace of conversation are described with the parallel infinitive phrases *to distinguish* and *to make*.
- C** *The result of this* is a new subject that grammatically requires a new verb; the phrase is wordy and unclear.
- D** This version of the sentence nonsensically suggests that the pace of speech results in not making sense of speech, removing the children from the picture as the ones who are affected.
- E** The phrase is awkward, wordy, and unclear; *for* is the incorrect preposition to follow *ability*.

The correct answer is B.

SC07035

742. The nineteenth-century chemist Humphry Davy presented the results of his early experiments in his "Essay on Heat and Light," a critique of all chemistry since Robert Boyle as well as a vision of a new chemistry that Davy hoped to found.

- (A) a critique of all chemistry since Robert Boyle as well as a vision of a
- (B) a critique of all chemistry following Robert Boyle and also his envisioning of a
- (C) a critique of all chemistry after Robert Boyle and envisioning as well
- (D) critiquing all chemistry from Robert Boyle forward and also a vision of
- (E) critiquing all the chemistry done since Robert Boyle as well as his own envisioning of

Parallelism; Rhetorical Construction

The main objective of the sentence is to describe "Essay on Heat and Light" as Davy's presentation of his own experiments and to further explain that the essay served as both a critique of previous chemistry and a vision of a new kind of chemistry. The clearest, most effective form for providing this explanation of the essay's function is to make *critique* and *vision* both appositives of "Essay on Heat and Light," and to present them in a parallel structure.

- A** **Correct.** The phrases describing the essay's function are presented in parallel form.
- B** *Critique* and *his envisioning* are not parallel; the phrase *and also his envisioning* is unnecessarily wordy; it is also unclear to whom *his* refers.

- C The two descriptors are not parallel.
- D The two descriptors are not parallel.
- E The meaning is confused in the assertion that Davy critiqued his own vision of chemistry.

The correct answer is A.

SC02280

743. To attract the most talented workers, some companies are offering a wider range of benefits, letting employees pick those most important to them.

- (A) benefits, letting employees pick those most important to them
- (B) benefits, letting employees pick the most important of them to themselves
- (C) benefits and letting employees pick the most important to themselves
- (D) benefits and let employees pick the most important to them
- (E) benefits and let employees pick those that are most important to themselves

Diction; Parallelism; Verb Form

The sentence describes the benefit options offered by some companies, which allow employees to *pick those most important to them*. *Letting* maintains the progressive sense of *are offering*; *those* refers clearly and concisely to *benefits*; and *them* is the correct pronoun to serve as the object of the preposition *to*.

- A **Correct.** The sentence clearly and concisely explains benefit options that allow employees to *pick those most important to them*.
- B *The most important of them to themselves* is wordy, and the function of *themselves* is unclear. Normally, *themselves* would be either reflexive or emphatic, but in this case it cannot reasonably be taken in either of those ways. This nonstandard use of the pronoun makes it unclear whether *to themselves* is supposed to modify *pick* or *most important of them*.
- C The pronoun *themselves* is used incorrectly, and its intended function is unclear. Normally, *themselves* would be either reflexive or emphatic, but in this case it cannot reasonably be taken in either of those ways. This nonstandard use of the pronoun makes it unclear whether *to themselves* is supposed to modify *pick* or *most important of them*.

- D The present tense verb *let* incorrectly shifts tense from the present progressive *are offering*.
- E The present tense verb *let* incorrectly shifts tense from the present progressive *are offering*; the function of *themselves* is unclear. Normally, *themselves* would be either reflexive or emphatic, but in this case it cannot reasonably be taken in either of those ways. This nonstandard use of the pronoun makes it unclear whether *to themselves* is supposed to modify *pick* or *most important of them*.

The correct answer is A.

SC01583

744. Many of the earliest known images of Hindu deities in India date from the time of the Kushan Empire, fashioned either from the spotted sandstone of Mathura or Gandharan grey schist.

- (A) Empire, fashioned either from the spotted sandstone of Mathura or
- (B) Empire, fashioned from either the spotted sandstone of Mathura or from
- (C) Empire, either fashioned from the spotted sandstone of Mathura or
- (D) Empire and either fashioned from the spotted sandstone of Mathura or from
- (E) Empire and were fashioned either from the spotted sandstone of Mathura or from

Logical Predication; Parallelism

The sentence makes two claims about the earliest known images of Hindu deities in India: They date from the Kushan Empire, and they are made from sandstone or schist. The clearest, most effective way to incorporate these two claims into a single sentence is to provide two parallel predicates for the single subject, *the earliest known images of Hindu deities in India*. The two options of media, presented as either/or choices, must also be given in parallel structure: *either from ... or from ... or either ... or ...*.

- A Placement of the modifier *fashioned* ... suggests that the *Empire* (the closest noun), not the images of the deities, was fashioned out of these materials; to parallel *either from*, the preposition *from* should also follow *or*.

- B Parallelism requires that *either* precede the first appearance of *from* or that the second appearance of *from* be eliminated.
- C As in (A) and (B), the placement of the modifier after *Empire* is misleading; parallelism requires that the phrase *fashioned from*, or another comparable verb and preposition, follow *or*.
- D Parallelism requires that a verb follow *or*, since a verb follows *either*.
- E **Correct.** Two verbs, *date* and *were fashioned*, introduce parallel predicates for the subject, *earliest known images*; the choices of media are correctly presented with the structure *either from ... or from*.

The correct answer is E.

SC01051

745. Tides typically range from three to six feet, but while some places show no tides at all, some others, such as the Bay of Fundy, have tides of at least thirty feet and more.

- (A) some others, such as the Bay of Fundy, have tides of at least thirty feet and more
- (B) the others, such as the Bay of Fundy, that have tides of more than thirty feet
- (C) others, such as the Bay of Fundy, have tides of more than thirty feet
- (D) those at the Bay of Fundy, which has tides of more than thirty feet
- (E) the ones at the Bay of Fundy have tides of at least thirty feet and more

Idiom: Grammatical Construction

This sentence defines typical tides and then draws a contrast between locations with tides lower than that norm and locations with tides higher than the norm. The proper idiom for drawing this contrast is *some places and others*—not *some places and some others* as written. The height of tides in places such as the Bay of Fundy is expressed in a confusing manner since *at least thirty feet* sets a lower limit on the height. This wording is pointlessly redundant with the phrase *and more*, which follows it. *At least* would normally be used to indicate that the writer does not know, or prefers not to say, whether the tides are sometimes higher. *And more* rhetorically conflicts with this by signaling a definite commitment

to the claim that they are (at least sometimes) higher. A charitable reading suggests that *tides of more than thirty feet* is the intended meaning.

- A The sentence contains repetitive and redundant wording—*some places* and *some others*, and *at least thirty feet and more*.
- B The final clause is incomplete because *that* introduces a subordinate clause, leaving the subject *others* with no main verb.
- C **Correct.** A contrast is drawn between places with low tides and places with high tides using the expression *some places and others*, and the height of the high tides is expressed clearly and without redundancy.
- D The pronoun *those*, which refers to *places*, does not make sense along with *at the Bay of Fundy*, which names a single place; the final clause is incomplete because *which* introduces a subordinate clause, leaving the subject *those* with no verb.
- E The word *ones*, which refers to *places*, does not make sense along with *at the Bay of Fundy*, which names a single place; *at least thirty feet and more* is redundant and confusing.

The correct answer is C.

SC01028

746. A leading figure in the Scottish Enlightenment, Adam Smith's two major books are to democratic capitalism what Marx's Das Kapital is to socialism.

- (A) Adam Smith's two major books are to democratic capitalism what
- (B) Adam Smith's two major books are to democratic capitalism like
- (C) Adam Smith's two major books are to democratic capitalism just as
- (D) Adam Smith wrote two major books that are to democratic capitalism similar to
- (E) Adam Smith wrote two major books that are to democratic capitalism what

Idiom: Logical Predication

A leading figure in the Scottish Enlightenment describes Adam Smith, not his two books, so the name of Adam Smith must immediately follow the opening phrase. The comparison between Smith's books and Marx's book is expressed as a ratio, so the correct idiomatic expression is *x is to y what a is to b*.

- A The opening phrase is a dangling modifier because it describes Smith, not his books.
- B The opening phrase is a dangling modifier; *like* is an incorrect word for making the comparison.
- C The opening phrase is a dangling modifier; *just as* is an incorrect term for the comparison.
- D *Similar to* is an incorrect conclusion to the comparison introduced by *are to*.
- E **Correct.** The opening phrase is followed by the subject that it modifies, Adam Smith, and the comparison of the two men's work is presented idiomatically.

The correct answer is E.

SC04331

747. Researchers studying the brain scans of volunteers who pondered ethical dilemmas have found that the basis for making tough moral judgments is emotion, not logic or analytical reasoning.
- (A) the brain scans of volunteers who pondered ethical dilemmas have found that the basis for making tough moral judgments is
 - (B) the brain scans of volunteers who pondered ethical dilemmas and found the basis to make tough moral decisions to be
 - (C) the brain scans of volunteers pondering ethical dilemmas and found that the basis for making tough moral decisions is
 - (D) volunteers' brain scans while pondering ethical dilemmas have found the basis to make tough moral judgments to be
 - (E) volunteers' brain scans while they pondered ethical dilemmas have found that the basis for making tough moral judgments is

Logical Predication: Grammatical Construction

The sentence reports that researchers got volunteers to ponder ethical dilemmas and make moral judgments. Brain scans revealed that the volunteers' judgments were based on emotion rather than logical analysis. The main clause of this sentence is *Researchers . . . have found that . . .*; embedded within this sentence, the present participial phrase *studying . . .* describes the researchers, the relative clause *who pondered . . .* describes the volunteers, and the object of the main verb appears as a noun clause *that the basis . . . is . . .*.

- A **Correct.** The sentence is coherent and grammatically correct.
- B The use of the conjunction *and* immediately before *found* indicates that the past tense verbs *pondered* and *found* both have *volunteers* as subject, but this changes the original sentence, making it a long noun phrase rather than a complete sentence.
- C The conjunction *and* leaves the verb *found* without a subject, and this changes the original sentence into a sequence of incoherently connected phrases rather than a complete sentence.
- D The phrase *the basis to make* is unidiomatic, a sufficient reason for rejecting this option. The placement of the modifier *while pondering* appears in a form parallel to *studying* and means that the researchers, not the volunteers, were pondering ethical dilemmas. This does not make the sentence incoherent, but creates a sentence that fails to capture the meaning clearly intended in the original sentence.
- E Because the word *volunteers'* is a possessive form, and functions adjectively as a modifier of *brain scans*, *they* must refer back to *researchers* rather than to *volunteers'*. This is not incorrect in itself, but, as with (D), the resulting sentence fails to capture the intended meaning of the original sentence.

The correct answer is A.

SC02060

748. Rivaling the pyramids of Egypt or even the ancient cities of the Maya as an achievement, the army of terra-cotta warriors created to protect Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor, in his afterlife is more than 2,000 years old and took 700,000 artisans more than 36 years to complete.
- (A) the army of terra-cotta warriors created to protect Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor, in his afterlife is more than 2,000 years old and took 700,000 artisans more than 36 years to complete
 - (B) Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor, was protected in his afterlife by an army of terra-cotta warriors that was created more than 2,000 years ago by 700,000 artisans who took more than 36 years to complete it

- (C) it took 700,000 artisans more than 36 years to create an army of terra-cotta warriors more than 2,000 years ago that would protect Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor, in his afterlife
- (D) more than 2,000 years ago, 700,000 artisans worked more than 36 years to create an army of terra-cotta warriors to protect Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor, in his afterlife
- (E) more than 36 years were needed to complete the army of terra-cotta warriors that 700,000 artisans created 2,000 years ago to protect Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor, in his afterlife

Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The opening modifier, *Rivaling the pyramids* ... describes *the army of terra-cotta warriors*, which must immediately follow the modifier. The placement of the predicates that follow is important; they must clarify two things about the army of terra-cotta warriors: how old it is and how long it took to complete. The clearest and most effective way to express these two assertions is as parallel verb phrases, *is more than 2,000 years old and took ... more than 36 years to complete*.

- A **Correct.** The opening phrase correctly modifies the subject, *the army of terra-cotta warriors*; the placement of modifiers and predicates in the main clause makes the meaning of the sentence clear.
- B Opening phrase is a dangling modifier because it does not describe the subject *Qin Shi Huang*; in addition, the sentence is awkward and unclear.
- C Opening phrase is a dangling modifier because it does not describe the subject *it*; the sequence of information presented is confusing and unclear.
- D Opening phrase is a dangling modifier because it does not describe the subject *700,000 artisans*.
- E Opening phrase is a dangling modifier because it does not describe the subject *more than 36 years*.

The correct answer is A.

SC03675

749. In California, a lack of genetic variation in the Argentine ant has allowed the species to spread widely; due to their being so genetically similar to one another, the ants consider all their fellows to be a close relative and thus do not engage in the kind of fierce intercolony struggles that limits the spread of this species in its native Argentina.

- (A) due to their being so genetically similar to one another, the ants consider all their fellows to be a close relative and thus do not engage in the kind of fierce intercolony struggles that limits
- (B) due to its being so genetically similar, the ant considers all its fellows to be a close relative and thus does not engage in the kind of fierce intercolony struggles that limit
- (C) because it is so genetically similar, the ant considers all its fellows to be close relatives and thus does not engage in the kind of fierce intercolony struggles that limits
- (D) because they are so genetically similar to one another, the ants consider all their fellows to be close relatives and thus do not engage in the kind of fierce intercolony struggles that limit
- (E) because of being so genetically similar to one another, the ants consider all their fellows to be a close relative and thus do not engage in the kind of fierce intercolony struggles that limits

Diction; Agreement

Words that express comparisons, such as *similar*, require either a plural object, with an optional expression of the entities being compared, or a singular object, in which case this explicit comparison is required. Thus *its being so genetically similar*, without this explicit comparison, is incorrect. Also, the two sides of the construction *consider . . . to be* must agree in number (*fellows . . . close relatives*, not *fellows . . . a close relative*).

- A *Consider all their fellows to be a close relative* shows incorrect agreement, with plural *fellows* and singular *a close relative*.
- B *Its being so genetically similar* is incorrect because there is no explicit statement of what the ant is similar to; also, the plural *fellows* and singular *a close relative* do not agree.
- C *It is so genetically similar* is incorrect because there is no explicit statement of what the ant is similar to.

- D** **Correct.** The clause with *similar* uses the plural *they* and an explicit *to one another*, and agreement is respected between *ants* and *fellow*s.
- E** The plural *fellow*s and singular *a close relative* do not agree.

The correct answer is D.

SC0758

750. Next month, state wildlife officials are scheduled to take over the job of increasing the wolf population in the federally designated recovery area, the number of which will however ultimately be dictated by the number of prey in the area.

- (A) area, the number of which will however
 (B) area; the size of the population, however, will
 (C) area, however the number of wolves will
 (D) area; the number of which will, however,
 (E) area, when the size of the population will, however,

Grammatical Construction; Diction

The point of the sentence is that the ultimate size of the wolf population will be determined according to the number of prey in the area. However, the phrase *the number of which* has no referent since it cannot logically refer to the noncount noun *population* or to the singular *wolf*, which is used adjectively here to modify *population*. The idea can be expressed clearly by making *the size of the population* the subject of a new independent clause: *the size of the population will be dictated by the number of prey*.

- A** *The number of which* cannot logically refer to the noncount noun *population* or to the singular *wolf*, which is used adjectively here to modify *population*.
- B** **Correct.** The idea is expressed clearly with an independent clause: *the size of the population will be dictated by the number of prey*.
- C** *However* is intended to serve as a conjunctive adverb between the two independent clauses, but the punctuation of the sentence creates confusion by suggesting that *however* is modifying *are scheduled*. A semicolon after *area* and a comma after *however* would make the intended function of *however* clear.

- D** *The number of which* cannot logically refer to the noncount noun *population*; the semicolon creates confusion since it is not followed by an independent clause.
- E** *When* illogically suggests that the size of the population will be determined at the moment wildlife officials take over the task. This conflicts with the ensuing claim that the determination will *ultimately* depend on a long-term condition (*the number of prey in the area*).

The correct answer is B.

SC02710

751. About 5 million acres in the United States have been invaded by leafy spurge, a herbaceous plant from Eurasia with milky sap that gives mouth sores to cattle, displacing grasses and other cattle food and rendering rangeland worthless.

- (A) States have been invaded by leafy spurge, a herbaceous plant from Eurasia with milky sap that gives mouth sores to cattle, displacing grasses and other cattle food and rendering
 (B) States have been invaded by leafy spurge, a herbaceous plant from Eurasia, with milky sap, that gives mouth sores to cattle and displaces grasses and other cattle food, rendering
 (C) States have been invaded by leafy spurge, a herbaceous plant from Eurasia having milky sap that gives mouth sores to cattle and displacing grasses and other cattle food, rendering
 (D) States, having been invaded by leafy spurge, a herbaceous plant from Eurasia with milky sap that gives mouth sores to cattle, displaces grasses and other cattle food, and renders
 (E) States, having been invaded by leafy spurge, a herbaceous plant from Eurasia that has milky sap giving mouth sores to cattle and displacing grasses and other cattle food, rendering

Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction

The sentence explains that leafy spurge causes mouth sores in cattle and also displaces other plants eaten by cattle. However, the structure of the sentence seems, illogically, to indicate that *displacing grasses* modifies either the immediately preceding phrase (*that gives mouth sores to cattle*) or the main subject of the sentence

(about 5 million acres in the United States). A clearer way to express the effects of the leafy spurge invasion is with a compound predicate in the subordinate clause: *that gives mouth sores . . . and displaces grasses*.

- A Displacing grasses appears illogically to modify either about 5 million acres in the United States or that gives mouth sores to cattle.
- B **Correct.** The effects of the leafy spurge invasion are expressed clearly with a compound predicate in the subordinate clause: *that gives mouth sores . . . and displaces grasses*. The parenthetical commas around with milky sap make it clear that the entire phrase *that gives . . . and displaces . . .* rendering . . . is intended to modify a herbaceous plant from Eurasia. Although the sap may well be the means by which the plant gives mouth sores to cattle, the sentence can be well formed and meaningful without making a definite commitment to whether that is the case.
- C *Having and displacing* should not be expressed in parallel form since the first is a permanent characteristic of leafy spurge and the second refers to an effect of the plant's invasion.
- D The subject of the sentence, *5 million acres* is not clearly paired with a verb. The structure of the sentence suggests that *5 million acres* may be the intended subject of both *displaces* and *renders* but it is illogical to say that 5 million acres displaces grasses and renders rangeland worthless.
- E The subject of the sentence, *5 million acres* is not clearly paired with a verb. The structure of the sentence suggests that *5 million acres* may be the intended subject of both *displaces* and *renders* but it is illogical to say that 5 million acres displaces grasses and renders rangeland worthless.

The correct answer is B.

SC01445

752. While it costs about the same to run nuclear plants as other types of power plants, it is the fixed costs that stem from building nuclear plants that makes it more expensive for them to generate electricity.

- (A) While it costs about the same to run nuclear plants as other types of power plants, it is the fixed costs that stem from building nuclear plants that makes it more expensive for them to generate electricity.
- (B) While the cost of running nuclear plants is about the same as for other types of power plants, the fixed costs that stem from building nuclear plants make the electricity they generate more expensive.
- (C) Even though it costs about the same to run nuclear plants as for other types of power plants, it is the fixed costs that stem from building nuclear plants that makes the electricity they generate more expensive.
- (D) It costs about the same to run nuclear plants as for other types of power plants, whereas the electricity they generate is more expensive, stemming from the fixed costs of building nuclear plants.
- (E) The cost of running nuclear plants is about the same as other types of power plants, but the electricity they generate is made more expensive because of the fixed costs stemming from building nuclear plants.

