

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty                                   |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|--|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |

**ID: 01989d77**

Microbes that live in shallow lakes and ponds produce methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. Ecologist Ralf Aben and his team wanted to see how different types of shallow-water plants might affect the amount of methane that escapes into the atmosphere. Aben's team set up some water tanks with soil and microbes from local ponds. Some tanks had a type of underwater plant that grows in the soil called watermilfoil. Other tanks had either duckweed, a type of plant that floats on the water's surface, or algae. Aben and his team found that tanks with duckweed and algae released higher levels of methane than tanks with watermilfoil did. This finding suggests that

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the presence of some kinds of underwater plants like watermilfoil helps prevent methane from escaping shallow lakes and ponds.
- B. shallow lakes and ponds release more methane than deeper bodies of water because shallow bodies of water usually have more plants than deep bodies of water do.
- C. shallow lakes and ponds are more likely to contain algae than to contain either watermilfoil or duckweed.
- D. having a mix of algae, underwater plants, and floating plants is the best way to reduce the amount of methane in shallow lakes and ponds.

**ID: 01989d77 Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The passage tells us that "tanks with duckweed (a floating plant) and algae released higher levels of methane than tanks with watermilfoil (an underwater plant) did." This suggests that the presence of some kinds of underwater plants like watermilfoil may help prevent methane from escaping shallow lakes and ponds.

Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention deeper bodies of water at all, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn't compare the likelihood of shallow lakes and ponds containing algae, watermilfoil, or duckweed. Choice D is incorrect. The study didn't include any tanks with a mix of plants, so there's no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Easy

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**ID: 4603d1f7**

In their book *Smart Pricing*, Jagmohan Raju and Z. John Zhang consider musicians' use of the nontraditional "pay as you wish" pricing model. This model generally offers listeners the choice to pay more or less than a suggested price for a song or album—or even to pay nothing at all. As the authors note, that's the option most listeners chose for an album by the band Harvey Danger. Only about 1% opted to pay for the album, resulting in earnings below the band's expectations. But the authors also discuss musician Jane Siberry, who saw significant earnings from her "pay as you wish" online music store as a result of many listeners choosing to pay more than the store's suggested prices. Hence, the "pay as you wish" model may \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. prove financially successful for some musicians but disappointing for others.
- B. hold greater financial appeal for bands than for individual musicians.
- C. cause most musicians who use the model to lower the suggested prices of their songs and albums over time.
- D. more strongly reflect differences in certain musicians' popularity than traditional pricing models do.

**ID: 4603d1f7 Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. In one example, musicians made less money than expected by using the "pay as you wish" model. In the other example, a musician made more money than expected. This suggests that some musicians may have more success than others using the "pay as you wish" model.

Choice B is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. In the examples provided, the individual musician was more successful with the "pay as you wish" model than the band was. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The passage provides no instances in which musicians changed the suggested prices of their songs or albums, nor does it mention this as a possibility. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never discusses the differences in popularity of different musicians, so there is no basis to make this inference.

Question Difficulty: Easy

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**ID: 20000f5f**

Arthur Conan Doyle's stories about detective Sherlock Holmes were published between 1887 and 1927. They have inspired countless successful adaptations, including comic strips, movies, and a television series *Sherlock Hound*, directed by Hayao Miyazaki, who is celebrated for his animated movies. Until 2014, these stories were copyrighted. The right to adapt was only available to those who could afford the copyright fee and gain approval from the strict copyright holders of Doyle's estate. Some journalists predict that the number of Sherlock Holmes adaptations is likely to increase since the end of copyright means that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. Doyle's original stories will become hard to find.
- B. people will become more interested in detective stories than they were in the 1800s.
- C. producing adaptations will become easier and less expensive.
- D. the former copyright holders of Doyle's estate will return fees they collected.

**ID: 20000f5f Answer**

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text tells us that because of the copyright, adapting Sherlock Holmes stories used to be expensive and difficult. This suggests that after the copyright ends, it will be less expensive and less difficult to adapt these stories.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never suggests that the copyright ending will make Sherlock Holmes stories harder to find. Instead, it suggests that adaptations of these stories will be easier and less expensive to make. Choice B is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never discusses people's interest in detective stories, so there is no basis to make this inference. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never suggests that copyright fees from the past are returned after a copyright ends, so there is no basis to make this inference.

Question Difficulty: Easy

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**ID: 6bc0e595**

One aspect of in-person shopping that online shopping can't replicate is the opportunity to touch a product before buying it. Does this difference matter? In an experiment, researchers asked one group of participants to touch a mug and a toy, while another group was prohibited from touching the two items. The participants were then asked how much money they'd pay for the items. People who got to touch the items were willing to pay much more money for them than were people who weren't allowed to touch the items. This finding suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. people who mainly shop online probably spend more money every month than people who mainly shop in person do.
- B. in-person shopping may make products seem more valuable than they seem if only viewed online.
- C. retailers with in-person and online stores should charge the same price for a given product in both places.
- D. online retailers may be able to raise the prices they charge for products that are only available online.

**ID: 6bc0e595 Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text tells us that "people who got to touch the items were willing to pay much more money for them than people who weren't allowed to touch" them. This suggests that being able to interact with a product in person may make it seem more valuable to a shopper.

Choice A is incorrect. The text doesn't discuss how much people spend each month, so there's not much basis for this claim. Furthermore, since being able to touch a product tends to make people "willing to pay much more money" for it, we might predict that an online shopper would be willing to spend less on the same purchases as an in-person shopper. Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn't discuss what retailers "should charge," so there's not much basis for this claim. Furthermore, the study in the text suggests that in-person stores may actually be able to charge more for a given product, since shoppers can touch it. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't discuss products that are only available online, so there's not much basis for this claim. Furthermore, products only available online would still have the problem of shoppers not being able to touch them, and the study suggests that this lowers the prices shoppers are willing to pay.

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**ID: c4d43991**

Archaeologists have been debating the origin of a rare form of lead found in Shang dynasty (1766–1046 BCE) bronze artifacts since its presence was discovered in China in the 1990s. Different researchers have proposed theories on which regions of the world would have had the raw materials containing the specific lead in these artifacts, but no conclusive evidence has been presented. What is intriguing is that bronze artifacts from China dated after the Shang dynasty do not contain this form of lead, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. Shang dynasty bronze pieces are rare and therefore more valuable than those from other time periods.
- B. the source of some of the raw materials used to make bronze was exploited only until the end of the Shang dynasty.
- C. bronze was used for a short time during the Shang dynasty before different metals were used to make artifacts.
- D. methods used to analyze bronze artifacts are not useful on pieces that are dated after the Shang dynasty.

**ID: c4d43991 Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The passage tells us that Shang dynasty bronze artifacts contained "a rare form of lead," but that bronze artifacts after this time did not contain that lead. Although we don't know where that specific type of bronze came from, we can conclude that that source was not used after the end of the Shang dynasty—otherwise, post-Shang dynasty pieces would also contain that rare form of lead.

Choice A is incorrect. Despite these pieces containing "a rare form of lead," there is no direct claim in the passage that Shang dynasty bronze is itself more rare or valuable than bronze pieces from other periods. Therefore, there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. Although the passage mentions that the nature of the bronze in Chinese artifacts changed after the Shang dynasty, bronze was still used to create artifacts after this time. The passage in fact explicitly states "bronze artifacts from China dated after the Shang dynasty..." indicating that bronze was still used in China after the Shang dynasty. Choice D is incorrect. There's no mention in the passage of methods used to analyze bronze artifacts, so there's no basis for this inference.

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**ID: dbbbc5dd**

Off-off-Broadway theaters emerged in the late 1950s as a rebellion against mainstream Broadway theaters in New York, freeing artists to create productions that were more experimental than typical Broadway shows. One such artist was playwright María Irene Fornés. Working with off-off Broadway theaters enabled Fornés not only to direct her own plays but also to direct them exactly as she intended them to be staged, regardless of how strange the results might have seemed to audiences accustomed to Broadway shows. In this way, Fornés \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. wrote plays that would have been too expensive to produce if someone else had directed the production.
- B. recognized that staging an off-off-Broadway play was more complicated than staging a Broadway play.
- C. would have been more famous if she had created plays that were mainstream instead of experimental.
- D. illustrates the artistic opportunity offered by off-off Broadway theaters.

**ID: dbbbc5dd Answer**

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text says that off-off-Broadway theaters allowed artists to create more experimental shows, and then discusses how Fornés was free to direct her own “strange” plays however she wanted. This suggests that Fornés exemplifies the artistic freedom of off-off Broadway theaters.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never discusses the costs of production, so we can’t logically make this claim. Choice B is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never discusses the complexity of staging plays either on Broadway or off-off Broadway, so there’s no basis to make this inference. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never discusses fame at all, so there’s no basis to make this inference.

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ID: 8a3ecac6

North American gray wolves usually have mixed gray and white fur, but some members of the species have a version of a gene, or gene variant, that gives them a mostly black coat instead. Sarah Cubaynes and her team studied twelve populations of North American gray wolves. They found that the black-furred wolves are more common in areas where outbreaks of distemper virus happen regularly. The team also discovered that the black-furred wolves are more likely to be immune to distemper than the gray-furred wolves are. Taken together, these findings suggest that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. North American gray wolves experience more outbreaks of distemper virus than other wolf species do.
- B. the gene variant that results in black fur may be linked to immunity to the distemper virus.
- C. the average life span of gray wolves is likely to increase over time because of a particular gene variant.
- D. gray-furred wolves will soon replace black-furred wolves across North America.

ID: 8a3ecac6 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text tells us that the black-furred wolves are more common in areas with regular outbreaks of distemper virus and are more likely to be immune to distemper than the gray-furred wolves. This suggests that the gene variant that results in black fur may be linked to immunity to the distemper virus.

