

Reading Comprehension Answers

1. **(C).** The passage presents positive and negative views on the “forecast for American entrepreneurship.” The author is careful to present his or her arguments fairly and with some reservations (e.g., “it is not clear that,” “suggests that,” “may seem”). Ultimately, the view is balanced, or “nuanced,” so choice (C) is correct. Regarding choice (A), the author does not “propose changes.” Regarding (B), the author never argues that any group of college students should (or should not) form their own companies. If anything, the author offers both sides of the issue, leaving it up to individuals to decide. Regarding (D), the author offers one fact about the varying rates at which businesses of two types (low value and high value) are founded. However, the author never evaluates the viability (or likelihood of success) of these types. As for (E), the analogy drawn in the last two sentences is not the main point of the passage; it is a final observation, one that sheds light on the issue, but this analogy is not the primary purpose for which the passage was written.

2. **(B).** The question asks what is true “according to the passage.” There should be direct proof for the correct answer in the passage text. Specifically: “College graduates, unable to find traditional jobs, instead opt to start their own businesses,” (lines 4–5). Correct choice (B) matches the idea that college graduates are “unable to find traditional jobs.” Regarding (A), college graduates who start their own businesses may indeed be hampered by a lack of access to outside investment, but this is not offered as the reason that they start such businesses. Be careful of answer choices that restate truths from the passage but do not answer the specific question posed! As for (C), it may be true that low-value companies have become more prevalent, but again, this does not answer the specific question. Regarding (D), the choice between renting and buying property is offered only as an analogy, not as a literal choice for college graduates (let alone as the reason for their entrepreneurial decisions). Regarding choice (E), the passage says nothing about how forecasts of the unemployment rate are likely to evolve.

3. **(E).** This question asks what “can be inferred” about the number of American high-value businesses; that is, what else must be true based upon the evidence given in the passage? The answer choices all have to do with how this number has changed (or may have changed) during the course of the recent recession. In particular, when you encounter mathematical language, take extra care to make the argument airtight mathematically. Search for the key phrase “high-value businesses”: the passage states that “the proportion of

high-value businesses founded each year has declined.” Watch out! A proportion is not the same as a number. The proportion has fallen, but the overall number of new business starts has been higher over recent years. If the overall number is up, but the proportion is down, it is unknown whether the absolute number of high-value businesses is up or down; this is exactly what choice (E) indicates.

4. **(C).** The passage states that some women went to war to nurse others or to provide supplies and that “such women,” including many old women, died in battle. Therefore, it can be inferred that “some of those who worked as nurses or in providing supplies died in battle,” which makes choice (C) correct. Regarding choice (A), the passage does not address how people lamented the deaths of anyone who died in battle. The passage also does not address the courageousness of younger women, choice (B), or the status of men in Asante culture, choices (D) and (E).

5. **(E).** The first paragraph introduces bacterial “super-bugs” with some alarm. The second paragraph increases the alarm, noting that “many scientists argue that the human race has more to fear from viruses.” This paragraph describes how viruses hijack the cell in order to illustrate how tough viruses are to treat. The last paragraph continues the comparison and puts a stake in the ground: “bacteria lack the potential for cataclysm that viruses have.” The point is further illustrated by the “near-miss” of the HIV pandemic. As for choice (A), it is unknown how bacteria infect the body. Regarding (B), the hijacking process is certainly described, but to make a larger point: why it’s hard to eradicate viruses in comparison with bacteria. As for (C), after reading this passage, you may want to call up the CDC and donate money, but the passage itself only raises a warning, if even that—it is not a call to action. Regarding choice (D), the last paragraph does highlight the human race’s good fortune, but this is not the larger point of the whole passage. Choice (E) is correct—the passage compares the two threats (bacteria and viruses) and judges viruses to be far more important (after all, viruses have the “potential for cataclysm”).

6. **(B).** Focus on the keywords “infections by bacteria” (which can be rearranged to “bacterial infections”). What does the text say about bacterial infections? The second paragraph gives a direct clue: “viral infections cannot be treated *ex post facto* in the same way that bacterial infections can.” In other words, bacterial infections can be treated “*ex post facto*” (which means “after the fact”). Choice (B) matches this idea. Regarding (A), the second paragraph states that bacteria themselves “reproduce asexually through binary fission,” but that isn’t necessarily true about *infections* by bacteria. Regarding (C), the first paragraph notes that resistance “cocktails” such as NDM-1 actually make

bacteria “nearly impregnable.” As a result, an infection by bacteria that have this cocktail would be less vulnerable, not more vulnerable. Choices (D) and (E) are true about viral infections, but not bacterial infections.

7. **(A).** This Specific Detail question asks what is true about “intracellular obligate parasites” (or IOPs, to give them a temporary abbreviation). The second paragraph states: “Whereas bacteria reproduce asexually through binary fission, viruses lack the necessary structures for reproduction, and so are known as ‘intracellular obligate parasites.’” The word “so” toward the end indicates that viruses are called IOPs because they “lack the necessary structures for reproduction.” Choice (A) captures this idea.

8. **(B).** Articulate the main idea before reading the choices. Is the passage really about supernovae, or is it about Galileo, the philosophers, and the ideas being discussed? The fact that the “twist” occurs in the second paragraph (the passage is not talking just about science—now it’s talking about history and philosophy) supports the position that the second paragraph is more central to the main idea and that the first paragraph is background information. Choice (A) is wrong because it does not mention the main content of the second paragraph, the ideas and assumptions that became controversial. It is also too broad—giving a history of supernovae would take a lot more than two paragraphs. Choice (B) is correct—the passage does describe a “shift in thought” (from the unchangeable “heavens” to a more scientific view), and this shift was prompted by a “natural event” (the supernova). Choice (C) is attractive but does not describe the main idea. While Galileo and the philosophers certainly had different views about the bright light they saw in the sky, it’s not clear that philosophers had “views about supernovae” in general. Choice (D) can be stricken due to “corroborate” (to prove true or support with evidence). The passage is describing, not making an argument. Finally, choice (E) is too broad. One could spend an entire career discussing how science and philosophy interrelate. This passage covers a much more narrow topic.

9. **1st only.** The first sentence of the second paragraph proves the first statement: “In 1604 in Padua, Italy, a supernova became visible, appearing as a star so bright that it was visible in daylight for more than a year.” Since this supernova was visible for more than a year, it is possible for supernovae to “take more than a year to fade from view.” (Note that if the first statement said “Supernovae *always* take more than a year to fade from view,” it would be wrong.) The second statement cannot be proven. Just because a supernova in 1604 caused a stir does not mean no one else had ever seen one before. The third statement also cannot be proven. Galileo disagreed with the

philosophers, but those particular philosophers may never have changed their minds.

10. **(C).** As a result of the supernova in 1604, Galileo gave popular lectures in which he “sought to explain the origin of the ‘star’” and which “undermined the views” of some philosophers. Choice (A) mixed up some wording from the first paragraph to set a trap; the Earth was not made after the supernova of 1604. Choice (B) is too extreme—Galileo “sought to explain” the origin of the supernova, but it is unclear whether he succeeded. Choice (C) is true—the lectures were “widely attended by the public.” (A very picky person might point out that just because people go to a lecture doesn’t mean they are interested, but all of the other answers are definitely wrong, so that confirms that this is a reasonable—that is, very tiny—inferential leap.) Choice (D) is attractive, but is a trap answer. Galileo, in his lectures, “undermined” (weakened) the views of the philosophers. But the passage doesn’t say what the philosophers’ responses were or whether the philosophers were opposed to the lectures themselves (a person could be opposed to the ideas in a lecture but still think the lecturer should be allowed to lecture). Choice (E) is also attractive because the modern reader knows this to be true in real life. However, the question does not ask, “What really happened?” It asks: “The author mentions which of the following as a result of the supernova of 1604?” The author does not mention that the philosophers were “proved wrong.” Their views were “undermined,” which is much less extreme.

11. **1st and 3rd only.** Kincaid’s critics point out that Britain’s government is not as corrupt as Antigua’s. Kincaid makes a witty rejoinder, but does not deny that the British government is less corrupt than Antigua’s. This, coupled with her stated belief that Britain is responsible for corruption in Antigua, justifies the first and third statements. As for the second statement, no governments of the “former colonial empire” are discussed in the passage except Antigua’s.

12. **(B).** In main idea questions, you can often eliminate one or more answers just based on the first word or phrase in the answer: *relate, discuss, give a history, make a case, emphasize*. Does the passage “make a case”? It doesn’t—like almost all GRE passages, it is merely reporting facts and/or the opinions of others, so (D) is wrong. “Emphasize” in choice (E) is also a bit strange—usually, the purpose of a passage is something a little bigger than just “emphasizing” something. The first paragraph gives background information about *Don Giovanni*, while the second paragraph gives the “twist”—even though almost the whole world loved *Don Giovanni*, people in Mozart’s own hometown were less enthusiastic about it. Choice (B) matches this—the passage discusses how the opera *Don Giovanni* was met by “diverging” (differing) opinions, specifically those of Viennese audiences

versus those of everyone else.

13. **(A).** The second paragraph states that “[t]he opera mixed traditions of moralism with those of comedy—a practice heretofore unknown among the composer’s works—resulting in a production that was not well-liked by conservative Viennese audiences.” The language “a practice heretofore unknown” indicates that Mozart had not done this before. Correct answer (A) is a good match—a “lackluster reception” means that those who “received” something (the audience) were unimpressed. Note that the GRE is trying to hide the correct answer a little bit by saying “a particular group of people” for “Viennese audiences.” Also note that (D) and (E) are incorrect because the author does not “argue” or “undermine” at any point. Talking about moralism and comedy doesn’t address the plot, as mentioned in choice (B), and the passage does not mention what is common in contemporary (modern) opera, so choice (C) is out of scope.

14. **(E).** According to the passage, “conservative” Viennese audiences did not like *Don Giovanni*’s “heretofore unknown” mixing of moralism and comedy. It can be inferred that Viennese audiences disliked the opera’s adventuresome genre-blending and preferred works that kept to “stylistic conventions,” as noted in choice (E). Choices (A) and (B) contain extreme language (“purely,” “unequivocally”). Choices (C) and (D) go too far. The passage offers no indication that audiences were confused or offended, merely that they didn’t like or had mixed feelings about a work of art.

15. **2nd and 3rd only.** Redlining never “ceased”; rather, as noted in the second paragraph, it “has sometimes continued in less explicit ways.” The second paragraph also states that “even today ... auto insurance companies offer different rates based on zip code.” Such a practice, then, may be a form of redlining. In addition, the first paragraph notes that “with no access to mortgages, residents within the red line suffered low property values.” Thus, access to mortgages is related to higher property values.

16. **(D).** The third paragraph states that “reverse redlining ... occurs when predatory businesses specifically target minority or low income consumers for the purpose of charging them more than would typically be charged for a particular service.” Choices (A) and (B) describe *regular* redlining, the practice of denying service or constraining access to something like jobs. Redlining is about businesses, not police, so (C) is out. Choice (E) does mention targeting minority consumers, but does not give an example of offering inferior products or overcharging. Choice (D) is a good example of what is described in the third paragraph.

17. **(E).** The first paragraph states that “[w]ith no access to mortgages, residents within the red line suffered low property values and landlord abandonment; buildings abandoned by landlords were then more likely to become centers of drug dealing and other crime, thus further lowering property values.” The lack of access to mortgages is due to redlining. Thus, redlining causes landlord abandonment and the resultant effects—(E) is a perfect match. Note that (A) mentions “subprime mortgages” and “defaults,” which are never mentioned in the passage. Choice (B) incorrectly cites reverse redlining rather than redlining. Choice (C) gets the relationship between redlining and landlord abandonment backwards. In Choice (D), “constrained access to health care, jobs, insurance, and more” is not just a potential consequence of reverse redlining; these negatives are mentioned in context with redlining.

18. **1st and 3rd only.** “Germophobic” Western society avoids “pre-mastication,” which provides “beneficial bacteria,” so the first statement is true. The word “only” eliminates the second statement—watch out for extreme language! If just one person outside of the developing world pre-masticates food for a baby, this statement is false, so it cannot be inferred. Finally, since “babies have received disease-fighting antibodies and digestive bacteria from the mother’s saliva,” saliva has at least one benefit (antibodies) aside from digestive bacteria.

19. **(B).** The author discusses Bois and Damisch’s metaphor (“a dynamic

game”), calls it misleading, and proposes an expansion beyond the competitive aspect. This matches choice (B). Choice (A) is incorrect, as the author does not claim that the two artists were the best. Choice (C) only addresses the details and evidence presented in the passage but not the main point. Choices (D) and (E) are both distortions because the passage does not rank the painters, and these issues are again not the point.

20. **(D)**. This question type asks for a combination of the point, tone, and, perhaps, structure. The author expresses the point at the end of the first paragraph by suggesting that the rivalry between Picasso and Matisse was more of a dialogue, or “exchange.” This would match choice (D), that “rivalries can be reciprocally nourishing.” Choice (A) is an incorrect comparison because the passage rejects the idea that such rivalries are mere competitions. Choice (B) distorts a detail by adding an opinion not stated in the passage. The author writes about the artists employing multiple styles, but never implies they are masters *because* they employ multiple styles. Choice (C) is a distortion based on a misreading of the “conversation” metaphor. Choice (E) is incorrect, as the word “generally” is a claim that the author does not make; the passage concerns one particular rivalry.

21. **(C).** The last paragraph states that Matisse used the same palette in his work but omitted the green, so Picasso's *Woman with Yellow Hair* had a larger color palette, as noted in choice (C). Choices (A), (D), and (E) are incorrect because they cite comments about *Large Nude in a Red Armchair*, not *Woman with Yellow Hair*. Choice (B) is backwards—the passage states that Matisse's response, as opposed to Picasso's work, did not rigidly tie color to form.

22. **(B).** The author's point is that the rivalry was more of a dialogue than a competition, so "a radio broadcast" as offered in choice (B) would further support this thesis. Choices (A) and (E) are not correct because those choices do not say anything about the nature of the rivalry. Choice (C) is wrong because the author's point is that their relationship was more than a competition. Choice (D) misconstrues the metaphor that the author rejects.

23. **(C).** The last paragraph devotes itself to highlighting the problematic implicit messages of timelines. Choice (A) is a distortion; the author does not claim dates are unimportant but that historical study should go beyond mere dates. Choices (B) and (E) are backwards, as these are two of the implicit messages that the author rejects. Choice (D), while quite likely in the real world, does not have to follow from the passage—the author implies that there is more to history than "wars and minor battles, punctuated by the occasional presidential election and technological innovation" but does not specify what that is.