Agreement; Logical Predication

The emphatic construction *it is X that does Y* (as in the phrase *it is Jane who knows the answer*) should be used only when there is a compelling reason to emphasize the doer of the action. In this sentence, the emphatic construction is used without good reason.

- A This sentence uses the emphatic structure *it is . . . that* without justification. The singular verb *makes* violates the agreement within the structure. The verb *makes* should agree with the notional subject (*the fixed costs*), not with the pronoun *it*.
- B **Correct.** This answer choice clearly and succinctly compares the two types of costs.
- C In addition to using the more cumbersome emphatic structure, this version violates the agreement within the structure. The verb should agree with the notional subject (*the fixed costs*), not with the pronoun *it*.
- D The preposition *for* is redundant in comparing the two objects of *run*. Since it is not clear what *stemming . . .* refers to, this is a dangling modifier.

- E The passive construction *electricity ... is made more expensive because of ...* is wordy and cumbersome. The preposition *for* is necessary in the comparison of the costs.

The correct answer is B.

SC03207

753. The 32 species that make up the dolphin family are closely related to whales and in fact include the animal known as the killer whale, which can grow to be 30 feet long and is famous for its aggressive hunting pods.

- (A) include the animal known as the killer whale, which can grow to be 30 feet long and is
- (B) include the animal known as the killer whale, growing as big as 30 feet long and
- (C) include the animal known as the killer whale, growing up to 30 feet long and being
- (D) includes the animal known as the killer whale, which can grow as big as 30 feet long and is
- (E) includes the animal known as the killer whale, which can grow to be 30 feet long and it is

Rhetorical Construction; Agreement

The subject of the sentence is *the 32 species that make up the dolphin family*, and the sentence makes two claims about them: They are closely related, and they include the killer whale. The relative pronoun *which* restates the object of the second verb, reintroducing *the animal known as the killer whale* as the subject of a relative clause followed by two parallel verbs: *can grow* and *is famous*.

- A **Correct.** In this concise sentence, verbs agree in number with their subjects and the relative pronoun *which* indicates clearly that *the animal known as the killer whale* is the subject of the verbs in the dependent clause.
- B Changing the verb to the participial *growing* introduces ambiguity, because it could refer back to the subject of the sentence (*32 species*).
- C The participial *growing* might refer to *the 32 species*; the introduction of *being* is unnecessarily wordy and adds nothing in terms of meaning.
- D *as big as* is an idiomatically incorrect expression of the comparison; the plural verb form *include* is needed to match the plural subject *the 32 species*.

- E *It* simply restates the subject of the previous phrase, introducing more words but no additional meaning; the singular verb form *includes* should be the plural form *include*.

The correct answer is A.

SC06611

754. The first trenches that were cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence for centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East that were arising simultaneously with but independently of the more celebrated city-states of southern Mesopotamia, in what is now southern Iraq.

- (A) that were cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence for centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East that were arising simultaneously with but
- (B) that were cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, yields strong evidence that centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East were arising simultaneously with but also
- (C) having been cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence that centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East were arising simultaneously but
- (D) cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, yields strong evidence of centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East arising simultaneously but also
- (E) cut into a 500-acre site at Tell Hamoukar, Syria, have yielded strong evidence that centrally administered complex societies in northern regions of the Middle East arose simultaneously with but

Rhetorical Construction; Agreement; Grammatical Construction

This sentence, explaining interconnections among a number of events, needs to be streamlined as much as possible in order to become understandable. To this end, unnecessary words and structures should be eliminated. Prominent among these are the relative clauses beginning with *that*. Additionally, the subject of this sentence is the plural *trenches*, which requires a plural verb.

- A *That were cut ... and that were arising ...* are unnecessarily wordy and create an unnecessarily complicated and confusing sentence structure.
- B In addition to the unnecessarily wordy relative clauses, the singular verb *yields* does not agree with the plural subject *trenches*.
- C *Having been cut ...* is unnecessarily wordy; *arising simultaneously* must be followed by the preposition *with* in order to make sense.
- D The singular verb *yields* does not agree with the plural subject *trenches*; *also* adds no meaning to the sentence.
- E **Correct.** Unnecessary clauses and phrases are avoided, and the subject and verb of the main clause agree in number.

The correct answer is E.

SC02317

755. Companies are relying more and more on networked computers for such critical tasks as inventory management, electronic funds transfer, and electronic data interchange, in which standard business transactions are handled via computer rather than on paper.

- (A) in which standard business transactions are handled via computer rather than on paper
- (B) where computers handle standard business transactions rather than on paper
- (C) in which computers handle standard business transactions instead of on paper
- (D) where standard business transactions are handled, not with paper, but instead via computer
- (E) in which standard business transactions are being handled via computer, in place of on paper

Idiom; Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The concluding comparison in this sentence uses the idiom *rather than*, which requires parallel structures. In this sentence the prepositional phrase *via computer* parallels *on paper*. Substituting *where* for *in which* creates a nonstandard idiom.

- A **Correct.** This sentence uses standard idiomatic constructions and avoids the problems that are found in the other versions.

- B *Where* is a nonstandard way to refer to a noun that does not name a location. If electronic data interchange were a location, this version would entail the odd claim that *on paper* is an alternative location at which computers would be expected to process information.
- C The comparison of the clause *computers handle ...* with the prepositional phrase *on paper* illogically treats a location (*on paper*) as an alternative to an activity (*computers handle*).
- D As in (B), *where* is a nonstandard idiom. The commas around *not with paper* appear to make this phrase parenthetical; thus, it is somewhat unclear what *instead via computer* is contrasted with.
- E The pile of prepositions in the phrase *in place of on paper* is unnecessarily confusing and wordy.

The correct answer is A.

SC07231

756. Combining enormous physical strength with higher intelligence, the Neanderthals appear as equipped for facing any obstacle the environment could put in their path, but their relatively sudden disappearance during the Paleolithic era indicates that an inability to adapt to some environmental change led to their extinction.

- (A) appear as equipped for facing any obstacle the environment could put in their path,
- (B) appear to have been equipped to face any obstacle the environment could put in their path,
- (C) appear as equipped to face any obstacle the environment could put in their paths,
- (D) appeared as equipped to face any obstacle the environment could put in their paths,
- (E) appeared to have been equipped for facing any obstacle the environment could put in their path,

Verb Form; Diction

Because Neanderthals “disappeared,” the verb describing their apparent abilities cannot be present tense, so *as equipped* must be changed to *to have been equipped*. The expression *equipped to face* is clearer and more direct than *equipped for facing*.

- A *As equipped* indicates that Neanderthals still appear this way; *equipped* should be followed by an infinitive form instead of a prepositional phrase.

- B **Correct.** The verb tense clearly indicates that the current evidence is about Neanderthals in the past.
- C *As equipped* does not indicate that Neanderthals appeared this way in the past; while individual Neanderthals may well have followed different paths, this sentence is about the single evolutionary path taken by Neanderthals as a species.
- D Present-tense *appear* is needed to parallel present-tense *indicates* and to reinforce that this is current evidence about Neanderthals in the past; as in (C), *paths* should be singular.
- E *For facing* is an incorrect substitution of a prepositional phrase for an infinitive.

The correct answer is B.

SC02135

757. To map Earth's interior, geologists use a network of seismometers to chart seismic waves that originate in the earth's crust and ricochet around its interior, most rapidly traveling through cold, dense regions and slower through hotter rocks.

- (A) interior, most rapidly traveling through cold, dense regions and slower
- (B) interior, which travel most rapidly through cold, dense regions, and more slowly
- (C) interior, traveling most rapidly through cold, dense regions and more slowly
- (D) interior and most rapidly travel through cold, dense regions, and slower
- (E) interior and that travel most rapidly through cold, dense regions and slower

Grammatical Construction; Parallelism

This sentence explains in detail an activity of geologists (using seismometers to chart waves), focusing primarily on the object, seismic waves. A description of these waves is developed in a relative clause (*that originate . . . hotter rocks*) that contains a compound verb phrase (*originate . . . ricochet . . .*). The action, *ricochet*, is further described in a participial phrase in which *traveling . . .* is then further described in a comparison of travel speeds in cold and hot regions of Earth's crust.

- A The two expressions of comparison should be parallel. Because *most rapidly* is placed

before the verb, it appears to modify the entire ensuing phrase, including *slower*. This and the contrast between the forms of *rapidly* and *slower* make the comparisons nonparallel. Some usage advisers consider *slower* to be only an adjective. Although *slower* is sometimes used as an adverb, that usage would be more appropriate with the parallel *faster*. The stark contrast between this typically adjectival form and the clearly adverbial *ly* form is somewhat jarring.

- B The referent of the relative pronoun *which* is unclear.
- C **Correct.** The modifiers are parallel and correctly positioned in relation to the verb.
- D This version of the sentence offers *travel* as a compound verb parallel with *originate* and *ricochet* rather than as a description of how the waves ricochet. It has the same problems with parallelism as (A).
- E Adding a relative clause *and that . . .* makes this sentence wordy and awkward.

The correct answer is C.

SC02470

758. Prices at the producer level are only 1.3 percent higher now than a year ago and are going down, even though floods in the Midwest and drought in the South are hurting crops and therefore raised corn and soybean prices.

- (A) than a year ago and are going down, even though floods in the Midwest and drought in the South are hurting crops and therefore raised
- (B) than those of a year ago and are going down, even though floods in the Midwest and drought in the South are hurting crops and therefore raising
- (C) than a year ago and are going down, despite floods in the Midwest and drought in the South, and are hurting crops and therefore raising
- (D) as those of a year ago and are going down, even though floods in the Midwest and drought in the South hurt crops and therefore raise
- (E) as they were a year ago and are going down, despite floods in the Midwest and drought in the South, and are hurting crops and therefore raising

Logical Predication; Verb Form

The sentence as written makes an illogical comparison between *prices at the producer level* and a time period (*a year ago*); surely the intended comparison is between such prices now and those of a year ago. The clause at the end of the sentence states that flooding and a drought *are hurting* crops, and as a result of this, they have *raised* prices of certain crops. *Are hurting* is in the present progressive tense, indicating an ongoing process; *raised* is in the simple past tense, indicating a completed action. It would be more appropriate to use the present progressive tense here as well, *[are] raising*.

- A The first part of this version of the sentence illogically compares prices to a time; the second part of the sentence indicates that a completed action (*raised . . . prices*) results from an ongoing present condition (*floods . . . and drought . . . are hurting crops*).
- B **Correct.** This version of the sentence makes an appropriate comparison (between prices now and those of a year ago), and uses tenses in an appropriate way.
- C Like (A), this version of the sentence illogically compares prices to ~~time~~ past. Furthermore, in this version, *Prices* is the subject not only for the verb *are* but also for the verbs *are hurting* and *[are] raising*, which makes no sense.
- D The comparative adjective *higher* requires the comparative term *than* instead of *as*; the tenses of the verbs in the latter half of the sentence, *hurt* (simple past) and *raise* (simple present), do not work together logically.
- E Like (D), this version inappropriately uses *as* instead of *than* with *higher*. Furthermore, like (C), in this version *[p]rices* is the subject not only for the verb *are* but also for the verbs *are hurting* and *[are] raising*.

The correct answer is B.

SC07117

759. Fossils of the arm of a sloth found in Puerto Rico in 1991, and dated at 34 million years old, made it the earliest known mammal of the Greater Antilles Islands.

- (A) sloth found in Puerto Rico in 1991, and dated at 34 million years old, made it the earliest known mammal of

- (B) sloth, that they found in Puerto Rico in 1991, has been dated at 34 million years old, thus making it the earliest mammal known on
- (C) sloth that was found in Puerto Rico in 1991, was dated at 34 million years old, making this the earliest known mammal of
- (D) sloth, found in Puerto Rico in 1991, have been dated at 34 million years old, making the sloth the earliest known mammal on
- (E) sloth which, found in Puerto Rico in 1991, was dated at 34 million years old, made the sloth the earliest known mammal of

Agreement; Logical Predication

The subject of the sentence is the plural *fossils*, not *sloth*, and therefore requires a plural verb. *It* therefore does not have a singular antecedent. To clarify the identification of the oldest known mammal, the noun *the sloth* must be explicitly identified.

- A Because *sloth* is the object of a preposition and not the subject of the sentence, there is no reasonable antecedent for the pronoun *it*; in this construction, the subject of *made* is *fossils*, but it makes no sense to say that the *fossils* made it the earliest known mammal.
- B The introduction of the mysterious *they*, a pronoun without a reference, adds confusion to this sentence; the singular verb does not agree with the plural subject.
- C The relative clause *that was . . .* is wordy and awkward; the singular verb does not agree with the plural subject.
- D **Correct.** The plural verb agrees with its plural subject, and *the sloth* is explicitly identified as *the earliest known mammal*.
- E The singular verb does not agree with the plural subject.

The correct answer is D.

SC01550

760. Recently physicians have determined that stomach ulcers are not caused by stress, alcohol, or rich foods, but a bacterium that dwells in the mucous lining of the stomach.

- (A) not caused by stress, alcohol, or rich foods, but
- (B) not caused by stress, alcohol, or rich foods, but are by
- (C) caused not by stress, alcohol, or rich foods, but by

- (D) caused not by stress, alcohol, and rich foods, but
 (E) caused not by stress, alcohol, and rich foods, but are by

Parallelism; Diction

The formula used in this sentence *not this but that* requires parallel elements following *not* and *but*. This means that *not by stress, alcohol, or rich foods* must be balanced by *but by a bacterium*. ... There is no need to repeat the verb *are caused*, or even the auxiliary verb *are*, because the verb precedes the *not by ... but by ...* formula. The substitution of the conjunction *and* for the conjunction *or* changes the meaning of the sentence: *Stress, alcohol and rich foods* identifies the combination of these three factors as a suggested cause of stomach ulcers, whereas *stress, alcohol, or rich foods* offers three individual possibilities. There is no way to tell which one of these is the intended meaning of the sentence.

- A To preserve parallelism, *but* should be followed by *by*.
 B There is no reason to repeat the auxiliary verb *are*.
 C **Correct.** This sentence correctly uses the *not by ... but by ...* formula.
 D To preserve parallelism, *but* should be followed by *by*.
 E To preserve parallelism, *but* should be followed by *by*.

The correct answer is C.

SC05848

761. The eyes of the elephant seal adapt to darkness more quickly than any other animal yet tested, thus allowing it to hunt efficiently under the gloomy conditions at its feeding depth of between 300 and 700 meters.

- (A) The eyes of the elephant seal adapt to darkness more quickly than any other animal yet tested, thus allowing it
 (B) The eyes of the elephant seal adapt to darkness more quickly than does any other animal yet tested, allowing them
 (C) The eyes of the elephant seal adapt to darkness more quickly than do those of any other animal yet tested, allowing it

- (D) Because they adapt to darkness more quickly than any other animal yet tested, the eyes of the elephant seal allow it
 (E) Because the eyes of the elephant seal adapt to darkness more quickly than do those of any other animal yet tested, it allows them

Logical Predication; Agreement

Logically, the eyes of the elephant seal should be contrasted with the eyes of other animals, not with the animals themselves. The sentence must make this comparison directly and precisely, with each subject interpretable as the subject of *adapt*. Given the correct subject (*those of any other animal yet tested*), which is plural, any reference to it must also be plural.

- A *Any other animal yet tested* is incorrectly set up as the subject of *adapt*.
 B *Any other animal yet tested* is incorrectly set up as the subject of *adapt*. The plural pronoun *them* seems to refer to eyes. Although there is a sense in which eyes can hunt, it is more reasonable to suppose that, in this context, the writer's intention is to mention how the eyes' quick adaptation allows the seal to hunt efficiently.
 C **Correct.** The subject of the comparative phrase is correctly *those of any other animal yet tested*, the plural verb *do* correctly agrees with this subject (*those*), and the singular pronoun *it* correctly agrees with its antecedent (*elephant seal*).
 D *Any other animal yet tested* is incorrectly set up as the subject of *adapt*.
 E The subject is correct, but in the following clause *it* has no clear referent.

The correct answer is C.

SC01068

762. A mutual fund having billions of dollars in assets will typically invest that money in hundreds of companies, rarely holding more than one percent of the shares of any particular corporation.

- (A) companies, rarely holding more than one percent
 (B) companies, and it is rare to hold at least one percent or more
 (C) companies and rarely do they hold more than one percent

- (D) companies, so that they rarely hold more than one percent
 (E) companies; rarely do they hold one percent or more

Agreement: Logical Predication

The participial phrase starting with *rarely holding* is predicated of the main subject *a mutual fund*. It elaborates on the effect of the main clause verb: since a mutual fund invests in hundreds of companies, it rarely holds more than one percent in any particular corporation.

- A **Correct.** The participle *holding* in the embedded clause correctly refers to *a mutual fund*. It also correctly expresses the cause-and-effect relationship between investing in many companies and holding little in each company.
 B The antecedent of *it is rare to hold* is not clear. The use of *it is rare* instead of *rarely* could be misleading.
 C The use of *and* between the clauses makes them both main clauses. Thus, the cause-and-effect relationship between investing and holding is lost. The referent of *they* is unclear. It makes no sense to suppose that it refers to the hundreds of companies. Since it presumably refers to *a mutual fund*, it should be singular.
 D The pronoun *they* refers to *a mutual fund* and thus should be singular.
 E The pronoun *they* refers to *a mutual fund* and thus should be singular.

The correct answer is A.

SC08083

763. Positing an enormous volcanic explosion at the end of the Permian period would explain the presence of a buried crater, account for the presence of the element iridium (originating deep within the earth), and the presence of quartz having been shattered by high-impact shock waves.

- (A) account for the presence of the element iridium (originating deep within the earth), and the presence of quartz having been
 (B) of the element iridium (originating deep within the earth), and of quartz
 (C) the element iridium (originating deep within the earth), and explain the presence of quartz having been

- (D) the presence of the element iridium (originating deep within the earth), and explain the presence of quartz
 (E) explain the element iridium (originating deep within the earth), and the presence of quartz

Parallelism: Rhetorical Construction

The sentence indicates that a volcanic explosion would explain the presence of three features, but those features are not expressed using parallel grammatical structures. The first two items in the list are verb phrases that involve needless repetition—*explain the presence of* and *account for the presence of*—while the third is an awkwardly worded noun phrase—*the presence of quartz having been shattered*. The three features can be identified more concisely with a list of prepositional phrases following *explain the presence:* *of a buried crater, of the element iridium, and of quartz.*

- A The three features are not listed in parallel form; the sentence is wordy and awkward.
 B **Correct.** The three features are identified with parallel prepositional phrases.
 C The three features are not listed in parallel form since the first and third are verb phrases, while the second is a noun phrase; the wording is awkward and needlessly repetitive.
 D The three features are not listed in parallel form since the first and third are verb phrases, while the second is a noun phrase; the wording is needlessly repetitive.
 E The three features are not listed in parallel form since the first and second are verb phrases, while the third is a noun phrase; the sentence illogically states that an explosion would *explain the element iridium*, rather than *explain the presence of* the element.

The correct answer is B.

SC01561

764. The 19-year-old pianist and composer performed his most recent work all over Europe, Asia, and North America last year, winning prestigious awards in both London as well as Tokyo for his achievement at so young an age, and he is hoping to continue composing now that he has returned to Chicago.
- (A) winning prestigious awards in both London as well as Tokyo for his achievement at so young an age, and he is hoping

- (B) winning prestigious awards both in London and Tokyo for his achievement at such a young age, and hoping
- (C) having won prestigious awards both in London and Tokyo for his achievement at so young an age, hoping
- (D) winning prestigious awards in both London and Tokyo for his achievement at such a young age, and he hopes
- (E) having won prestigious awards both in London as well as Tokyo for his achievement at so young an age, and he hopes

Idiom; Grammatical Construction

This sentence is about the past accomplishments and the future ambitions of a musician who recently won awards on a world tour. In some of the versions of the sentence, the phrase *as well as* is redundant with the word *both* before *London* and *Tokyo*. Idiomatically, the simple conjunction *and* completes the phrase beginning with *both*.