Choice A is incorrect. The text never compares North American gray wolves to other wolf species—in fact, it never discusses other wolf species at all, so there’s no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The life span of gray wolves is never mentioned in this text, so we have no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. This is too extreme. The text says that "black-furred wolves are more likely to be immune to distemper than the gray-furred wolves," but that alone doesn’t mean that black-furred wolves will replace gray-furred wolves across North America.

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**ID: 25893fc7**

In many cultures, a handshake can create trust between people. Engineer João Avelino and his team are designing a robot to shake hands with a human in order to improve human-robot interactions. The robot hand adjusts its movements and pressure to better imitate the feel of a human hand. The researchers want the robot's handshake to feel realistic because \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. lifelike handshakes may make people more comfortable interacting with robots.
- B. it's easier to program a robot to perform handshakes than it is to program a robot to perform some other types of greetings.
- C. people are less likely to interact with robots that don't look like humans.
- D. the robot in the researchers' study may have uses other than interacting with humans.

**ID: 25893fc7 Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text says that handshakes create trust, and that the engineers' goal is to "improve human-robot interactions." This suggests that they want the robot's handshake to feel real because they want humans to trust the robot.

Choice B is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never discusses any other types of greetings, so there is no basis to make this inference. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never discusses the appearance of this robot or any other robots, so there is no basis to make this inference. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never discusses any uses for the robot other than interacting with humans, so there is no basis to make this inference.

Question Difficulty: Easy



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ID: 787729be

Martin Dančák, Wewin Tjiasmanto, and colleagues have identified a new carnivorous plant species (*Nepenthes pudica*) in Indonesia. Like other carnivorous plants, *N. pudica* has pitfall traps, or pitchers, that capture prey, but unlike others, the pitchers of *N. pudica* are located underground. The researchers unearthed the new species on fairly dry ridges with surfaces that host few other plants and animals. Therefore, the researchers hypothesize that the *N. pudica* species likely \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. represents one of many undiscovered carnivorous plant species in the region.
- B. formed pitchers early in development to absorb more moisture.
- C. is buried by nearby animals as they forage along the ridges for food.
- D. evolved to have underground traps to access more prey than would surface traps.

ID: 787729be Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text says that *N.pudica's* prey-catching pitchers are underground. It also says that the ridges where *N. pudica* lives don't have many plants and animals on the surface. This suggests that *N. pudica* evolved underground pitchers in order to catch more prey.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never mentions the possibility of other undiscovered carnivorous plant species in Indonesia, so there's no basis to make this inference. Choice B is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text does say that the ridges where *N. pudica* lives are dry, but it also says that the purpose of carnivorous plant pitchers is to capture prey. It never suggests that these pitchers also absorb moisture, so there's no basis to make this inference. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never suggests that *N. pudica's* underground pitcher can catch animals on the surface, so there's no basis to make this inference.

Question Difficulty: Easy

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**ID: 493c46bc**

In the South Pacific, New Caledonian crows use two different kinds of stick tools. One tool is complex. The crows shape a stick from a rare plant into a hook. The other tool is basic. The crows find a stick without a hook on the ground. The hooked tool is harder to get but is much better than the basic tool at removing prey from holes. When studying New Caledonian crows, ecologist Barbara Klump found that they hold the hooked tools in their claws when not using them, or they carefully put them in a safe place. The crows don't do the same with the basic tools. This suggests to Klump that the \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. hooked stick tools are more valuable to the crows than the stick tools without hooks.
- B. hooked stick tools are easier for most of the crows to hold than the stick tools without hooks.
- C. crows prefer to share their hooked stick tools but don't share the stick tools without hooks.
- D. crows realize that both kinds of stick tools are less effective than their claws are at removing prey from holes.

**ID: 493c46bc Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the two types of stick tools used by New Caledonian crows. The text indicates that the more effective type of tool has a hook that the crows make themselves, while the other type of tool is simply a stick without a hook that the crows find and don't shape in any way. According to the text, Klump found that the crows keep hooked tools—but not the tools without hooks—in their grasp or in safe places when they aren't using the tools. If the hooked tools are more effective than the tools without hooks are and the crows are more protective of the hooked tools than they are of the tools without hooks, it's reasonable to conclude that the hooked tools are more valuable to the crows than the tools without hooks are.

Choice B is incorrect because the text gives no indication of how easy it is for the crows to hold either the hooked tools or the tools without hooks. The text does state that crows hold the hooked tools and not the tools without hooks when the tools aren't in use. However, the text also indicates that the hooked tools require work from the crows to make and are more useful for helping the crows catch prey than the tools without hooks are. This context suggests that the crows hold the hooked tools because they're more valuable to the crows than the tools without hooks are, not because the hooked tools are easier to hold. Choice C is incorrect because the text makes no mention of the crows sharing tools. Additionally, the text indicates that when the crows aren't using the hooked tools, they either grasp the tools or store them safely, which suggests that the crows try to maintain possession of the hooked tools, not that crows prefer to share those tools. Choice D is incorrect because the text says nothing about the crows using their claws to remove prey from holes, so there's no evidence that the crows perceive the stick tools to be less effective than their claws are.

Question Difficulty: Easy

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ID: 7a895def

Georgia Douglas Johnson wrote many plays in the 1920s and 1930s. At the time, professional theater companies rarely put on plays by Black women, so few of Johnson’s plays made it to the stage. Only a small number of her plays were published in her lifetime. But that doesn’t mean that Johnson never learned what other people thought of her plays. Johnson hosted weekly get-togethers for fellow Black writers and artists in her Washington, D.C., home. Attendees would read and discuss one another’s work, including Johnson’s own. These gatherings could therefore serve as \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. an occasion for professional theater companies to put on plays.
- B. an opportunity for Johnson to get feedback on her plays.
- C. a way for Johnson to learn about plays that were produced in other cities.
- D. subject matter for future plays by Johnson.

ID: 7a895def Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The passage tells us that attendees at Johnson’s get-togethers "would read and discuss one another’s work." This suggests that the gatherings could provide an opportunity for Johnson to get feedback on her plays. Notice how the text foreshadows this conclusion by the mention of Johnson learning "what other people thought of her plays."

Choice A is incorrect. The passage doesn’t mention theater companies attending the get-togethers, so there is no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn’t mention learning about plays from other cities, so there is no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. The passage doesn’t mention Johnson using the get-togethers as inspiration for future plays, so there is no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Easy

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ID: 9077be25

Alice Guy-Blaché directed hundreds of films between 1896 and 1920. She wanted audiences to feel like they were watching real people on screen. She would encourage actors in her films to behave naturally. Guy-Blaché even hung a large sign reading “Be Natural” in the studio where she made her films. At the time, films lacked sound, so actors needed to rely solely on their bodies and facial expressions to convey emotions. As a result, actors tended to highly exaggerate their actions and expressions. The style of acting in Guy-Blaché’s films was therefore \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. copied by many of Guy-Blaché’s peers.
- B. familiar to actors who had worked on other directors’ films.
- C. very unusual for the period.
- D. better than film acting today.

ID: 9077be25 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text tells us that “actors tended to highly exaggerate their actions and expressions” in films produced from 1896 to 1920. This suggests that the natural style of acting in Guy-Blaché’s films was very unusual for the time.

Choice A is incorrect. The text never discusses any other directors copying the style of acting found in Guy-Blaché’s films, and in fact suggests the opposite—that it was unusual for directors to suggest this style of acting at the time. Choice B is incorrect. The text never discusses actors’ familiarity with the style of acting found in Guy-Blaché’s films, so there isn’t much basis for this inference. But since the text tells us that other films of the period used a highly exaggerated form of acting, we might predict that the natural style in Guy-Blaché’s films would have been unfamiliar to these actors. Choice D is incorrect. The text never discusses film acting today, so there’s no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Easy

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**ID: 1d0b5bf4**

To create the poems in her 2017 collection *One Last Word*, poet Nikki Grimes used a writing method called the golden shovel. This method often involves choosing a line from an existing poem and then using each word from that line as the last word of each line in a new poem. Grimes wanted the poems in *One Last Word* to honor important Black poets of the past, so she chose lines by poets such as Langston Hughes and Georgia Douglas Johnson. Writing in this way can be challenging and might seem as though it would produce awkward poems. However, reviewers praised *One Last Word* as a beautiful and powerful tribute to the poets who inspired it. This reaction suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. most reviewers didn't understand Grimes's goal for *One Last Word*.
- B. Grimes successfully used the golden shovel method to achieve her goal for *One Last Word*.
- C. Langston Hughes and Georgia Douglas Johnson are two of Grimes's favorite poets.
- D. Grimes inspired many other writers to create poems using the golden shovel method.

**ID: 1d0b5bf4 Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Nikki Grimes's poetry collection *One Last Word*. The text explains that Grimes used a writing method called the golden shovel to create the poems in her book. According to the text, the method involves basing a new poem on a line from an existing poem. The text then mentions Langston Hughes and Georgia Douglas Johnson as examples of important Black poets whose lines of poetry form the basis of Grimes's poems. The text goes on to say that this writing method is difficult and that the resulting poems can be awkward, but reviewers have positively reviewed Grimes's book. If the reviewers of *One Last Word* specifically note that the work is a "beautiful and powerful tribute to the poets who inspired it," then they must have appreciated how Grimes used the golden shovel method to pay tribute to other poets. This suggests that Grimes was successful in using the golden shovel method to achieve her goal of honoring Black poets in her book.

Choice A is incorrect because the reaction suggests that most reviewers did understand Grimes's goal for her book. According to the text, the reviewers noted that the poems in her book were a "beautiful and powerful tribute to the poets who inspired it." Earlier, the text claims that Grimes intended the poems "to honor important Black poets of the past," so in their praise of her book, the reviewers clearly indicated that they understood Grimes's goal. Choice C is incorrect. Although it's likely that Grimes sought to honor Hughes and Johnson in her book of poetry because they're among her favorite poets, this fact isn't suggested by the reviewers' positive reaction to her book. Instead, the reaction suggests that Grimes was successful in her use of the golden shovel method. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss whether other writers were

inspired by Grimes to use the golden shovel method in their poetry. The text mentions the poets Hughes and Johnson as examples of poets honored in Grimes's book and describes reviewers' positive reception of her book, but it doesn't detail Grimes's impact on other writers.