24. **(D).** The author argues that timelines are simplistic and misleading; the author is "wary and critical" of the devices, choice (D). The words "condescending and impatient" in answer choice (A) would never describe a GRE author. Regarding choice (B), the author is not "bemused," or amused, at all. Nor is the author "negative or complacent," as stated in choice (E).

25. **(D).** The last paragraph discusses the negative implicit—or subliminal—issues with timelines, so (D) is the correct answer to this Except question. Since the author indicates that an implicit flaw is showing "only" 64 events, it must follow that there are more, so (A) is incorrect. In the second paragraph, the author worries that the prominence of the dates will draw too much attention, so eliminate (B). In the first paragraph, the author says, "[d]espite their usefulness in allowing students to gain a cursory knowledge ... " In other words, timelines have some positive uses; cross off (C). As for (E), the third criticism is that the events appear to have occurred completely independently of one another; the author believes, then, that showing how some events affected or influenced others would be beneficial.

26. **(B).** In the last paragraph, a listed implicit flaw is that the events are presented as independent—without context, which matches choice (B). The passage mentions the prominent placement of timelines, choice (A), and use of photos, choice (E), but does not suggest that these are problems. Choice (C) is false, as the passage states that these timelines had beginnings and ends. Regarding (D), the author does not challenge the factual accuracy of timelines.

27. **(C).** “Myopic” means nearsighted, and the author employs it to describe the inability of some curricula to show the big picture. Similarly, “purblind,” choice (C), means “partially blind or deficient in understanding.” Choices (A), (B), and (D) are not justified by evidence from the passage. Ignorance and bigotry are not mentioned as problems. “Astigmatic” indicates visual distortion, but the passage spoke of missing elements. “Mordant,” meaning caustic or corrosive, has no connection to the passage.

28. **(A).** The second paragraph further describes “the blooming of the public sphere,” one of the two factors named in the first paragraph. It details how literacy and printing allowed gossip to circulate more widely, describing “the mechanisms by which disdain ... grew,” choice (A). Choice (B) is incorrect because the passage does not contrast the

factors (the second paragraph does not even mention the Diamond Necklace Affair). Choice (C) is out of scope and irrelevant as the passage is about Marie Antoinette's unpopularity, not the court or corruption. Choice (D) is incorrect; the last paragraph discusses the results. Choice (E), while arguably the main point of the passage, goes beyond that of the second paragraph, which does not discuss consequences.

29. **(C).** The fourth paragraph mentions "countless aristocrats who sued to the king on Rohan's behalf," so it must be true that a significant proportion was more loyal to the accused, which matches (C). Nothing in the passage refers to jealousy and nothing imputes that the queen's wealth was the cause of the aristocrats' dislike, so (A) can be eliminated. Choice (B) does not have to follow; the passage only says pamphlets were popular with the general public. Similarly, the passage does not provide literacy rates so (D) is out. The Revolution is not mentioned, so choice (E) is out of scope.

30. **(D).** This Detail question concerns the second paragraph, which cites a reduction in royal censorship as a cause. Choice (D) is therefore correct. Choice (A) is out of scope; the education of women is never mentioned. Choice (B) is a distortion; the passage says publications, not the literacy rate, tripled. Choice (C) is incorrect, as the passage does not discuss the number of scandals over time. Choice (E) is not mentioned in the passage.

31. **2nd and 3rd only.** The first statement can't be proven—the passage does not indicate who the clever forger was. The second statement is correct—the third paragraph identifies Rohan as a "social climber." In the fourth paragraph, the author states that "10,000 people came to the doors of the Bastille demanding Rohan's release," which supports the third statement.

32. **1st only.** The point of the final paragraph is that the queen's unpopularity caused significant problems for the monarchy. The passage does not say whether the queen met Rohan; she wouldn't have to meet someone personally to order that he be punished. The third statement is backwards: the queen's power must have had limits since Rohan was released despite her prosecution.

33. **(C).** This is essentially a vocabulary question. "Disinterested" does not mean uninterested—it means unbiased. GRE authors are never described as "arrogant" or "supercilious," as these words are too negative (and inappropriate), so eliminate (A). It is also very unlikely that "prim" and "meretricious" or "sober" and "lascivious" would be correct for the same reason, so eliminate (B) and (D). As for (E), the author is "analytical," but no phrases or adjectives in the passage justify "enthusiastic."

34. **(C).** After the theory is described, the remainder of the passage cites studies and opinions that disagree in part or in whole, making (C) the correct choice. Choice (A) is incorrect because no additional support is provided. Choice (B) is incorrect, because the criticisms are not a “screed,” which is a long diatribe. Choice (D) is incorrect because it is not the author’s credentials that are questioned. Choice (E) is wrong—there is no ridicule. Note that (B), (D), and (E) all express inappropriate attitudes for a GRE author. While authors can certainly argue for or against something, or express some enthusiasm or support, GRE authors do not rant and rave, and only very, very rarely “ridicule” or question the integrity of those with whom they disagree.

35. **(E).** The Lowell Girls are mentioned to show that historically “free labor has hardly been free at all.” This supports choice (E). Choice (A) is incorrect—that is the subject of the fourth paragraph, but does not concern the Lowell Girls. Choice (B) is incorrect—that is the subject of the third paragraph, but does not concern the Lowell

Girls. The answer must come from the part of the passage referenced. Choice (C) is backwards—this argument is put forth by D’Emilio’s critics. Choice (D) is a distortion; the reference is to show how historically normal this situation was, not to contrast two supposedly parallel groups of unempowered workers.

36. **(C).** The answer has to be something that *must* follow from the discussion of Davis in the last paragraph, not something that Davis could or likely would agree with. Choice (C) is correct because Davis argues that women “were the losers in a double-sense ... leaving many women largely bereft of significant economic roles.” If being “bereft” of an economic role makes one a “loser,” it is not going too far (in fact, it is less extreme) to say that “[p]eople without economic roles are disadvantaged.” Choice (A) is wrong as it is an opinion of D’Emilio’s mentioned in the first paragraph. Choice (B) is wrong as it is an opinion of Enloe’s mentioned in the second paragraph. Choice (D) is incorrect because, in the last sentence of the passage, Davis states that the “entire economy” has left the household. Finally, choice (E) is out of scope as nothing is said about pay for domestic work.

37. **(C).** A “best title” question asks for the main point. The point of this passage is to highlight trenchant criticisms of D’Emilio’s work—the lack of any rebuttal of these points indicates that the author sympathizes with them. This supports choice (C). Choices (A), (D), and (E) are incorrect because they ignore that the passage concerns scholarly opinions rather than the history itself. Choice (B) is incorrect, as no reconciliation is attempted. Additionally, (E) is closer to D’Emilio’s view than the author’s.

38. **(D).** “Unique,” choice (D), is a secondary meaning of “peculiar.” The author uses it in the context of Matisse learning something that Picasso had done. Of the wrong answers, (B) and (E) at best come from prohibited outside knowledge, whereas (A) and (C) are the opposite of the intended meaning—anything “strange” or “unknown” to Picasso would be something he doesn’t do; “peculiar to Picasso” means something that he’s known for doing.

39. **(A).** The author describes both the work (*The Ochre Head*) and the inspiration for that work (*Still Life with Ancient Head*), which matches choice (A). Choice (B) is a distortion as the passage does not rate the painters. Choice (C) is a distortion as the passage describes a painting but not how the artist developed his style. Choice (D) is incorrect as the passage indicates that this was a new direction rather than a representative work. Choice (E) is out of scope because the passage only discusses two painters, not the art world.

40. **(C).** While the author clearly appreciates the work, its place in the hierarchy of all of Matisse's works is not discussed, so (C) is the correct answer to this Except question. The four wrong answers can all be found in the passage. For choice (A), the passage states that "colors ... refuse to be constrained by definite lines of form." Therefore it is true that the artist avoided the constraint of coloring only between the lines. For choice (B), the end of the passage states that the painting's composition references a Picasso work. For choice (D), the passage says the technique is not employed with the "free reign" used in *Minotaur*; that is, *The Ochre Head* is more constrained in its use of the technique. For choice (E), the passage says a vase of flowers and a bench are depicted.

41. **(C).** To answer a question of this type, find the other four choices in the text. In the third paragraph, (A) is mentioned verbatim. Choice (B) is justified by "hearing speakers," and (D) by "write autobiographical essays." Choice (E) is mentioned explicitly. Therefore, (C) is the correct answer to this Except question.

42. **(D).** The passage, after establishing problems with textbooks, proposes film as a vehicle for teaching history. Since film is mentioned as a current alternative, it is being used now to teach history, but the author would like to expand this use. "Didactic" means "intended to instruct," so films used to teach history would certainly qualify as a "didactic

tool.” Thus, (D) is correct. Choice (A) is out of scope and ignores the educational thrust. Choices (B) and (C) are out of scope and do not include the bulk of the passage, which propose film as a learning tool. Choice (E) is too negative—a GRE author would not “denigrate”—and “philosophy” is an inappropriate word for the passage (using textbooks is hardly a “philosophy” so much as just a common practice).

43. **(B).** The answer to Detail questions must be found in the text. The second paragraph quotes Wong to assert that committees wrongly value facts over perspectives, thus justifying “misplaced priorities,” which matches (B). Leaving aside their merits, (A), (C), and (E) are not mentioned in the passage and outside knowledge is not allowed. Choice (D) is the opposite of the correct answer.

44. **(B).** The final paragraph begins by mentioning the main criticism of this proposal but then argues that this supposed flaw is in fact a virtue and a golden opportunity. Thus, choice (B) is correct. Choices (A) and (D) ignore the author’s rebuttal to the criticism. Choice (C) is problematic as the paragraph is concerned with one particular tool—film. Choice (E) ignores both the criticism and rebuttal and merely mentions an out-of-context detail.

45. **(A).** In the last paragraph, the passage states that the main critique of the use of films to teach history is their “rampant inaccuracies and biases.” Then, the author goes on to argue that this can be a positive: “these seeming flaws are actually part of the reason why film is an ideal teaching tool,” because teachers can lead discussions of the film’s problems and biases. Thus, the author certainly argues that students can benefit from exposure to inaccurate accounts of history (not that students would *always* benefit, but that students *can* benefit when the inaccurate film is accompanied by critical analysis). The other choices cannot be justified. Choice (B) does not have to follow; the passage only lists music and film as alternatives. Choice (C) is too extreme. Choice (D) is a preference of the state committees, not the students. Choice (E) is backwards—the last paragraph states that students can benefit by such exposure.

46. **3rd only.** The first statement is wrong, because the passage contrasts “appealing, expressive paintings that are often the most popular museum attractions” with “constructivist” art. The second statement is also wrong—the constructivist art, not the expressive paintings, is referred to as “brainy” in the passage. Note that these first two statements may very well be true in real life, but that is not what the question asks. The question asks which statements can be inferred *from the passage*. The third statement is true—

contemporary art is called “cold” in one sentence and “brainy” (or “cerebral”) in another sentence. The final sentence of the paragraph links this brainy constructivist art to the use of gesture as an expressive tool.

47. **1st, 2nd, and 3rd.** The author describes *Iroquois* as “precarious, yet stable and balanced,” which is a good match for the first statement. The second statement matches the final sentence, which states that *Iroquois* “resonates with an energy born not of the physical quality of the sculpture ... but rather of the gestural quality of the forms.” The third statement is a good match for the sentence, “[a]s one contemplates *Iroquois* ... the linear forms became considerably more complex than one might presume.” If the forms are more complex than one might think, it follows that some find the forms simpler than they really are.

48. **(E).** Choice (A) is wrong because Rousseau did argue for a social contract, meaning there should be some kind of law. Choice (B) is wrong because Rousseau did not think members of a state should surrender their rights to a single person. Choice (C) is wrong because Rousseau did argue that people could claim property if they needed it, implying the existence of private property in his ideal society. Choice (D) is wrong because Rousseau did not want to dismantle the social contract entirely, but to replace it with his own ideal social contract. Choice (E) is the answer because Rousseau desired a society where “property can be taken ... to the degree necessary for the subsistence of those taking it.”

49. **(B).** Choice (A) is incorrect because the passage states that “[i]n a state of nature ... the rich would have great difficulty protecting the property that they possess.” Even if the rich were to lose their property, nothing indicates that this property would end up evenly distributed among everyone. Choice (B) is correct because this is precisely what the sentence cited above says. Choices (C), (D), and (E) are wrong because they point to Rousseau’s vision for a perfect society, rather than a pre-law society.

50. “To obtain assent to the contract, the rich focus their rhetoric on a seeming equality of obligation by creating rules that apply equally to all members of society.” This sentence from the second paragraph shows the mechanism by which the wealthy are able to convince the poor to agree to a social contract that will allow them to be defrauded. Be careful not to go looking in the passage for specific language mentioned in the question (like “hoarding” or “systematized”). More often than not, that will lead you to the wrong sentence.

51. **(A).** Choice (A) is correct because the passage says that people should only take something if they need it (i.e., for survival). Choice (B) is wrong because it is the exact opposite of what the passage says, in that people should *not* simply enrich themselves with property. Choice (C) is wrong because though a house could be protection, that’s not what “subsistence” means. Choice (D) is wrong because it isn’t specific enough. Choice (E) does not fit the meaning of the sentence.

52. **3rd only.** The first statement is wrong because, while Baldwin takes issue with the average 1930s Hollywood movie for failing to represent anything other than the dominant culture, that doesn’t mean he would find an individual film focused on African American culture “significantly better.” Such a film could be bad for other reasons. The second statement is wrong because even though a film that focused only on African American issues could be just as limited as one that failed to focus on such issues, there is a significant difference: one would be reinforcing the dominant culture, while the other would be presenting an alternative culture. Baldwin would thus be unlikely to find them equally problematic. The third statement is correct because the predominant culture in the 1930s was white, so the film in question would be less likely to reinforce that culture, given that it would feature only African American issues and actors.

53. **(D).** Choice (A) is wrong because the quotation has to do with children and their ability to relate to a given work of art, rather than the culture of power. Choice (B) is wrong because the quote does not discuss white culture

specifically. Choice (C) is wrong because the passage never says that America was hungry for a writer like Baldwin. Choice (D) is correct because even though the quote doesn't explicitly mention black children, the point is that children in general can't relate to a dilemma that doesn't relate to them. Because the passage indicates that Hollywood films of the era "dealt with white issues and employed white actors," these films would not have related to black children, who would have thus been alienated from mainstream culture. Choice (E) is wrong because the passage doesn't say that children can't derive *any* educational value from films they can't relate to, only that they might feel alienated.