- A The phrase *as well as* between *London* and *Tokyo* is not idiomatic (the idiomatic formula is *both X and Y*). The present progressive verb *is hoping* is unnecessarily wordy.
- B Because *hoping* is parallel with *winning*, it suggests that the *hoping* and *winning* are contemporaneous, whereas in fact the musician won his awards last year but is now, in the present, upon his return, hoping to continue composing.
- C The present-perfect participle phrase *having won* suggests that his winning took place before his performance tour. Furthermore, the use of *hoping* in this version of the sentence suggests that hoping is something the pianist did while on his performance tour *last year*, but the final phrase, *now that he has returned to Chicago*, indicates this is not so.
- D **Correct.** This version of the sentence uses the correct idiomatic formula (*both X and Y*).
- E The participial phrase *having won . . .* inaccurately states that the musician won his awards prior to his performance tour. Furthermore, *both in London as well as Tokyo* is unidiomatic, as indicated in the discussion of (A) above, and unparallel (*in* should either precede *both*, or else *in* should be added before *Tokyo*).

The correct answer is D.

SC01474

765. Starfish, with anywhere from five to eight arms, have a strong regenerative ability, and if one arm is lost it quickly replaces it, sometimes by the animal overcompensating and growing an extra one or two.
- (A) one arm is lost it quickly replaces it, sometimes by the animal overcompensating and
 - (B) one arm is lost it is quickly replaced, with the animal sometimes overcompensating and
 - (C) they lose one arm they quickly replace it, sometimes by the animal overcompensating,
 - (D) they lose one arm they are quickly replaced, with the animal sometimes overcompensating,
 - (E) they lose one arm it is quickly replaced, sometimes with the animal overcompensating,

Agreement; Idiom

In a conditional sentence *if X, (then) Y*, rhetorical flow is enhanced by the two clauses sharing the same structure. If one clause is passive, the other should be passive; if one clause is active, the other should be active, too.

- A The conditional clause has a passive verb, while the result clause has an active verb. The pronoun *it* should be plural since it refers to *starfish*. We know that *starfish* is plural in this sentence because it agrees with *have* in the main clause.
- B **Correct.** The conditional structure is clear and correct.
- C This answer choice allows the unintended reading that the animal replaces the missing arm by overcompensating. The logical connection between *overcompensating* and *growing* is unclear.
- D The conditional clause has an active verb, while the result clause has a passive verb. The second *they* should refer to *arm*, so the agreement is not correct. The logical connection between *overcompensating* and *growing* is unclear.
- E The conditional clause has an active verb, while the result clause has a passive verb. The logical connection between *overcompensating* and *growing* is unclear.

The correct answer is B.

SC04249

766. In 2000, a mere two dozen products accounted for half the increase in spending on prescription drugs, a phenomenon that is explained not just because of more expensive drugs but by the fact that doctors are writing many more prescriptions for higher-cost drugs.
- (A) a phenomenon that is explained not just because of more expensive drugs but by the fact that doctors are writing
 (B) a phenomenon that is explained not just by the fact that drugs are becoming more expensive but also by the fact that doctors are writing
 (C) a phenomenon occurring not just because of drugs that are becoming more expensive but because of doctors having also written
 (D) which occurred not just because drugs are becoming more expensive but doctors are also writing
 (E) which occurred not just because of more expensive drugs but because doctors have also written

Rhetorical Construction; Idiom

This sentence explains that a few high-cost products account for increased spending for two reasons—rising drug prices and more prescriptions for high-priced drugs. To present these two causes, the sentence employs a formula that requires parallel elements: *not just because of x, but because of y*, with *x* and *y* assuming the same grammatical form. One way to create this parallelism is to phrase both contributing causes as noun clauses beginning with *the fact that*. To streamline the sentence, unnecessary words and redundancies should be eliminated. One such redundancy is the repetition of meaning in *explained* and *because of*.

- A It is redundant and confusing to say that the phenomenon in question is *explained* ... *because of*; the sentence structure is not parallel.
 B **Correct.** This sentence correctly uses parallel structure.
 C The phrasing *drugs that are becoming* and *doctors having also written* are awkward and confusing; the placement of *also* is incorrect.
 D The structure of this sentence is not parallel.
 E The placement of *also* is incorrect; the structure of the sentence is not parallel.

The correct answer is B.

SC05393

767. Similar to other early Mississippi Delta blues singers, the music of Robert Johnson arose from an oral tradition beginning with a mixture of chants, fiddle tunes, and religious music and only gradually evolved into the blues.
- (A) Similar to other early Mississippi Delta blues singers, the music of Robert Johnson arose from an oral tradition beginning with
 (B) Similar to that of other early Mississippi Delta blues singers, Robert Johnson made music that arose from an oral tradition that began with
 (C) As with other early Mississippi Delta blues singers, Robert Johnson made music that arose from an oral tradition beginning as
 (D) Like other early Mississippi Delta blues singers, Robert Johnson's music arose from an oral tradition beginning with
 (E) Like the music of other early Mississippi Delta blues singers, the music of Robert Johnson arose from an oral tradition that began as

Logical Predication; Verb Form

The sentence aims to compare the music of early Mississippi Delta Blues singers with the music of Robert Johnson. But what it does is illogically compare singers themselves with the music of Johnson. The second half of the sentence describes two stages of the oral tradition from which blues developed.

- A *Similar to* is a wordy and imprecise form of comparison here. The second half of the sentence attempts to describe the stages of the oral tradition, but in a nonparallel form, presenting the first stage as a participial phrase and the second as a verb phrase.
 B *Similar to* is wordy and imprecise. The pronoun *that* lacks a grammatical referent.
 C The comparative phrase *as with* is an inappropriate form for comparing nouns and noun phrases. The second half of the sentence violates parallelism, attempting to express the first stage of the oral tradition as a present-participle phrase and the second as a past-tense verb phrase.
 D This makes a sentence that illogically compares *singers* with *music*. It violates parallelism by coupling a participial phrase *beginning with . . .* with a verb phrase *evolved into . . .*

- E** **Correct.** The resulting sentence compares like with like. It uses a relative clause to describe the oral tradition from which blues developed, indicating the two stages of development with two verbs in parallel.

The correct answer is E.

SC03805

768. Thelonious Monk, who was a jazz pianist and composer, produced a body of work both rooted in the stride-piano tradition of Willie (The Lion) Smith and Duke Ellington, yet in many ways he stood apart from the mainstream jazz repertory.

- (A) Thelonious Monk, who was a jazz pianist and composer, produced a body of work both rooted
- (B) Thelonious Monk, the jazz pianist and composer, produced a body of work that was rooted both
- (C) Jazz pianist and composer Thelonious Monk, who produced a body of work rooted
- (D) Jazz pianist and composer Thelonious Monk produced a body of work that was rooted
- (E) Jazz pianist and composer Thelonious Monk produced a body of work rooted both

Grammatical Construction; Rhetorical Construction

The subject of the sentence is *Thelonious Monk*, and the sentence tells about two things that he did: *produced* and *stood apart*. The work he produced was rooted in the mainstream (*stride piano*) jazz tradition, yet at the same time, he deviated from this tradition. The use of a relative clause (*who was a jazz pianist ...*) or an appositive (*the jazz pianist ...*) introduces unnecessary wordiness and grammatical complexity. Since only one point is being made about Monk's body of work, the appearance of the word *both* in the clause presenting the claim about Monk's work is deceptive as well as grammatically incorrect.

- A The relative clause introduces wordiness and confusion.
- B The appositive introduces wordiness and unnecessary grammatical complexity.
- C The sentence is a fragment because the main subject, *Thelonious Monk*, has no verb.
- D** **Correct.** The sentence concisely identifies Thelonious Monk and expresses the single point about his work without unnecessary or misleading words.

- E** The appearance of *both* is misleading, since only one point is being made about where Monk's musical roots are located.

The correct answer is D.

SC06898

769. Nobody knows exactly how many languages there are in the world, partly because of the difficulty of distinguishing between a language and the sublanguages or dialects within it, but those who have tried to count typically have found about five thousand.

- (A) and the sublanguages or dialects within it, but those who have tried to count typically have found
- (B) and the sublanguages or dialects within them, with those who have tried counting typically finding
- (C) and the sublanguages or dialects within it, but those who have tried counting it typically find
- (D) or the sublanguages or dialects within them, but those who tried to count them typically found
- (E) or the sublanguages or dialects within them, with those who have tried to count typically finding

Agreement; Idiom

This sentence first introduces a condition that makes it difficult to count languages and then, with the conjunction *but*, introduces the topic of those who defy these difficulties and try to count the world's languages anyway. Connecting these two parts of the sentence with *but* indicates that the second clause of the sentence is counter to expectation. The challenges of the task are explained using the example of a single language and its many sublanguages or dialects. When this example is referred to with a pronoun, the pronoun should be singular; when the languages being counted are referred to with a pronoun, this pronoun must be plural.

- A** **Correct.** The pronoun *it* agrees in number to its singular antecedent, and *but* indicates that the idea expressed in the final clause defies expectations.
- B The plural pronoun *them* incorrectly refers to the singular antecedent *language*; connecting the two clauses with the preposition *with* loses the sense that counting languages despite the difficulties defies expectations.
- C The second appearance of *it*, referring to world languages, is incorrect because it does not agree in number with *languages*.

- D The conjunction *or* is incorrect—the idiomatic expression is *distinguishing between x and y*; the plural pronoun *them* does not agree with the singular antecedent *language*.
- E The plural pronoun *them* incorrectly refers to the singular antecedent, *language*; *with* is an imprecise connector for the two clauses, losing the *counter-to-expectation* relationship between them.

The correct answer is A.

SC08719

770. Although a number of excellent studies narrate the development of domestic technology and its impact on housewifery, these works do not discuss the contributions of the women employed by manufacturers and utility companies as product demonstrators and publicists, who initially promoted new and unfamiliar technology to female consumers.

- (A) by manufacturers and utility companies as product demonstrators and publicists,
- (B) to be product demonstrators and publicists by manufacturers and utility companies,
- (C) to demonstrate and publicize their products by manufacturers and utility companies
- (D) by manufacturers and utility companies to be demonstrators and publicists of their products
- (E) by manufacturers and utility companies to demonstrate and publicize their products

Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The point of the sentence is that studies do not include the contributions of women who promoted new domestic technology. The sentence indicates clearly that the women were *employed by manufacturers and utility companies*, worked as *product demonstrators and publicists*, and promoted new technology *to female consumers*.

- A **Correct.** The sentence clearly describes the women's employment and contributions.
- B This sentence structure appears to make *who initially promoted* refer to *manufacturers and utility companies* rather than to *the women*. This conflicts with the use of the word *who*, which would normally be expected to refer to persons rather than to abstract entities such as companies.

- C *Their* refers to *the women*, incorrectly suggesting that the *products* belong to them. This sentence structure appears to make *who initially promoted* refer to *manufacturers and utility companies* rather than to *the women*. This conflicts with the word *who*, which would normally be expected to refer to persons rather than to abstract entities such as companies.

- D *Who initially promoted* follows, and appears to refer to *products*, which cannot logically be the referent.

- E *Who initially promoted* follows, and appears to refer to *products*, which cannot logically be the referent.

The correct answer is A.

SC01577

771. The absence from business and financial records of the nineteenth century of statistics about women leave us with no record of the jobs that were performed by women and how they survived economically.

- (A) from business and financial records of the nineteenth century of statistics about women leave us with no record of the jobs that were performed by women and
- (B) from business and financial records of statistics about women from the nineteenth century leave us with no record of what jobs women performed or
- (C) of statistics for women from business and financial records in the nineteenth century leaves us with no record of either the jobs that women were performing and of
- (D) of statistics on women from business and financial records in the nineteenth century leave us with no record of the jobs that women performed or of
- (E) of statistics about women from business and financial records of the nineteenth century leaves us with no record of either what jobs women performed or

Rhetorical Construction; Agreement

This sentence is phrased awkwardly in two ways. The first relates to *absence of statistics*: it is best to place a noun modifier right next to the noun that it modifies, with no intervening material. Second, *jobs that were performed by women* is more complicated than necessary—*jobs women performed* is better, for example. Also, the singular noun *absence* requires the correct agreeing verb form *leaves*.

- A *Absence and of statistics* are widely separated, and *leave* does not properly agree with its subject, *absence*.
- B *Absence and of statistics* are widely separated, and *leave* does not properly agree with its subject, *absence*.
- C *Jobs that women were performing* is unnecessarily long and complex. The *either* construction should be completed with *or*, not *and*.
- D *Leave* does not properly agree with its subject, *absence*.
- E **Correct.** *Leaves* agrees with *absence*. The phrase *of statistics* is next to the noun it modifies (*absence*), and *jobs women performed* is a nicely simple phrasing.

The correct answer is E.

SC02138

772. Heating-oil prices are expected to be higher this year than last because refiners are paying about \$5 a barrel more for crude oil than they were last year.
- (A) Heating-oil prices are expected to be higher this year than last because refiners are paying about \$5 a barrel more for crude oil than they were
- (B) Heating-oil prices are expected to rise higher this year over last because refiners pay about \$5 a barrel for crude oil more than they did
- (C) Expectations are for heating-oil prices to be higher this year than last year's because refiners are paying about \$5 a barrel for crude oil more than they did
- (D) It is the expectation that heating-oil prices will be higher for this year over last because refiners are paying about \$5 a barrel more for crude oil now than what they were
- (E) It is expected that heating-oil prices will rise higher this year than last year's because refiners pay about \$5 a barrel for crude oil more than they did

Rhetorical Construction; Idiom

The sentence connects a comparison between this year's and last year's heating-oil prices with a comparison between this year's and last year's crude-oil prices. The most efficient, parallel expression of those comparisons is to use two comparative expressions, *higher than* and *more than*.

- A **Correct.** This sentence expresses the comparison in succinct, parallel phrases.
- B The comparative form, *higher*, anticipates the comparative term *than*, not *over*; in the second clause, the comparative terms *more than* should immediately follow *\$5 a barrel*.
- C *Expectations are for ...* is an unnecessarily wordy and indirect expression; the possessive *year's* is not parallel with the adverbial phrase *this year*.
- D *It is the expectation that ...* is wordy and awkward; *for* and *what* are unnecessary.
- E *It is expected that ...* is wordy and awkward; the possessive *last year's* does not parallel the adverbial phrase *this year*.

The correct answer is A.

SC01443

773. Even though Clovis points, spear points with longitudinal grooves chipped onto their faces, have been found all over North America, they are named for the New Mexico site where they were first discovered in 1932.
- (A) Even though Clovis points, spear points with longitudinal grooves chipped onto their faces, have been found all over North America, they are named for the New Mexico site where they were first discovered in 1932.
- (B) Although named for the New Mexico site where first discovered in 1932, Clovis points are spear points of longitudinal grooves chipped onto their faces and have been found all over North America.
- (C) Named for the New Mexico site where they have been first discovered in 1932, Clovis points, spear points of longitudinal grooves chipped onto the faces, have been found all over North America.
- (D) Spear points with longitudinal grooves that are chipped onto the faces, Clovis points, even though named for the New Mexico site where first discovered in 1932, but were found all over North America.
- (E) While Clovis points are spear points whose faces have longitudinal grooves chipped into them, they have been found all over North America, and named for the New Mexico site where they have been first discovered in 1932.

Verb Form; Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication

Even though, although, and while introduce clauses that appear to be logically incompatible but in fact are not. In this sentence, the apparent incompatibility that must be clearly expressed is that although the spear points are named for a particular place in New Mexico, they are in fact found throughout North America. Because their discovery took place in 1932 and is not ongoing, the correct verb tense is simple past, not present perfect.

- A **Correct.** The *even though* clause expresses clearly that the seeming incompatibility is between where the spear points have been found (*all over North America*) and the naming of the spear points for a single site in New Mexico.
- B The sentence structure indicates that the expected incompatibility is between the geographically based name of the points and their physical properties, which makes no sense; *where discovered* is missing a subject—the correct form is *where they were first discovered*.
- C *Have been first discovered* is the wrong tense, since the discovery is a discrete event completed in the past.
- D The sequence of information in this sentence is confusing; *even though* and *but* both introduce information that is contrary to expectation, so to use them both to describe a single apparent contradiction is redundant and nonsensical.
- E *While* introduces a description of Clovis points and suggests that this appears incompatible with their appearance all over North America, which makes no sense; *have been first discovered* is the wrong tense.

The correct answer is A.

SC04408

774. Heavy commitment by an executive to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes it likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.

- (A) Heavy commitment by an executive to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes it likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.

- (B) An executive who is heavily committed to a course of action, especially one that worked well in the past, makes missing signs of incipient trouble or misinterpreting ones likely when they do appear.
- (C) An executive who is heavily committed to a course of action is likely to miss or misinterpret signs of incipient trouble when they do appear, especially if it has worked well in the past.
- (D) Executives' being heavily committed to a course of action, especially if it has worked well in the past, makes them likely to miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpreting them when they do appear.
- (E) Being heavily committed to a course of action, especially one that has worked well in the past, is likely to make an executive miss signs of incipient trouble or misinterpret them when they do appear.

Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication

This sentence explains that an executive who is blindly committed to a proven course of action is likely to overlook or misinterpret indicators that the plan may no longer be working. The sentence needs to make clear *who* may misinterpret these indicators.

- A The passive construction causes the sentence to be wordy and confusing; the reference for *it* is ambiguous, leaving the reader with questions about who or what is likely to miss these signs.
- B The sentence structure indicates that the *executive*, not his or her strategy, causes signs to be overlooked; the modifier *when they do appear* is misplaced.
- C The reference for the pronoun *it* is unclear because many nouns have intervened between the appearance of the logical referent (*course of action*) and *it*.
- D *Misinterpreting* should be an infinitive verb form to parallel *miss*; the phrasing throughout the sentence is wordy and awkward.
- E **Correct.** The grammatical structure of this sentence and the appropriate placement of modifiers expresses the meaning clearly and concisely.

The correct answer is E.

SC06740

775. According to recent studies comparing the nutritional value of meat from wild animals and meat from domesticated animals, wild animals have less total fat than do livestock fed on grain and more of a kind of fat they think is good for cardiac health.

- (A) wild animals have less total fat than do livestock fed on grain and more of a kind of fat they think is
- (B) wild animals have less total fat than livestock fed on grain and more of a kind of fat thought to be
- (C) wild animals have less total fat than that of livestock fed on grain and have more fat of a kind thought to be
- (D) total fat of wild animals is less than livestock fed on grain and they have more fat of a kind thought to be
- (E) total fat is less in wild animals than that of livestock fed on grain and more of their fat is of a kind they think is

Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The sentence reports research findings on the comparison between the fat content of wild animals and that of domestic livestock. The most significant error in the sentence is in the phrase *they think*: the pronoun *they* either lacks a referent or is meant to refer back to *wild animals*, which would be nonsensical.

- A The pronoun *they* fails to refer correctly.
- B **Correct.** The phrase *thought to be* eliminates the most significant error in the original sentence. Note that while the phrase *less total fat than livestock* differs from the phrase *less total fat than do livestock* in the original, either would be correct here.
- C The resulting sentence is unnecessarily wordy and confusing. The pronoun *that* is not only superfluous, but it fails to refer back to anything.
- D The resulting sentence makes a nonsensical comparison between *total fat* and *livestock*.
- E The resulting sentence is wordy and confusing. It lacks the required parallelism *in wild animals . . . in livestock*. The referent of the possessive pronoun *their* is ambiguous, as is the referent of the pronoun *they*.