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**ID: 5b4829d2**

Researchers wanted to study how consumers' reactions to an ad may be affected by other ads. The researchers began by showing study participants an ad for a product, with some seeing a less detailed ad and others seeing a more detailed one. Then, all participants viewed the same second ad for a store and shared their opinion of the store based on this second ad. Participants who had first seen an ad less detailed than the second ad had a higher opinion of the store than the participants who had first seen a more detailed ad. The researchers concluded that reactions to an ad may be affected by \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the number of people who viewed the ad.
- B. the length of time viewing previous ads.
- C. the amount of detail viewed in previous ads.
- D. the time of day that the ad is viewed.

**ID: 5b4829d2 Answer**

Correct Answer: C


Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The passage tells us that participants who had seen a less detailed ad for a product beforehand had a higher opinion of the store than those who had seen a more detailed ad. This suggests that reactions to an ad may be affected by the amount of detail viewed in previous ads.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention the number of people who viewed the ad, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention the length of time viewing previous ads, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention the time of day that the ad is viewed, so there's no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Easy



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**ID: d748c3fd**

In her 2021 article “Throwaway History: Towards a Historiography of Ephemera,” scholar Anne Garner discusses John Johnson (1882–1956), a devoted collector of items intended to be discarded, including bus tickets and campaign pamphlets. Johnson recognized that scholarly institutions considered his expansive collection of ephemera to be worthless—indeed, it wasn’t until 1968, after Johnson’s death, that Oxford University’s Bodleian Library acquired the collection, having grasped the items’ potential value to historians and other researchers. Hence, the example of Johnson serves to \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. demonstrate the difficulties faced by contemporary historians in conducting research at the Bodleian Library without access to ephemera.
- B. represent the challenge of incorporating examples of ephemera into the collections of libraries and other scholarly institutions.
- C. lend support to arguments by historians and other researchers who continue to assert that ephemera holds no value for scholars.
- D. illustrate both the relatively low scholarly regard in which ephemera was once held and the later recognition of ephemera’s possible utility.

**ID: d748c3fd Answer**

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Johnson collected “ephemera,” or things that are meant to be thrown away. Scholars thought his collection was worthless to them, then later realized that it was potentially valuable. This suggests that scholars went from disregarding ephemera to recognizing their usefulness.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text tells us that the Bodleian Library acquired Johnson’s large collection of ephemera back in 1968, so we can assume that contemporary historians conducting research there do have access to that collection. Choice B is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text tells us that “Oxford University’s Bodleian Library acquired the collection,” but it never suggests that it was a challenge to do so. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text actually suggests the opposite: the example of Johnson’s collection lends support to arguments that ephemera does hold value for scholars.

Question Difficulty: Medium

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty                                   |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|--|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |

**ID: 3190835d**

Some businesses believe that when employees are interrupted while doing their work, they experience a decrease in energy and productivity. However, a team led by Harshad Puranik, who studies management, has found that interruptions by colleagues can have a social component that increases employees' sense of belonging, resulting in greater job satisfaction that benefits employees and employers. Therefore, businesses should recognize that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the interpersonal benefits of some interruptions in the workplace may offset the perceived negative effects.
- B. in order to maximize productivity, employers should be willing to interrupt employees frequently throughout the day.
- C. most employees avoid interrupting colleagues because they don't appreciate being interrupted themselves.
- D. in order to cultivate an ideal workplace environment, interruptions of work should be discouraged.

**ID: 3190835d Answer**


Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of potential benefits of interruptions in the workplace. The text indicates that a common belief in business is that interruptions to working employees decrease energy and productivity levels. However, the text goes on to explain that a research team led by Harshad Puranik has found that there could be a social benefit to these interruptions. Since the team found that workplace interruptions can increase employees' sense of belonging and job satisfaction, it follows that the interpersonal benefits of some interruptions can offset the perceived negative effects.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text presents research findings that suggest some workplace interruptions can have a positive effect on employee job satisfaction, no further information is presented to suggest at what frequency these interruptions are ideal. Furthermore, the text doesn't tie workplace interruptions to increased productivity, but rather links it to social benefits such as sense of belonging. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't address employees' motives for choosing not to interrupt their colleagues. The text presents research findings that suggest that there are some positive interpersonal effects of workplace interruptions that can increase employee job satisfaction. Choice D is incorrect because asking businesses to discourage workplace interruptions doesn't follow from the team's research about the benefits of workplace interruptions, nor does the text describe an ideal work environment. Instead, the text presents research suggesting that there may be positive aspects to workplace interruptions that haven't previously been considered.

Question Difficulty: Medium

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty  |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences |  |

**ID: db876fd5**

Songbirds learn to respond to and imitate their species' songs from an early age. With each generation, small differences are introduced that result in distinct variations—called dialects—among geographically isolated populations of the same species. A research study examined whether twelve-day-old *Ficedula hypoleuca* (pied flycatcher) nestlings prefer local dialects over the unfamiliar dialects of nonlocal *F. hypoleuca* populations: the more begging calls the nestlings made in response to a song, the stronger their preference. The researchers found that nestlings produced more begging calls in response to their own dialect than to nonlocal dialects. Since song preference plays a role in songbird mate selection, the finding suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings' preference for their own dialect likely disappears as they mature to promote socialization between different *F. hypoleuca* populations.
- B. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings who show an early preference for their own dialect are likely to receive more food from their caretakers than nestlings who show no preferences among any *F. hypoleuca* dialects.
- C. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings' preference for their own dialect likely drives them when they mature to reproduce with other *F. hypoleuca* from local rather than nonlocal populations.
- D. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings show a preference for both local *F. hypoleuca* dialects and the songs of other local songbirds over the songs of nonlocal birds of any species.

**ID: db876fd5 Answer**

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. Because “song preference plays a role in songbird mate selection,” and because *F. hypoleuca* nestlings display a preference for local dialects, we can infer that they will be more likely to choose mates from local populations.

Choice A is incorrect. We don't have any information suggesting that this preference disappears, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice B is incorrect. Although the passage discusses the number of begging calls made in response to various *F. hypoleuca* dialects, no mention is made about the amount of food received based on dialect preference. Therefore, there's no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. There's no mention in the passage of methods of other types of local songbirds, so there's no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty                                   |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|--|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |

ID: 55688b3c

Dutch painters in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries often showed tables filled with large wheels of cheese or carved shards of butter. Some art historians, noting that dairy products were a major component of the Dutch diet, interpret these depictions as reflections of everyday Dutch eating habits. However, a group of researchers recently reviewed hundreds of food-related paintings and found that lemons—which could only be acquired in the Netherlands at great cost, since they had to be imported from warmer climates—feature in Dutch paintings of the period more than three times as frequently as dairy products do, thereby casting doubt on the idea that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. dairy products were a more significant component of the Dutch diet of the period than lemons were.
- B. food was a more popular subject among Dutch painters than it was among painters from other countries at the time.
- C. depictions of food in Dutch paintings of the period should be taken as realistic representations of Dutch eating habits.
- D. Dutch painters of the period may have depicted foods for symbolic reasons rather than to show what Dutch people typically ate.

ID: 55688b3c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text tells us that lemons—an expensive imported product—feature in Dutch paintings of the period more frequently than dairy products do. Since it’s unlikely lemons were eaten more often than dairy, this fact casts doubt on the theory that these paintings realistically depicted Dutch diets.

Choice A is incorrect. In fact, the text suggests the opposite: it says that dairy products were a "major component of the Dutch diet," while lemons were an expensive import item, so we can infer that lemons were eaten much more rarely than dairy products. Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn’t mention painters from other countries, so there’s no basis to make this inference. Choice D is incorrect. In fact, the text suggests that Dutch painters do have reasons for depicting foods other than to show what Dutch people typically ate. For example, lemons in a painting could indicate wealth or prosperity.

Question Difficulty: Medium

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty                                   |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|--|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |

ID: 8fbcd1cb

When the Vinland Map, a map of the world purported to date to the mid-1400s, surfaced in 1957, some scholars believed it demonstrated that European knowledge of the eastern coast of present-day North America predated Christopher Columbus’s 1492 arrival. In 2021, a team including conservators Marie-France Lemay and Paula Zyats and materials scientist Anikó Bezur performed an extensive analysis of the map and the ink used. They found that the ink contains titanium dioxide, a compound that was first introduced in ink manufacturing in the early 1900s. Therefore, the team concluded that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. mid-1400s Europeans could not have known about the eastern coast of present-day North America.
- B. the Vinland Map could not have been drawn by mid-1400s mapmakers.
- C. mapmakers must have used titanium compounds in their ink in the 1400s.
- D. there isn’t enough information to determine when the ink was created.

ID: 8fbcd1cb Answer

Correct Answer: B


Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Lemay, Zyats, and Bezur’s 2021 analysis of the Vinland Map. The text indicates that while some scholars have believed that the map was drawn in the mid-1400s, the 2021 analysis showed the presence of the compound titanium dioxide in the ink used to draw the map. The text goes on to say that titanium dioxide wasn’t used to manufacture ink until the early 1900s, which means that ink containing this compound couldn’t have been available to mapmakers in the 1400s. Since mapmakers in the mid-1400s couldn’t have used ink with titanium dioxide, it follows that the Vinland Map couldn’t have been drawn by mid-1400s mapmakers.