54. **(D).** Choice (A) is wrong because "assiduous" means diligent, which is irrelevant here. Choice (B) is wrong because the people studying art do not have to be "artistic." Choice (C) is a trap built on the uniqueness of the Parthenon, but "informed" is not describing the Parthenon. Choice (D) is correct because "erudite" means knowledgeable, and knowledge would allow someone viewing the frieze to recognize its unique qualities. Choice (E) is wrong because this is a question of knowledge, not applying technical, or "scientific," skills.

55. **(C).** Choice (A) is wrong because many of its characteristics have in fact been worked out. Choice (B) is wrong because the passage is not primarily about artistic interpretation. Choice (C) is correct because “idiosyncratic” is a synonym for unique, and the frieze is said to be unique in two ways. Choice (D) is incorrect because only one paragraph discusses the existence of mortals in the frieze and because this title is much too broad. Choice (E) is a trap: all sides of the frieze are continuous, not the individual characters.

56. **(D).** Choice (A) is incorrect because the first sentence indicates that the Parthenon was constructed in the “High Classical Period.” Choice (B) is incorrect because the same sentence says that the Parthenon was “regarded as a great architectural and artistic product.” Choice (C) is incorrect because the frieze is said to have come from the “temple-chamber” of the Parthenon. Choice (D) is correct because the passage says only that it is “difficult to study” the frieze because not all of it survives “today” and the surviving parts are in different locations. This doesn’t necessarily mean that today’s scholars don’t know what the missing portions looked like at the time of construction (perhaps drawings of the Parthenon survive, for example). Choice (E) is incorrect because the frieze is described as “unique” and defined as a “structural element” of the Parthenon.

57. **(C).** Choice (A) is wrong because the passage only discusses the ways in which Sandra Cisneros’s work puts the burden on the reader. Choice (B) is wrong because the passage only discusses a single one of Isabel Allende’s books. Choice (C) is correct because the second paragraph says that Sandra Cisneros’s short story collection does have interrelated stories, but they do not use the same characters or setting in each story. Choice (D) is wrong because intuition is not discussed as a part of Sandra Cisneros’s writing. Choice (E) is wrong because the passage does not assess what would make the “best short story collections.”

58. **(E).** Choice (A) is wrong because while tone is mentioned in relation to Sandra Cisneros’s work, it is not mentioned in relation to Isabel Allende’s work. Choice (B) is wrong because while time is mentioned in relation to Sandra Cisneros’s work, it is not mentioned in relation to Isabel Allende’s work. Choice (C) is wrong because while similarities in characters are mentioned in relation to Isabel Allende’s work, they are directly said not to exist in Sandra Cisneros’s work. Choice (D) is wrong because while setting is mentioned in relation to Isabel Allende’s work, it is directly said not to exist in Sandra Cisneros’s work. Therefore, (E) is the correct choice.

59. **(D).** In the first paragraph, the passage states that seals “who sleep on land

at night but spend most of their days in coastal waters” are analogous. None of the other choices accurately follows the pattern of this analogy. Thus, (D) is correct.

60. **(C).** The author contrasts the proponent to trained scientists, enumerates criticisms of the theory, and sides with the critics. Thus, the author is casting “doubt upon her expertise,” which matches choice (C). Choice (A) is incorrect because, as a “proponent,” she is not objective by definition. Choice (B) is not addressed by the passage. Choice (D) is exactly backwards. Choice (E) brings up an issue that is not mentioned.

61. **(D).** The author states that the Tokugawa period in Japan was a model for patterns of organization, but “as psychologists, social historians, and Biblical prophets have all observed, in varying ways, humans inevitably fail to anticipate unintended consequences.” This qualifies as a “common failing,” which matches choice (D). Choice (A) is incorrect, as Iceland is only mentioned briefly as an analogy. Choice (B) is wrong both because the author does not express a point of view and because the issue is the result of rather than the imposition of a fixed order. Choice (C) addresses a very minor detail, not the purpose. Choice (E) is a comparison that the passage does not address and therefore cannot be inferred.

62. **(C).** The author states that the inversion of the financial and social rankings led to the decline of Tokugawa society. Choices (A) and (B) are both incorrect because the passage states that social mobility was prohibited. Choice (D) is incorrect because the main reason cited for the decline has to do with specific decisions made by the ruling clan, decisions that had unforeseen consequences. A drought is an act of nature. Choice (E) is also incorrect; while the author does mention foreign pressure as leading to the collapse of the government, the question concerns the decline of the society, which began long before Admiral Perry’s arrival.

63. **(C).** The author states that unifying Germany under Prussian rather than Austrian rule made war more likely. Choice (A) is a result of the treaty but the author does not imply that it was negative. Choice (B) does not relate to the Treaty. Choice (D) is not mentioned in the passage and thus not correct. Choice (E) is wrong because it is a distortion

to state that the author thought the Treaty “provided the impetus,” or reason, for later wars; the author mentions only that the Treaty increased the chances that war would occur.

64. **(A).** The passage mentions the military brilliance of Prinz Eugen of Savoy, “an independent territory east of France.” Savoy is not mentioned among the “major powers” in the prior sentence, so choice (A) must be true and is correct. Choices (B) and (E) are both incorrect because the author does not create hierarchies of importance in either case; thus, no particular ranking must be true. Choices (C) and (D) are incorrect because the passage does not indicate who won and who lost.

65. **1st and 3rd only.** The first statement is correct because some hunters are taking more game birds than they should, causing the population of those birds to decline. The second statement is wrong because the free rider problem concerns people enjoying benefits improperly, not people paying different but possibly proper amounts for the same service. The third statement is correct because in this instance, the action of many free riders leads to a systemic shutdown.

66. **(C).** Choice (A) is wrong because nowhere in the passage is it stated that free riders cannot be blamed. Choice (B) is wrong because nowhere in the passage is it stated that free rider problems are not worth worrying about. Choice (C) is correct because the first sentence of the last paragraph says that “[i]n some cases, the free rider problem is viewed as a necessary cost of government,” implying that in other cases, it is not. Choice (D) is incorrect because national defense is cited as an example of the inevitability of free rider problems, not as proof that they need to be stamped out as quickly as possible. Choice (E) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss the morality of free riders.

67. **1st only.** Regarding the first statement, the first paragraph claims “modern humans are known to have diverged hundreds of thousands of years before modern humans left Africa.” To say that they diverged is to say that two species share a common ancestry to that point. Regarding the second statement, whether modern humans and Neanderthals interbred is a matter of controversy (“The team’s conclusions were answered with skepticism on a number of fronts”), and thus this answer cannot be definitely true. Finally, Paabo asserts that Neanderthals and modern humans lived near one another, but the rest of the passage says that his claims were “answered with skepticism.” Though the passage does not say what his critics thought of that particular claim, there is not enough information to conclude that it is true.

68. **3rd only.** The second paragraph says that “[p]aleontologists and archaeologists charged that the conclusion was unsupported by archaeological evidence,” so they appeal to archaeological evidence to criticize Paabo’s conclusions, and this supports the third statement. The first statement is wrong because there is no suggestion that the contamination of Neanderthal DNA with modern human DNA was deliberate, nor even that it was done by Paabo, nor is any other reason offered to doubt his integrity. The second statement is wrong because there is no suggestion that they ignore DNA evidence, even if they are not as persuaded by it as Paabo and his team.

69. **(D).** The passage claims that the reflecting surface must be far enough away so that the sound of the echo is distinct from the original sound, but not so far away that the sound is completely dissipated. You can use that information to eliminate (A) and (B). The passage also claims that multiple reflecting surfaces are apt to produce a reverberation rather than an echo, so cross off (C). The anechoic chamber with “sound-absorbing fiberglass wedges” is presented as a contrast to an “echo chamber,” so (E) is also out.

70. **2nd and 3rd only.** The second paragraph notes that the echo chamber is constructed with “the acoustical properties of a small cathedral” precisely in order to create echoes; this supports the second statement. Mountains, along with buildings, are offered in the second paragraph as examples of the sort of reflecting surface likely to bring about an echo, which supports the third statement. The first choice is wrong because the passage describes an “anechoic chamber” as filled with “sound-absorbing fiberglass wedges,” which are the opposite of the sound-reflecting objects required to propagate echoes.

71. **(E).** A “falsifiable idea” is “one that can be shown to be false.” The statement in choice (E), “no human being lives forever,” can only be shown to be false if one observes a human being that lives forever. However, this would be impossible (because of the word “forever”), and thus the idea is not falsifiable. In addition, answer choices (A) through (D) are incorrect. The statement “All birds are black” is falsifiable by identifying a single bird that is not black. The statement “Earth is the only planet in the universe with intelligent life” can be proven false by finding intelligent life on any planet in the universe except Earth. The statement “It rains on Mars every day” can be proven false by observing Mars on a single non-rainy day. The statement “The sun will explode in 100,000 years” can be proven false by waiting more than 100,000 years and verifying that the sun has not exploded. Note that choices (D) and (E) seem somewhat similar—however impractical it is to

wait 100,000 years to falsify something, there is still a big difference between “100,000 years” and “forever.”

72. **(B).** The author states in the last paragraph that a theory that is unable to be proven true is very unlikely to be formed. Therefore, it appears that the author believes that “confirmability” lacks a practical application. This supports choice (B). The author states in the second paragraph, “it is understandable that Popper does not devote that much time to the criterion of ‘confirmability,’” implying that confirmability is less important than falsifiability, not more, so choice (A) is incorrect. Regarding choice (C), the author states that a theory that is unable to be proven true is unlikely to be formed. Therefore, it is unlikely that the author believes that confirmability applies to a broad range of theories. As for choice (D), the first sentence of the last paragraph states that confirmability follows the same logic as falsifiability (“By that logic...”), and thus it appears the author believes that confirmability is reasonable. As for choice (E), the author states in the last sentence that “it is understandable that Popper does not devote that much time to the criterion of ‘confirmability.’” Thus, the author is unlikely to agree that Popper should have developed the idea of confirmability.

73. **(C).** The second paragraph focuses on the significance of the two definitions of “political,” as (C) states. Choice (A) is incorrect because no alternative is offered in the second paragraph. Choice (B) is incorrect because there is no “revision”—this choice might describe the third paragraph. Similarly, in (D), there is no “exception.” Choice (E) is closer to the point of the first paragraph.

74. **(B).** The author mentions the play as an example, or “illustration,” of when speech is political, which is the aspect discussed in that paragraph. This matches choice (B). Choice (A) is incorrect as it is used as an example, not counterpoint. Choice (C) is wrong because the passage does not advocate a position. Choices (D) and (E) miss the point of the example, which is neither about universality nor a fallacy.

75. **(A).** The answer to this type of question is always explicit in the passage. In the third paragraph, the passage cites Hanna Pitkin: “public-spirited conversation happens when citizens speak in terms of ‘justice.’” None of the other choices is mentioned in this section of the passage. Choice (A) is correct.

76. “Such a definition is not precisely wrong, but rather is outdated and falls short ...” (second sentence of first paragraph). This is the only one of the four sentences in paragraphs 1 and 2 that includes an explicit criticism.

77. **(B).** The passage describes two different ideas, explanationism and

predictionism, that have both been used to verify or disprove different scientific theories. Thus, choice (B) is correct. As for (A), the passage never states that either theory is superior to the other. Although (C) is true, the passage only mentions the two models of the solar system as an example of the workings of explanationism. Therefore, it cannot be the main idea of the passage. Regarding (D), the passage does not describe what is required to posit a physical theory. As for (E), a predictionist and an explanationist may always diverge on how to prove that a scientific theory is true, but they might still agree on whether or not the theory is correct.

78. **(E).** Before citing the example of the Copernicus and Brahe models of the universe, the author states in the first paragraph that “it could be the case that a theory predicts something and yet does not provide the best explanation of it.” The author goes on to use Copernicus and Brahe as an example, stating that both of their theories have predictive power, but Brahe’s does not offer the best explanation for the workings of the solar system. This supports choice (E). As for (A), the author is actually arguing the opposite: that predictive power alone is never enough to verify a theory. Regarding (B), the author does reveal that some theories have more or less of an ad hoc quality, but this is not the author’s reason for citing this example. The main reason must be related back to explanationism. As

for (C), the example showed the opposite—both theories were found to accurately predict future events, and thus they must have both made the same predictions for those future events. Although it is true that the more complicated model failed, the author’s intent was to show that an incorrect model can still make correct predictions; eliminate (D).

79. **1st and 2nd only.** The words “for example” at the beginning of the sentence containing the crowd analogy follow a sentence about the Pauli exclusion principle. This principle says that fermions cannot “inhabit the same fundamental state.” Electrons, which are fermions, are likened to members of a crowd in a stadium; the fact that electrons cannot “circle the nuclei of atoms in precisely the same orbits” (just as crowd members cannot sit on top of one another) is a “consequence” of the Pauli exclusion principle. Thus, the first statement is justified. These electrons “must occupy more and more distant locations”; the crowd analogy certainly illustrates that behavior, so the second statement is justified. As for the third, incorrect statement, while it is true that electrons cannot occupy the same orbits as one another and must instead occupy more and more distant locations, you do not know that those orbits are “concentric” or “evenly spaced.”

80. **(B).** The author begins by naming the two classes of subatomic particles, choice (B), and then divides the remainder of the passage into descriptions of each class and their relation to each other. Regarding (A) and (D), the author explains both of these concepts within the passage, but they are subordinate to the main idea of describing the two types of subatomic particles and thus are not the primary purpose of the passage. As for (C) and (E), the author’s primary purpose in writing is not to provide examples or to argue.

81. **(C).** The author states that fermions, not bosons, are the constituents of ordinary matter. All other answers are mentioned in the second paragraph of the passage. Thus, (C) is the correct choice.

82. **(D).** The second paragraph states that Cooper pairs of electrons will “flow in precise harmony and with zero resistance through the metal.” As an example of the same phenomenon, the second paragraph also states that a “swirl in a cup of superfluid helium will, amazingly, never dissipate.” Therefore, it is correct to infer that “a current through a superconducting wire will never dissipate,” as in choice (D). As for (A), the passage states that an even number of fermions (which, according to the first paragraph, “include electrons, protons, and neutrons”) constitute a boson, but not an odd number ($\frac{1}{2}$ integer times an odd will not give an integer). The last paragraph states that “scientists argue for the existence of skyrmions” in a medium that might

permit them to be formed, implying that they have not yet been discovered, so eliminate (B). In (C), the author states that two electrons cannot circle a nucleus in the same orbit, but they could spin in different orbits that are the same distance from the nucleus. Finally, in (E), the author gives two examples of fermions becoming bosons at cooled temperatures but does not say this is the *only* situation in which this can occur.