The correct answer is B.

SC03292

776. Yellow jackets number among the 900 or so species of the world's social wasps, wasps living in a highly cooperative and organized society where they consist almost entirely of females—the queen and her sterile female workers.

- (A) wasps living in a highly cooperative and organized society where they consist almost entirely of
- (B) wasps that live in a highly cooperative and organized society consisting almost entirely of
- (C) which means they live in a highly cooperative and organized society, almost all
- (D) which means that their society is highly cooperative, organized, and it is almost entirely
- (E) living in a society that is highly cooperative, organized, and it consists of almost all

Idiom; Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

This sentence identifies yellow jackets as one of 900 types of social wasps and provides an explanation of the term *social wasps*. In this explanation, the society or population—not the individual wasps themselves—consists almost entirely of females. The three descriptors of social wasps (*cooperative*, *organized*, and *consisting almost entirely of females*) are most effectively expressed in parallel structures.

- A *They*, referring to wasps, is an incorrect subject for *consist*.
- B **Correct.** The three descriptors of the wasp society are in parallel form, and *consisting* properly modifies *society*.
- C The sentence structure makes it unclear what *almost all females* describes.
- D *And it is . . .* violates the parallelism of the three descriptors of social wasps.
- E *And it consists . . .* violates the parallelism of the three descriptors.

The correct answer is B.

SC02539

777. Before 1988, insurance companies in California were free to charge whatever rates the market would bear, needing no approval from regulators before raising rates.

- (A) needing no approval from regulators before raising
- (B) and it needed no approval by regulators before raising

SC01022

- (C) and needing no approval from regulators before they raised
- (D) with approval not needed by regulators before they raised
- (E) with no approval needed from regulators before the raising of

Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The sentence explains that, prior to 1988, insurance companies in California could raise rates without regulators' approval. This idea is expressed concisely using a participial phrase and two prepositional phrases: *needing no approval from regulators before raising rates*. Unlike some of the answer choices that contain errors involving antecedents, this construction uses no pronouns and contains no such errors.

- A Correct.** The combination of a participial phrase and two prepositional phrases expresses the idea clearly with no errors involving pronouns or antecedents.
- B** The singular pronoun *it* has no clear antecedent. If *it* is taken to refer to the market (the only grammatically plausible antecedent), the sentence is illogical. *Whatever rates the market would bear* clearly indicates that *market* is being used in the sense of an abstract set of forces affecting prices. To say that the market, in that sense, raised taxes and that it needed no approval to do so is nonsensical.
- C** The construction *were ... and needing* is ungrammatical. The pronoun *they* is intended to refer to *companies* but could also seem, illogically, to refer to *regulators*.
- D** *By regulators* illogically indicates that regulators are the ones who did not need approval; the pronoun *they* is intended to refer to *companies* but could also seem, illogically, to refer to *regulators*.
- E** *Before the raising of* is wordy and awkward. Both that phrase and *with no approval needed* are strangely uninformative and rhetorically ineffective in that they appear to pointedly avoid telling who did not need the approval or who might have raised the rates.

The correct answer is A.

778. Marconi's conception of the radio was as a substitute for the telephone, a tool for private conversation; instead, it is precisely the opposite, a tool for communicating with a large, public audience.

- (A) Marconi's conception of the radio was as a substitute for the telephone, a tool for private conversation; instead, it is
- (B) Marconi conceived of the radio as a substitute for the telephone, a tool for private conversation, but which is
- (C) Marconi conceived of the radio as a tool for private conversation that could substitute for the telephone; instead, it has become
- (D) Marconi conceived of the radio to be a tool for private conversation, a substitute for the telephone, which has become
- (E) Marconi conceived of the radio to be a substitute for the telephone, a tool for private conversation, other than what it is,

Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication

The main point of this sentence is to explain that while Marconi felt the radio would substitute for the phone as an instrument of private communication, in fact it has become an instrument of mass communication. It is less wordy to use *Marconi* as the subject of the active verb *conceived* than to use the subject *conception* with the static verb *was*. The pronoun *it* positioned as the subject of the final verb *has become* refers back to *radio*. Versions of the sentence that use the relative pronoun *which* indicate that the telephone has become a mass medium.

- A** The nominalized subject, *conception*, leads to a wordy and awkward sentence.
- B** The reference for the relative pronoun *which* is ambiguous; the sentence as a whole is awkward.
- C Correct.** An active verb makes the first clause more concise; *it* in the second clause clearly refers to *the radio*.
- D** *Conceived of ...* should be followed by *as* rather than *to be*.
- E** *Conceived of ...* should be followed by *as* rather than *to be; other than what it is* is awkward, wordy, and redundant, overlapping the meaning of *precisely the opposite*

The correct answer is C.

SC02611

779. Because there are provisions of the new maritime code that provide that even tiny islets can be the basis for claims to the fisheries and oil fields of large sea areas, they have already stimulated international disputes over uninhabited islands.
- (A) Because there are provisions of the new maritime code that provide that even tiny islets can be the basis for claims to the fisheries and oil fields of large sea areas, they have already stimulated
 (B) Because the new maritime code provides that even tiny islets can be the basis for claims to the fisheries and oil fields of large sea areas, it has already stimulated
 (C) Even tiny islets can be the basis for claims to the fisheries and oil fields of large sea areas under provisions of the new maritime code, already stimulating
 (D) Because even tiny islets can be the basis for claims to the fisheries and oil fields of large sea areas under provisions of the new maritime code, this has already stimulated
 (E) Because even tiny islets can be the basis for claims to the fisheries and oil fields of large sea areas under provisions of the new maritime code, which is already stimulating

Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction

In this sentence, the *there are ... that ...* construction contributes nothing more than unnecessary words. The sentence needs to make clear whether *provisions* or *code* is the subject of the main verb *stimulated*.

- A The *there are ... that ...* construction is unnecessarily wordy; in the predicate nominative instead of the subject position, *provisions* is not an obvious referent for the pronoun *they*.
 B **Correct.** In this sentence, *the new maritime code* is clearly the antecedent of *it* in the main clause and thus the subject of *has already stimulated*.
 C *Under provisions of the new maritime code* is a misplaced modifier, seeming to describe *sea areas*; the sentence does not make clear what is *stimulating ... disputes*.
 D The referent of *this* is unclear.

- E The sentence is a fragment, opening with a dependent clause (*Because ... code*) and concluding with a relative clause, but lacking a main, independent clause.

The correct answer is B.

SC02576

780. Unlike the automobile company, whose research was based on crashes involving sport utility vehicles, the research conducted by the insurance company took into account such factors as a driver's age, sex, and previous driving record.
- (A) company, whose research was based on
 (B) company, which researched
 (C) company, in its research of
 (D) company's research, having been based on
 (E) company's research on

Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The point of the sentence is to contrast the research conducted by the automobile company and that conducted by the insurance company, but the sentence has been written in a way that contrasts *the automobile company* with *research*. The correct contrast is between *automobile company's research* and *research conducted by the insurance company*.

- A *Automobile company* is incorrectly contrasted with *research*.
 B *Automobile company* is incorrectly contrasted with *research*.
 C *Automobile company* is incorrectly contrasted with *research*.
 D *Having been based on* is wordy. This construction makes it unclear whether *having been based on crashes involving sport utility vehicles* is intended to modify *the automobile company's research* or *the research conducted by the insurance company*. The sentence structure slightly favors the latter interpretation, but it is somewhat implausible to suppose that this is the intended meaning.
 E **Correct.** The sentence concisely contrasts the *automobile company's research* and *research conducted by the insurance company*.

The correct answer is E.

SC12131

781. Gusty westerly winds will continue to usher in a seasonably cool air mass into the region, as a broad area of high pressure will build and bring fair and dry weather for several days.
- (A) to usher in a seasonably cool air mass into the region, as a broad area of high pressure will build and
 (B) ushering in a seasonably cool air mass into the region and a broad area of high pressure will build that
 (C) to usher in a seasonably cool air mass to the region, a broad area of high pressure building, and
 (D) ushering a seasonably cool air mass in the region, with a broad area of high pressure building and
 (E) to usher a seasonably cool air mass into the region while a broad area of high pressure builds, which will

Verb Form; Grammatical Construction; Diction

The sentence offers a prediction that two concurrent weather events will bring a certain type of weather, but its use of the phrase *as . . . will build* causes confusion. The wording makes the sequence of events and the causal relationships among them unclear. Future tense is used to indicate that winds *will continue*. The relation of *as* to the rest of the sentence makes it unclear whether *as* is intended as a logical indicator (similar to *because*) or as a temporal indicator (equivalent to *while*). If *as* is intended in the former way, it would be preferable to resolve the ambiguity by using a word or phrase such as *because* or *given that*. If it is intended in the latter way, a present tense verb would be needed following *as* or *while* to show that the second event is concurrent with, or part of, the future situation: *while high pressure builds*. In addition, *usher in . . . into* is redundant and unidiomatic. A clear, concise way to express this idea is *will continue to usher a seasonably cool air mass into the region while a broad area of high pressure builds*.

- A *Usher in . . . into* is redundant and unidiomatic. *As . . . will build* causes confusion.
 B The absence of a comma after *region* makes this ungrammatical. *Ushering in . . . into* is redundant; *will build* is the wrong verb tense; the plural verb *bring* does not agree with *area*, the singular antecedent of *that*.

- C The grammatical function of *a broad area of high pressure building* is unclear.
 D *Ushering . . . in the region* is incorrect since *into* is needed to indicate movement from outside in; the subject of the verb *bring* is unclear.
 E **Correct.** The idea is expressed with clear, correct combinations of verbs and subjects.

The correct answer is E.

SC02008

782. With the patience of its customers and with its network strained to the breaking point, the on-line service company announced a series of new initiatives trying to relieve the congestion that has led to at least four class-action lawsuits and thousands of complaints from frustrated customers.

- (A) the patience of its customers and with its network strained to the breaking point, the on-line service company announced a series of new initiatives trying to relieve
 (B) the patience of its customers and its network strained to the breaking point, the on-line service company announced a series of new initiatives that try to relieve
 (C) its network and the patience of its customers strained to the breaking point, the on-line service company announced a series of new initiatives to try to relieve
 (D) its network and with the patience of its customers strained to the breaking point, the on-line service company announced a series of initiatives to try relieving
 (E) its network and its customers' patience strained to the breaking point, the on-line service company announced a series of new initiatives to try relieving

Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The sentence explains the online service provider's efforts to relieve congestion, but it has been written with confusing ambiguities. Because *the patience of its customers* is in a separate prepositional phrase from *its network*, it is not clear whether both or only the latter is *strained to the breaking point*. The phrase *trying to relieve* is probably meant to explain the purpose of the initiatives, but does not do so unambiguously.

(for example, *trying* could modify either *the company* or *initiatives*, and it is not clear which is intended). An unambiguous wording of the sentence would clarify that both *the patience of its customers* and *its network* are *strained to the breaking point* and that the purpose of the initiatives is *to try to relieve* the congestion.

- A *The patience of its customers* is not clearly linked to *strained to the breaking point; trying to relieve* is an ambiguous and unidiomatic way of expressing the purpose of the initiatives.
- B *That try to relieve* fails to express the purpose of the initiatives in a rhetorically acceptable way; moreover the present tense *try* is illogical here. The phrase *the patience of its customers and its network* is rhetorically flawed in that its structure makes it seem to be attributing *patience* to the *network*.
- C **Correct.** The sentence indicates clearly that both *the patience of its customers* and *its network* are *strained to the breaking point* and that the company introduced initiatives aimed at relieving the congestion.
- D *Its network* is not clearly linked to *strained to the breaking point; with to try*, the infinitive form *to relieve* is more rhetorically appropriate here than the verbal noun form *relieving*, in order to indicate the goal of the intervention.
- E With *to try*, the infinitive form *to relieve* is more rhetorically appropriate here than the verbal noun form *relieving*, in order to indicate the goal of the intervention.

The correct answer is C.

SC02094

783. November is traditionally the strongest month for sales of light trucks, but sales this past November, even when compared with sales in previous Novembers, accounted for a remarkably large share of total vehicle sales.

- (A) but sales this past November, even when compared with sales in previous Novembers,
- (B) but even when it is compared with previous Novembers, this past November's sales
- (C) but even when they are compared with previous Novembers, sales of light trucks this past November

- (D) so that compared with previous Novembers, sales of light trucks this past November
- (E) so that this past November's sales, even compared with previous Novembers' sales,

Logical Predication; Agreement

This sentence identifies November as traditionally being the month with the strongest sales of light trucks, and then goes on to indicate that even when compared to previous Novembers, this past November's sales accounted for a notably large portion of overall sales. It makes sense to make a comparison between sales in one November with sales in other Novembers. It does not make sense to compare sales to months, as in (C) and (D).

- A **Correct.** This version makes the correct comparison between sales in one particular November and sales in previous Novembers.
- B The antecedent of the word *it* is unclear. The sentence begins with the word *November*, which is used to refer not to a specific November, but to the month generally. If the antecedent of *it* is taken to be *November*, then the sentence compares November, taken generally, to previous Novembers. But previous to what? Since taking *November* to be the antecedent renders the sentence nonsensical, we may be inclined to look for the antecedent elsewhere; the only other possible candidate, however, is *this past November's sales*, which is ruled out because *it* is singular and *sales* is plural.
- C The antecedent of the pronoun *they* is *sales*, making the comparison between *they* and *previous Novembers* illogical.
- D The sentence illogically compares sales of light trucks with previous Novembers. The conjunction *so that* nonsensically introduces a causal relationship between November's typically strong sales and the aforementioned comparison.
- E Like (D), this sentence introduces a nonsensical causal relationship, in this case between the fact that November typically has the strongest sales and the fact that this past November's sales accounted for a remarkably large share of total vehicle sales.

The correct answer is A.

SC05760

784. Most of the country's biggest daily newspapers had lower circulation in the six months from October 1995 through March 1996 than a similar period a year earlier.
- (A) a similar period
 (B) a similar period's
 (C) in a similar period
 (D) that in a similar period
 (E) that of a similar period

Logical Predication; Parallelism

The sentence compares newspaper circulation during two separate periods, but the comparison is not parallel because it has been drawn using a prepositional phrase, *in the six months*, and a noun phrase, *a similar period*. Both phrases compared by *than* should be prepositional phrases: *lower in the six months . . . than in a similar period*.

- A *In the six months* and *a similar period* are not grammatically parallel. The sentence appears illogically to compare a period of time with an amount of circulation.
- B *In the six months* and *a similar period's* are not grammatically parallel.
- C **Correct.** *In the six months* and *in a similar period* are both prepositional phrases, making the comparison clear and properly idiomatic.
- D *In the six months* and *that in a similar period* are not grammatically parallel; it is unclear what the antecedent of *that* is supposed to be.
- E *In the six months* and *that of a similar period* are not grammatically parallel; it is unclear what the antecedent of *that* is supposed to be.

The correct answer is C.

SC01714

785. Mauritius was a British colony for almost 200 years, excepting for the domains of administration and teaching, the English language was never really spoken on the island.
- (A) excepting for
 (B) except in
 (C) but except in
 (D) but excepting for
 (E) with the exception of

Idiom; Grammatical Construction

This two-clause sentence describes an apparent incompatibility: as a British colony, Mauritius might be expected to be English-speaking, but in fact it was not. To describe this apparent contradiction and to avoid a comma splice, the clauses should be joined by the conjunction *but*. *Domains* describes places *in* which English is spoken; *for* is the incorrect preposition. *Excepting* is not idiomatic English in this case.

- A The lack of a conjunction causes a comma splice; *excepting for* is non-idiomatic.
- B The lack of a conjunction causes a comma splice.
- C **Correct.** The two independent clauses are separated by *but*, and *except in* is an appropriate idiom.
- D *Excepting for* is non-idiomatic.
- E The lack of a conjunction causes a comma splice.

The correct answer is C.

SC04853

786. Although appearing less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins, heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year—they are often green and striped, or have plenty of bumps and bruises—heirlooms are more flavorful and thus in increasing demand.

- (A) Although appearing less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins, heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year
- (B) Although heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year, appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins
- (C) Although they appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins, heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year
- (D) Grown from seeds saved during the previous year, heirloom tomatoes appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins
- (E) Heirloom tomatoes, grown from seeds saved during the previous year, although they appear less appetizing than most of their round and red supermarket cousins

Rhetorical Construction; Grammatical Construction

The intended meaning could be communicated more effectively by mentioning heirloom tomatoes as early as possible in the sentence, so that we know that the writer is comparing heirloom tomatoes with supermarket tomatoes. The placement of *heirloom tomatoes* and *heirlooms* makes the sentence ungrammatical.

- A This is ungrammatical. If *heirloom tomatoes* is the subject of *are more flavorful* ... then *heirlooms* has no predicate and is nonsensically superfluous. If *heirlooms* is the subject, *heirloom tomatoes* has no predicate.
- B **Correct.** The noun *heirloom tomatoes* is mentioned early in the sentence, followed by a parenthetical definition, and is the subject of the verb *appear*, and *heirlooms* is the subject of *are*.
- C The noun *heirloom tomatoes* appears too late in the sentence. Parsing is made harder by introducing the pronoun *they* and revealing its antecedent later in the sentence. The sentence is also ungrammatical. If *heirloom tomatoes* is the subject of *are more flavorful* ... then *heirlooms* has no predicate and is nonsensically superfluous. If *heirlooms* is the subject, *heirloom tomatoes* has no predicate.
- D Beginning the sentence with the explanatory clause *grown from seeds* ... gives it too much importance. It could be construed as the reason why heirloom tomatoes appear less appetizing, which is contrary to the truth. The sentence is also ungrammatical.
- E Rhetorical structure requires that *although* appear in the beginning of the clause to which it pertains. Placing it later necessitates the pronoun *they* with antecedent *heirloom tomatoes*, which is redundant. The sentence is also ungrammatical.

The correct answer is B.

SC01987

787. The World Wildlife Fund has declared that global warming, a phenomenon most scientists agree to be caused by human beings in burning fossil fuels, will create havoc among migratory birds by altering the environment in ways harmful to their habitats.

- (A) a phenomenon most scientists agree to be caused by human beings in burning fossil fuels,
- (B) a phenomenon most scientists agree that is caused by fossil fuels burned by human beings,
- (C) a phenomenon that most scientists agree is caused by human beings' burning of fossil fuels,
- (D) which most scientists agree on as a phenomenon caused by human beings who burn fossil fuels,
- (E) which most scientists agree to be a phenomenon caused by fossil fuels burned by human beings,

Logical Predication; Rhetorical Construction

The underlined portion of the sentence is an appositive defining *global warming* as a phenomenon caused by the burning of fossil fuels by humans. Because this appositive intervenes between the subject (*global warming*) and verb (*will create*) of a clause, it should be expressed as clearly and economically as possible so as not to confuse the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

- A *To be caused and in burning* are wordy, awkward, and indirect.
- B *That is* should immediately follow *phenomenon*, not *agree*.
- C **Correct.** The phrase *human beings' burning* is more economical than constructions with prepositional phrases or relative clauses.
- D The phrasing is wordy and indirect.
- E The phrasing is wordy and the meaning is imprecise; it is not fossil fuels that cause global warming—it is the burning of fossil fuels by humans.

The correct answer is C.

SC02216

788. The largest of all the planets, not only is Jupiter three times so massive as Saturn, the next larger planet, but also possesses four of the largest satellites, or moons, in our solar system.
- (A) not only is Jupiter three times so massive as Saturn, the next larger
 - (B) not only is Jupiter three times as massive as Saturn, the next largest
 - (C) Jupiter, not only three times as massive as Saturn, the next largest
 - (D) Jupiter not only is three times as massive as Saturn, the next largest

- (E) Jupiter is not only three times so massive as Saturn, the next larger

Diction; Idiom

This sentence begins with a phrase, *[t]he largest . . .*, describing the main subject *Jupiter*. The remainder of the sentence describes Jupiter's size and possession of moons, using the idiom *not only x but y* to introduce parallel adjective phrases.