Choice A is incorrect because the 2021 finding that the ink used to draw the Vinland Map wasn’t available until the early 1900s doesn’t imply that Europeans in the mid-1400s couldn’t have known about the eastern coast of North America. While this finding suggests that the map couldn’t have been created in the mid-1400s, it doesn’t preclude the possibility that Europeans nevertheless had knowledge—and perhaps even drew other maps that are no longer in existence or are yet to be discovered by researchers—of the eastern coast of present-day North America as early as the mid-1400s. Choice C is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text that suggests that the 2021 discovery of the presence of titanium dioxide in the ink used to draw the Vinland Map caused Lemay, Zyats, and Bezur to question or reach a new conclusion about when mapmakers began using ink containing titanium compounds. Instead, the text indicates that titanium dioxide wasn’t used in ink before the early 1900s. This knowledge led the team to conclude that the map, which was drawn with ink containing titanium dioxide, couldn’t have been created in the mid-1400s. Choice D is incorrect because although the text doesn’t indicate that Lemay, Zyats, and Bezur established an exact date for the creation of

the ink that was used to draw the Vinland Map, the text does say that titanium dioxide was introduced in ink manufacturing in the early 1900s. This fact provides enough information to determine that the ink that was used to draw the map was created no earlier than the early 1900s. This finding, in turn, led the team to conclude that the Vinland Map couldn't have been drawn in the mid-1400s.

Question Difficulty: Medium

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty  |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences |  |

**ID: 5432d1de**

It's common for jazz musicians and fans to refer to certain songs as having "swing," indicating that the songs provoke a strong feeling, like the impulse to tap one's foot or dance. The exact acoustic properties that give a song swing, however, have long been thought to be undefinable. To investigate swing, a team led by physicist Corentin Nélis delayed the downbeats and synchronized the offbeats in jazz piano solos and asked jazz musicians to compare the intensity of swing in each modified piece with the intensity of swing in the original piece. They found that participants were more than seven times likelier to characterize the modified songs as having swing than to characterize the original versions as having swing, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. synchronized offbeats tend to give a song swing regardless of whether downbeats are delayed.
- B. the acoustic properties that give a song swing are not easy for jazz musicians to manipulate.
- C. jazz songs that feature the piano are more likely to have swing than are jazz songs that do not feature the piano.
- D. the timing of downbeats and offbeats may play a crucial role in giving a song swing.

**ID: 5432d1de Answer**


Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The passage tells us that participants were "more than seven times likelier to characterize the modified songs as having swing than to characterize the original versions as having swing." Because the modified songs had been changed by altering the timing of the downbeats and offbeats, this suggests that the timing of downbeats and offbeats may play a crucial role in giving a song swing.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the passage mentions that the researchers "synchronized the offbeats" in the modified songs, they also "delayed the downbeats" in those songs. Because we can't disentangle whether it was the synchronized offbeats, the delayed downbeats, or the combination of both that increased the song's swing, we don't have enough information to make this inference. Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention whether or not it's difficult for a jazz musician to give a song swing, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn't compare jazz songs that feature piano to those that don't, so there's no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty  |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences |  |

**ID: 4e9afd7a**

The Indus River valley civilization flourished in South Asia from 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE. Many examples of the civilization's writing system exist, but researchers haven't yet deciphered it or identified which ancient language it represents. Nevertheless, archaeologists have found historical artifacts, such as clay figures and jewelry, that provide information about the civilization's customs and how its communities were organized. The archaeologists' findings therefore suggest that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. investigating an ancient civilization is easier without knowledge of the civilization's language.
- B. knowing an ancient civilization's language isn't necessary in order to learn details about the civilization.
- C. archaeological research should focus on finding additional artifacts rather than deciphering ancient languages.
- D. examining the civilization's historical artifacts has resolved the debate about this civilization's language.

**ID: 4e9afd7a Answer**

Correct Answer: B


Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the Indus River valley civilization. The text establishes that archaeologists haven't been able to interpret the Indus River valley civilization's writing system but have nevertheless acquired information about the civilization through historical artifacts. The fact that archaeologists have been able to learn about the Indus River valley civilization's customs and community organization from historical artifacts suggests that it isn't necessary to understand an ancient civilization's language to learn about the civilization.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss how easy it is to investigate ancient civilizations with or without knowledge of the civilization's language; rather, it states that even though researchers have not yet deciphered the language of the Indus River valley civilization, they are still able to learn about it through historical artifacts. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't make any claims as to what the focus of archaeological research should be. Rather, the text discusses how archaeologists have been able to learn about an ancient civilization through historical artifacts despite not understanding the civilization's language. Choice D is incorrect because the text states that the civilization's language has not yet been interpreted; it makes no mention of a debate about the language. Instead, the text suggests that examination of the historical artifacts has allowed archaeologists to learn about the civilization but has not aided thus far in deciphering its language.

Question Difficulty: Medium



| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty  |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences |  |

**ID: 3882ddf6**

To investigate the history of plate subduction—when one of Earth’s tectonic plates slides beneath another—Sarah M. Aarons and colleagues compared ancient rocks from the Acasta Gneiss Complex in Canada to modern rocks. Using isotope analysis, the researchers found that Acasta rocks dating to about 4.02 billion years ago (bya) most strongly resemble modern rocks formed in a plume setting (an area in which hot rocks from Earth’s mantle flow upward into the crust). By contrast, they found that Acasta rocks dating to about 3.75 bya and 3.6 bya have an isotope composition that is similar to that of modern rocks formed in a subduction setting. Aarons’s team therefore concluded that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. subduction-like processes began occurring in some locations no later than 3.75 bya.
- B. subduction replaced mantle plume formation as the most common geological process by about 4.02 bya.
- C. the majority of the rocks in the Acasta Gneiss Complex formed through subduction.
- D. the rocks in the Acasta Gneiss Complex are of a more recent origin than scientists previously thought.

**ID: 3882ddf6 Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Because researchers found “Acasta rocks dating to about 3.75 bya” were similar to “modern rocks formed in a subduction setting,” we can infer that subduction-like processes must have begun occurring in the Acasta Gneiss Complex by this time.

Choice B is incorrect. We only know about geological processes at the Acasta Gneiss Complex, so we do not have information to make inferences about geological processes in general. Also, notice that the rocks dated to 4.02 bya were found to still be formed in a plume setting, so the transition must have happened after this time. Choice C is incorrect. There’s no mention in the passage of what proportion of the rocks within Acasta Gneiss Complex were formed through subduction, so there’s no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. The passage discusses various rocks in the Acasta Gneiss Complex that are dated to different periods of time, but nothing in the passage suggests that these dates are or were wrong.

Question Difficulty: Medium

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty                                   |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|--|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |

ID: 350e2336

The Haitian Declaration of Independence was issued in 1804, bringing to an end the revolution against colonial France that began in 1791. Written in French, which was not the first language of most Haitians but which was used throughout Europe as the language of international diplomacy, the declaration notes that Haiti will not bring rebellion to other Caribbean nations, promises to respect the sovereignty of its neighbors—widely understood as a reassurance to the United States—and sets up Haiti as an example for future struggles against colonizers (an implicit reference to the many colonies then found in the Americas). So even though the declaration is explicitly addressed to the Haitian people, it’s reasonable to conclude that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. aspects of the declaration were modeled on similar documents from other countries.
- B. the French government may have been surprised by the declaration.
- C. many Haitian people opposed the revolution and the declaration.
- D. the declaration actually had several intended audiences.

ID: 350e2336 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The passage tells us that the declaration was written in a language important to European diplomacy but not most Haitians, states that the declaration included "a reassurance to the United States," and made implicit references to colonies in the Americas. Because of the messages within the declaration that were largely irrelevant to the Haitian people, we can assume that the Haitian people were not the only audience for this document.

Choice A is incorrect. There’s no mention in the passage of similar documents in other countries, so there’s no basis for this inference. Choice B is incorrect. Although there’s an implicit reference to European governments when the passage discusses how the declaration was written in French, "which was used throughout Europe as the language of international diplomacy," there is no discussion of the French government’s response to the declaration. Therefore, there’s no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn’t mention the popularity of the revolution and declaration among the Haitian people, so there’s no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty                                   |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|--|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |

ID: 575e67df

By running computer simulations of the development of our solar system, André Izidoro, Rajdeep Dasgupta, and colleagues concluded that the Sun may have been surrounded by three giant dust rings before the planets started to form. The researchers suggest that the materials in the innermost ring became the four planets closest to the Sun, the materials in the middle ring produced the rest of the planets, and the materials in the outermost ring created the asteroids and other small bodies in the region beyond Neptune. In one simulation, the researchers delayed the initial formation of the middle ring, causing oversized super-Earths to begin developing from the innermost ring. The researchers therefore hypothesize that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the middle ring formed earlier in the solar system’s development than the initial simulations suggested.
- B. the timing of the initial formation of the middle ring played an important role in determining the eventual size of Earth.
- C. if the formation of the outermost ring had occurred earlier in a simulation, all the planets would have become super-Earths.
- D. the innermost ring actually formed into all the planets in our solar system, not just the four closest to the Sun.

ID: 575e67df Answer

Correct Answer: B


Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically follows from the text’s discussion of André Izidoro, Rajdeep Dasgupta, and colleagues’ computer simulations of our solar system’s development. The text begins by stating that the simulations led the researchers to conclude that the solar system likely formed from three giant dust rings that encircled the Sun. The text explains that the four inner planets, including Earth, formed from the innermost ring and that the remaining planets formed from the middle ring. It then explains that in one simulation, the researchers delayed the formation of the middle ring—that is, they tested to see what would happen if the middle ring had formed later than it actually did. They found that doing so affected the size of the innermost planets, resulting in oversized super-Earths, planets that are much larger than Earth. Since the delayed timing had the effect of changing the size of Earth in the simulation relative to Earth’s real size, it’s reasonable to conclude that the timing of the middle ring’s formation was important in determining Earth’s eventual size.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text explains that when the researchers delayed the formation of the middle ring in one simulation, the size of the innermost planets was affected (which suggests that the middle ring likely formed earlier than it did in this simulation), the text doesn’t indicate that this was an initial simulation—that is, a simulation that was conducted before other simulations. Moreover, the text makes no reference to the specific results of any other simulations; therefore, there is no basis for comparing any

conclusions based on the simulation in which the middle ring's formation was delayed with conclusions based on other simulations. Choice C is incorrect because the text discusses how altering the timing of the formation of the middle ring, not the outermost ring, affected the four innermost planets' eventual size in the researchers' simulation; therefore, the simulation offers no basis for a conclusion about how the outermost ring's formation affected the size of the planets. Choice D is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to suggest that the innermost ring produced all the solar system's planets. Rather, the text states that the simulations showed that the innermost planets formed from the innermost ring and that the remaining planets formed from the middle ring.