83. **(A).** The first paragraph states that fermions obey the Pauli principle, according to which no two particles can occupy the same fundamental state. The second paragraph states that bosons tend to bunch together in exactly the same state. This supports choice (A) and is the opposite of (E); thus, (E) is incorrect. Choice (D) is also the opposite of what the passage claims. Bosons have integral spin values and fermions have “half-integral” spin. Answer (B) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss the total number of particle types for bosons or fermions, and answer (C) is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that both fermions and bosons can exist in groups.

84. **(A).** The passage states that the Pauli principle prohibits any two particles from inhabiting the same fundamental state. Further, the Pauli principle should be applied to fermions, “which include electrons, protons, and neutrons,”

but not bosons (from the second paragraph). Answer choice (A) discusses electrons, which are fermions, avoiding occupation of identical energy levels, so (A) is relevant and thus the correct answer. As for (B), a charged particle in a magnetic field neither provides the criteria for a fermion nor references inhabitation of the same state. Answer (C) does not specify the type of particle. Answer (D) is about photons, which are described in the passage as bosons, to which the Pauli principle does not apply. Regarding (E), the passage explicitly states that the Higgs particle is a boson, so the Pauli exclusion principle doesn't apply here.

85. **3rd only.** Frey points out in the second paragraph that “humans are often intrinsically motivated, and that such motivation explains heroism, craftsmanship, and other drives that do not fit neatly into the model of a narrowly focused gain-seeker.” The first statement is incorrect because the craftsman in question is working for money, rather than for the inherent love of the work. The second statement is incorrect because even though the journalist may appear to act heroically, his motivations are related to his career. The third statement is correct because the economist in question is working without hope of monetary reward.

86. **(D).** Choice (A) is incorrect because the passage never says that *Homo economicus* is a useful way to form mathematical models. Choice (B) is incorrect because the passage never says *Homo economicus* is a theoretically useless construction, only that it is a problematic one. Choice (C) is wrong because there's no reason to believe that the people who criticize the theory “don't fully understand its function.” Choice (D) is correct because the second paragraph of the passage describes numerous problems with *Homo economicus*, all of which center around simplifying people's motivations and assuming they understand more than they actually do. Choice (E) is incorrect because the passage never says that *Homo economicus* fell out of favor or whether the handful of critics cited is representative of “most economists.”

87. **1st and 3rd only.** The first statement is correct because Veblen and Keynes allege that “*homo economicus* assumes far too great an understanding of macroeconomics on the part of humans.” The second statement is incorrect (and too extreme) because, although Tversky says that people are “unconcerned by small chances of large losses, but quite risk-averse regarding small losses,” he does not imply that there is a broader linear pattern. The third statement is correct because Amartya Sen says that people “can and do commit to courses of action out of morality, cultural expectations, and so forth.”

88. **(D).** The gist of this sentence is that while scientists condemn certain practices as flawed, the methods they themselves use are subject to many of the same flaws. The correct answer will be a word, synonymous with “repudiate,” that means to condemn or denounce. Choice (D), “decry,” is the right word.

89. **(A).** According to the passage, Feyerabend wants to demonstrate that historic instances of scientific progress were themselves marked by these flaws, and thus should not be seen as flaws at all. To this end, he describes a situation that any scientist would agree is an example of progress and shows how it made use of practices that are now condemned by scientists. Feyerabend basically implies that scientists have a choice between throwing this out as an example of good science or accepting these practices as part of good science. Since scientists are unlikely to say that the introduction of heliocentrism was a bad thing, they will be forced to “revise their account of what is and is not acceptable scientific practice.” Thus, (A) is correct. Choice (B) is wrong because the point of the case study is that Galileo is a *good* example of science. As for choice (C), “subjectivity” is called “seriously flawed” in the first paragraph. Choice (D) says tautological reasoning is acceptable only when it’s being tautological. This is not why Feyerabend makes use of a

case study. Choice (E) misses the point—Feyerabend is using an example from history to defend certain ways of doing science.

90. **(C).** The first sentence of this paragraph defines Boal’s work as a response to a culture of apathy. This matches choice (C). Choice (A) is incorrect—the paragraph describes a response, not an elaboration. Choice (B) is incorrect because it is not until the last paragraph that the author provides a rationale for the two theatres. Choice (D) is beyond the scope of the passage. Choice (E) is incorrect because there is no evaluation.

91. **(D).** This is essentially a vocabulary question. “Power” is one meaning of “agency,” and this is the only meaning that makes sense in the context of creating “ways to free themselves.” Thus, choice (D) is correct. Choices (A) and (B) are other meanings of “agency” that do not fit the context of the passage. Choice (C) might be related to “agent,” but it has no relationship to “agency” or the passage here. Choice (E) is incorrect as it implies domination over others.

92. **(E).** The last paragraph defines a “spect-actor” as “someone who simultaneously witnesses and creates theater.” In the second paragraph, the passage states that at Image events “everyone is at once theater maker and witness.” Thus, (E) is the correct choice. Choice (A) does not mention theater, so it is incorrect. As for choice (B), Boal specifically says that catharsis keeps people passive (also, the audience member is not acting, which is crucial to being a “spect-actor”). Choice (C) is incorrect and, to an extent, backwards—the passage said that Boal found that position analogous to that of a passive audience. Choice (D) is too broad, given the first paragraph about traditional theater.

93. **(A).** At the end of the first paragraph, the author paraphrases Boal: “theater etiquette creates a kind of culture of apathy where individuals do not act communally ... and remain distanced from art.” This supports choice (A). Choices (C) and (E) can be eliminated. Choices (B) and (D) are wrong because Boal states that traditional theater discourages political action by providing catharsis. Choice (A) is correct because Boal states that actors *do* go into the audience in traditional theater, so they are not prevented from doing so.

94. **(D).** This choice is a characteristic of an Image workshop, not a Forum workshop. In the second paragraph, the passage states that Forum workshops begin with a narrative skit, (A); then the facilitator—or mediator, (E)—encourages spectators to assume the role of the protagonist, (B). Choice (C) is

justified as the paragraph states that performances do not always arrive at a satisfactory solution. Therefore, (D) is the correct answer to this Except question.

95. **2nd only.** In the third paragraph, “The natural rotation of a galaxy,” “surrounding supernovae,” and “density waves” are listed as examples of the outside influence “evidently required for a theoretically unstable cloud to initiate collapse.” The first statement is a trap—fusion appears in the first paragraph and the author does not suggest that it leads to cloud contraction. (While the passage does suggest that fusion is related to supernovae and that supernovae can contribute to cloud collapse, don’t fill in the gaps yourself—the passage simply does not provide enough information to infer that fusion is part of a series of events that begins cloud contraction.) The second statement is true (realizing this requires you to match up “explosions of stars” in the answer choice with “supernovae” in the third paragraph). The third statement is a distortion—forcing debris *inward*, not outward, may cause cloud contraction to begin.

96. **(D).** Choice (A) is true in real life, of course, but is not mentioned in the passage. Choice (B) refers to the molecular clouds in the second paragraph, not to our solar system. Choice (C) is reminiscent of this sentence in the third paragraph—“The natural rotation of a galaxy can slowly alter the structure of a cloud”—but this does not refer to our solar system. Found in the first paragraph, correct answer (D) reflects that “for a system of planets such as our solar system to form around a star during cloud contraction, the presence of these heavy elements in the cloud is a necessity.” The first paragraph additionally states that “heavy metals such as iron and gold are formed, seeding surrounding hydrogen clouds.” Choice (E) gets the story backwards—heavy elements were needed to create the solar system, not vice-versa.

97. **(C).** The second paragraph states that “outward thermal pressure of the constituent gases [of the molecular cloud]” is what is “overcome” in the process of the collapse of the cloud. This is something that “inhibits,” or holds back, cloud collapse. Thus, (C) is correct.

98. **3rd only.** The Norton-Polk-Mathis House uses typical Renaissance ideals as well as materials “prevalent in the Italian Renaissance.” However, the passage certainly does not say that the house itself was built during the Renaissance. The first statement is not true. According to the passage, the primary purpose of the building is “to impress,” so its purpose is not primarily utilitarian. The second statement is also not true. The author does write that the house “radiates an air of strength,” especially when “juxtaposed with the other, seemingly fragile brick and wood homes of the neighborhood.” This supports the third statement.

99. **(C).** The most important idea in the passage is that a small group of dolphins has been found to form social networks, which is a first among non-human animals. One indication of this is that both the first and last sentences in the passage highlight this fact, so (C) is correct. Answer choice (A) is stated in the passage, but is not the main idea; it explains the behavior of the animals that form social networks. Choice (B) is never stated in the passage, although this study did span a relatively long time. Choice (D) is a much bigger claim than the passage suggests; you are never given a motivation for this study. Finally, choice (E) goes against the main idea of the passage as the passage discusses how dolphins can form social networks.

100. **1st only.** The passage states that other animals aside from the sponger dolphins often form groups based on circumstances such as genetics or food sources. As the dolphins are the first to be categorized as “social networks,” it must be true that groups formed under the previous circumstances would not qualify as social networks, supporting the first statement. As for the second statement, the passage does not state that all spongers of Shark Bay form social networks, only the females. As for the third statement, the passage does not comment on the location of spongers; it only mentions the spongers of Shark Bay. Thus, the third statement cannot be inferred.

101. **(E).** The passage describes this belief as an “old canard.” A *canard* is a “rumor,” or “a false or baseless story.” An “old canard” is one that has been passed around for awhile—very much analogous to an “urban legend.” The passage goes on to say that the blind people in the study have “cerebral superpowers” and that the discovery that blind people can hear better than sighted people is “a stunning example of the brain’s plasticity.” Thus, choice

(E) is correct.

102. **2nd only.** According to the passage, Aristotle “posited a holistic, non-corporeal mind” and would have found “shocking” the idea that “the mind is physically located in the brain.” Thus, the first statement is not correct, since Aristotle believed in a “non-corporeal” (not part of the body) mind. Since Aristotle believed in a “holistic” mind, he did NOT think that “the mind exists in parts or modules.” Thus, the second statement is correct. As for the third statement, the passage does not indicate what Aristotle might have thought about blind people’s hearing.

103. **3rd only.** The last sentence posits that the deportation of German-speaking citizens by the Allied powers is excised from history books because history is written by the victors—this makes the first statement look attractive, but the statement says “during World War II.” The first paragraph is clear that the deportations “took place almost two years after the conclusion of the war.” The third answer choice can be inferred from the claim that the United States hoped to keep Eastern and Central European nations away from Soviet influence, meaning that the United States and the Soviet Union were not fully aligned in their views. The passage lists the Allied powers as the Soviet Union, Britain, and the United States, but does not include Poland. The second statement cannot be inferred.

104. **1st, 2nd, and 3rd.** The second half of the first paragraph lists reasons why the Soviet Union, Britain, and the United States, respectively, had something to gain from the deportations. Each of the answer choices undermines one of these reasons.

105. **(C).** The passage describes how the theory of quantum mechanics models particles as probabilistic waves, and how the theory has been confirmed over the past 70 years. Answer choice (C) correctly incorporates all of these ideas into the main idea of the passage. Answer choice (A) is incorrect as it does not address the theory of quantum mechanics, which is the overarching idea of the passage. Choices (B) and (D) are both large claims that are out of the scope of the passage. Finally, although tests can be and have been designed to test quantum mechanics, choice (E) does not express the main idea of the passage.

106. **(A).** The passage states that Einstein was deeply troubled by the theory of quantum mechanics, and thus his quote must express that unsettlement. Further, his reference to dice implies that he did not believe the universe should be controlled by probability, but should be set. Therefore, (A) best expresses his motivation; Einstein worries that particles should not be probabilistic in nature. Choice (B) has no bearing on quantum mechanics, and thus cannot express Einstein’s motivation. Choice (C) is out of scope because of the mention of causality. Choice (D) confuses Einstein’s being troubled by quantum mechanics with a lack of understanding. Choice (E) makes a supposition that cannot be inferred from the passage about Einstein’s religious beliefs.

107. **1st and 3rd only.** The first statement is a proper inference because the first paragraph states, “A particle trapped in a closed box has some finite probability of being at any location within the box. Open the box once and

you'll find the particle at only one location." In other words, the exact location of the particle cannot be known until it is measured. The second statement is incorrect, as the passage actually states the opposite: that measurements of position can be taken. The third choice is a correct inference because the first paragraph states that "quantum mechanics describes particles as waves" and the conclusion notes that quantum mechanics has been verified as true.

108. **1st and 3rd only.** According to the second paragraph, not knowing that they are seeing a theater piece allows viewers to "avoid the etiquette of theatergoing" and "engage with the action and concepts of an unfolding drama as if these actions and concepts were real." This is a good match with the first statement. The third paragraph refers to "scripted characters" in invisible theater, so it cannot be inferred that "invisible theater is best described as improvised." Another reference to "dialogue ... set up by invisible theater performers" weighs against invisible theater being improvisational. The third paragraph begins, "Boal has documented various successful instances of invisible theater in which non-performers ... take unplanned public-minded action in response to the dialogue and events set up by invisible theater performers." The last sentence of the passage also states that "the goal of guerrilla theater is to get people talking publicly." Thus, it can be inferred that "actions taken by the audience once the performance is over" can be one measure of success of a theater piece.

109. **(A).** In the first sentence, the author calls invisible theater and guerrilla theater “two forms of street theater with similar origins but very different approaches.” This is a good match with choice (A). Choice (B) is incorrect because the passage doesn’t say which form is more effective. Choice (C) is too broad and the evolution is not the focus. Choice (D) is incorrect because the first paragraph states clearly that “invisible theater conceals its performative nature whereas guerrilla theater flaunts it.” Choice (E) is too broad as the passage does not cover all artistic life in public places.

110. **1st and 2nd only.** The first statement is true, as the third paragraph goes into great detail about invisible theater’s goal of encouraging public-minded talk, and the passage ends with “the goal of guerrilla theater is to get people talking publicly.” The second statement is justified because the first paragraph states that “[b]oth forms take place exclusively in public places.” The third choice is mentioned only in regard to guerrilla theater; invisible theater is only said to involve the audience.

111. **(C).** The professors gave diplomas to the people who were the least able to answer questions as a way to mock the university’s decision. This matches choice (C). Choice (A) does not have to be true because the passage merely discusses the form of the professors’ protest. Choice (B) cannot be justified since it doesn’t have to be true that the professors believed that result would follow. Similarly, choice (D) is wrong because it is not certain that the professors considered the legality of their actions. Choice (E) is not justifiable—no information is given about any particular policies the professors decried.