- A In this version of the sentence, *so massive as Saturn* violates the parallelism established by the idiom *as + adjective + as + noun*. For the sake of clarity, the noun described by the opening adjectival phrase should immediately follow that phrase. The phrase *next larger* is unidiomatic and unclear. The superlative (*largest*) is appropriate in this consideration of all the planets.
- B As in (A), *Jupiter* should immediately follow the opening phrase.
- C This version of the sentence violates the parallelism of the idiom *not only x but y*, following the first half of the template with an adjective phrase and the second half with a verb phrase.
- D **Correct.** The placement of the subject in relation to the opening modifier, the properly constructed phrasing, and the proper use of comparison words make the meaning of the sentence clear.
- E The phrase *so massive as* violates the idiom *as x as y*. Consideration of Jupiter's size among all the planets, including Saturn, requires the superlative form, *largest*.

The correct answer is D.

SC01587

789. While many of the dinosaur fossils found recently in northeast China seem to provide evidence of the kinship between dinosaurs and birds, the wealth of enigmatic fossils seem more likely at this stage that they will inflame debates over the origin of birds rather than settle them.

- (A) seem more likely at this stage that they will inflame debates over the origin of birds rather than
- (B) seem more likely that it will inflame debates over the origin of birds at this stage than

- (C) seems more likely to inflame debates on the origin of birds at this stage rather than
- (D) seems more likely at this stage to inflame debates over the origin of birds than to
- (E) seems more likely that it will inflame debates on the origin of birds at this stage than to

Agreement; Parallelism

This sentence states that whereas many dinosaur fossils from China suggest that there is a kinship between dinosaurs and birds, the *wealth* of fossils are more ambiguous about what they suggest about the ancestry of birds. The word *wealth* is a mass noun followed by a prepositional phrase; because *wealth* follows the article *the*, the emphasis is on it rather than on the noun in the prepositional phrase, *fossils*. The singular *wealth* requires a singular main verb (*seems*). The comparative expression *more likely . . .* must be followed by an infinitive verb (*to inflame*) so it will be parallel to the verb with which it is compared (*to settle*).

- A The singular subject *wealth* does not agree with the plural verb *seem*; both items being compared should be in parallel form (*inflame* and *settle*); the relative clause *that they will inflame* violates the parallelism.
- B Again, the relative clause violates the desired parallelism; the singular subject, *wealth*, requires a singular verb, *seems*.
- C The subject and the verb agree with one another, but the placement of the modifier *at this stage* makes the modifier appear to describe *origin of the birds* rather than the verb *seems*.
- D **Correct.** The verb *seems* agrees in number with the noun *wealth*; the infinitive *to inflame* is parallel with the verb to which it is compared, *to settle*.
- E The clause *wealth . . . seems more likely that it will inflame* is not idiomatic, and *that it will inflame* is not parallel with the infinitive verb *to settle*.

The correct answer is D.

SC01622

790. Found only in the Western Hemisphere and surviving through extremes of climate, hummingbirds' range extends from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, from sea-level rain forests to the edges of Andean snowfields and ice fields at altitudes of 15,000 feet.

- (A) Found only in the Western Hemisphere and surviving through extremes of climate, hummingbirds' range extends
- (B) Found only in the Western Hemisphere, hummingbirds survive through extremes of climate, their range extending
- (C) Hummingbirds, found only in the Western Hemisphere and surviving through extremes of climate, with their range extending
- (D) Hummingbirds, found only in the Western Hemisphere and surviving through extremes of climate, their range extends
- (E) Hummingbirds are found only in the Western Hemisphere, survive through extremes of climate, and their range extends

Logical Predication; Grammatical Construction

This sentence makes three points about hummingbirds: they live in the Western Hemisphere, they survive extreme climates, and their range is wide and varied. *Hummingbirds*, not *hummingbirds' range*, should be the subject of the sentence.

- A The opening modifier, *found . . . and surviving . . .* should modify *hummingbirds*, not, as it does, *hummingbirds' range*.
- B **Correct.** *Hummingbirds* is the subject of the sentence, and the use of the absolute phrase *their range extending* appropriately connects the final clause to the rest of the sentence.
- C This version of the sentence has no main verb for the subject *Hummingbirds* and as a result is ungrammatical.
- D Like (C), this version of the sentence has no main verb for the subject *Hummingbirds*.
- E This version of the sentence begins with the subject *Hummingbirds* attached to a pair of verb phrases (*are found . . . and survive . . .*) followed by the conjunction *and*, which suggests that what follows should also be a verb phrase; instead, a new subject

is introduced, *their range*. Replacing the comma before *survive* with *and* would render the sentence acceptable.

The correct answer is B.

SC01761

791. She was less successful after she had emigrated to New York compared to her native Germany, photographer Lotte Jacobi nevertheless earned a small group of discerning admirers, and her photographs were eventually exhibited in prestigious galleries across the United States.

- (A) She was less successful after she had emigrated to New York compared to
- (B) Being less successful after she had emigrated to New York as compared to
- (C) Less successful after she emigrated to New York than she had been in
- (D) Although she was less successful after emigrating to New York when compared to
- (E) She had been less successful after emigrating to New York than in

Idiom; Grammatical Construction; Logical Predication

This sentence compares the success Jacobi experienced after moving to New York to the success she had previously experienced in Germany. The phrase *less successful* anticipates the conclusion of the comparison with the phrase *than . . .* The main subject of the sentence is *photographer Lotte Jacobi*, and the main verb is *earned*. The opening clause *She was less successful . . .* therefore creates a comma splice if the comma is not followed by a conjunction. The most efficient way to incorporate the information about Jacobi's comparative successes in Germany and in New York is to turn this clause into an adjectival phrase describing Jacobi.

- A *Less successful . . .* anticipates *than* rather than *compared to . . .*; a comma is insufficient to join two independent clauses into a single sentence.
- B *As compared to* is an incorrect way to complete the comparison introduced by *less*; *Being . . .* is unnecessarily wordy and awkward.
- C **Correct.** The idiomatic construction *less successful . . . than* is incorporated into an introductory adjectival phrase modifying *Lotte Jacobi*.

- D When compared to is an incorrect phrase to complete the comparison introduced by less.
- E A comma is insufficient to join two independent clauses into a single sentence; past-perfect tense is misleading, since it refers to Jacobi's experience in New York, which in fact followed her experience in Germany.

The correct answer is C.

SC02259

792. Scientists have recently found evidence that black holes—regions of space in which matter is so concentrated and the pull of gravity so powerful that nothing, not even light, can emerge from them—probably exist at the core of nearly all galaxies and the mass of each black hole is proportional to its host galaxy.

- (A) exist at the core of nearly all galaxies and the mass of each black hole is proportional to
- (B) exist at the core of nearly all galaxies and that the mass of each black hole is proportional to that of
- (C) exist at the core of nearly all galaxies, and that the mass of each black hole is proportional to
- (D) exists at the core of nearly all galaxies, and that the mass of each black hole is proportional to that of
- (E) exists at the core of nearly all galaxies and the mass of each black hole is proportional to that of

Logical Predication; Agreement

This sentence focuses attention on two hypotheses about black holes—one about their location and the other about their mass. These hypotheses appear as parallel relative clauses *that black holes . . . exist at . . .* and *that the mass . . . is proportional*. The subject of the first relative clause (*black holes*) is plural, so the clause must be completed with the plural form of *exist*.

- A This version of the sentence does not provide the relative pronoun *that* to provide parallel structure for presenting the two things scientific evidence reveals about black holes. This leaves it somewhat unclear whether the final clause is intended to convey part of what the scientists discovered or to express a claim that the writer is making independently of the scientists' discovery. The sentence illogically compares *mass* to *galaxy*.

- B **Correct.** The structure of the sentence makes the meaning clear, and the plural verb form agrees with the plural subject.
- C The comma appears to signal that the final part of the sentence is intended as an independent clause expressing a separate claim rather than describing part of the scientists' discovery. But if it were intended in that way, it should be set off as a separate sentence, not conjoined with the preceding clause. Like (A), this version makes an illogical comparison between *mass* and *galaxy*.
- D The singular verb *exists* does not agree with the plural subject *black holes*. As in (C), the comma is inappropriate because it does not introduce a new independent clause.
- E The singular verb *exists* does not agree with the plural subject *black holes*. Like (A), this version lacks the relative pronoun *that*, which would clarify the relationship between the two clauses.

The correct answer is B.

SC02346

793. The use of lie detectors is based on the assumption that lying produces emotional reactions in an individual that, in turn, create unconscious physiological responses.

- (A) that, in turn, create unconscious physiological responses
- (B) that creates unconscious physiological responses in turn
- (C) creating, in turn, unconscious physiological responses
- (D) to create, in turn, physiological responses that are unconscious
- (E) who creates unconscious physiological responses in turn

Agreement; Rhetorical Construction; Logical Predication

This sentence describes a cause-and-effect sequence; in the underlined portion of the sentence, the relative pronoun *that* refers to the plural noun *reactions*. The verb in the relative clause must therefore be a plural verb. The causal sequence is most clearly expressed by a relative

clause that turns the object *emotional reactions* (from the clause *lying causes emotional reactions in an individual*) into the subject (*that*) of a new clause (*that in turn create unconscious physiological responses*). *In turn* is best placed before the verb of the second relative clause, *create*, to clarify that a chain of events is being described.

- A **Correct.** This construction clearly indicates the causal sequence.
- B The singular verb *creates* does not agree with the subject referenced by the relative pronoun *that (reactions)*.
- C This construction is less successful at clarifying the chain of events because *creating* seems to refer back to *lying*; if used as a participle, *creating* would have to be preceded by a comma.
- D This construction does not make clear the causal chain of events, because it is unclear which noun *to create* should attach to; the infinitive construction implies intent, which does not really make sense.
- E Because *reactions* is not a person, *who* is the wrong relative pronoun to use.

The correct answer is A.

SC04213

794. Australian embryologists have found evidence that suggests that the elephant is descended from an aquatic animal, and its trunk originally evolving as a kind of snorkel.

- (A) *that suggests that the elephant is descended from an aquatic animal, and its trunk originally evolving*
- (B) *that has suggested the elephant descended from an aquatic animal, its trunk originally evolving*
- (C) *suggesting that the elephant had descended from an aquatic animal with its trunk originally evolved*
- (D) *to suggest that the elephant had descended from an aquatic animal and its trunk originally evolved*
- (E) *to suggest that the elephant is descended from an aquatic animal and that its trunk originally evolved*

Parallelism: Verb Form

The clearest, most economical way of expressing the two things suggested by Australian embryologists' evidence is to format them as relative clauses serving as parallel direct objects of the verb *suggest*. It is awkward and confusing to string together relative clauses: *evidence that suggests that the elephant*. ... A clearer way of making this connection is to turn the verb *suggests* into a participle modifying *evidence*. The word *descended* is a predicate adjective following the present-tense verb *is* and describing the present-day elephant. The verb *evolved* should be past tense because it describes how the trunk of the elephant *originally* evolved, not how it is evolving today.

- A The string of relative phrases is awkward and confusing; the phrase following the conjunction *and* is not parallel with the relative clause *that the elephant is descended*. ...
- B The evidence *still* suggests these things about the evolution of the elephant and its trunk, so the present-perfect verb tense is inaccurate.
- C *Had descended* is the wrong verb tense; *with* cannot be followed by an independent clause.
- D *Had descended* is the wrong tense; the phrase following the conjunction *and* does not parallel the relative clause that precedes the conjunction.
- E **Correct.** The two dependent clauses beginning with *that* are in parallel form and contain verbs in the correct tenses.

The correct answer is E.

SC01957

795. Most efforts to combat such mosquito-borne diseases like malaria and dengue have focused either on the vaccination of humans or on exterminating mosquitoes with pesticides.

- (A) *like malaria and dengue have focused either on the vaccination of humans or on exterminating*
- (B) *like malaria and dengue have focused either on vaccinating of humans or on the extermination of*
- (C) *as malaria and dengue have focused on either vaccinating humans or on exterminating*

- (D) as malaria and dengue have focused on either vaccinating of humans or on extermination of
 (E) as malaria and dengue have focused on either vaccinating humans or exterminating

Diction; Parallelism

The phrase *such ... diseases like malaria and dengue* is not a correct way in English to indicate that the two diseases mentioned are examples of a larger category; the correct expression is *such ... as....*

- A This use of *such... like ...* is incorrect English; the correct expression is *such ... as....* It is better to keep the preposition *on* close to the verb it goes with, *focus*, so as not to repeat it.
 B The correct expression is *such ... as....* It is better to keep the preposition *on* close to the verb it goes with, *focus*, so as not to repeat it. This use of the gerund *vaccinating* (followed by *of*) would normally be preceded by *the*, but this would make the phrase awkward. It would be preferable to use *vaccination*, which is parallel to *extermination*.
 C This answer choice incorrectly repeats the preposition *on* before *exterminating*.
 D This answer choice incorrectly repeats the preposition *on* before *extermination*. This use of the gerund *vaccinating* (followed by *of*) would normally be preceded by *the*, but this would make the phrase awkward. It would be preferable to use *vaccination*, which is parallel to *extermination*.
 E **Correct.** This version uses *either ... or...* correctly and appropriately uses the parallel forms *vaccinating* and *exterminating*.

The correct answer is E.

SC02344

796. Among the Tsonga, a Bantu-speaking group of tribes in southeastern Africa, dance teams represent their own chief at the court of each other, providing entertainment in return for food, drink, and lodging.

- (A) the court of each other, providing entertainment in return for
 (B) the court of another and provide entertainment in return for
 (C) the court of the other, so as to provide entertainment as a return on
 (D) each other's court, entertainment being provided in return for

- (E) another's court and provide entertainment as a return on

Diction; Idiom

The point of the sentence is that dancers representing one chief perform at the court of another chief *in return for* gifts. *The court of each other* is unidiomatic and unclear. It could be intended to indicate, somewhat implausibly, that each team has a court that the other teams visit, but *represent their own chief* strongly suggests that the court referred to is the court of another chief. The correct pronoun to refer to a different chief is *another*.

- A *The court of each other* is unidiomatic and unclear. *Each other* seems to refer, somewhat illogically, to the dancers.
 B **Correct.** The sentence clearly explains the idea, using the correct pronoun *another* and the correct idiom *in return for*.
 C This could be confusing in that *the other* indicates that there is only one other chief, whereas *group of tribes* suggests that there may be a number of chiefs. *As a return on* is the incorrect idiom; *a return on* normally refers to a gain from an investment, not a direct exchange of one good for another.
 D *Each other's court* somewhat illogically indicates that the dancers each have a court. *Entertainment being provided in return for* is awkward and indirect.
 E *As a return on* is the incorrect idiom; *a return on* normally refers to a gain from an investment, not a direct exchange of one good for another.

The correct answer is B.

SC06633

797. Almost like clones in their similarity to one another, the cheetah species' homogeneity makes them especially vulnerable to disease.

- (A) the cheetah species' homogeneity makes them especially vulnerable to disease
 (B) the cheetah species is especially vulnerable to disease because of its homogeneity
 (C) the homogeneity of the cheetah species makes it especially vulnerable to disease
 (D) homogeneity makes members of the cheetah species especially vulnerable to disease

- (E) members of the cheetah species are especially vulnerable to disease because of their homogeneity

Agreement; Logical Predication

Genetic homogeneity is presented as a cause of cheetahs' vulnerability to disease. The opening adjectival phrase refers to the fact that individual cheetahs are almost like clones of one another because of how genetically similar they are. This adjectival phrase should be followed by what it describes, individual cheetahs. But the structure of the sentence makes it seem that this adjectival phrase is meant—illogically—to describe *the cheetah species' homogeneity*. The sentence structure also fails to make clear that the intended reference is to just one (the only) cheetah species.

- A The sentence nonsensically presents the opening phrase as describing *homogeneity*.
- B The resulting sentence opens with a reference to a plurality of individuals (*to one another*), but confusingly identifies this with a single (collective) entity, a species.
- C The resulting sentence nonsensically presents the opening phrase as describing *homogeneity*.
- D The resulting sentence nonsensically presents the opening phrase as describing *homogeneity*.
- E **Correct.** The sentence is clear and the opening phrase correctly modifies *members of the cheetah species*.

The correct answer is E.

SC04330

798. As sources of electrical power, windmills now account for only about 2,500 megawatts nationwide, but production is almost expected to double by the end of the year, which would provide enough electricity for 1.3 million households.
- (A) almost expected to double by the end of the year, which would provide
 - (B) almost expected that it will double by the end of the year, thus providing
 - (C) expected that it will almost double by the end of the year to provide
 - (D) expected almost to double by the end of the year and thus to provide

- (E) expected almost to double by the end of the year, which would thus be providing

Rhetorical Construction; Idiom

The intended meaning of the sentence seems to be that the electricity production of windmills is expected to approximately double by year's end. But instead of saying *almost double*, we have *almost expected*, which is an unclear idea. Also unclear is what the relative pronoun *which* refers to.

- A The placement of *almost* makes it nonsensically modify *is expected*. What the relative pronoun *which* refers to is ambiguous: for example, does it refer to the expectation, the possible doubling, or the year?
- B The resulting sentence misplaces the adverb *almost*.
- C The phrase *production is expected that it will . . .* makes no sense—as opposed to, for example, *it is expected that production will . . .*
- D **Correct.** This sentence clearly conveys the expectations of production: *almost to double* and *thus to provide*. There is no ambiguity as to what will be providing *enough electricity*.
- E The referent of the relative pronoun *which* is ambiguous, and the conditional verb form *would thus be providing* is unnecessarily wordy.

The correct answer is D.

SC03154

799. While most of the earliest known ball courts in Mesoamerica date to 900–400 B.C., waterlogged latex balls found at El Manati and representations of ballplayers painted on ceramics found at San Lorenzo attest to the fact that the Mesoamerican ballgame was well established by the mid-thirteenth century B.C.
- (A) waterlogged latex balls found at El Manati and representations of ballplayers painted on ceramics found at San Lorenzo attest
 - (B) waterlogged latex balls found at El Manati and the painting of representations of ballplayers on ceramics found at San Lorenzo attests
 - (C) waterlogged latex balls found at El Manati and ceramics painted with representations of ballplayers found at San Lorenzo attests
 - (D) the finding of waterlogged latex balls at El Manati and the painting of representations of ballplayers on ceramics found at San Lorenzo attests

SC04899

- (E) the finding of waterlogged latex balls at El Manati and of representations of ballplayers painted on ceramics at San Lorenzo attest

Logical Predication; Agreement

The sentence points out two pieces of evidence that prove the early existence of ballgames in Mesoamerica: *waterlogged latex balls* and *representations of ballplayers*. The two noun phrases together serve as subjects for the verb *attest*, creating a sentence that logically and correctly expresses its main idea.

- A **Correct.** *Waterlogged latex balls* and *representations of ballplayers* together serve as subjects for the verb *attest*.
- B *Painting* could refer to something that has been painted, but on that interpretation the sentence does not make sense, because the painting is itself the representation and a single painting would not plausibly be on multiple ceramics. Alternatively, it could refer to an ongoing act of painting, which could not plausibly constitute the kind of evidence referred to. The singular verb *attests* does not agree with the compound subject *balls* and *painting*.
- C The singular verb *attests* does not agree with the compound subject *balls* and *ceramics*.
- D *Balls*, not *finding*, should be the subject of the verb since the balls are the evidence. *Painting* could refer to something that has been painted, but on that interpretation the sentence does not make sense, because the painting is itself the representation and a single painting would not plausibly be on multiple ceramics. Alternatively, it could refer to an ongoing act of painting, which could not plausibly constitute the kind of evidence referred to. The singular verb *attests* does not agree with the compound subject *finding* and *painting*.
- E *Balls* and *representations* should be the subject of the verb *attest* since they are the evidence—not *finding*; the plural verb *attest* does not agree with the singular subject *finding*.