Question Difficulty: Medium

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty  |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences |  |

**ID: 485962a6**

Astronomers investigated the Arabia Terra region of Mars because it appears to contain irregularly shaped craters that may have been caused by massive volcanic explosions. In their investigations of Arabia Terra, the researchers found remnants of ash deposits in an amount and thickness that would result from a massive volcanic eruption. However, erosion and past resurfacing events could have modified the surface of the planet. Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the current makeup of the Arabia Terra region might not accurately reflect the volcanic activity of Mars's past.
- B. eruptions from Mars's volcanoes were likely not as massive as astronomers previously believed.
- C. ash was most likely expelled from multiple different volcanoes on Mars's surface.
- D. the craters found in the Arabia Terra region were necessarily created by events other than volcanic eruptions.

**ID: 485962a6 Answer**


Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of the Arabia Terra region of Mars. According to the text, there are craters in Arabia Terra that could be the result of volcanic activity, and researchers have found evidence of ash deposits consistent with a large eruption. The text goes on to note, however, that erosion and other events could have altered the surface of Mars. This observation suggests that current conditions on Mars's surface are not necessarily a reliable guide to past events—some signs of past events could have been transformed or erased entirely—and thus the current makeup of Arabia Terra may not accurately reflect past volcanic activity.

Choice B is incorrect because the text suggests only that past events could have changed Mars's surface such that its current appearance isn't a reliable guide to past activity, not that it's likely that past eruptions were not as massive as astronomers previously believed. Nothing in the text supports a conclusion about the likely size of past eruptions. Choice C is incorrect because the observation that resurfacing events could have changed the appearance of Mars doesn't imply that the ash discussed in the text likely came from multiple volcanoes. Although it's possible that the ash came from different volcanoes, there's no information in the text supporting a conclusion about how likely that possibility is. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the Arabia Terra craters had to have been created by something other than volcanic eruptions. Although the text does suggest that the evidence consistent with volcanic eruptions shouldn't be taken as definitive proof of past eruptions, that doesn't mean that the craters couldn't have been created by eruptions, only that we can't be certain they were.

Question Difficulty: Medium

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty  |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences |  |

**ID: 299c5303**

As the name suggests, dramaturges originated in theater, where they continue to serve a variety of functions: conducting historical research for directors, compiling character biographies for actors, and perhaps most importantly, helping writers of plays and musicals to hone the works' stories and characters. Performance scholar Susan Manning observes that many choreographers, like playwrights and musical theater writers, are concerned with storytelling and characterization. In fact, some choreographers describe the dances they create as expressions of narrative through movement; it is therefore unsurprising that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. dramaturges can have a profound impact on the artistic direction of plays and musicals.
- B. choreographers developing dances with narrative elements frequently engage dramaturges to assist in refining those elements.
- C. dances by choreographers who incorporate narrative elements are more accessible to audiences than dances by choreographers who do not.
- D. some directors and actors rely too heavily on dramaturges to complete certain research tasks.

**ID: 299c5303 Answer**


Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Dramaturges help playwrights with storytelling and characterization. Choreographers often tell stories through dance, so they are also concerned with storytelling and characterization. This suggests that the fact that choreographers seek the help of dramaturges with the storytelling aspects of their dances should be “unsurprising.”

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The beginning of the text does imply that this is true, but the end is leading to a conclusion about how choreographers use dramaturges. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never mentions dances by choreographers who don't incorporate narrative elements. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text mentions in passing that directors use dramaturges to conduct research, but it never suggests that directors and actors are too reliant on them. Also, the text is leading to a conclusion about how choreographers use dramaturges.

Question Difficulty: Medium

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty  |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences |  |

## ID: bcf2f169

Ana Castillo's 1986 novel *The Mixquiahuala Letters* is a story told entirely through expressive letters from the narrator to her friend—letters that Castillo suggests could be read in several different orders. As they began reading it in class, some students remarked that they found the novel's letter format daunting and its treatment of gender relations old-fashioned. The professor, however, pointed out that the novel is written in modern-sounding language and addresses issues that still matter today, suggesting that *The Mixquiahuala Letters* \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. has more to say about gender relations than other novels from the same period.
- B. is more relevant to contemporary audiences than it may seem at first.
- C. is easier to read than many contemporary novels that focus on friendship.
- D. is best understood after multiple readings in different orders.

## ID: bcf2f169 Answer


Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Ana Castillo's 1986 novel *The Mixquiahuala Letters*. The text states that the novel consists entirely of letters from the narrator to her friend—a format that some students reading the novel in a class found intimidating. According to the text, those students also found the novel's treatment of gender to be old-fashioned. In response to the students' concerns, their professor emphasized the novel's relevance: it's written in modern-sounding language and addresses issues that still matter. This, in turn, suggests that *The Mixquiahuala Letters* is more relevant to contemporary audiences than it may initially seem.

Choice A is incorrect because the professor's response to the students only mentions *The Mixquiahuala Letters*; it doesn't compare the novel to others from the same period. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the professor's response to the students compares *The Mixquiahuala Letters* to contemporary novels about friendship. Choice D is incorrect because the professor's response to the students doesn't address the idea of reading the novel's letters multiple times and in different orders.

Question Difficulty: Medium

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty  |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences |  |

**ID: cac82f9b**

Biologist Natacha Bodenhausen and colleagues analyzed the naturally occurring bacterial communities associated with leaves and roots of wild *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a small flowering plant. The researchers found many of the same bacterial genera in both the plants' leaves and roots. To explain this, the researchers pointed to the general proximity of *A. thaliana* leaves to the ground and noted that rain splashing off soil could bring soil-based bacteria into contact with the leaves. Alternatively, the researchers noted that wind, which may be a source of bacteria in the aboveground portion of plants, could also bring bacteria to the soil and roots. Either explanation suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. bacteria carried by wind are typically less beneficial to *A. thaliana* than soil-based bacteria are.
- B. some bacteria in *A. thaliana* leaves and roots may share a common source.
- C. many bacteria in *A. thaliana* leaves may have been deposited by means other than rain.
- D. *A. thaliana* leaves and roots are especially vulnerable to harmful bacteria.

**ID: cac82f9b Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Both explanations suggest that the bacteria come from the same place: either they come from the ground and make their way to the leaves, or they come from above the ground and make their way to the roots.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never discusses any benefits of any kind of bacteria. Choice C is incorrect. This conflicts with the text. One of the theories is that the bacteria in the leaves were deposited by rain splashing off soil. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text only discusses "naturally occurring" bacteria. It never mentions either the harms or benefits of these bacteria.

Question Difficulty: Medium



| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

**ID: f1bfbed3**

Marta Coll and colleagues' 2010 Mediterranean Sea biodiversity census reported approximately 17,000 species, nearly double the number reported in Carlo Bianchi and Carla Morri's 2000 census—a difference only partly attributable to the description of new invertebrate species in the interim. Another factor is that the morphological variability of microorganisms is poorly understood compared to that of vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, and algae, creating uncertainty about how to evaluate microorganisms as species. Researchers' decisions on such matters therefore can be highly consequential. Indeed, the two censuses reported similar counts of vertebrate, plant, and algal species, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. Coll and colleagues reported a much higher number of species than Bianchi and Morri did largely due to the inclusion of invertebrate species that had not been described at the time of Bianchi and Morri's census.
- B. some differences observed in microorganisms may have been treated as variations within species by Bianchi and Morri but treated as indicative of distinct species by Coll and colleagues.
- C. Bianchi and Morri may have been less sensitive to the degree of morphological variation displayed within a typical species of microorganism than Coll and colleagues were.
- D. the absence of clarity regarding how to differentiate among species of microorganisms may have resulted in Coll and colleagues underestimating the number of microorganism species.

**ID: f1bfbed3 Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically completes the text's discussion of the different counts of species in the Mediterranean Sea. The text states that Coll and colleagues reported almost double the number of species that Bianchi and Morri reported in their study ten years earlier. According to the text, this difference can only be partly attributed to new invertebrate species being described in the years between the two studies, which means there must be an additional factor that made Coll and colleagues' count so much higher than Bianchi and Morri's count. The text goes on to explain that factor: researchers have a relatively poor understanding of microorganisms' morphological variability, or the differences in microorganisms' structure and form. This poor understanding makes it hard to classify microorganisms by species and means that researchers' decisions about classifying microorganisms can have a large effect on the overall species counts that researchers report. Additionally, the text says that the two censuses reported similar numbers of vertebrate, plant, and algal species, which means that the difference in overall species did not come from differences in those categories. Given all this information, it most logically follows that Coll and colleagues may have treated some of the differences among microorganisms as indicative of the microorganisms being different species, whereas Bianchi and Morri treated those differences

as variations within species, resulting in Coll and colleagues reporting many more species than Bianchi and Morri did.