112. **1st and 3rd only.** The first statement, if true, would contradict the assumption of invisible theater that removing the boundary between performer and audience encourages involvement. The second statement describes a very likely result, and a goal, of invisible theater, and thus would not “undermine” the principle of invisible theater. The third statement describes a situation where the goal of invisible theater—a lively debate about public issues—was already happening, and invisible theater ruined it! This would definitely undermine the principle of invisible theater.

113. **1st, 2nd, and 3rd.** The first paragraph states that “widespread genomic changes would wreak physiological havoc,” such as cancer. The first statement is supported. The second paragraph adds that “many organisms have also adapted beneficial mechanisms to induce genetic change.” In short, some genetic changes are bad, but others are beneficial. The third paragraph explains how genetic change is important to immune functioning; the second statement is supported. The last line of the passage states “this process is

regulated by T cells to prevent harmful mutations.” The third statement is also justified.

114. **(C).** The word “seemingly” indicates that the changes are not really haphazard. “Seemingly haphazard” refers to “programmed genetic mutation.” The “this” in “this seemingly haphazard process of programmed genetic mutation” harks back to “genetic recombination,” so choice (C) is a match.

115. **1st, 2nd, and 3rd.** Pro-death signaling is given in a list of “cellular mechanisms that stymie genetic changes.” “Stymie” means “hinder.” The first statement is true. These cellular mechanisms are called “ubiquitous,” which means existing everywhere, so certainly they are “very common.” The second statement is also true. The final sentence of the paragraph says that “malfunctions in molecular players that safeguard against mutagenesis, such as the protein p53, have been implicated in diseases such as cancer.” Since the malfunction of p53 may cause cancer, it can be inferred that p53, when properly functioning, may work against cancer. The third statement is also true.

116. **(A).** According to the passage, T cells need a large repertoire of receptors in order to be able to recognize a wide variety of pathogens. The passage goes on to say that “[r]elying only on a genetically encoded repertoire would be disadvantageously limiting—analogous to having only a few dozen language phrases with which to respond to the nearly infinite potential combinations of words in a conversation. Instead, the repertoire is generated by a process of genetic recombination ... ” According to this analogy, the language phrases are the repertoire of receptors; just as a speaker must respond to a nearly infinite body of language combinations, T cells must also have a large repertoire so they can respond to a wide variety of pathogens. This repertoire is increased through genetic recombination. Choice (A) is correct. Note that choice (B) is out of scope, choice (C) is the exact opposite of what is being described, choice (D) is a distortion based on another analogy in the passage (also, an analogy on the GRE would not be “meant to elucidate” *another* analogy!), and choice (E) refers to the first paragraph, not the analogy in question.

117. **1st only.** In the analogy referenced, the “language phrases” are receptors that can respond to various pathogens. The “nearly infinite potential combinations of words” is what a speaker must respond to—the reason a speaker needs a wide repertoire of language. Similarly, the wide variety of pathogens is the reason T cells need such a wide variety of receptors. This supports the first statement only.

118. **2nd and 3rd only.** The passage contends that Haberman “focuses the brunt of his criticism on teachers who have been insufficiently trained for the realities of the modern school environment and whose prejudices, lack of deep content knowledge, and excessive focus on order and discipline profoundly limit their effectiveness.” The word “compromise” in the question stem means something like hurt or limit. Note that Haberman thinks that *too much* order and discipline is hurting teachers’ effectiveness, so the first statement is the opposite of what the passage says. The second and third statements respectively match up with “lack of deep content knowledge” and “prejudices.”

119. **(D).** The quote marks are present to make the point that the students who are referenced—“non-white, immigrant, or non-English-speaking children”—are *not* exceptions. Rather, they are the norm. Haberman’s point is that the teacher is the problem, not the students. Therefore, (D) is correct. Choice (E) seems to reflect a truth that Haberman is railing against, but has nothing to do with the question (“exceptions” refers to students, not teachers).

120. **1st and 2nd only.** The passage indicates that Decadent authors embraced artifice over nature. Huysmans's protagonist, in an example of Decadent writing, surrounds himself with perfume, among other items. It can be inferred that at least one follower of the Decadent movement considered perfume to be an example of artifice, and that he held it to have surpassed, or be superior to, natural entities. However, the passage does not say whether Huysmans enjoyed surrounding himself with the perfume—only that his character did, so the third statement is not supported.

121. **1st, 2nd, and 3rd.** All three of the features are listed as characteristic of the Naturalist movement. “Vehicle for the scientific method” matches “extending the scientific method,” while “focused on the effects of environment on shaping character” and “elaborated on the way inherited traits influenced human behavior” both match the passage’s claim that Naturalism stressed “the influence of environment and heredity upon the individual psyche.” If Decadent authors embraced any of these literary practices, this would bring their work closer in line with Naturalism.

122. **(C).** The first paragraph states that “one limitation” of the classical method is “the reliance on average measurements: it is impossible to distinguish a uniform population of cells expressing intermediate quantities of a molecule from a population composed of separate low and high expressers.” This is a good match for choice (C). Note that (A)

is precisely what scientists want to measure (not a limitation), and (E) is a distortion—it is *not* preferable to capture only average levels. This goes against the main point of both paragraphs.

123. **1st and 3rd only.** According to the second paragraph, flow cytometry and RNA FISH are examples of “single-cell measurement technology,” so the first statement is true. Much of the wording in the second statement—“it is impossible to distinguish a uniform population of cells expressing intermediate quantities of a molecule”—is lifted from a sentence in the first paragraph, talking about classical methods—not the newer, single-celled measurement technologies. Finally, the second paragraph states that flow cytometry and RNA FISH have “made it possible to capture ... the distribution of the molecule’s expression within the population,” which is a good match for the wording in the third statement.

124. **(C).** This question asks for the choice *not* mentioned in the passage. The first paragraph states that Portugal “once mined Angola for slaves and raw material,” so choices (A) and (B) are out. The beginning of the passage concerns Portugal taking over Angola over a period beginning in the 16th century and culminating in the 1920s, so eliminate choice (D). The passage refers to “Angolan independence in 1975”—since that date is during the 20th century, choice (E) is out. The passage says that a “civil war” in Angola lasted until 2002, not a war against the Portuguese, so choice (C) is the answer.

125. **(B).** The “grand stroke of irony” the author refers to is Angola helping Portugal. Why is this ironic? Because, as stated in the first paragraph, “The country that once mined Angola for slaves and raw material is now virtually helpless.” Choice (B) is the best match. Choices (A) and (E) are not ironic. While choices (C) and (D) do present some kind of contrast, they are not the “stroke of irony” to which the author refers.

126. **(E).** According to the third paragraph, Gage’s physical injury affected his personality. The part of his brain that was damaged is now known to be related to morality, and Gage “literally lost one (or more) of the modules in his modular brain system.” Choice (E) is a good match. Choice (A) is the opposite of what is being argued. Choice (B) is not indicated by the passage. Choice (C) may be true but is not the reason the author presented the example. Choice (D) relates to the previous paragraph, not to Phineas Gage.

127. **1st only.** The author is saying that, if the brain has a director, then that director would need its own director—and, presumably, *that* director would need a director, etc. The expression “begging the question” isn’t really about a

question; the second and third statements are traps.

128. **2nd only.** A “unitary entity” would not be split into parts or modules. While Aristotle and Descartes believed that the mind survived death, and lived long enough ago that they couldn’t have been aware “that certain aspects of personality are known to be controlled by certain areas of the brain,” the question is not only about Aristotle and Descartes—it is about all advocates of a unitary view of the mind. The passage does not offer enough information about these thinkers to indicate whether they think the mind survives death, or whether some of them (more modern thinkers, presumably) are aware of current research into the brain. You can eliminate the first and third statements.

129. **(A).** The first paragraph of the passage states that oxytocin treatments are often tried in isolated cases and the overall effects are without evaluation. The passage then describes a small study that seems promising, but makes no definitive claims. Therefore, it is likely that the author would agree that the effects of oxytocin require further evaluation, supporting choice (A). Answer choice (B) is incorrect as the passage states the opposite, namely that oxytocin is

not a “cure-all.” Although the author focuses on the effects of oxytocin for those who are not able to interpret social cues, answer choice (C) is incorrect as the author does not state that the drug would not be useful for those who can already do so. The author specifically addresses choice (D) in the passage, stating that the hormone oxytocin increases feelings of calm and social bonding. Finally, answer choice (E) is incorrect, as the author never addresses oxytocin as an oral treatment.

130. **(D).** The second paragraph states that “the experiment showed that the oxytocin had the greatest affect on those who were least able to evaluate emotions properly when given the control.” Thus, it can be inferred that those with the least ability to naturally infer emotions, in other words, the ones who might need it most, reaped the greatest benefits of the hormone. This matches choice (D). Additionally, (A) is incorrect as the passage does not discuss inconclusiveness based on sample size. Choice (B) is incorrect as it incorrectly pairs the known effects of the hormone in the brain with the results of the student study. Choice (C) is incorrect as the passage does not address the ability of the students to recognize expressions, just the relative change between the controlled salt water dose and the oxytocin. Finally, choice (E) is incorrect for a similar reason: the passage does not state that the subtler the expression the more difficult it was for students to identify, just that some expressions that were used were subtler than others.

131. **(A).** The experiment was related to students’ ability to recognize emotions from facial expressions, not their ability to tell faces apart. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer. Choice (B) is mentioned in the first sentence of the last paragraph of the passage. Choice (C) is addressed throughout the second paragraph, first when it is stated that “a control dose of salt water” was given, and then when awareness after exposure to oxytocin is compared to awareness after the controlled salt water dose. Choice (D) is explicitly stated in the second sentence of the second paragraph. Finally, choice (E) is explicitly addressed in the last sentence of the second paragraph.

132. **(A).** In the first paragraph of the passage, the author describes the discovery of the cosmic microwave background. The second paragraph explains why the cosmic microwave exists and its implications to science. Therefore, the author wrote this passage to describe the discovery and reason for the cosmic microwave background, which matches choice (A). Choice (B) is incorrect as the author cites one example of an accidental discovery, but does not explain how multiple discoveries can be made accidentally. Choices (C) and (D) are incorrect as the author does not argue or defend, respectively.

Finally, the main theory presented in the passage is the cosmic microwave background, whereas (E) incorrectly makes it seem that the author's intent is to defend the Big Bang and that the cosmic microwave background is only a subordinate idea.

133. **(C)**. The second sentence in the first paragraph states that “[j]ust an instant after the Big Bang, all matter in the universe was so energetic, or hot, that it existed as free particles known as ‘quarks.’” The paragraph proceeds in sequential order, and thus this event happened soonest after the Big Bang, making (C) the correct choice. The events described in choices (A) and (B) are said to have happened approximately 400,000 years after the Big Bang. Answer choice (D) describes the present state of the cosmic microwave background, 13.6 billion years later. Answer choice (E) is never addressed in the passage.

134. **(D).** The passage states that Penzias and Wilson accidentally discovered the cosmic microwave background and did not even understand what they had found until after consulting the Princeton group. It can be inferred that they did not initially understand the implications of their result, matching choice (D). Choice (A) is incorrect as the passage does not describe the importance of the signal for which Penzias and Wilson were originally searching. Choice (B) is incorrect as the passage never discusses the Princeton instrumentation used for searching for the cosmic microwave background. The capabilities of the telescope used by Penzias and Wilson are never discussed, thus choice (C) is not supported. Finally, the opposite of choice (E) is stated in the passage, which says that Penzias and Wilson convinced themselves that their signal was real before approaching the Princeton team.

135. **2nd and 3rd only.** Sousa argues against mechanical music on the grounds that it is insincere, and that it will decrease music in the home and music played or sung by amateurs as well as music instruction in education. The first statement is an example of one of the things Sousa was afraid of—vocal instruction being less a “normal part of education”—and thus does not “contradict.” The second statement is an example of the phonograph increasing amateur music playing and “domestic music,” so this does contradict Sousa’s point. Finally, the third statement is an example of recorded music being more sincere than live music, so this definitely contradicts Sousa’s point.

136. **(D).** Here, “chest” really does mean a part of the human body not a trunk or treasury. The statement about the “national” throat and chest comes right after a worry that “music will become the province of machines and professional singers only.” Thus, the “national chest” is a reference to amateur singers, which matches choice (D).

137. “The blackbody emits just as much energy per unit time as it absorbs; the electromagnetic spectrum of the emitted energy, however ... ” (second sentence). The second sentence of the paragraph, after the semicolon, states that the electromagnetic spectrum of the emitted energy of a blackbody is completely determined by temperature and no other properties. Therefore, the only variable that defines the electromagnetic spectrum of a blackbody is temperature, as stated in the second sentence.

138. **1st only.** The passage states in the first sentence that “an idealized blackbody is an object that reflects zero incident electromagnetic radiation.” Therefore, if an object reflects incident electromagnetic radiation, it cannot be an idealized blackbody and the first statement can be properly inferred. The

second statement, however, cannot be inferred as the passage states that “a possible Doppler shift” can cause a fundamental change in the original spectral characteristics of reflected electromagnetic radiation. Finally, for the third statement, the passage states that any object that absorbs all incident electromagnetic radiation is a perfect blackbody. However, the passage also states that “a microscopic ‘forest’ of vertically aligned single-wall carbon nanotubes of varying heights applied to a surface” is “the closest [that] scientists have come thus far to creating a perfectly dark material,” implying that this material is not a perfect blackbody. Therefore, it cannot be inferred that this object will absorb all incident radiation.

139. **(B).** The passage highlights two key points as they relate to one another: the two competing theories of the universe and Hubble’s discovery that the universe is expanding. The correct answer, (B), highlights both of these points and their relation to the other. Thus, (B) is correct. Choices (A) and (C) highlight only one of these points each. Choice (D) describes Hubble’s law, which does not fully capture the main idea. Choice (E) is not an idea presented in the passage.

140. **(E).** The second paragraph states that “Milton Humason, a fellow astronomer, helped Hubble to calculate the stars’ relative velocities to Earth,” but nowhere in the passage does it say that Hubble deduced the velocity of Earth or the stars’ absolute velocities. Choice (A) is mentioned at the beginning of the second paragraph. Choice (B) is

mentioned in the first and fourth sentences of the second paragraph. Choice (C) is stated in the second to last sentence of the second paragraph. Finally, (D) is addressed in the second and third sentences of the second paragraph.

141. **1st and 2nd only.** The last sentence states that Hubble’s experiment was “proof that we do not live in a steady-state universe, but rather a dynamic and expanding one”; therefore, it must be true that the steady-state universe theory does not allow for an expanding universe. The first statement can be inferred. The second paragraph also notes that the speed at which objects are moving away from each other in space increases with an increasing distance between the objects. Thus, the second statement can be properly inferred. Finally, the third statement incorrectly assumes that once the steady-state universe theory was disproved, the Big Bang was the only theory that remained. The first sentence of the passage states only that “most physicists supported one of two cosmological theories,” leaving the possibility of other theories that might still agree with Hubble’s discovery.