The correct answer is A.

800. As criminal activity on the Internet becomes more and more sophisticated, not only are thieves able to divert cash from company bank accounts, they can also pilfer valuable information such as business development strategies, new product specifications, and contract bidding plans, and sell the data to competitors.

- (A) *they can also pilfer valuable information such as business development strategies, new product specifications, and contract bidding plans, and sell*
- (B) *they can also pilfer valuable information that includes business development strategies, new product specifications, and contract bidding plans, and selling*
- (C) *also pilfering valuable information including business development strategies, new product specifications, and contract bidding plans, selling*
- (D) *but also pilfer valuable information such as business development strategies, new product specifications, and contract bidding plans to sell*
- (E) *but also pilfering valuable information such as business development strategies, new product specifications, and contract bidding plans and selling*

Grammatical Construction; Verb Form

The two clauses in this *not only . . .* construction normally require subjects, which this sentence has. The second clause (beginning with *they can*) further divides into two clauses about pilfering and selling; here, the two verbs must have the same form, since each one is the main verb of its clause.

- A **Correct.** *They* supplies the needed subject, and *pilfer* and *sell* are both in the bare verb form.
- B *Selling* is the wrong form for the main verb of a finite clause; it should be *sell*.
- C There is no subject for the *pilfer* clause, and *pilfering* would be the wrong form even if a subject were added.
- D There is no subject for the *pilfer* clause.
- E There is no subject for the *pilfer* clause, and both *selling* and *pilfering* have the wrong verb for the main verb of a finite clause; they should be *sell* and *pilfer*, respectively.

The correct answer is A.

SC05785

801. Last week local shrimpers held a news conference to take some credit for the resurgence of the rare Kemp's ridley turtle, saying that their compliance with laws requiring that turtle-excluder devices be on shrimp nets protect adult sea turtles.

- (A) requiring that turtle-excluder devices be on shrimp nets protect
- (B) requiring turtle-excluder devices on shrimp nets is protecting
- (C) that require turtle-excluder devices on shrimp nets protect
- (D) to require turtle-excluder devices on shrimp nets are protecting
- (E) to require turtle-excluder devices on shrimp nets is protecting

Rhetorical Construction; Agreement

The subject of the clause introduced by *saying that* is the singular noun *compliance*. This subject requires the singular form of the verb *protect*. The clearest, most economical way to describe the laws in question is to follow the word *laws* with a present participle *requiring*. To use an infinitive, *to require*, seems to indicate that requiring these devices is the objective of the laws, when in fact the objective is to protect the sea turtles.

- A The plural verb *protect* does not agree with the singular subject *compliance*.
- B **Correct.** The singular verb *is protecting* agrees with the singular subject *compliance*, and the participial phrase beginning with *requiring* concisely and accurately describes the laws.
- C The relative clause *that require* introduces unnecessary wordiness; the plural verb *protect* does not agree with the singular subject *compliance*.
- D *To require* obscures the purpose of the laws; the plural verb phrase *are protecting* does not agree with the singular subject *compliance*.
- E *To require* obscures the purpose of the laws.

The correct answer is B.

SC03752

802. A ruined structure found at Aqaba, Jordan, was probably a church, as indicated in its eastward orientation and by its overall plan, as well as artifacts, such as glass oil-lamp fragments, found at the site.

- (A) A ruined structure found at Aqaba, Jordan, was probably a church, as indicated in its eastward orientation and by its overall plan, as well as
- (B) A ruined structure found at Aqaba, Jordan, once probably being a church, was indicated by its eastward orientation, overall plan, and
- (C) Indicating that a ruined structure found at Aqaba, Jordan, was probably a church were its eastward orientation and overall plan, but also the
- (D) A ruined structure found at Aqaba, Jordan, was probably a church, as indicates its eastward orientation and overall plan, as well as the
- (E) That a ruined structure found at Aqaba, Jordan, was probably a church is indicated by its eastward orientation and overall plan, as well as by the

Logical Predication; Parallelism

This sentence explains why a currently ruined structure probably used to be a church. In the best-worded answer choice, the abstract subject (the probability that a certain hypothesis is true) is explained abstractly in a relative clause (*That a ruined structure was probably . . .*) followed by a passive verb (*is indicated*), followed by the prepositional phrase (*by . . .*), which is completed by a parallel listing of forms of evidence, all presented as noun phrases in the expression, (*by*) (*its*) A + B, as well as (*by*) C.

- A This version makes the relationship between *as well as . . .* and the rest of the sentence unclear. The most plausible hypothesis is that the artifacts are another of the types of evidence, parallel with the structure's orientation and its plan. The sentence violates the parallelism required in the list by failing to supply the preposition in the final item following *as well as*.
- B The subject of this version of the sentence, *structure*, is completed by the verb *was indicated*, creating the illogical assertion that the structure itself, rather than its probable identity, was indicated by its orientation, plan, and attendant artifacts.
- C Opening the sentence with the predicate adjective *indicating* leads to a confusing and awkward withholding of the subjects *orientation . . . plan . . . artifacts*.

- D The only plausible subject for the singular verb *indicates* is the plural *orientation . . . plan, as well as the artifacts*. Very little about this sentence makes sense.
- E **Correct.** The relationships among the parts of the sentence are clear and logical.

The correct answer is E.

SC04343

803. In the major cities of industrialized countries at the end of the nineteenth century, important public places such as theaters, restaurants, shops, and banks had installed electric lighting, but electricity was in less than 1 percent of homes, where lighting was still provided mainly by candles or gas.
- (A) electricity was in less than 1 percent of homes, where lighting was still
 (B) electricity was in less than 1 percent of homes and lighting still
 (C) there had been less than 1 percent of homes with electricity, where lighting was still being
 (D) there was less than 1 percent of homes that had electricity, having lighting that was still
 (E) less than 1 percent of homes had electricity, where lighting had still been

Rhetorical Construction; Verb Form

In this type of usage, a participle such as *provided* normally must be preceded by some form of the verb *be*. The best choice for this is the past tense *was*, since the main part of the clause describes the situation in the past tense (*electricity was . . .*). To link the ideas of lighting and electricity in homes, *where* is the most efficient and direct expression, superior to alternatives such as *and* or *having*.

- A **Correct.** The participle is preceded by the appropriate form *was*, and the clauses are linked efficiently by *where*.
- B There is no form of *be* in the second clause, and *and* does not clearly indicate the connection between the two clauses.
- C *Had been* and *was being* represent inappropriate tenses, and the *there had been* construction is longer than necessary.
- D Both *having lighting* and the *there was* construction are longer and more complicated than necessary. This sentence structure makes *there*, instead of *homes*, the subject of *having*.

- E *Had been* is not the appropriate tense for this situation.

The correct answer is A.

SC02965

804. By 1999, astronomers had discovered 17 nearby stars that are orbited by planets about the size of Jupiter.

- (A) had discovered 17 nearby stars that are orbited by planets
 (B) had discovered 17 nearby stars with planets orbiting them that were
 (C) had discovered that there were 17 nearby stars that were orbited by planets
 (D) have discovered 17 nearby stars with planets orbiting them that are
 (E) have discovered that 17 nearby stars are orbited by planets

Verb Form; Rhetorical Construction

Opening with a past date (1999) describing the end point of a period of discovery, this sentence calls for a past perfect main verb to follow the subject *astronomers*. In order to economize on words and maximize clarity, the object of the main clause, *stars*, is modified by a passive relative clause *that are orbited by planets* followed by the adjective phrase *about the size of Jupiter*. This structure avoids an awkward and confusing string of relative clauses and prepositional phrases.

- A **Correct.** This version is clear and uses the correct verb form *had discovered*.
- B The use of a prepositional phrase *with planets* necessitates the introduction of a relative clause *that were . . .*, in which the referent of the relative pronoun *that* is somewhat uncertain (stars? or planets?). The past tense verb *were* suggests, improbably, that the size of the planets may have changed significantly since 1999.
- C The string of relative clauses is awkward and wordy.
- D If the sentence was written after 1999, the present perfect tense is illogical, because 1999 is in the past. If it was written in 1999, this way of referring to the then-present time is odd and misleading. The prepositional phrase is wordy and indirect.
- E As in (D), the present perfect tense is illogical.

The correct answer is A.

SC01647

805. Although she was considered among her contemporaries to be the better poet than her husband, later Elizabeth Barrett Browning was overshadowed by his success.
- (A) Although she was considered among her contemporaries to be the better poet than her husband, later Elizabeth Barrett Browning was overshadowed by his success.
 (B) Although Elizabeth Barrett Browning was considered among her contemporaries as a better poet than her husband, she was later overshadowed by his success.
 (C) Later overshadowed by the success of her husband, Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poetry had been considered among her contemporaries to be better than that of her husband.
 (D) Although Elizabeth Barrett Browning's success was later overshadowed by that of her husband, among her contemporaries she was considered the better poet.
 (E) Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poetry was considered among her contemporaries as better than her husband, but her success was later overshadowed by his.

Idiom; Verb Form; Logical Predication

The sentence misuses the locution *the better poet*. It is acceptable to say *a better poet than* but not *the better poet than*. If you have already mentioned two poets *X* and *Y*, and you want to say that *X* is better than *Y*, you can either say *X is a better poet than Y*, or simply, *X is the better poet*.

- A This version of the sentence misuses the idiom *the better poet*, most likely confusing it with the idiom *a better poet than*.
 B [W]as considered among her contemporaries as is awkward and unnecessarily creates a potential misreading (she was considered to be among her contemporaries).
 C The subject here is *Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poetry*, not *Elizabeth Barrett Browning*, so the antecedent of *her* in *her husband* could comically be taken to be *Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poetry*. Furthermore, the tense of *had been considered* pairs oddly with *Later overshadowed*. Each seems to be in reaction to some particular time *T*—later than *T* and earlier than *T*, but when *T* was or its significance is never indicated.

D **Correct.** This version avoids the problems of the other versions.

E This sentence comically compares Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poetry to her husband.

The correct answer is D.

SC01618

806. In no other historical sighting did Halley's Comet cause such a worldwide sensation as did its return in 1910–1911.

- (A) did its return in 1910–1911
 (B) had its 1910–1911 return
 (C) in its return of 1910–1911
 (D) its return of 1910–1911 did
 (E) its return in 1910–1911

Parallelism; Verb Form; Logical Predication

The single subject of this sentence is *Halley's Comet*, and its single verb phrase is *did cause*. The comparison presented by the sentence is between adverbial phrases describing times when the comet was seen. Grammatically, the items being compared are parallel prepositional phrases beginning with the preposition *in*: *in no other sighting* and *in its return in 1910–1911*. This is the clearest, most economical way of presenting the information. The options that introduce a second verb (*did* or *had*) violate the parallelism and introduce a comparison between the comet itself (subject of the verb *did cause*) and the comet's return (subject of the verb *did* or *had*).

- A This sentence implies a comparison between the comet and its return.
 B This sentence implies a comparison between the comet and its return; *had* is the wrong auxiliary verb form because it must be followed by *caused* instead of *cause*.
C Correct. The parallel prepositional phrases in this sentence correctly compare times when the comet was sighted.
 D This sentence implies a comparison between the comet and its return.
 E This sentence violates parallelism, implying a comparison between a prepositional phrase and a noun phrase.

The correct answer is C.

SC04836

807. Rock samples taken from the remains of an asteroid about twice the size of the 6-mile-wide asteroid that eradicated the dinosaurs has been dated to be 3.47 billion years old and thus is evidence of the earliest known asteroid impact on Earth.
- (A) has been dated to be 3.47 billion years old and thus is
(B) has been dated at 3.47 billion years old and thus
(C) have been dated to be 3.47 billion years old and thus are
(D) have been dated as being 3.47 billion years old and thus
(E) have been dated at 3.47 billion years old and thus are

Agreement; Idiom

The plural subject of this sentence, *Rock samples*, requires plural verb phrases—*have been dated*

and *are* rather than *has been dated* and *is*. The idiomatic way of expressing estimation of age is with the phrase *dated at*.

- A The subject and verbs do not agree; *dated to be ...* is not idiomatic.
B The subject and verb do not agree; the conjunction *and thus* should be followed by a verb.
C *Dated to be* is not idiomatic.
D *As being* is not idiomatic; the conjunction *and thus* should be followed by a verb.
E **Correct.** The plural verbs match the plural subject, and the wording of the sentence is idiomatic.

The correct answer is E.

10.0 Integrated Reasoning

Please visit gmat.wiley.com and use the unique access code found on the inside front cover of this book to access Integrated Reasoning questions and answer explanations.

10.0 Integrated Reasoning

The Integrated Reasoning section measures your ability to understand and evaluate multiple sources and types of information—graphic, numeric, and verbal—as they relate to one another; use quantitative and verbal reasoning to solve complex problems; and solve multiple problems in relation to one another. This section includes text passages, tables, graphs, and other visual information from a variety of content areas; however, the materials and questions do not assume detailed knowledge of the topics discussed. The Integrated Reasoning section differs from the Quantitative and Verbal sections in two important ways: 1) It involves both mathematical and verbal reasoning, either separately or in combination, and 2) questions are answered using four different response formats rather than only traditional multiple-choice.

Four types of questions are used in the Integrated Reasoning section:

- Multi-Source Reasoning
- Table Analysis
- Graphics Interpretation
- Two-Part Analysis

Use your unique access code found in the inside front cover to access Integrated Reasoning practice questions with answer explanations at gmat.wiley.com.

10.1 What Is Measured

Integrated Reasoning questions assess your ability to apply, evaluate, infer, recognize, and strategize.

Apply concepts presented in the information

Apply questions measure your ability to understand principles, rules, or other concepts in the information provided and apply them to a new context or predict consequences that would follow if new information were incorporated into the context provided. You may be asked to

- decide whether new examples would comply with or violate rules established in the information provided
- determine how a trend present in the information provided would be affected by new scenarios
- use principles established in the information provided to draw conclusions about new data

Evaluate information qualitatively

Evaluate questions measure your ability to make judgments about the quality of information. For example, you may be asked to

- decide whether a claim made in one source is supported or undermined by information provided in another source
- determine whether the information provided is sufficient to justify a course of action

- judge the strength of evidence offered in support of an argument or plan
- identify errors or gaps in the information provided

Draw inferences from the information

Infer questions ask about information or ideas that are not explicitly stated in the materials provided but can be derived from them. For example, you may be asked to

- calculate the probability of an outcome on the basis of given data
- indicate whether statements follow logically from the information provided
- determine the meaning of a term within the context in which it is used
- identify the rate of change in data gathered over time

Recognize parts or relationships in the information

Recognize questions measure your ability to identify information that is directly presented in the materials provided, including specific facts or details and relationships between pieces of information. For example, you may be asked to

- identify areas of agreement and disagreement between sources of information
- determine the strength of correlation between two variables
- indicate which element in a table has a given rank in a combination of categories
- identify facts provided as evidence in an argument

Make strategic decisions or judgments based on the information

Strategize questions ask about the means of achieving a goal within the context of particular needs or constraints. For example, you may be asked to

- choose a plan of action that minimizes risks and maximizes value
- identify tradeoffs required to reach a goal
- specify the mathematical formula that will yield a desired result
- determine which means of completing a task are consistent within given constraints

10.2 The Question Types

The four Integrated Reasoning question types are described in detail below.

Multi-Source Reasoning

Multi-Source Reasoning questions begin with two or three sources of information, each labeled with a tab, which appear on the left side of a split computer screen. One or more of the sources will contain a written passage. The other sources may be tables, graphs, diagrams, or other types of visual information. Only one source of information will be displayed at a time. To view a different source, select its tab from those that appear above the source which is currently displayed.

The sources of information are accompanied by questions that will ask you to synthesize, compare, interpret, or apply the information presented. As each question associated with the sources appears in turn on the right side of the screen, the initial source will appear again on the left side. You can click on the tabs to view any of the sources as many times as needed. However, you will see only one question at a time and cannot go back to earlier questions.

There are two question formats for Multi-Source Reasoning:

- Multiple-choice questions
- Multiple-dichotomous choice questions

For multiple-choice questions, select the best of the five answer choices given. Read each question and series of answer choices carefully. Make sure you understand exactly what the question is asking and what the answer choices are.

Multiple-dichotomous choice questions provide three phrases, statements, numerical values, or algebraic expressions that require an indication as to whether each meets a certain condition. For example, you may be asked whether

- each statement is true, according to the sources
- each statement or numerical value is consistent with the sources
- each statement or algebraic expression would solve a problem described in the sources
- the value of each algebraic expression can be determined on the basis of the sources

In answering both kinds of Multi-Source Reasoning questions, be aware of the information from each source provided and try to determine the process that works best for you. One strategy is to examine the sources carefully and thoroughly, another is to skim the sources the first time through, or to read the first question before examining the sources. Read each question carefully and make sure you understand *exactly* what the question is asking. If necessary, go back to the sources to review relevant information.

You will have 30 minutes to complete the Integrated Reasoning section, or an average of 2 minutes and 30 seconds to answer each multiple-choice or multiple-dichotomous choice question. Keep in mind that you will need time to examine the source materials that accompany the questions—and that this time must be factored into the per-question average.

Table Analysis

Table Analysis questions present a table similar to a spreadsheet. It can be sorted on any of its columns by selecting the column's title from a drop-down menu. There may be a brief text explaining the table or providing additional information. The question then presents three phrases, statements, numerical values, or algebraic expressions, and you must indicate for each one whether or not it meets a certain condition. For example, you may be asked whether

- each statement is true (yes or no), according to the information in the table
- each statement or numerical value is consistent or inconsistent with the information in the table
- each statement or numerical value can or cannot be determined on the basis of the information in the table

Read the question thoroughly to make sure you understand what is being asked. Then consider each phrase, statement, numerical value, or algebraic expression to learn what information in the table you need to make your decision. For example, in analyzing the table, you may need to,

- determine statistics such as mean, median, mode, or range
- determine ratios, proportions, or probabilities
- identify correlations between two sets of data
- compare an entry's rank in two or more of the table's categories

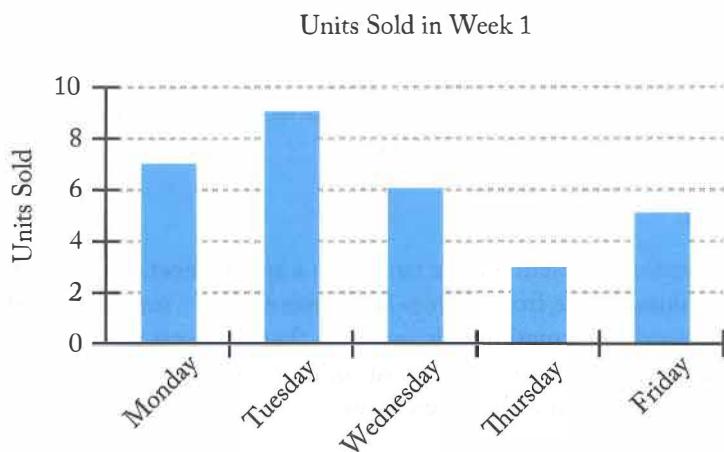
You will have 30 minutes to complete the Integrated Reasoning section, or an average of 2 minutes and 30 seconds to answer each question. Keep in mind that each Table Analysis question has three parts that all need to be answered in the time allowed.