Choice A is incorrect because the text explicitly addresses this issue by stating that the description of new invertebrate species in the years between the two studies can explain only part of the difference in the number of species reported by the studies. The focus of the text is on explaining the difference between Coll and colleagues' count and Bianchi and Morri's count that cannot be accounted for by the inclusion of invertebrate species that had not been described at the time of Bianchi and Morri's study. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Bianchi and Morri may have been less sensitive to how much the form and structure of microorganisms vary within the same species than Coll and colleagues were. If Bianchi and Morri had been less sensitive to within-species variation than Coll and colleagues were, Bianchi and Morri would likely have reported more species than Coll and colleagues did, since less sensitivity to within-species variation would lead researchers to classify as different species microorganisms that more sensitive researchers would classify as variations within the same species. The text indicates, however, that Bianchi and Morri reported far fewer species than Coll and colleagues did; since the text also excludes other explanations for this difference, it suggests that in fact Bianchi and Morri were more sensitive to within-species variation than Coll and colleagues were, leading Bianchi and Morri to report fewer overall species. Choice D is incorrect because the text is focused on explaining why Coll and colleagues reported many more species than Bianchi and Morri did, and an underestimate of the number of microorganism species by Coll and colleagues would not explain that difference—it would suggest, in fact, that the difference in the number of species should have been even larger.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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**ID: ce4448b7**

Researchers recently found that disruptions to an enjoyable experience, like a short series of advertisements during a television show, often increase viewers' reported enjoyment. Suspecting that disruptions to an unpleasant experience would have the opposite effect, the researchers had participants listen to construction noise for 30 minutes and anticipated that those whose listening experience was frequently interrupted with short breaks of silence would thus \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. find the disruptions more irritating as time went on.
- B. rate the listening experience as more negative than those whose listening experience was uninterrupted.
- C. rate the experience of listening to construction noise as lasting for less time than it actually lasted.
- D. perceive the volume of the construction noise as growing softer over time.

**ID: ce4448b7 Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. It most logically completes the text. The text tells us that disruptions to an enjoyable experience increase viewers' enjoyment. It also says that researchers suspect the opposite is true for disruptions to an unpleasant experience. Thus, we can infer that the researchers expect to find that the interrupted unpleasant experience was worse for listeners than the uninterrupted unpleasant experience.

Choice A is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text never makes any claims about how irritating the disruptions themselves are perceived to be. Rather, the text says that pleasant experiences are perceived as more enjoyable with interruptions, and that the opposite is suspected to be true of unpleasant experiences. Choice C is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text never makes any claims about how long any experience is perceived to be. Rather, the text says that pleasant experiences are perceived as more enjoyable with interruptions, and that the opposite is suspected to be true of unpleasant experiences. Choice D is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text never makes any claims about how interruptions affect the perceived volume of the unpleasant or pleasant experience. Rather, the text says that pleasant experiences are perceived as more enjoyable with interruptions, and that the opposite is suspected to be true of unpleasant experiences.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

**ID: f9bd4e61**

German theater practitioner Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956) believed that theater should elicit an intellectual rather than an emotional response from audiences, provoking them to consider social and political realities that extend beyond the characters and events depicted onstage. Brecht’s influence can be seen in English playwright Caryl Churchill’s 1979 play *Cloud 9*: although the play sometimes invites empathetic reactions, it primarily works to engage audiences in an interrogation of patriarchy and colonialism, which it does by placing audiences at a distance, thereby encouraging them to \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. focus on the characters’ beliefs about social and political issues as revealed by the characters’ actions.
- B. reflect on social and political phenomena not directly related to patriarchy and colonialism.
- C. recognize pertinent social and political parallels between Germany during Brecht’s time and England at the time when Churchill was writing *Cloud 9*.
- D. be dispassionate as they think critically about the social and political questions raised by the play.

**ID: f9bd4e61 Answer**

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Churchill’s play was influenced by Brecht’s belief that theater should elicit an intellectual rather than an emotional response from audiences, making them think about social and political issues that also exist outside of the play. Therefore, it makes sense that Churchill would strive to have audiences think dispassionately (i.e., without emotion) and critically about the social and political questions raised by the play.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage mentions that Churchill was influenced by Brecht’s belief that plays should provoke audience members “to consider social and political realities that extend beyond the characters and events depicted onstage,” so there’s no basis for an inference about audience members deeply engaging with characters’ beliefs and actions. Choice B is incorrect. Reflecting on things that aren’t related to patriarchy and colonialism wouldn’t “engage audiences in an interrogation of patriarchy and colonialism.” That creates a confusing contradiction. Choice C is incorrect. No mention is made of social and political issues in Germany during Brecht’s time, so there’s no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

**ID: 4889580c**

Archaeologists and historians used to believe that the Maya civilization during its Classic period (roughly 250–900) lacked agricultural marketplaces. One reason for this belief was that these scholars misunderstood the ecology of the regions the Maya inhabited. Marketplaces typically emerge because different individuals or groups want to trade resources they control for resources they don't control. Scholars seriously underestimated the ecological diversity of the Maya landscape and thus assumed that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. marketplaces likely would not have attracted many traders from outside the regions controlled by the Maya.
- B. farming practices would have been largely the same throughout Maya lands even if the crops people produced varied significantly.
- C. marketplaces would not have enabled Maya people to acquire many products different from those they already produced.
- D. farmers would trade agricultural products only if they had already produced enough to meet their own needs.

**ID: 4889580c Answer**

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of scholars' understanding of Maya ecology and agricultural marketplaces. The text indicates that scholars used to believe that during the Classic period, the Maya civilization didn't have agricultural marketplaces. According to the text, scholars held this view because they misunderstood the ecology of areas where the Maya lived. The text points out that people tend to create marketplaces in order to acquire resources they don't otherwise control. Agricultural marketplaces would have allowed farmers who produced one type of crop to trade that crop for other types of crops that they didn't produce. The text goes on to say, however, that scholars underestimated the ecological diversity of the Maya areas, meaning that scholars thought that the Maya landscape produced a smaller range of resources than it actually produced. Taken together, then, this information suggests that scholars assumed that marketplaces wouldn't have allowed Maya people to acquire products different from the products they already produced: that is, if everyone produced the same array of crops, as scholars mistakenly believed, then there wouldn't have been any need for marketplaces where people could trade those crops.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't say anything about trade between the Maya and people from outside the regions controlled by the Maya. Although scholars' mistaken belief that the Maya lands weren't very ecologically diverse would give those scholars a reason to think that the Maya didn't have marketplaces, it wouldn't lead scholars to assume that traders from outside Maya lands were uninterested in acquiring resources produced by the Maya. Even if the Maya actually did produce only a small array of resources

throughout their lands, there is no reason to believe from the text that people outside Maya lands also produced these same resources and thus would have no need to trade with the Maya people. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that scholars underestimated the ecological diversity of the Maya lands, which suggests that they mistakenly believed that the Maya produced a relatively small array of resources throughout their territory, not that the crops the Maya produced varied significantly throughout the Maya lands. Although the scholars might have assumed that a lack of ecological diversity suggests that Maya farming practices were largely the same everywhere, the text does not support that they also assumed there was a lot of variation in the crops that Maya people produced. In fact, the text states that marketplaces emerge when people want to obtain resources they don't already control. If it were the case that scholars assumed that the crops Maya people produced varied significantly, this would have led them to conclude that Maya people likely established marketplaces so they could trade for resources they didn't already possess, not that the Maya civilization lacked marketplaces. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that scholars assumed that farmers wouldn't trade their agricultural products unless they had already met their own needs with those products. Instead, the text says that scholars thought that the Maya lands produced a smaller array of resources than they actually did, which the text suggests led scholars to assume that the Maya didn't have any need for marketplaces. The scholars' mistaken belief has no bearing on the issue of whether farmers met their own needs before trading their products.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

ID: aaddd60f

Scientists studying Mars long thought the history of its crust was relatively simple. One reason for this is that geologic and climate data collected by a spacecraft showed that the crust was largely composed of basalt, likely as a result of intense volcanic activity that brought about a magma ocean, which then cooled to form the planet’s surface. A study led by Valerie Payré focused on additional information—further analysis of data collected by the spacecraft and infrared wavelengths detected from Mars’s surface—that revealed the presence of surprisingly high concentrations of silica in certain regions on Mars. Since a planetary surface that formed in a mostly basaltic environment would be unlikely to contain large amounts of silica, Payré concluded that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the information about silica concentrations collected by the spacecraft is likely more reliable than the silica information gleaned from infrared wavelengths detected from Mars’s surface.
- B. high silica concentrations on Mars likely formed from a different process than that which formed the crusts of other planets.
- C. having a clearer understanding of the composition of Mars’s crust and the processes by which it formed will provide more insight into how Earth’s crust formed.
- D. Mars’s crust likely formed as a result of other major geological events in addition to the cooling of a magma ocean.

ID: aaddd60f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Cooling magma would create basalt, but “a planetary surface that formed in a mostly basaltic environment would be unlikely to contain large amounts of silica.” Since Mars’s crust does contain large amounts of silica, it is unlikely that Mars’s crust was formed exclusively by cooling magma. Therefore, there were likely other major geological events that created the high silica concentrations.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the passage discusses these two methods of collecting data about Mars’s crust, it never compares their reliability, so there’s no basis for this inference. Choice B is incorrect. The passage never mentions anything about the crusts of other planets, so there’s no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage never mentions Earth’s crust, so there’s no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

**ID: 08395130**

The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is projected to maintain operation until at least 2030, but it has already revolutionized high-resolution imaging of solar-system bodies in visible and ultraviolet (UV) light wavelengths, notwithstanding that only about 6% of the bodies imaged by the HST are within the solar system. NASA researcher Cindy L. Young and colleagues assert that a new space telescope dedicated exclusively to solar-system observations would permit an extensive survey of minor solar-system bodies and long-term UV observation to discern how solar-system bodies change over time. Young and colleagues' recommendation therefore implies that the HST \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. will likely continue to be used primarily to observe objects outside the solar system.
- B. will no longer be used to observe solar system objects if the telescope recommended by Young and colleagues is deployed.
- C. can be modified to observe the features of solar system objects that are of interest to Young and colleagues.
- D. lacks the sensors to observe the wavelengths of light needed to discern how solar system bodies change over time.

**ID: 08395130 Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The HST will operate until at least 2030, but it's only observing stuff inside our solar system 6% of the time. If we could get a different telescope to observe stuff inside our solar system 100% of the time and take more extensive images of certain things, then the HST could continue to be used mainly for observing stuff outside the solar system.