142. **(A).** The passage dismisses the assumption that the gods determine destiny by pointing out that they act “politically,” and their agendas often conflict, so that they could not formulate a “master plan.” But if the gods had a common goal, then this objection would no longer apply. Thus, (A) is the correct choice. On the other hand, if the agendas of the gods coincided with the demands of fate, that wouldn’t support the idea that the gods were in charge of fate, so choice (B) would not support the assumption. If Homer and Herodotus disagreed about the motives and agendas of the gods, as choice (C) claims, that would not undermine the view that for both authors fate is beyond the gods. Nor would the claim that destiny would be fulfilled regardless of what the gods did—choice (D)—or the idea that the gods and mortals can make their own decisions—choice (E)—so long as these decisions ultimately led to the fulfillment of destiny.

143. **(B).** Choice (B) offers the most common sense of the term “unbiased,” and the only one that fits in this context. Choice (A) is wrong since the passage indicates that the role of the gods is a motif in *The Histories*. Since Herodotus provides an account of conflicts in the Hellenic world, choice (C) is wrong. Choice (D) is wrong since the passage also states that the concept of destiny is part of Herodotus’s history, so the actions of people and states by themselves cannot explain the events involved. As for choice (E), there is no indication that the histories were meant to challenge anyone’s sensibilities.

144. **1st, 2nd, and 3rd.** The first statement paraphrases the claim that the gods act “within certain boundaries,” while the second statement paraphrases

the claim that they do so “to accomplish his or her own agenda.” The third statement is the main point of the passage: that the gods act as agents of destiny, which they do not themselves control.

145. **(C).** Chemical blockers scatter, or disperse, light waves. Chemical absorbers use light waves to promote electrons which then release light waves with a longer wavelength as they return to their ground energy state. Thus, choice (C) is correct. Choice (A) makes a reference to lightening and darkening light waves, neither of which is mentioned in the passage. Choices (B) and (D) refer to converting light waves to radiation, which is not mentioned in the passage. And absorbers absorb the radiation into their molecular structure, not into the skin as in choice (E).

146. **(D).** The chromophores absorb light in the 290–320 nm range and use it to promote (or move up) electrons between energy levels. Since light with wavelengths of 300 nm falls in this range, their electrons should move up in energy levels when exposed to it. Thus, choice (D) is correct. In choice (E), the phrase “they will promote the discrete quantal amounts of energy required” is unjustified, as it is the *electrons* that get promoted, not the discrete quantal amounts of energy required. The discrete quantal amounts of energy simply establish the wavelength range that the chromophores will absorb. Choice (C) would be correct if not for the range given: the author does not indicate how chromophores react to light above 320 nm. Choice (B) is the exact opposite of what the question asks for. Choice (A) applies to physical blockers but not to chemical absorbers.

147. **“The specific wavelength absorbed by a given chromophore is determined by the discrete quantal amounts of energy that are required to excite electrons between the energy levels or its molecules.”** In order to select a chromophore for a particular sunscreen, you would need to know which light waves the sunscreen needs to block and which chromophore would block those waves. This sentence identifies which feature of a chromophore determines which light waves it absorbs. The next sentence in the passage might seem like a good match, but it only specifies how to select a chromophore that would absorb UVB radiation, not UVA radiation.

148. **3rd only.** The first statement is not true because the author points out in the first paragraph that “[for] all we know, the story may have been ‘Christianized’ in its oral form long before the poet set it into writing.” The second statement is incorrect because the leap from “the story of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight has its foundation in Arthurian legend” to “Sir Gawain was a knight in King Arthur’s court” is too large to make. The third statement is true, and a good match for the final sentence of the first paragraph, which posits that the tale may be “a pagan interpretation of Christian ideals” or “an externally imposed Christianization of pagan codes of behavior.”

149. **(E).** Choices (C) and (D) are directly contradicted by the passage. Nothing suggests that the religious outlook of the interpreter influenced the interpretation of the story, so choice (A) is also wrong. Choice (B) is too strong: the passage only states that, according to its interpretation of the story, Gawain’s motives are not Christian. But this doesn’t show that they could not be. Choice (E), on the other hand, follows directly from the claim that while Gawain’s actions and words are Christian, his motives are not.

150. **(B).** The theory in the final sentence is that the poet associates Gawain with a pagan symbol and then portrays his “Christian” virtues as superficial in order to criticize the pagan interpretation of Christianity. Choice (B), if true, would show that the poet was, at very least, inconsistent in this message (or, possibly, the part about Gawain being superficial in his virtues is really just about Gawain). Choice (A) is true and described in the passage, so it would not “undermine” the theory. Choices (C), (D), and (E) do not address the interplay between paganism and Christianity and thus have no bearing on the theory.

151. **1st and 3rd only.** Since Astyages reacted to his first dream by altering the marriage arrangements for his daughter (in order to select a less threatening husband), it can be inferred that he believed her husband could be a threat. Since he intentionally selected a Persian rather than a Median, it can

additionally be inferred that he thought a Persian would be less of a threat. Thus, the first and third statements can be inferred. However, although Astyages's dream was "interpreted ominously by the Magi" and "as a consequence" he pursued a course of action, the passage does not indicate that he thought it was "always" best to obey the Magi, nor whether the Magi made "recommendations." Therefore, the second statement is not supported.

152. **(A).** One of the two mistakes referred to in the passage was marrying Mandane to Cambyses. But if her son would have deposed Astyages even if he had had a different father, then altering what would have been the normal treatment of her marriage was not a mistake that led to Astyages's downfall. This supports choice (A).

153. **(B).** The passage makes the case that Bierstadt's work, which represented the "optimistic feeling in America during the Westward expansion," was later considered "gaudy" and no longer suited for the prevailing trends in art in America after the war. The optimism that once characterized American preferences was tempered by the "horrors of war." The new American attitude, in other words, was one of "somber realism," choice (B). Don't get misled into picking (D), "prideful idealism," by the fact that the passage mentions American pride. The passage does not imply that

there was anything idealistic about the new American attitudes after the Civil War. Choice (A) may also be tempting but the author never makes any sort of claim as to whether the new American attitudes are misguided.

154. **(E).** A central thesis of the passage is that the same elements that initially made Bierstadt's work popular eventually contributed to its downfall. These elements were, in short, an emphasis on size and quantity rather than emotionality. The quoted phrase is a criticism of his work to this effect, providing a specific example of the opinion of the time. This supports choice (E). Choice (C) may be tempting, but this phrase may or may not be the opinion of an expert, plus to "provide expert testimony" is not the best description for the purpose of the phrase.

155. **(C).** The author argues in the first paragraph that Bierstadt "developed a fixed style that was most easily recognizable for its size," (A), that he had an "ability to represent the optimistic feeling in America," (B), that he "deliberately appealed to those rich patrons," (D), and that patrons could purchase a "hyperbolized replica of a Western vista," (E). The increasing attention to "subdued appreciation for the details of American life" is mentioned in the second paragraph as a trend that worked *against* Bierstadt. Therefore, choice (C) is the correct answer to this Except question.

Logic-Based Reading Comprehension Answers

1. **(C).** The given information “most strongly supports” one of the conclusions in the choices. When drawing a conclusion on the GRE, don’t stray far from the passage. The guidelines call for including vegetables (not fruits) in every meal. The school board has replaced fried potatoes with fruit. While this does sound like a nutritional improvement, all you can infer for certain is that the guidelines are not being met.

(A) The passage states nothing about the relative health value of fruits and vegetables.

(B) The passage provides no information about how likely students are to eat any kind of food. Avoid bringing in outside knowledge or suppositions when drawing a conclusion from given information.

(C) CORRECT. This choice spells out the only inference you can legally make: the board is not following the guidelines.

(D) There is no information in the passage about whether the board is responsible for the health of the students.

(E) This opinion may seem reasonable, but it is not at all proven by the passage, which simply presents facts. In general, avoid making value judgments when drawing a conclusion when given only factual information. The premises would have to contain opinions as well.

2. **(C).** The correct answer is an assumption that the author believes to be true in drawing the conclusion, which is “public officials shouldn’t buy lottery tickets” (as indicated by “therefore”). The argument claims that “buying lottery tickets is a form of gambling” and “therefore” a certain group shouldn’t do so. The author must believe that this group, the public officials, should not gamble.

(A) People who play the lottery are not likely to win, it’s true. This is a reason why people in general should not buy lottery tickets. However, the correct answer needs to address why “public officials” specifically “shouldn’t buy lottery tickets.”

(B) It’s irrelevant whether some public officials are guilty of more serious offenses than gambling.

(C) CORRECT. This choice provides the necessary link between lottery

tickets and public officials. Premise: “Buying lottery tickets” = “gambling.” Conclusion: “Public officials shouldn’t buy lottery tickets.” The missing assumption, which this choice supplies word for word, is “public officials shouldn’t gamble.” If an argument says “certain people shouldn’t do X because X is Y,” then the assumption is that those certain people shouldn’t do Y.

(D) It may be true that many officials are tempted to violate the rules, but this assumption does not have to be made in drawing the given argument.

(E) Like choice (A), this choice provides a reason why people in general shouldn’t play the lottery, but it does not address why “public officials” specifically “shouldn’t buy lottery tickets.”

3. **(C).** The question asks what judgement, or conclusion, must follow from the exact words of the passage. Answers that could be true are incorrect.

(A) The argument states that “[s]ome say that Saddlebrook College provides the best value in our state,” and then offers evidence opposing that statement. It does not have to be true that Tunbridge provides the best value in the state; there could be other colleges in the state.

(B) The passage provides no information about entrance requirements or the quality of the student body.

(C) CORRECT. The second sentence in the passage describes various ways in which Tunbridge is a better value than Saddlebrook, so it must follow that Saddlebrook is not the best value.

(D) This choice represents an assumption in the argument—that income after graduation is part of evaluating which college provides the best value—but the question asks for a conclusion, not an assumption within the argument.

(E) This choice is irrelevant—“satisfaction” is not the same as “value.”

4. **(B).** The researchers have confused correlation with causation. If two traits X and Y are found together (in this case, red cars and speeding tickets), it does not mean that X causes Y. It could be that Y causes X, or that some third factor Z causes both. In addition, the researchers have made a second assumption—that the increased number of speeding tickets is the result of an increase in the number of speeding infractions (and not, say, the increase in attention that a red car might get).

(A) This choice regarding black cars is completely irrelevant to this argument.

(B) CORRECT. To move from correlation evidence to a cause/effect conclusion, the researchers must assume that no other cause is possible. In this case, they must assume that the color itself does not lead to tickets.

(C) What color cars police officers drive is irrelevant.

(D) This choice focuses on an entirely different type of ticket and thus is irrelevant.

(E) This choice is outside the scope of the argument as it deals with events after the act of speeding or the issuance of a speeding ticket.

5. **(C).** The conclusion is that “if major industries increase their capital reserves, the employment rate will not decline in the future.” Why? Because major industry did not have capital reserves. The author assumes that having capital reserves is sufficient to prevent a decline in the employment rate.

Weakening that assumption would effectively cast doubt on the author's claim, and a choice that demonstrates that other factors are involved would do so.

(A) Whether the drop in employment was foreseen does not relate to the core of the argument, which is that capital reserves will prevent another decline in the employment rate.

(B) The fact that some major industries had appreciable capital reserves does not contradict the claim that an increase in these reserves would prevent a future drop in employment rates.

(C) CORRECT. The author neglects to take into account the fact that other factors, such as an increase in labor costs, could adversely affect the employment rate. For example, if the cost of labor becomes prohibitively expensive, even with increased reserves, the employment rate could decline.

(D) Legislation mandating a certain level of reserves does not contradict the claim that increased reserves would prevent a drop in employment rates.

(E) The fact that the drop in employment rate was more severe this year than last does not contradict the claim that an increase in reserves would prevent a drop in the employment rate.

6. **(E).** The conclusion of the argument is that “[n]ew methods of math education in this country do a disservice to our children.” Why? Because math teachers emphasize “the same narrow, skills-based approach” in higher grades “that students learned in lower grades rather than the analytical tools that they will need to solve complex math problems.” To weaken the conclusion, show that this approach has not had a negative effect on children’s math skills.

(A) Music is used simply as an analogy in the argument. It has no effect on the conclusion.

(B) The argument suggests that students may be getting worse at advanced math skills due to new methods of teaching. This answer choice strengthens that argument, by stating that “high school students in this country performed worse than they used to” relative to students from other countries.

(C) The simple fact that older students arrive at different answers does not address the concerns of the argument, which is that students are not prepared for higher-level math.

(D) The fact that older students receive better grades in math does not address the concerns of the argument, which is that students are not prepared for higher-level math.

(E) CORRECT. This choice states that an increasing percentage of native first-year students qualify to take college courses requiring advanced math. This suggests that more children from this country are prepared for advanced math than had previously been the case, thus weakening the conclusion of the argument.

7. **(B).** The first boldface sentence states that the fight against the drug trade in Country X “should focus for the time being on tightening the country’s borders and targeting major smugglers.” The second boldface sentence states that the United Nations and the government of Country X should eventually replace the poppy fields with other farming ventures (“agricultural infrastructure”). The correct choice will describe the function of each sentence in the argument. The first sentence is a shorter-term conclusion and the second sentence is a longer-term conclusion of the argument.

(A) This choice states that the first sentence is the conclusion and that the second sentence is an alternative to that conclusion. This misrepresents the relationship. The first sentence is a shorter-term conclusion and the second sentence is a longer-term conclusion of the argument.

(B) CORRECT. This choice states that the first sentence is a short-term solution to a problem and the second a long-term solution to the same problem. This accurately describes the relationship.

(C) This choice states that the first sentence presents a problem. According to the text, however, the first sentence is not a problem but rather is a solution to a problem.

(D) No information was given about the popularity of the solution, so this is incorrect.

(E) The first sentence does present an argument, but the second sentence, rather than providing evidence, presents a second argument.

8. **(B).** The conclusion is that a “developer who wishes to make a large profit would be wise to buy urban waterfront lots and erect residential buildings on them.” The basis for that claim is that people pay large sums for beach front homes. The question asks for the choice that strengthens that conclusion.

(A) This choice states that people have more buying power today than in previous centuries. This does not strengthen the claim that a developer will make money on urban waterfront properties.