Graphics Interpretation

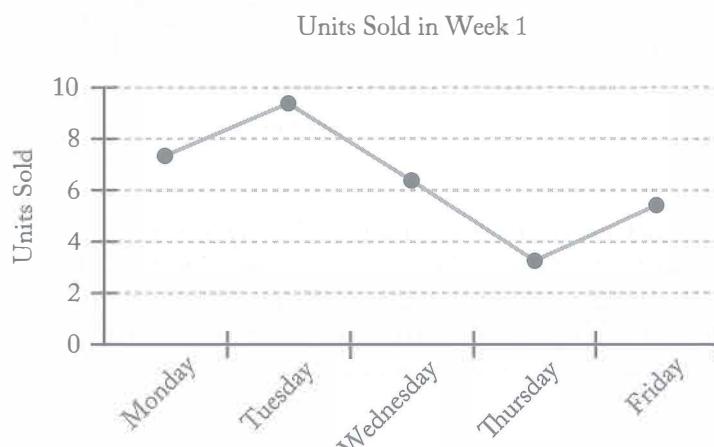
Graphics Interpretation questions present a graph, diagram, or other visual representation of information, followed by one or more statements containing a total of two blanks. The blanks should be filled in with the option from each drop-down menu in order to create the most accurate statement or statements on the basis of the information provided.

Many of the graphs included in Graphics Interpretation questions involve two variables plotted on vertical and horizontal axes. Graphs of this type include *bar graphs*, *line graphs*, *scatterplots*, and *bubble graphs*. To read these graphs, determine what information is represented on each axis. Do this by carefully examining any information that may be provided, including labels on the axes, scales on the axes, the title of the graph, and accompanying text. To find the value of a data point on the graph, determine the corresponding values on the horizontal and vertical axes.

In the simple *bar graph* below, the first bar indicates that 7 units were sold on Monday of Week 1.



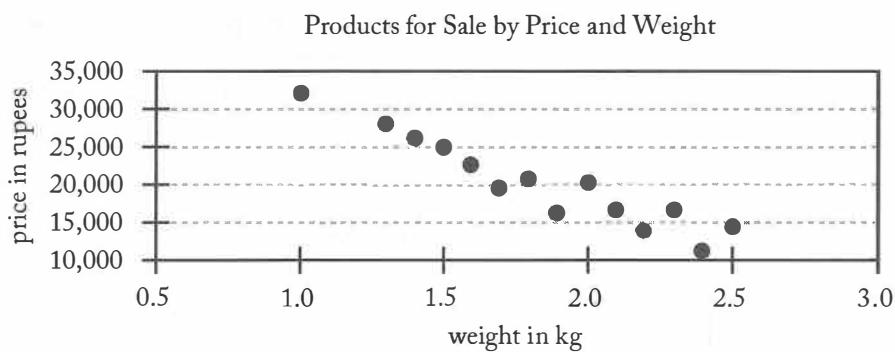
The same information is presented below as a line graph. Each point indicates the total number of units sold on a given day. The slope of the line connecting the points shows how the sales changed over time; a positive slope indicates that sales increased from the previous day, and a negative slope indicates that sales decreased.



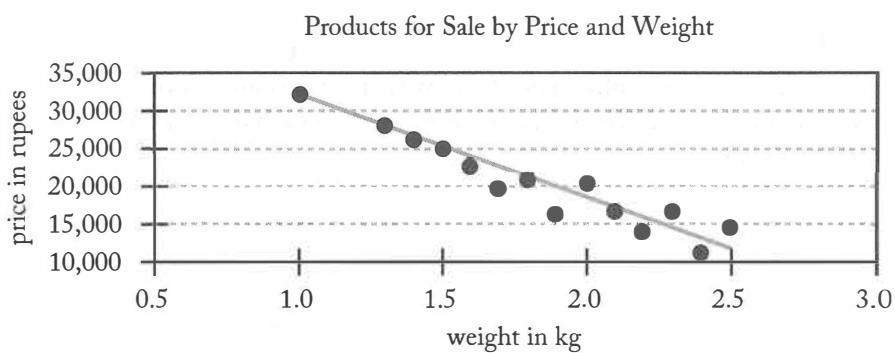
A third variable can be indicated with an additional vertical axis. In the following graph, the bars indicate the number of units sold on each day, which corresponds to the scale on the left axis. The line graph shows what percent of the total units were sold on each day. The scale for the percentages is shown on the right axis.



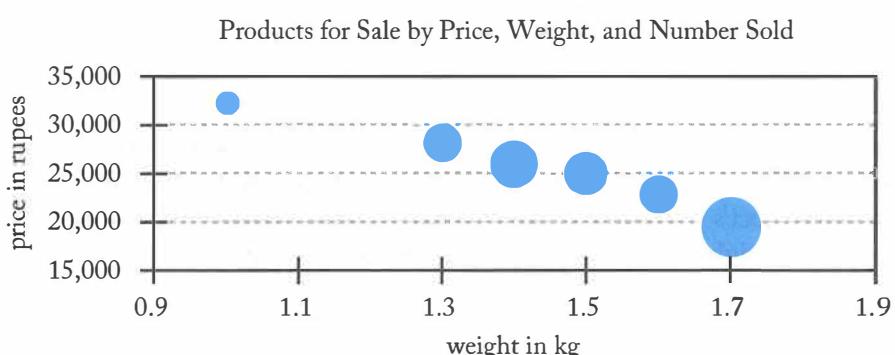
In a *scatterplot*, each dot is a single data point. In the scatterplot at the top of the next page, each dot represents a type of computer product available for purchase. A dot's position relative to the vertical axis indicates the product's price, and its position relative to the horizontal axis indicates its weight. Thus, the product that weighs 1.0 kg costs approximately 32,000 rupees.



Some scatterplots include a *trend line*—usually a *least squares regression line*—that shows the trend of the data. A trend line with positive slope indicates a positive correlation between the two variables, and a trend line with negative slope indicates a negative correlation. Thus, in the scatterplot below, the trend line indicates a negative correlation between price and weight among the products represented on the graph. The closer the data points are to a trend line, the more strongly the data are correlated.

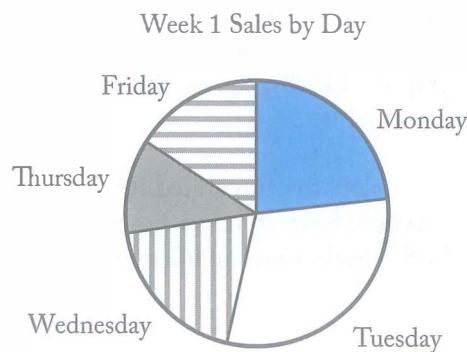


In a *bubble graph*, each data point is represented by a circle. The center of the circle indicates the values on the horizontal and vertical axes, as in a scatterplot. The relative size of a circle introduces a third variable, number sold. In the bubble graph below, the relative size of the circles indicates how many of the products were sold. Thus, the number of the lightest product sold was smaller than that of any other product shown, and the number of the heaviest product sold was greater than that of any other product shown.

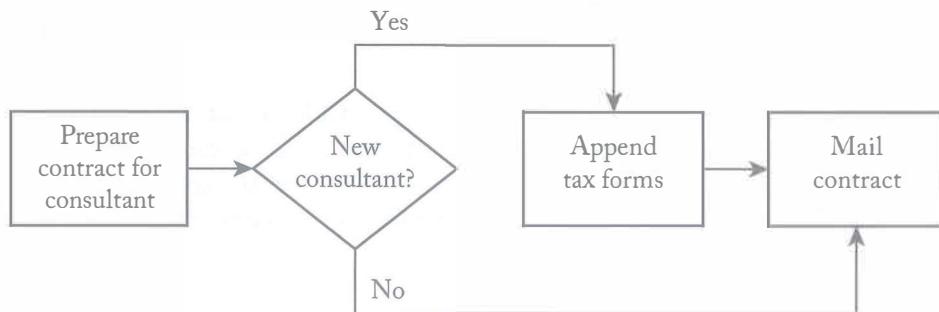


Other common kinds of graphics do not use vertical and horizontal axes. These include *pie charts*, *flow charts*, and *organization charts*.

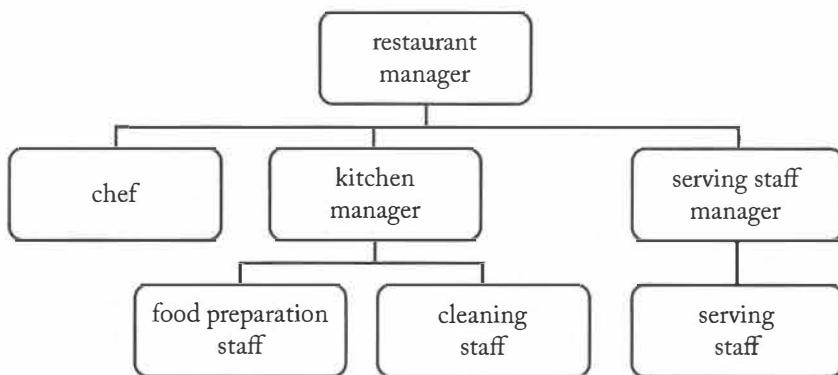
A *pie chart* uses a circle divided into sectors to show what percent of the whole is represented by each component part. The circle represents the whole, and the relative size of each sector indicates its percent of the whole. Since the whole is 100%, the sum of the percentages of all the sectors is 100 (plus or minus a bit to account for rounding). Below is a pie chart created from the data used in the bar graph and line graph shown earlier. In this example, labels indicating the exact percents are not supplied, but it is still possible to gauge the size of the sectors relative to one another: the smallest percent of sales was on Thursday, and the largest was on Tuesday. In addition, the two radii that mark the boundaries of the Tuesday sector form an obtuse angle, which indicates that the sector is greater than one-fourth of the circle. Thus, Tuesday's sales comprised more than 25% of total sales.



A *flow chart* is a diagram that shows the steps in a process. Often, the steps are represented by symbols, which are connected by arrows showing the flow of the process. Flow charts generally progress from top to bottom or from left to right. In the simple flow chart below, rectangles indicate steps to be completed. The diamond shape indicates a decision point: if the consultant is new, the process continues to the next step, *Append tax forms*. If the consultant is not new, that step is bypassed and the contract is mailed.



An *organization chart* represents the structure of an organization. Often, hierarchical relationships are shown with vertical lines and lateral relationships are shown with horizontal lines. In the organization chart at the top of the next page, each rectangle represents an employee or group of employees at a small restaurant. All the employees in the second row of rectangles report to the restaurant manager. In the third row, the food preparation staff and cleaning staff both report to the kitchen manager, and the serving staff report to the serving staff manager.



For all kinds of Graphics Interpretation questions, be sure to read the question carefully to be sure you understand what is being asked. Then read the statement or statements to determine what information you need to learn from the graphic. Finally, choose the answer from each drop-down menu that best completes the statement or statements.

You will have 30 minutes to complete the Integrated Reasoning section, or an average of 2 minutes and 30 seconds to answer each question. Keep in mind, however, that each Graphics Interpretation question has two blanks to be filled. Both blanks must be filled using the drop-down menus in the time allowed.

Two-Part Analysis

Two-Part Analysis questions present a brief written scenario or problem and ask you to make two choices related to that information. These choices are connected to each other in some way; for example, they might be two steps involved in solving a problem or two components required to successfully complete a task. In Two-Part Analysis questions you may be asked to, for example,

- calculate the proportions of two different components in a mixture
- determine something that would be lost and something that would be gained in a trade-off
- find the maximum number of two different products that could be purchased within a certain budget
- identify a first action and a second action that together would bring a company into compliance with a new rule

The possible answers and your choices will be given in a table format. The possible answers are listed in the third column, on the right side of the table. Your choices for the first part and second part of the question will be recorded in the first and second columns of the table, respectively. Remember that you need to make a choice for each of the first two vertical columns of the table—not one for each horizontal row.

In answering Two-Part Analysis questions, read the scenario or problem carefully. Be sure you understand what the question is asking. Read all the answer options to be sure that your choices are the best of those available, and be careful to mark your choices in the proper columns.

You will have 30 minutes to complete the Integrated Reasoning section, or an average of 2 minutes and 30 seconds to answer each question. Keep in mind that you must make the two choices for each Two-Part Analysis question within that average amount of time.

10.3 Test-Taking Strategies

Multi-Source Reasoning Questions

1. **Do not expect to be completely familiar with the material presented in Multi-Source Reasoning sets.**

You may find some graphs, charts, tables, or verbal passages easier to understand than others. All of the material is designed to be challenging, but if you have familiarity with the subject matter, do not let this knowledge influence your answer choices. Answer all questions on the basis of what is given by the various sources of information.

2. **Analyze each source of information carefully, because the questions require a detailed understanding of the information presented.**

Text passages often build ideas sequentially, so note as you read how each statement adds to the main idea of the passage as a whole. Some of the passages used with Multi-Source Reasoning items will be purely descriptive while others may contain strong opinions.

Given that the graphic elements of Multi-Source Reasoning items come in various forms—such as tables, graphs, diagrams, or charts—briefly familiarize yourself with the information presented. If scales are provided, note the marked values and labels. Also note the major graphical elements of the information presented.

3. **Read the questions carefully, making sure you understand what is being asked.**

Some of the questions will require you to recognize discrepancies among different sources of information, others will ask you to draw inferences using information from different sources, while others may require you to determine which one of the information sources is relevant. You can refer back to any of the sources at any time while you are answering the Multi-Source Reasoning questions.

4. **Select the answer choices that have the most support based on the information provided.**

You may find it helpful to briefly familiarize yourself with the overall information given in the sources and then to focus more closely on the specific information needed to answer the question.

Table Analysis Questions

1. **Examine the table and accompanying text to determine the type of information provided.**

Orienting yourself to the data at the outset will make it easier to locate the information necessary for completing the question.

2. **Read the question carefully.**

The question will contain the condition that each phrase, statement, numerical value, or algebraic expression does or does not meet (for example, *is* or *is not consistent with the information provided*, or *can or cannot be inferred from the information provided*). Clearly understanding the condition will help you to clarify the choice to be made in each case.

3. Read each phrase, statement, numerical value, or algebraic expression carefully to determine the data analysis required.

Often, the phrase, statement, numerical value, or algebraic expression indicates a relationship that can be clarified by sorting the table on one or more of its columns. Careful reading can help you work more efficiently by using table sorts strategically to identify data of interest.

4. Judge each phrase, statement, numerical value, or algebraic expression carefully on the basis of the condition specified.

For each phrase, statement, numerical value, or algebraic expression, the two answer choices (such as *yes* or *no*, *true* or *false*, *consistent* or *inconsistent*) are mutually exclusive. Thus, you can focus your attention on whether or not the given condition has been met.

Graphics Interpretation Questions

1. Read the graphic carefully.

Quickly familiarize yourself with the information presented in the graphic. If scales are provided (such as on the axes) make note of the marked values. If there are labels, be sure to note any discrepancy between the units in the graph and the units discussed in the text.

2. Read any accompanying text carefully.

If there is accompanying text, it may clarify the meaning of the graphic. Text might also present information that is not contained in the graphic but that is necessary for answering the question.

3. Scan the choices in the drop-down menu before you do any work.

Some statements could be completed equally well with very general responses as with very specific responses. Checking the menu options gives you additional information about the task involved.

4. Choose the option that best completes the statement.

More than one option in a drop-down menu may seem plausible to you; in each menu, choose the one that makes the statement most accurate or logical. If the drop-down menu is preceded by a phrase such as “nearest to” or the “closest to,” choose the option that is closest to the exact answer you compute. You may find that reading the entire statement again with your answer choice in place is a helpful way to check your work.

Two-Part Analysis Questions

1. Read the information given carefully.

All of the material presented is designed to be challenging, but if you have familiarity with the subject matter, do not let this knowledge influence your answer choices. Answer each question only on the basis of what is given.

2. Determine exactly what the question is asking.

Do not assume that the headings in the two response columns are complete descriptions of the tasks to be performed. Pay close attention to how the question describes the tasks. Often the headings in the two response columns are shorthand references to the tasks and may lack some details that could help you to better understand what you are supposed to do.

3. Remember that only two choices are to be made.

Select one answer in each of the first two columns of the response table. You do not need to make a choice for each *row* of the table. The third column contains possible answers for the two choices to be made.

4. Do not choose an answer before reviewing all of the available answer choices.

Do not assume that you have chosen the best answers in the two columns without reading all of the available options.

5. Determine whether tasks are dependent or independent.

Some Two-Part Analysis questions pose two independent tasks that can be carried out individually, and others pose one task with two dependent parts, each of which must be carried out correctly to create a single correct response. With questions of the dependent type, the question asked cannot be answered coherently without making both choices, so be sure to examine your answers in relation to one another.

6. Keep in mind that one answer choice can be the correct response for both columns.

If the tasks associated with the two response columns are not mutually exclusive, it is possible that one answer choice satisfies the conditions associated with both response columns.

10.4 The Directions

These directions are similar to the directions given for the four question types in the Integrated Reasoning section of the GMAT® exam. Understanding them clearly before taking the test will save you time during the test.

- **Multi-Source Reasoning.** Click on the tabs and examine all the relevant information from text, charts, and tables to answer the questions.
- **Table Analysis.** Analyze the table, sorting on columns as needed, to determine whether each of the options presented meets the given criterion or not.
- **Graphics Interpretation.** Interpret the graph or graphical image and select from each drop-down menu the option that creates the most accurate statement based on the information provided.
- **Two-Part Analysis.** Read the information provided, review the options presented in the table, and indicate which option meets the criterion presented in the first column and which option meets the criterion presented in the second column. Make only two selections, one in each column.

For the Integrated Reasoning section, an onscreen calculator is available. To access the calculator, click “Calculator” on the blue bar at the upper left of the screen. Note that the calculator can be dragged to any part of the screen.

You can view explanations of the format of the specific Integrated Reasoning questions anytime while working through this section by clicking on HELP.

11.0 Analytical Writing Assessment

11.0 Analytical Writing Assessment

The Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA) consists of one 30-minute writing task called the Analysis of an Argument. In this section, you must read a brief argument, analyze the reasoning behind it, and then write a critique of the argument. You are not asked to state your opinion but rather to analyze the one given. For example, you may, consider what questionable assumptions underlie the author's thinking, what alternative explanations or counterexamples might weaken the conclusion, or what sort of evidence could help strengthen or refute the argument.

For this task, you will use the computer keyboard to type your response. You will be able to use typical word-processing functions—that is, you can cut, copy, paste, undo, and redo. These functions can be accessed either by using the keyboard or by using the mouse to click on icons on the screen. You will be able to take notes when planning your response.

It is important that you plan carefully before you begin writing. Read the specific analytical writing task several times to make sure you understand exactly what is expected. Think about how you might present your analysis. You may want to sketch an outline to help you plan and organize. Keep in mind the 30-minute time limit as you plan your response—keep your analysis brief enough to allow for plenty of time to write a first draft, read it over carefully, and make any necessary corrections or revisions before you run out of time. As you write, try to keep your language clear, your sentences concise, and the flow of your ideas logical. State your premise clearly at the beginning, and make sure you present a strong conclusion at the end.

11.1 What Is Measured

The Analytical Writing Assessment is designed as a direct measure of your ability to think critically and communicate your ideas. More specifically, the Analysis of an Argument task tests your ability to formulate an appropriate and constructive critique of a prescribed conclusion based upon a specific line of thinking.

The argument that you will analyze may concern a topic of general interest, possibly related to business, or to a variety of other subjects. It is important to note, however, that no Analysis of an Argument question presupposes any specific knowledge of business or other specific content areas. Only your capacity to write analytically is assessed.

Professional essay raters, including college and university faculty members from various subject-matter areas, including but not limited to management education, will evaluate your essay. For information on how readers are qualified, visit mba.com. Readers are trained to be sensitive and fair in evaluating the responses of nonnative speakers of English. A computer scoring program will also evaluate your essays. Your responses will be scored on the basis of:

- the overall quality of your ideas
- your ability to organize, develop, and express those ideas
- how well you provide relevant supporting reasons and examples
- your ability to control the elements of standard written English

11.2 Test-Taking Strategies

1. Read the question carefully.

Make sure you have taken all parts of a question into account before you begin to respond to it.