Choice B is incorrect. This inference is too strong to be supported by the text. Even if the new telescope is deployed, the HST might still be used as it's being used now. Based on the text, the new telescope would just be used for more extensive and long-term imaging of solar system bodies, which doesn't necessarily overlap with the HST. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never mentions the possibility of modifying the HST, so there is no basis to make this inference. Rather, the researchers suggest using a different telescope to more closely observe certain objects. Choice D is incorrect. This inference is too strong to be supported. The text doesn't give us enough info to assume that the HST lacks any particular sensors.

Question Difficulty: Hard



| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

**ID: cef77aa7**

Geoglyphs are large-scale designs of lines or shapes created in a natural landscape. The Nazca Lines were created in the Nazca Desert in Peru by several Indigenous civilizations over a period of many centuries. Peruvian archaeologist Johny Isla specializes in these geoglyphs. At a German exhibit about the Nazca Lines, he saw an old photograph of a large geoglyph of a whalelike figure and was surprised that he didn't recognize it. Isla returned to Peru and used a drone to search a wide area, looking for the figure from the air. This approach suggests that Isla thought that if he hadn't already seen it, the whalelike geoglyph \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. must represent a species of whale that went extinct before there were any people in Peru.
- B. is actually located in Germany, not Peru, and isn't part of the Nazca Lines at all.
- C. is probably in a location Isla hadn't ever come across while on the ground.
- D. was almost certainly created a long time after the other Nazca Lines geoglyphs were created.

**ID: cef77aa7 Answer**

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Johny Isla and the whalelike geoglyph. The text indicates that the German exhibit about the Nazca Lines included a photograph showing a whalelike geoglyph that Isla hadn't known about before attending the exhibit, even though Isla "specializes in" Nazca Lines geoglyphs. Given his expertise, and his surprise at being unfamiliar with the whale glyph, the text strongly suggests that Isla believed he would have noticed the glyph if he had been to its location. Thus, the text implies that the whalelike geoglyph is likely in a location Isla had not previously been to.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't address either the species of whale that the geoglyph is meant to represent or its relationship to the earliest humans in the area that is now Peru. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text indicates that the photograph of the whalelike geoglyph was on display at a "German exhibit," that exhibit was specifically "about the Nazca Lines," which the text indicates are located in Peru. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text does indicate that the glyphs were created "over a period of many centuries," the text doesn't address when in that period of time any particular glyphs were created.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

ID: 2a075bd1

Indigenous cultures possess unique knowledge of the medicinal uses of plants. According to a 2021 study, 73 percent of the medicinal uses of plants native to North America are reflected in the vocabulary of a single Indigenous language. However, as more and more Indigenous people exclusively speak a globally dominant language, such as English, their ancestral languages fade from daily use. These facts lend added importance to tribal nations’ efforts to preserve their languages. By ensuring the continued use of Cherokee, Ojibwe, and the hundreds of other Indigenous languages in what is now the United States, tribal nations are also \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. increasing the number of medicinal plants represented in the vocabularies of Indigenous languages.
- B. transmitting terms for medicinal plants from Indigenous languages to globally dominant languages.
- C. preserving knowledge about the medicinal value of plants native to the tribal nations’ lands.
- D. ensuring that citizens of tribal nations have physical access to medicinal plants.

ID: 2a075bd1 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the relationship between Indigenous languages and knowledge of the medicinal uses of plants. The text states that Indigenous cultures possess special knowledge of the medicinal uses of plants, which is reflected in their vocabulary. The text then discusses how tribal nations are working to preserve their languages, whose daily use is declining as globally dominant languages become increasingly dominant in Indigenous communities. Given that the languages of tribal nations in what is now the United States function as repositories of knowledge about plants’ medicinal uses, it logically follows that continued use of those languages will assist with passing on knowledge about the medicinal value of plants native to the tribal nations’ lands.

Choice A is incorrect because the text states that preserving Indigenous languages will increase the knowledge, not the number, of medicinal plants. Choice B is incorrect because the text is concerned with how vocabulary about the medicinal value of plants can be preserved through the continued daily use of Indigenous languages, not with how such vocabulary can be incorporated into globally dominant, non-Indigenous languages. Moreover, the text explains that the exclusive use of globally dominant languages in Indigenous communities comes at an expense to the continued daily use of those communities’ languages. Given this relationship, it is unlikely globally dominant languages would borrow Indigenous vocabulary pertaining to plants’ medicinal uses. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t discuss physical access to medicinal plants, instead focusing on Indigenous knowledge and language surrounding the medicinal uses of plants.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

**ID: 95dbdf51**

Laura Mulvey has theorized that in narrative film, shots issuing from a protagonist's point of view compel viewers to identify with the character. Such identification is heightened by "invisible editing," or editing so inconspicuous that it renders cuts between shots almost unnoticeable. Conversely, Mulvey proposes that conspicuous editing or an absence of point-of-view shots would induce a more critical stance toward a protagonist. Consider, for example, the attic scene in Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*, a conspicuously edited sequence of tens of shots, few of which correspond to the protagonist's point of view. According to Mulvey's logic, this scene should affect viewers by \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. obscuring their awareness of the high degree of artifice involved in constructing the montage.
- B. lessening their identification with the protagonist, if not alienating them from the character altogether.
- C. compelling them to identify with the film's director, whose proxy is the camera, and not with the protagonist.
- D. diverting their attention away from the film's content and toward its stylistic attributes.

**ID: 95dbdf51 Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. We're told that point-of-view shots and "invisible editing" make audiences identify with a character. We're also told that obvious editing and a lack of point-of-view shots have the opposite effect. Since the sequence in *The Birds* falls into this second category, it should have the effect of reducing the audience's connection with the protagonist.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention viewers' awareness of artifice (i.e., camera trickery) in films, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention the director at all, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. The passage doesn't discuss whether a film's "stylistic attributes" may distract viewers from the film's story, so there's no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

**ID: a13c1c66**

Many animals, including humans, must sleep, and sleep is known to have a role in everything from healing injuries to encoding information in long-term memory. But some scientists claim that, from an evolutionary standpoint, deep sleep for hours at a time leaves an animal so vulnerable that the known benefits of sleeping seem insufficient to explain why it became so widespread in the animal kingdom. These scientists therefore imply that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. prolonged deep sleep is likely advantageous in ways that have yet to be discovered.
- B. most traits perform functions that are hard to understand from an evolutionary standpoint.
- C. it is more important to understand how widespread prolonged deep sleep is than to understand its function.
- D. many traits that provide significant benefits for an animal also likely pose risks to that animal.

**ID: a13c1c66 Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It most logically completes the text. The text says that some scientists can't explain why prolonged deep sleep is so widespread, given that the known benefits of sleep don't seem to make up for how vulnerable it leaves an animal. This suggests that prolonged deep sleep probably has unknown evolutionary benefits that make up for the vulnerability.

Choice B is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text only discusses the benefits and risks of one trait: sleep. So there's no basis for an inference about "most traits." Choice C is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text says that it is already known that prolonged deep sleep is widespread in the animal kingdom. Rather, what some scientists can't explain is WHY prolonged deep sleep is so widespread, given that the known benefits of sleep don't seem to make up for how vulnerable it leaves an animal. Choice D is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text only discusses the benefits and risks of one trait: sleep. So there's no basis for an inference about "many traits."

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

**ID: f942646f**

Researchers Suchithra Rajendran and Maximilian Popfinger modeled varying levels of passenger redistribution from short-haul flights (flights of 50 to 210 minutes, from takeoff to landing) to high-speed rail trips. Planes travel faster than trains, but air travel typically requires 3 hours of lead time for security, baggage handling, and boarding that rail travel doesn't, so short-haul routes take similar amounts of time by air and by rail. However, the model suggests that as rail passenger volumes approach current capacity limits, long lead times emerge. Therefore, for rail to remain a viable alternative to short-haul flights, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. rail systems should offer fewer long-haul routes and airlines should offer more long-haul routes.
- B. rail systems may need to schedule additional trains for these routes.
- C. security, baggage handling, and boarding procedures used by airlines may need to be implemented for rail systems.
- D. passengers who travel by rail for these routes will need to accept that lead times will be similar to those for air travel.

**ID: f942646f Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Air travel usually requires much more "lead time" than train travel, so short flights end up taking the same amount of time as a train trip to the same destination. But train travel starts to need more "lead time" when the trains approach their capacity limits. This suggests that train companies should add more trains for these routes if they want to encourage travelers to take a train instead of a plane.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never discusses "long-haul routes" for either air travel or rail travel, so there is no basis to make this inference. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text only mentions these procedures to explain why the "lead time" is so long for air travel. It never suggests that trains need to start implementing these procedures too. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The goal is to make sure that trains "remain a viable alternative" to short flights, which suggests that anything that makes train travel take longer should be avoided.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

**ID: 0dccbf17**

Henry Ossawa Tanner's 1893 painting *The Banjo Lesson*, which depicts an elderly man teaching a boy to play the banjo, is regarded as a landmark in the history of works by Black artists in the United States. Scholars should be cautious when ascribing political or ideological values to the painting, however: beliefs and assumptions that are commonly held now may have been unfamiliar to Tanner and his contemporaries, and vice versa. Scholars who forget this fact when discussing *The Banjo Lesson* therefore \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. risk judging Tanner's painting by standards that may not be historically appropriate.
- B. tend to conflate Tanner's political views with those of his contemporaries.
- C. forgo analyzing Tanner's painting in favor of analyzing his political activity.
- D. wrongly assume that Tanner's painting was intended as a critique of his fellow artists.

**ID: 0dccbf17 Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It most logically completes the text. The text argues that Tanner and his contemporaries may have been unfamiliar with modern beliefs and values. This suggests that scholars who attribute those modern values to Tanner's painting are risking judging the painting by standards that are not historically accurate.