(B) CORRECT. This choice states that homeowners will be willing to spend large sums of money on residential properties in traditionally industrial or commercial districts. Since the argument states that urban waterfronts have traditionally been industrial, this fact strengthens the claim that a developer can make a profit on urban waterfront properties.

(C) This choice states that many urban waterfront lots are available for purchase. This does not suggest, however, that a developer will be able to sell them profitably.

(D) This choice states that many coastal cities are giving tax breaks to developers who rehabilitate the waterfront, but this does not suggest that anyone will buy the developed properties.

(E) This choice states that properties in the interior of cities are more expensive than those on the waterfront. Although waterfront properties are therefore cheaper to acquire, this does not necessarily mean that a developer can make a profit after buying such properties.

9. **(D).** The passage states that mentally ill people fare best when two conditions are met: 1) they are not confined to institutions, and 2) they receive high-quality outpatient care. When Congress allowed many mentally ill

people to leave mental institutions, it ensured that condition 1 was met for those who were released. The passage does not state, however, whether Congress also ensured that condition 2 would be met. The plight of the mentally ill in 1983 would not be very surprising if those who had been released never received the high-quality outpatient care that they needed.

(A) An increase in the number of people diagnosed with psychiatric disorders does not explain why the average mentally ill person would be faring worse.

(B) The difference between outcomes for men and women, without additional assumptions or information, does not explain the decrease in average welfare for the mentally ill in the United States.

(C) The discovery of new medications does not explain why the mentally ill were doing worse in 1983; if anything, it makes their plight somewhat more surprising, since the new medications may have benefited some people with mental illness.

(D) CORRECT. This resolves the paradox by offering a plausible explanation of why the mentally ill were worse off in 1983. If Congress never supplied the funding that would have been necessary to provide high-quality outpatient care to the newly released patients, those patients did not fulfill condition 2 for improved welfare in psychiatric patients.

(E) The specific diagnoses of those who fared worst in 1983 cannot resolve the paradox under consideration, since those individuals may well have had the same illnesses before they were released.

10. **(C).** The conclusion of the argument is that renewable sources of energy, chiefly solar and wind, will be less risky for certain utilities than nonrenewable sources, such as oil and gas. The basis for this claim is that the renewable sources will provide stable, low-cost supplies of energy, whereas the prices for nonrenewable sources will fluctuate according to availability. You are asked to find an assumption underlying this argument. For this argument to be valid, it must in fact be true that these renewable sources of energy will provide stable, low-cost supplies.

(A) The utility companies' claim has to do with the supply risk of the new energy sources, not with how these sources are received by the public. Thus, this choice is irrelevant.

(B) If no new supplies of traditional energy sources are found, then it is true that perhaps these nonrenewable supplies will continue to fluctuate in price in a risky manner. However, the argument does not depend upon any assumption about the future discovery of oil and gas supplies.

(C) CORRECT. If it is assumed that weather patterns are consistent and predictable, then with the stated premises, the conclusion that solar and wind power will be less risky than oil and gas follows. If, on the other hand, weather patterns are not consistent and predictable, then solar and wind power are not reliable and thus will not "provide stable energy supplies at low cost." Therefore, the argument's conclusion directly depends on this assumption.

(D) To reach the required conclusion that renewable sources of energy, chiefly solar and wind, will be less risky for certain utilities than nonrenewable sources, it is not necessary to assume that the conversion technology for new sources is not more expensive than the present technology.

(E) This choice does not directly affect the argument. Whether energy produced through combustion can be made less risky is irrelevant; the new energy sources might still be less risky than the older sources.

11. **(D).** The conclusion of the argument is that one need not worry about ingesting pesticides when purchasing produce from farms that use only organic pesticides. The basis for that claim is that organic pesticides leave the surface of produce within a few hours of spraying. In order for this argument to be valid, one must assume that the organic pesticides do not harm the produce in any lasting way and that people aren't eating the produce within a few hours of the pesticide treatment.

(A) If true, this choice would help consumers determine which produce has been treated with inorganic pesticides. However, the author's argument does not assume that it is true, as consumers may be aware of which produce has been treated with inorganic pesticides from other sources.

(B) If anything, this statement runs counter to the argument. If produce that has been sprayed with organic pesticide reaches the final consumer within hours, it is possible that the pesticides are still present.

(C) The conclusion of the argument is already limited to those farms that use “only organic pesticides.”

(D) CORRECT. If a pesticide is capable of penetrating the skin of a fruit or vegetable then, while the organic pesticide will dissipate from the surface of the fruit in a few hours, it might remain inside the fruit. The author of this argument assumes that the organic pesticides cannot penetrate the skin.

(E) The issue of cost is unrelated to the argument’s conclusion about pesticide residues.

12. **(E).** The conclusion of the argument is that the government should educate the public about the dangers of inactivity and poor diet to stop the spread of type 2 diabetes. The correct choice will show that this plan likely will not work.

(A) The fact that schools educate middle school students about a disease that is generally “acquired later in life” does not address the effectiveness of a broad public education plan sponsored by the government.

(B) The fact that the public already has access to this information through the Internet does not say anything predictive about the effectiveness of the plan. People may not actually be reading the information.

(C) Just because food companies encourage the public to indulge in unhealthful snacks does not mean that a program that teaches the public to do otherwise would not be successful.

(D) The argument recommends a specific plan; whether it eventually receives government funding is a separate issue.

(E) CORRECT. Even with the best planning, the program might not achieve its goals simply because people cannot afford to follow the program’s advice.

13. **(A).** According to the argument, “mold is almost always found in places where there is substantial moisture,” so therefore, to avoid mold and the resultant mold poisoning, people should take steps to prevent wet areas. This argument assumes that wet areas occur first, causing mold to grow. Conversely, this assumption requires that the mold growth itself does not occur first, creating wet areas as a result.

(A) CORRECT. The argument depends on the assumption that the reason

mold and wetness are observed together is that wet areas cause mold growth. If the reverse causation (mold causes wetness) were true, then keeping all plumbing in good condition to prevent leakage would do little to prevent the growth of mold. This choice eliminates the alternative causation.

(B) The argument does not specify or assume that homeowners cannot hire experts to check their plumbing.

(C) Even if mold could grow in dry areas, the fact that mold is almost always found in wet areas is still valid. This is the fact upon which the argument is based, so the argument does not depend on the unnecessarily absolute assertion that mold cannot grow in dry areas.

(D) Even if some varieties of mold are harmless, the conclusion of this argument, that “one should make sure to keep all internal plumbing in good condition to prevent leakage” and minimize mold growth, could still be valid. Therefore, this argument does not depend on the unnecessarily absolute assertion that no varieties of mold are harmless.

(E) Whether mold spores can be filtered from the air may be relevant to a conclusion about the health effects of mold in the home, but it is not directly relevant to the given conclusion.

14. **(D).** This argument discusses a plan with the stated goal “to prevent overcrowding.” Two points of view are represented in the argument: one is that of the town zoning board, the originators of the plan, and the other is that of critics of the plan. The question asks for information that would most support the claims of the critics of the plan.

(A) How other towns fared under similar zoning plans is irrelevant to this argument, unless additional information was presented to connect the situation of this town to those. There is no such connecting information, so this choice neither strengthens nor weakens either point of view.

(B) How long it has been since the construction of the last school in town is irrelevant to this argument. The argument addresses methods to prevent overcrowding, an issue that is not directly related to school construction.

(C) The argument never mentions property taxes, so how property taxes in this town compare to those in neighboring towns is irrelevant.

(D) CORRECT. The argument states that “the town zoning board limited the number of new buildings that can be constructed in the town in any given year.” The goal of this plan is to prevent overcrowding, but only does so indirectly: the town zoning board plan limits the number of new buildings, except for apartment buildings. If many new residents move into town, then the strain on town services will not decrease and may, in fact, increase.

(E) The distance to the nearest garbage dump is irrelevant to an argument about how to prevent overcrowding.

15. **(C).** The conclusion of the argument is that “the retail price of chocolate is certain to increase within six months.” This claim is based on the fact that the wholesale price of cocoa solids and cocoa butter has increased significantly and is likely to stay high. The argument assumes that the retail price of chocolate is driven by the wholesale price of cocoa and ignores the cost of the other ingredients in chocolate. To evaluate the conclusion of the argument, it

is necessary to examine whether this assumption is valid.

(A) The price of cocoa solids and cocoa butter during other periods of poor harvest is irrelevant. There is no guarantee that the market for chocolate would respond the same way in this case.

(B) The willingness of consumers to spend more for chocolate is irrelevant when evaluating whether chocolate will be more expensive due to a shortage of cocoa beans.

(C) CORRECT. If the price of other ingredients in the chocolate has dropped, then the decrease could offset the higher price of cocoa, and the retail price of chocolate could remain steady.

(D) The percentage of cacao trees affected by the fungus is irrelevant. Regardless of the percentage, it would not change the fact stated by the argument that “there was an unusually meager harvest of cocoa beans this year.”

(E) It may seem useful to determine whether the fungus can be eliminated within the next six months. However, the conclusion was not about the fungus or the cacao crop, but rather the retail price of chocolate. The time frame for the elimination of the fungus would only be relevant to the short-term retail price of chocolate if you make several additional assumptions: that the harvest immediately increases, that the resulting glut of cocoa beans immediately offsets the “unusually meager harvest of cocoa beans this year,” that the wholesale price of cocoa immediately drops to its pre-fungus level, and that the retail price would not be affected in the meantime. You cannot make all of these assumptions, so the answer to this question is irrelevant to the conclusion.

16. **(A).** The argument rests on the assumption that there is a connection between the one-time raw material price increase and the two-year steady decline in profit margins. Alternatively, something else could have caused either a steady two-year decline in revenues or a steady two-year increase in costs; if so, this event is more likely to be the cause of a steady decline in profit margins over the same two-year period. As a result, this would weaken the engineer’s conclusion that finding a new source for the raw material will improve profit margins.

(A) CORRECT. New competitors have caused a steady two-year decline in revenues. This weakens the engineer’s assumption that the one-time doubling of costs for the raw material is the cause of the steady two-year decline in profit margins.

(B) The fact that the region’s mines are producing less than they did before the earthquake does not indicate anything about the cost of the raw material; to weaken the engineer’s conclusion, it would be necessary to show that cost is not reduced.

(C) The amount of raw material produced by other regions does not indicate anything about the cost of the raw material; to weaken the engineer’s conclusion, it would be necessary to show that cost is not reduced.

(D) The use of a different raw material does not indicate anything about the cost of that raw material; to weaken the engineer’s conclusion, it would be necessary to show that cost is not reduced.

(E) Although mining the raw material may become more cost-effective for the mine (that is, cheaper), this does not indicate what will happen to the price the mine charges for the material when selling to the company producing the product in question. To weaken the engineer's conclusion, it would be necessary to show that cost is not reduced.

17. **(E).** The argument concludes that children in this county are more likely to attend college if they attend private high schools instead of public high schools. The basis for this claim is that a higher percentage of graduates of private schools pursue a college education. It is assumed that public schools are inferior to private schools as a training ground for college. Any statement that provides an alternative explanation for the fact that public school graduates attend college at lower rates than private school graduates would weaken the argument.

(A) While higher test scores might increase students' chances of admission to college, this fact is unrelated to whether students will actually attend college. Even if one could prove that earning higher test scores makes a student more likely to attend college, this statement would not weaken the argument, but rather strengthen it.

(B) Since the conclusion centers on the likelihood of attending college, economic and financial considerations for high school are outside the scope of the argument.

(C) Since the amount of need-based aid is not directly related to whether a student will attend college, this statement is outside the scope of the argument.

(D) While better athletic opportunities could increase students' chances of admission to college, they are unrelated to whether students will actually attend college. Also, even though the advantages of public school mentioned in this statement were taken into account by the study, the proportion of graduates of public schools attending colleges remains substantially lower than the proportion of graduates of private schools.

(E) CORRECT. This answer choice demonstrates that the difference in the percentage of graduates attending colleges is not because of any advantage provided by private schools but because a subset of the graduates of public high schools simply choose to pursue a different career path. In other words, 30% of the graduates of public schools voluntarily choose not to pursue a college education. Yet 65% out of the remaining 70% of graduates end up in college. This statement indicates extremely high college matriculation rates for students who want to attend college after graduation from public high schools.

18. **(A).** Only two pieces of information are given about Airline A's standing room "seats" proposal. First, it is geared toward increasing revenue to counteract declining profits. Second, since the proposal relates to passenger safety, it must be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. Airline A must have concluded that the cost of implementation of its proposal is less than the revenue that the new seats will generate.

(A) CORRECT. Since Airline A knows that its proposal would have to comply with safety standards, it must have concluded that the cost of compliance is worth it. In other words, the only way for Airline A to achieve its goal of increasing profit is to implement ideas that will generate more revenue than they cost. Airline A must therefore have concluded that the standing room only "seats" meet this criteria.

(B) The statements in the passage imply nothing about whether Airline A believes that the Federal Aviation Administration will approve the proposal. Although Airline A must believe that the proposal has a chance of approval (otherwise it's unlikely to have proposed it), the airline might have proposed

its specific plan knowing that it might not be approved, or that it might have to be changed in certain ways.

(C) Airline A's goal is simply to "counteract declining profits" caused by the high cost of jet fuel. This does not mean, however, that the proposal must fully mitigate the cost of jet fuel. As long as the proposal increases revenue without an equal or greater increase in cost, it will in some way counteract declining profits.

(D) The passage does not mention any other ways that Airline A has considered increasing revenues. Therefore, it is impossible to relate Airline A's perception of its standing room "seats" proposal to any other proposals.

(E) The statements in the passage do not address Airline A's view regarding the safety of the standing room only "seats." It is very possible that Airline A views its proposal as safe and sees no conflict between passenger safety and increasing revenue, much less that it has made any determination about the relative importance of these two issues.

19. **(B).** This question is an Analyze the Argument Structure question; the best approach is to identify the conclusion, decide how each boldface portion of the question relates to the conclusion, and eliminate incorrect answer choices on that basis. Here, the second boldface is the conclusion of the argument, as highlighted by the use of the signal word “Therefore.”

(A) The first boldface is not an assumption as assumptions are, by definition, unstated. Also, the second boldface does not just describe the argument’s recommended position, it is itself the conclusion of the argument.

(B) CORRECT. The first boldface is a consideration that helps explain why companies charge as much as possible for new designs. The second boldface presents a different strategy endorsed by the argument, which is to charge less than the greatest possible price to maximize profit.

(C) The first boldface is not an assumption as assumptions are, by definition, unstated. The second boldface is not the strategy referenced in the first boldface.

(D) The first boldface does not demonstrate that the strategy of selling for the greatest price will not apply, but instead supports it. Also, the second boldface is the argument’s conclusion, not a factor that supports it.