2. Do not start to write immediately.

Take a few minutes to think about the question and plan a response before you begin writing. You may find it helpful to write a brief outline or jot down some ideas on the erasable notepad provided. Take care to organize your ideas and develop them fully, but leave time to reread your response and make any revisions that you think would improve it.

3. Focus on the task of analyzing and critiquing a line of thinking or reasoning.

Get used to asking yourself questions such as the following: *What questionable assumptions might underlie the thinking? What alternative explanations might be given? What counterexamples might be raised? What additional evidence might prove useful in fully and fairly evaluating the reasoning?*

4. Develop fully any examples you use.

Do not simply list your examples—explain how they illustrate your point.

5. Discuss alternative explanations or counterexamples.

These techniques allow you to introduce illustrations and examples drawn from your observations, experiences, and reading.

6. Make sure your response reads like a narrative.

Your response should not read like an outline. It should use full sentences, a coherent organizational scheme, logical transitions between points, and appropriately introduced and developed examples.

11.3 The Directions

These are the directions that you will see for the Analysis of an Argument essay. If you read them carefully and understand them clearly before going to sit for the test, you will not need to spend too much time reviewing them when you take the GMAT® exam. They read as follows:

ANALYSIS OF AN ARGUMENT

In this section, you will be asked to write a critique of the argument presented. *You are not asked to present your own views on the subject.*

Writing Your Response: Take a few minutes to evaluate the argument and plan a response before you begin writing. Be sure to leave enough time to reread your response and make any revisions that you think are necessary.

Evaluation of Your Response: Scores will reflect how well you:

- organize, develop, and express your ideas about the argument presented
- provide relevant supporting reasons and examples
- control the elements of standard written English

11.4 GMAT® Scoring Guide: Analysis of an Argument

6 Outstanding

A 6 paper presents a cogent, well-articulated critique of the argument and demonstrates mastery of the elements of effective writing.

A typical paper in this category exhibits the following characteristics:

- clearly identifies important features of the argument and analyzes them insightfully
- develops ideas cogently, organizes them logically, and connects them with clear transitions
- effectively supports the main points of the critique
- demonstrates control of language, including diction and syntactic variety
- demonstrates facility with the conventions of standard written English but may have minor flaws

5 Strong

A 5 paper presents a well-developed critique of the argument and demonstrates good control of the elements of effective writing.

A typical paper in this category exhibits the following characteristics:

- clearly identifies important features of the argument and analyzes them in a generally thoughtful way
- develops ideas clearly, organizes them logically, and connects them with appropriate transitions
- sensibly supports the main points of the critique
- demonstrates control of language, including diction and syntactic variety
- demonstrates facility with the conventions of standard written English but may have occasional flaws

4 Adequate

A 4 paper presents a competent critique of the argument and demonstrates adequate control of the elements of writing.

A typical paper in this category exhibits the following characteristics:

- identifies and analyzes important features of the argument
- develops and organizes ideas satisfactorily but may not connect them with transitions
- supports the main points of the critique
- demonstrates sufficient control of language to convey ideas with reasonable clarity
- generally follows the conventions of standard written English but may have some flaws

3 Limited

A 3 paper demonstrates some competence in analytical writing skills and in its control of the elements of writing but is plainly flawed.

A typical paper in this category exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:

- does not identify or analyze most of the important features of the argument, although some analysis of the argument is present
- mainly analyzes tangential or irrelevant matters, or reasons poorly
- is limited in the logical development and organization of ideas
- offers support of little relevance and value for points of the critique
- does not convey meaning clearly
- contains occasional major errors or frequent minor errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics

2 Seriously Flawed

A 2 paper demonstrates serious weaknesses in analytical writing skills.

A typical paper in this category exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:

- does not present a critique based on logical analysis, but may instead present the writer's own views on the subject
- does not develop ideas, or is disorganized and illogical
- provides little, if any, relevant or reasonable support
- has serious and frequent problems in the use of language and in sentence structure
- contains numerous errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that interfere with meaning

1 Fundamentally Deficient

A 1 paper demonstrates fundamental deficiencies in analytical writing skills.

A typical paper in this category exhibits more than one of the following characteristics:

- provides little evidence of the ability to understand and analyze the argument
- provides little evidence of the ability to develop an organized response
- has severe and persistent errors in language and sentence structure
- contains a pervasive pattern of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that results in incoherence

0 No Score

A paper in this category is off topic, not written in English, is merely attempting to copy the topic, or consists only of keystroke characters.

NR Blank

11.5 Sample: Analysis of an Argument

Read the statement and the instructions that follow it, and then make any notes that will help you plan your response.

The following appeared as part of an article in a daily newspaper:

“The computerized on-board warning system that will be installed in commercial airliners will virtually solve the problem of midair plane collisions. One plane’s warning system can receive signals from another’s transponder—a radio set that signals a plane’s course—in order to determine the likelihood of a collision and recommend evasive action.”

Discuss how well reasoned you find this argument. In your discussion, be sure to analyze the line of reasoning and the use of evidence in the argument. For example, you may need to consider what questionable assumptions underlie the thinking and what alternative explanations or counterexamples might weaken the conclusion. You can also discuss what sort of evidence would strengthen or refute the argument, what changes in the argument would make it more logically sound, and what, if anything, would help you better evaluate its conclusion.

Sample Paper 6

The argument that this warning system will virtually solve the problem of midair plane collisions omits some important concerns that must be addressed to substantiate the argument. The statement that follows the description of what this warning system will do simply describes the system and how it operates. This alone does not constitute a logical argument in favor of the warning system, and it certainly does not provide support or proof of the main argument.

Most conspicuously, the argument does not address the cause of the problem of midair plane collisions, the use of the system by pilots and flight specialists, or who is involved in the midair plane collisions. First, the argument assumes that the cause of the problem is that the planes’ courses, the likelihood of collisions, and actions to avoid collisions are unknown or inaccurate. In a weak attempt to support its claim, the argument describes a system that makes all of these things accurately known. But if the cause of the problem of midair plane collisions is that pilots are not paying attention to their computer systems or flight operations, the warning system will not solve the collision problem. Second, the argument never addresses the interface between individuals and the system and how this will affect the warning system’s objective of obliterating the problem of collisions. If the pilot or flight specialist does not conform to what the warning system suggests, midair collisions will not be avoided. Finally, if planes other than commercial airliners are involved in the collisions, the problem of these collisions cannot be solved by a warning system that will not be installed on non-commercial airliners. The argument also does not address what would happen in the event that the warning system collapses, fails, or does not work properly.

Because the argument leaves out several key issues, it is not sound or persuasive. If it included the items discussed above instead of solely explaining what the system supposedly does, the argument would have been more thorough and convincing.

Explanation of Score 6

This response is, as the scoring guide requires of a 6, “cogent” and “well articulated”: all the points made not only bear directly on the argument to be analyzed, but also contribute to a single, integrated development of the writer’s critique. The writer begins by making the controlling point that a mere description of the warning system’s mode of operation cannot serve as a true argument proving the system’s effectiveness, since the description overlooks several major considerations. The writer then identifies these considerations—what causes midair collisions, how pilots will actually use the commercial airline warning system, what kinds of airplanes are typically involved in midair collisions—and, citing appropriate counterexamples (e.g., what if pilots do not pay attention to their instruments?), explains fully how each oversight undermines the conclusion that the warning system will virtually eliminate midair plane collisions.

Throughout, the writer complements the logically organized development of this critique with good, clear prose that demonstrates the ability not only to control language and vary sentence structure but also to express ideas forcibly (e.g., “the argument never addresses the interface between individuals and the system”). Of course, as in any response written under time constraints, occasional minor flaws can be found. For example, “the argument assumes that the cause of the problem is that the planes’ courses, the likelihood of collisions, and actions to avoid collisions are unknown or inaccurate” is wordy and imprecise: how can a course, a likelihood, or actions be inaccurate? But flaws such as these, minor and infrequent, do not interfere with the overall clarity and forcefulness of this outstanding response.

Sample Paper 4

The argument is not logically convincing. It does not state whether all planes can receive signals from each other. It does not state whether planes constantly receive signals. If they only receive signals once every certain time interval, collisions will not definitely be prevented. Further if they receive a signal right before they are about to crash, they cannot avoid each other.

The main flaw in the argument is that it assumes that the two planes, upon receiving each other's signals, will know which evasive action to take. For example, the two planes could be going towards each other and then receive the signals. If one turns at an angle to the left and the other turns at an angle to the right, the two planes will still crash. Even if they receive an updated signal, they will not have time to avoid each other.

The following argument would be more sound and persuasive. The new warning system will solve the problem of midair plane collisions. Each plane will receive constant, continual signals from each other. If the two planes are headed in a direction where they will crash, the system will coordinate the signals, and tell one plane to go one way, and the other plane to go another way. The new system will ensure that the two planes will turn in different directions so they don't crash by trying to prevent the original crash. In addition, the two planes will be able to see themselves and the other on a computer screen, to aid in the evasive action.

Explanation of Score 4

This response competently cites a number of deficiencies in the argument presented: the information given about the nature of the signals sent and received and the evasive action recommended does not warrant the conclusion that the onboard warning system “will virtually solve the problem of midair plane collisions.” However, in discussing these insufficiencies in the argument, the response reveals an unevenness in the quality of its reasoning. For example, while it is perfectly legitimate to point out that the argument assumes too much and says too little about the evasive action that will be recommended by the warning system, it is farfetched to suggest that the system might be so poorly designed as to route two approaching airplanes to the same spot. Likewise, while it is fair to question the effectiveness of a warning signal about which the argument says so little, it is not reasonable to assume that the system would be designed to space signals so far apart that they would prove useless. Rather than invent implausibly bad versions of the warning system to prove that it might be ineffective, a stronger response would analyze unexplored possibilities inherent in the information that is given—for example, the possibility that pilots might not be able to respond quickly and effectively to the radio signals the argument says they will receive when the new system is installed. The “more sound and persuasive argument” in the last paragraph, while an improvement on the original, continues to overlook this possibility and also assumes that other types of aircraft without transponders will pose no problems.

The organization of ideas, while generally sound, is sometimes weakened by needless repetition of the same points, as in sentences 4 and 5 of the last paragraph. The writing contains minor instances of awkwardness (e.g., “Each plane will receive constant, continual signals from each other” in paragraph 3), but is free of flaws that make understanding difficult. However, though the writing is generally clean and clear, the syntax does not show much variety. A few sentences begin with “if” clauses, but almost all the rest, even those that begin with a transitional phrase such as “for example” or “in addition,” conform to a “subject, verb, complement” pattern. The first paragraph, in which the second and third sentences begin the same way (“It does not state”), is particularly repetitious.

Sample Paper 2

This argument has no information about air collisions. I think most cases happen in new airports because the air traffic is heavy. In this case sound airport control could solve the problem.

I think this argument is logically reasonable. Its assumption is that plane collisions are caused by planes that don't know each other's positions. So pilots can do nothing, if they know each other's position through the system it will solve the problem.

If it can provide evidence the problem is lack of knowledge of each other's positions, it will be more sound and persuasive.

More information about air collisions is helpful, (the reason for air collisions).

Explanation of Score 2

This response is seriously flawed in several ways. First of all, it has very little substance. The writer appears to make only one point—that while it seems reasonable to assume that midair collisions would be less likely if pilots were sure of each other's positions, readers cannot adequately judge this assumption without more information about where, why, and how such collisions occur. This point, furthermore, is neither explained by a single reason beyond what is given in the topic nor supported by a single example. Legitimate though it is, it cannot, alone and undeveloped, serve as an adequate response to the argument.

Aside from being undeveloped, the response is confusing. At the outset, it seems to be critical of the argument. The writer begins by pointing to the inadequacy of the information given; then speculates, without evidence, that “most cases happen in new airports”; and then suggests that the problem should be addressed by improving “airport control,” not (it is implied) by installing onboard warning systems. After criticizing the argument in the first paragraph, the writer confusingly seems to endorse it in the second. Then, in the remainder of the response, the writer returns to a critical stance.

The general lack of coherence is reflected in the serious and frequent writing problems that make meaning hard to determine—for example, the elliptical and ungrammatical “So pilots can do nothing, if they know each other's position through the system it will solve the problem” (paragraph 2) or “If it can provide evidence the problem is lack of knowledge of each other's positions, it will be more sound and persuasive” (paragraph 3). The prose suffers from a variety of basic errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.

11.6 Analysis of an Argument Sample Topics

The following appeared as part of an annual report sent to stockholders by Olympic Foods, a processor of frozen foods:

"Over time, the costs of processing go down because as organizations learn how to do things better, they become more efficient. In color film processing, for example, the cost of a 3-by-5-inch print fell from 50 cents for five-day service in 1970 to 20 cents for one-day service in 1984. The same principle applies to the processing of food. And since Olympic Foods will soon celebrate its 25th birthday, we can expect that our long experience will enable us to minimize costs and thus maximize profits."

Discuss how well reasoned you find this argument. In your discussion be sure to analyze the line of reasoning and the use of evidence in the argument. For example, you may need to consider what questionable assumptions underlie the thinking and what alternative explanations or counterexamples might weaken the conclusion. You can also discuss what sort of evidence would strengthen or refute the argument, what changes in the argument would make it more logically sound, and what, if anything, would help you better evaluate its conclusion.

The following appeared in a memorandum from the business department of the Apogee Company:

"When the Apogee Company had all its operations in one location, it was more profitable than it is today. Therefore, the Apogee Company should close down its field offices and conduct all its operations from a single location. Such centralization would improve profitability by cutting costs and helping the company maintain better supervision of all employees."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared in a memorandum issued by a large city's council on the arts:

"In a recent citywide poll, 15 percent more residents said that they watch television programs about the visual arts than was the case in a poll conducted five years ago. During these past five years, the number of people visiting our city's art museums has increased by a similar percentage. Since the corporate funding that supports public television, where most of the visual arts programs appear, is now being threatened with severe cuts, we can expect that attendance at our city's art museums will also start to decrease. Thus some of the city's funds for supporting the arts should be reallocated to public television."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared in a report presented for discussion at a meeting of the directors of a company that manufactures parts for heavy machinery:

"The falling revenues that the company is experiencing coincide with delays in manufacturing. These delays, in turn, are due in large part to poor planning in purchasing metals. Consider further that the manager of the department that handles purchasing of raw materials has an excellent background in general business, psychology, and sociology, but knows little about the properties of metals. The company should, therefore, move the purchasing manager to the sales department and bring in a scientist from the research division to be manager of the purchasing department."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared in an announcement issued by the publisher of *The Mercury*, a weekly newspaper:

"Since a competing lower-priced newspaper, *The Bugle*, was started five years ago, *The Mercury's* circulation has declined by 10,000 readers. The best way to get more people to read *The Mercury* is to reduce its price below that of *The Bugle*, at least until circulation increases to former levels. The increased circulation of *The Mercury* will attract more businesses to buy advertising space in the paper."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared as part of an article in a magazine devoted to regional life:

"Corporations should look to the city of Helios when seeking new business opportunities or a new location. Even in the recent recession, Helios's unemployment rate was lower than the regional average. It is the industrial center of the region, and historically it has provided more than its share of the region's manufacturing jobs. In addition, Helios is attempting to expand its economic base by attracting companies that focus on research and development of innovative technologies."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared in the health section of a magazine on trends and lifestyles:

"People who use the artificial sweetener aspartame are better off consuming sugar, since aspartame can actually contribute to weight gain rather than weight loss. For example, high levels of aspartame have been shown to trigger a craving for food by depleting the brain of a chemical that registers satiety, or the sense of being full. Furthermore, studies suggest that sugars, if consumed after at least 45 minutes of continuous exercise, actually enhance the body's ability to burn fat. Consequently, those who drink aspartame-sweetened juices after exercise will also lose this calorie-burning benefit. Thus it appears that people consuming aspartame rather than sugar are unlikely to achieve their dietary goals."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared in the editorial section of a corporate newsletter:

"The common notion that workers are generally apathetic about management issues is false, or at least outdated: a recently published survey indicates that 79 percent of the nearly 1,200 workers who responded to survey questionnaires expressed a high level of interest in the topics of corporate restructuring and redesign of benefits programs."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared in the opinion column of a financial magazine:

"On average, middle-aged consumers devote 39 percent of their retail expenditure to department store products and services, while for younger consumers the average is only 25 percent. Since the number of middle-aged people will increase dramatically within the next decade, department stores can expect retail sales to increase significantly during that period. Furthermore, to take advantage of the trend, these stores should begin to replace some of those products intended to attract the younger consumer with products intended to attract the middle-aged consumer."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared in the editorial section of a local newspaper:

"This past winter, 200 students from Waymarsh State College traveled to the state capitol building to protest against proposed cuts in funding for various state college programs. The other 12,000 Waymarsh students evidently weren't so concerned about their education: they either stayed on campus or left for winter break. Since the group who did not protest is far more numerous, it is more representative of the state's college students than are the protesters. Therefore the state legislature need not heed the appeals of the protesting students."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared in the editorial section of a local newspaper:

"In the first four years that Montoya has served as mayor of the city of San Perdito, the population has decreased and the unemployment rate has increased. Two businesses have closed for each new business that has opened. Under Varro, who served as mayor for four years before Montoya, the unemployment rate decreased and the population increased. Clearly, the residents of San Perdito would be best served if they voted Montoya out of office and reelected Varro."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared as part of a promotional campaign to sell advertising space in the *Daily Gazette* to grocery stores in the Marston area:

"Advertising the reduced price of selected grocery items in the *Daily Gazette* will help you increase your sales. Consider the results of a study conducted last month. Thirty sale items from a store in downtown Marston were advertised in *The Gazette* for four days. Each time one or more of the 30 items was purchased, clerks asked whether the shopper had read the ad. Two-thirds of the 200 shoppers asked answered in the affirmative. Furthermore, more than half the customers who answered in the affirmative spent over \$100 at the store."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared as part of a campaign to sell advertising time on a local radio station to local businesses:

"The Cumquat Café began advertising on our local radio station this year and was delighted to see its business increase by 10 percent over last year's totals. Their success shows you how you can use radio advertising to make your business more profitable."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared as part of a newspaper editorial:

"Two years ago Nova High School began to use interactive computer instruction in three academic subjects. The school dropout rate declined immediately, and last year's graduates have reported some impressive achievements in college. In future budgets the school board should use a greater portion of the available funds to buy more computers, and all schools in the district should adopt interactive computer instruction throughout the curriculum."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared as a part of an advertisement for Adams, who is seeking re-election as governor:

"Re-elect Adams, and you will be voting for proven leadership in improving the state's economy. Over the past year alone, 70 percent of the state's workers have had increases in their wages, 5,000 new jobs have been created, and six corporations have located their headquarters here. Most of the respondents in a recent poll said they believed that the economy is likely to continue to improve if Adams is re-elected. Adams's opponent, Zebulon, would lead our state in the wrong direction, because Zebulon disagrees with many of Adams's economic policies."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.

The following appeared as part of an article in the education section of a Waymarsh city newspaper:

"Throughout the last two decades, those who earned graduate degrees found it very difficult to get jobs teaching their academic specialties at the college level. Those with graduate degrees from Waymarsh University had an especially hard time finding such jobs. But better times are coming in the next decade for all academic job seekers, including those from Waymarsh. Demographic trends indicate that an increasing number of people will be reaching college age over the next 10 years; consequently, we can expect that the job market will improve dramatically for people seeking college-level teaching positions in their fields."

Discuss how well reasoned ... etc.