Choice B is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text argues that Tanner AND his contemporaries may have been unfamiliar with modern views. It never suggests that Tanner's views were different from his contemporaries' views. Choice C is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text never suggests that scholars should analyze Tanner's political activity instead of his painting. Rather, the text argues that Tanner and his contemporaries may have been unfamiliar with modern beliefs and values. Choice D is incorrect. It doesn't logically complete the text. The text never suggests that Tanner wanted to critique his contemporaries with his painting. Rather, the text argues that Tanner AND his contemporaries may have been unfamiliar with modern beliefs and values.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

ID: 61228830

A heliograph is a semaphore device used for sending optical communications—usually in the form of Morse code—by reflecting flashes of sunlight off a mirror. Heliographs were used for rapid communication across expansive distances for military, surveying, and forestry purposes during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but they were largely effective only during the daytime, and the range of the device depended on factors such as the opacity of the air and line of sight. Therefore, heliographs were eventually replaced by technology that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. worked on similar principles but was easier to produce and maintain.
- B. was not so constrained by environmental circumstances.
- C. could be used for more than military, surveying, or forestry purposes.
- D. enabled communication that didn’t require knowledge of Morse code.

ID: 61228830 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The passage explains that heliographs “were largely effective only during the daytime” and that “the range of the device depended on factors such as the opacity of the air and line of sight.” These constraints would have greatly limited the use of the heliograph, so we can infer that this would have been a reason to replace it with new technology.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage doesn’t discuss the production and maintenance of heliographs, so there’s no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn’t mention any “other purposes” that a heliograph wouldn’t work for, so there’s no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. The passage doesn’t mention knowledge of Morse code as a particular problem with the use of heliographs, so there’s no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Hard



| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

ID: d1539546

Tides can deposit large quantities of dead vegetation within a salt marsh, smothering healthy plants and leaving a salt panne—a depression devoid of plants that tends to trap standing water—in the marsh’s interior. Ecologist Kathryn Beheshti and colleagues found that burrowing crabs living within these pannes improve drainage by loosening the soil, leading the pannes to shrink as marsh plants move back in. At salt marsh edges, however, crab-induced soil loosening can promote marsh loss by accelerating erosion, suggesting that the burrowing action of crabs \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. can be beneficial to marshes with small pannes but can be harmful to marshes with large pannes.
- B. may promote increases in marsh plants or decreases in marsh plants, depending on the crabs’ location.
- C. tends to be more heavily concentrated in areas of marsh interiors with standing water than at marsh edges.
- D. varies in intensity depending on the size of the panne relative to the size of the surrounding marsh.

ID: d1539546 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text says that crab burrowing in the pannes enables plants to grow there again. It also says that crab burrowing at the edges of the marsh speeds up marsh loss. This suggests that burrowing crabs can either help or hurt marshes, depending on where they’re located.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never discusses pannes of different sizes. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never suggests that crabs do more burrowing in the pannes (the areas with standing water) than they do at the edges. Rather, the text says that the burrowing that happens in the pannes is beneficial, while the burrowing that happens at the edges is harmful. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never discusses the intensity of crab burrowing, nor does it discuss the size of the panne relative to the size of the marsh.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

**ID: 9abc3ba5**

"Gestures" in painting are typically thought of as bold, expressive brushstrokes. In the 1970s, American painter Jack Whitten built a 12-foot (3.7-meter) tool he named the "developer" to apply paint to an entire canvas in one motion, resulting in his series of "slab" paintings from that decade. Whitten described this process as making an entire painting in "one gesture," signaling a clear departure from the prevalence of gestures in his work from the 1960s. Some art historians claim this shift represents "removing gesture" from the process. Therefore, regardless of whether using the developer constitutes a gesture, both Whitten and these art historians likely agree that

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. any tool that a painter uses to create an artwork is capable of creating gestures.
- B. Whitten's work from the 1960s exhibits many more gestures than his work from the 1970s does.
- C. Whitten became less interested in exploring the role of gesture in his work as his career progressed.
- D. Whitten's work from the 1960s is much more realistic than his work from the 1970s is.

**ID: 9abc3ba5 Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Whitten thinks the tool made "one gesture" paintings, while historians think the tool "removed gesture" from the process completely. But putting that debate aside, both Whitten and the historians would agree that the paintings he made with the tool in the '70s have way fewer gestures than his paintings from the '60s, in which gestures are "prevalent," meaning widely and extensively present.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text only discusses the "developer"—it never mentions other tools. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. If anything, the text suggests the opposite: that Whitten became more interested in exploring the role of gesture in his work as his career progressed, as his earlier paintings had many gestures, and his '70s paintings only had "one gesture." Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never discusses the "realism" of Whitten's art.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

**ID: 22b3da87**

During the Bourbon Restoration in France (1814–1830), the right to vote required in part that a person paid at least 300 francs in direct taxes to the government. The four most common taxes (the *quatre vieilles*) were levied on real estate (both land and buildings); the doors and windows in taxpayer homes; the rental values of homes; and the businesses of artisans and merchants. (Foreign investments were either exempt from taxation or taxed lightly.) Although relatively few people paid the tax on real estate, it was the main means of voter qualification and accounted for over two-thirds of government receipts during this period, suggesting that during the Bourbon Restoration \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. those people who had the right to vote most likely had substantial holdings of French real estate.
- B. the voting habits of French artisans and merchants were effective in reducing tax burdens on businesses.
- C. the number of doors and windows in French residences was kept to a minimum but increased after 1830.
- D. French people with significant foreign investments were unlikely to have the right to vote.

**ID: 22b3da87 Answer**

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. We're told that people needed to pay "at least 300 francs in direct taxes" to be able to vote. We're also told that, while "relatively few people paid the tax on real estate," real estate taxes were both the main way people qualified to vote and the main source of revenue for the government. Based on this, we can infer that those who did qualify to vote likely had significant French real estate holdings.

Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention the voting habits of artisans and merchants nor any reduction in tax burdens on businesses, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. Although we know that doors and windows were taxed during the Bourbon Restoration, we don't have enough information to infer if doors and windows increased after this time. Choice D is incorrect. Although we know that foreign investments were only minimally taxed, we don't have enough information to determine if those with significant foreign investments were unlikely to have voting rights. For example, it's possible that those with significant foreign investments were likely to also be people with significant domestic investments which they did pay taxes on, so we don't have the information necessary to make this inference.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

**ID: cae97f58**

Mosses can struggle in harsh desert conditions because these plants require enough sunlight for photosynthesis but not so much that they risk drying out. Researchers Jenna Ekwealor and Kirsten M. Fisher found several species of *Syntrichia caninervis*, a type of desert moss, growing under quartz crystals in California's Mojave Desert. To evaluate whether these semitransparent rocks benefited the moss, the researchers compared the shoot tissue, a measure of plant growth, of *S. caninervis* when growing on the soil surface versus when the moss was growing under the quartz rocks. They found that the shoot tissue was 62% longer for moss growing under the quartz as compared to moss on the soil surface, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. *S. caninervis* is one of the few types of moss that can survive under semitransparent rocks.
- B. quartz crystals do not transmit the necessary sunlight for photosynthesis in *S. caninervis*.
- C. *S. caninervis* growing under quartz crystals experience lower light intensity and are thus able to retain more moisture.
- D. quartz crystals are capable of supporting *S. caninervis* growth if the crystals are not too thin.

**ID: cae97f58 Answer**

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text. The text explains that while desert moss species need sufficient sunlight for photosynthesis, exposure to sunlight can also affect the plants negatively by drying them out. Ekwealor and Fisher's team found specimens of *S. caninervis* moss growing under quartz crystals that were semitransparent, allowing some but not all sunlight to pass through them, and the shoot tissue of these specimens was longer than that of *S. caninervis* specimens found growing on the surface that were unprotected by such crystals. Since, as the text explains, the length of shoot tissue is an indicator of plant growth, and since greater exposure to sunlight results in greater loss of moisture, it can be inferred that *S. caninervis* growing under quartz crystals experience lower light intensity and are thus able to retain more moisture.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't mention another moss species besides *S. caninervis* or discuss whether other such species are able to grow under transparent crystals, as *S. caninervis* is. Choice B is incorrect because, as the text explains, specimens of *S. caninervis* were found growing under quartz crystals and exhibited more plant growth than specimens growing on the soil surface. This wouldn't have been the case if the crystals transmitted insufficient light for the moss's photosynthesis. Choice D is incorrect. The text contrasts the growth of *S. caninervis* specimens found beneath semitransparent quartz crystals with that of specimens found on the soil surface absent such crystals, but it doesn't make a comparison among specimens

growing beneath crystals of different degrees of thickness or consider how the relative thickness of the crystals affects the growth of the moss.

Question Difficulty: Hard

| Assessment | Test                | Domain                | Skill      | Difficulty |
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| SAT        | Reading and Writing | Information and Ideas | Inferences | ■ ■ ■      |

**ID: 03701ef3**

To better understand the burrowing habits of *Alpheus bellulus* (the tiger pistol shrimp), some studies have used resin casting to obtain precise measurements of the shrimps' burrows. Resin casting involves completely filling an empty burrow with a liquid plastic that hardens to create a three-dimensional model; however, recovering the model inevitably requires destroying the burrow. In their 2022 study, Miyu Umehara and colleagues discovered that an x-ray computed tomography (CT) scanner can accurately record a burrow's measurements both at a moment in time and throughout the entire burrow-building process, something that's impossible with resin casting because \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. it can only be used on burrows below a certain size.
- B. it does not allow for multiple castings of the same burrow over time.
- C. the casting process takes more time than *A. bellulus* takes to construct a burrow.
- D. the process of recovering the model distorts the resin's shape.

**ID: 03701ef3 Answer**

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Since resin casting "inevitably requires destroying the burrow," it would be impossible to make multiple castings of the same burrow over time.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage doesn't discuss size requirements for completing resin casting, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage never mentions how long the casting process takes nor how long *A. bellulus* takes to construct a burrow, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. The passage never states that recovering the model distorts the resin's shape, only that it destroys the burrow. Therefore, there's no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Hard