(E) The description of the first boldface is accurate; however, the second boldface is not a factor against the strategy of maximizing profits by charging the greatest possible price, but it is an alternative strategy altogether.

20. **(B).** Although the premises of this argument suggest only a correlation between smoking and anxiety or nervousness, the argument has a causal conclusion: it concludes that smoking causes individuals to become anxious and nervous (i.e., that A causes B). Often, assumptions support a causal conclusion either by eliminating an alternative cause for the conclusion (that C did not cause B) or by demonstrating that the causation, if one exists, is in the proper direction (that B did not cause A).

(A) The argument concludes that smoking causes anxiety and nervousness. Whether these maladies lead to more serious health problems is not relevant to the conclusion.

(B) CORRECT. For smoking to be the cause of anxiety and nervousness (A caused B), it must be true that these individuals were not more likely to be anxious and nervous before they started smoking. If smokers had these preconditions, which contributed to their decision to begin smoking (B caused A), the conclusion—that smoking causes these maladies—would be incorrect.

(C) The argument concludes that smoking causes anxiety and nervousness. The number of survey respondents is not relevant to the conclusion.

(D) The argument concludes that smoking causes anxiety and nervousness. The awareness of the health problems related to smoking is not relevant to the conclusion.

(E) The argument is not based on the immediate impact that smoking has on anxiety and nervousness. Moreover, the argument never compares some smokers to other smokers.

21. **(D).** Because of the speculation that the tuberculosis outbreak in Country X was the result of an outbreak of tuberculosis in Country Y, health officials in Country X have proposed requiring all visitors from Country Y to undergo a medical examination. You are asked to find a choice that suggests that this proposal will *not* have the desired effect of curbing the spread of tuberculosis in Country X.

(A) This has no bearing on the situation between Country X and Country Y.

(B) This suggests only that the proposal would not prevent ALL cases. But even if the proposal does not prevent all cases, it could help prevent many.

(C) This suggests only that the proposal would not catch ALL carriers of the disease from Country Y. But even if the proposal does not prevent all cases, it could help prevent many.

(D) CORRECT. This suggests that the visitors from Country Y are not the source of the disease. Thus, testing them would likely do little to curb the spread of the disease.

(E) If the visitors from Country Y are indeed carriers, then their refusal to visit Country X would help curb the disease.

22. **(D).** The argument concerns the economic impact on restaurants in Prohibitionland if the service of alcoholic beverages is banned. It presents evidence that, despite restrictions on the service of alcohol in certain areas of Prohibitionland, sales taxes in restaurants in those areas rose at a higher rate than for those in other parts of Prohibitionland. This evidence suggests that the ban would not have any adverse economic impact. To support the restaurant proprietors' claim, the correct answer choice will call the relevance of the seemingly contradictory evidence into question.

(A) This answer choice may seem to strengthen the argument that banning the service of alcoholic beverages would have an adverse impact on restaurants. However, as the evidence involves data for the entire year, citing a short-term negative impact on restaurant visitation at the beginning of the year does not measurably strengthen the argument.

(B) The relative tax rate on food and beverages as compared to other consumer goods is irrelevant.

(C) A gradual decline in alcohol consumption over the past 20 years would suggest that over time, any ban on alcohol would have an increasingly small impact on restaurant visitation, weakening the proprietors' argument.

(D) CORRECT. This statement calls the evidence into question by indicating that any measured increase in sales taxes and, presumably, revenues for restaurants that have been operating under the restrictions enacted last year is irrelevant, as the restrictions are arguably completely different than the total ban that has been proposed. This answer choice substantially strengthens the proprietors' argument by threatening to make the cited evidence irrelevant.

(E) That overall sales tax revenue did not increase at a higher rate in the provinces that enacted the restrictions on alcoholic beverages weakens the proprietors' argument, as it makes the cited evidence more compelling by ruling out the possibility of different growth rates in the different areas.

23. **(A).** The passage concludes that “the whereabouts of most of the world’s most valuable artwork are probably unknown.” The basis for this claim is that “serious art collectors are discreet” when purchasing or selling significant pieces of art. To weaken this claim, one would need information that demonstrated that serious art collectors, while discreet in purchasing and selling their artwork, were relatively open about the artworks in their possession. Alternatively, one could weaken this claim using information that showed that serious art collectors possessed only a small fraction of the world’s most valuable art. The question asks you to find an answer choice that does not weaken the conclusion.

(A) CORRECT. That the value of a piece of art is subjective is irrelevant to the reasoning of the argument. This choice does not present any information that weakens the link drawn between the whereabouts of valuable artwork and the discretion employed by serious art collectors when purchasing or selling such artwork. Thus, this choice does NOT weaken the conclusion.

(B) That serious art collectors publicize their art shortly after purchasing it means that the whereabouts of their valuable art must be widely known. This choice makes clear that serious art collectors are discreet only in purchasing and selling their artwork, and that the location of newly purchased artwork is unknown, if at all, for only a short period of time. As such, this choice weakens the conclusion.

(C) If museums own the vast majority of the world’s valuable artwork, then the practices of serious individual art collectors are essentially irrelevant to the location of most of the world’s valuable artwork. Therefore, this choice weakens the conclusion since the public nature of museums means that the whereabouts of most of the world’s valuable work are widely known.

(D) Since the majority of the world’s valuable privately held artwork is owned by individuals who are not considered serious collectors, then the practices of serious art collectors are essentially irrelevant to the location of most of the world’s valuable artwork. This choice weakens the conclusion by removing the link between serious art collectors and most of the world’s valuable artwork.

(E) That the collections of most serious art collectors are often displayed in public settings means that the whereabouts of their valuable art must be widely known. This choice makes clear that serious art collectors are discreet only in purchasing and selling their artwork; once it is in their possession, the artwork is typically unveiled for the public.

24. **(A).** The argument explains that the new “Click It or Ticket” law is generating controversy. Under the new law, drivers can be cited for not wearing their seat belts, even in the absence of an additional driving infraction. Any acceptable inference must be directly supported by evidence from the text.

(A) CORRECT. The entire controversy is based on the new law that allows motorists to be cited even in the absence of an additional infraction. Thus, it follows that prior to the passage of this law, an additional driving infraction must have been necessary to stop and cite an individual for not wearing a seat belt.

(B) Search and seizure laws are never mentioned in the text. This answer choice is outside the scope of the argument.

(C) Laws in other states are never mentioned in the text. This answer choice is outside the scope of the argument.

(D) Though the text states that the new regulation might save countless additional lives, the effectiveness of the previous laws is never mentioned.

(E) The argument does not compare or otherwise evaluate the competency or authority of law enforcement groups and citizens groups.

25. **(E).** The passage provides some specific information about the effects of calorie restriction. In rats and mice, this diet is known to prolong life by preventing diseases. In a study of moderately overweight humans, insulin levels and body temperature decreased. A proper GRE inference must follow from the specific information provided, without relying on any significant assumptions.

(A) The passage states that calorie restriction in mice and rats prolongs life by preventing diseases. The human study had much more limited findings—that calorie restriction in moderately overweight humans decreases insulin levels and body temperature. While these traits are known to be associated with longevity, there is no data that links calorie restriction itself to prolonged human life. Additionally, calorie restriction may have other unstated effects, unrelated to longevity. There is no information in the passage that indicates whether these effects are the same in humans as in mice and rats. Finally, the use of the term “humans” is far too general; the study dealt only with moderately overweight humans and so any inference would need to be restricted to this subset of individuals.

(B) While the passage indicates that certain traits known to be associated with longevity are found in moderately overweight humans who reduce their calorie intake, this is far removed from the conclusion that calorie intake will actually increase a human’s lifespan. Additionally, as with answer choice (A), the use of the term “humans” is far too general.

(C) The study observed that individuals with the greatest percentage decrease in their calorie intake demonstrated the greatest decrease in insulin levels and body temperature. This shows a strong correlation between calorie intake and insulin levels. However, this correlation is not necessarily direct. It is possible that this correlation holds, but only up to a point. For example, it might be the case that any reduction in calorie intake over 50% does not result in any additional insulin level decreases. Moreover, the passage only draws this correlation for individuals with the greatest percent decrease in calorie intake. It is very possible that individuals with a relatively low decrease in calorie intake exhibit the exact same decrease in insulin levels as individuals with a moderate decrease in calorie intake.

(D) The study makes no reference to the health of individuals who reduce their calorie intake. It tries to draw some connection to the longevity of those individuals, but longevity is not the same as health. An individual could live a very long, unhealthy life.

(E) CORRECT. The passage states that the greatest decrease in insulin levels was observed in individuals with the greatest percentage change in their calorie intake. This means that some individuals in the study reduced their calorie intake by a greater percentage than other individuals in the study. The passage also states that the study participants reduced their individual calorie intakes by “at least 25%.” Thus, one can safely infer that there were some participants who reduced their calorie intake by more than 25%.

26. **(D)**. Research indicates that there is a connection between marriage and happiness as well as health. Media commentators have concluded that marriage causes happiness and health. However, to do so, the commentators must reject the reverse causation: being happy and healthy makes a person more likely to marry.

(A) The research compared married people to unmarried people. Neither the researchers nor the media commentators made any distinction between newlyweds and those who had been married a long time, so this assumption is not necessary.

(B) The type of wedding is outside the scope of this argument. The research compared married people to unmarried people, but made no distinction based upon the type of wedding.

(C) At first, this statement may seem necessary—after all, if the commentators conclude that marriage causes happiness, a lack of depression in married people would certainly support that conclusion. However, the statement is too extreme. One depressed married person does not invalidate the research indicating that, on average, married people are healthier and happier than unmarried people.

(D) CORRECT. This statement eliminates the alternative interpretation of the research findings—that being happy and healthy makes a person more likely to marry.

(E) The research compared married people to unmarried people. Neither the researchers nor the media commentators made any distinction between harmonious marriages and combative marriages, so this assumption is not necessary.

27. **(D)**. The question concerns the structure of the argument. Here, the conclusion is the final sentence, which follows from the evidence previously presented. Therefore, the correct answer cannot describe either boldface portion as the author's final conclusion. The first section details an earlier, erroneous belief. Any answer choice that suggests that the author agrees with this first statement is incorrect. The second boldface statement shows that the earlier theory—that lactic acid causes soreness—was incorrect, and thus also provides evidence in support of the author's conclusion. So, the correct answer must describe the second boldface portion as supporting the conclusion.

(A) This choice misrepresents the first bolded portion by claiming that the author accepts it as true. The author presents it as an incorrect, outdated

belief. The second portion is also incorrect because it indicates that the second bolded portion supports the first one.

(B) This choice also misrepresents the first portion, for the reason described above. It is correct that the second bolded portion is contradictory to the first portion.

(C) The first portion is correctly described as an assertion that the author does not believe to be true. Yet the second portion is incorrectly described as against the author's final conclusion.

(D) CORRECT. This choice correctly represents the first portion as a belief that the author considers erroneous. The second portion is correctly described as evidence in support of the author's conclusion.

(E) The first portion is correctly described as evidence the author considers invalid. However, this choice misrepresents the second portion as the conclusion, whereas it is evidence that supports the conclusion.

28. **(B).** The conclusion of the argument is contained in the last sentence: “Thus, the methods that the prospector had used to determine the size of the oil deposit must have been inaccurate.” The evidence provided is that the prospector reported a large oil deposit that was later determined to be much smaller. The unstated assumption necessary for the conclusion is that there is not another reason why the prospector might have reported a larger oil deposit than actually existed.

(A) It is not necessary to the conclusion that a third party affirmed the company’s determination because the conclusion accepts that the oil deposit was indeed smaller than indicated by the prospector and focuses on the cause of the discrepancy as opposed to the discrepancy itself.

(B) CORRECT. The argument concludes that the prospector’s methods resulted in inaccurate measurements of the size of the oil deposit. This assumes that the prospector did not simply misreport or misrepresent the measurements, presumably for personal gain.

(C) The commercial feasibility or profitability of the oil deposit is not integral to the argument or its conclusion.

(D) Whether the prospector utilized the same methods to measure the oil deposits in other locations is not relevant to the argument or the conclusion.

(E) That the company has a long operating history and much experience drilling oil wells is not relevant because the company’s measurements of the size of the oil field are accepted as a given.

29. **(C).** This passage relates information from two studies concerning high school seniors: the first discusses the financial responsibilities of high school seniors, while the second explains the coursework in finance taken by typical high school seniors. On the GRE, a proper response to a Draw a Conclusion question must directly follow from the evidence in the passage.

(A) Although it might be true that schools would be wise to educate students in finance, this is an opinion that does not have to be true based upon the given evidence.

(B) That one-third of high school seniors claim “significant financial responsibilities” to their families does not necessarily mean that these same students work “part-time jobs after school.” There are many ways that these students might earn money for their families. If they do work, they might work on weekends or over the summer.

(C) CORRECT. The first study states that one-third of all high school seniors

have significant financial responsibilities to their families. The second study states that 80% of seniors have opened a bank account, and of this 80%, one-third have bounced a check. The number of seniors that has bounced a check (one-third of 80%) is fewer than the number of seniors with significant financial responsibilities to their families (one-third of 100%).

(D) The passage states that certain high school seniors who contribute to the food, shelter, or clothing for themselves or their families “rate themselves” as having significant financial responsibilities. This does not mean that any high school senior who contributes to these categories has significant financial responsibilities.

(E) The passage states that one-third of high school seniors say that they have “significant financial responsibilities.” This does not indicate that the other two-thirds have no responsibilities. Because no information is given about the other two-thirds of the students, no conclusion about them must follow.

30. **(E).** According to the statements, the companies that own private aircraft for business use are fully in compliance with the relevant law. A correct inference must follow from at least part of the premises given.

(A) It does not have to be true that the law costs the businesses money as no evidence about the relative costs is given.

(B) This choice is an irrelevant comparison as the preferences of the executives are not the concern of the statements.

(C) This choice does not have to follow as there is no information given about the travel arrangements made by large companies. The statements only indicate that the majority of private planes are not owned by large companies.

(D) There is no information given about the travel arrangements of upper level executives and no reason to believe that those with the companies discussed do not comply with their companies' policies.

(E) CORRECT. If, as the statements indicate, the companies are in full compliance with this law, it must be true that the executives following their guidelines also are.

31. **(E).** The conclusion of the argument is that insurance companies do not have a significant economic incentive to delay claim payments to doctors. To weaken this conclusion, an answer choice must provide some significant economic incentive for insurance companies to be tardy in paying doctors for legitimate medical claims.

(A) While the fact that some doctors who submit accurate bills to insurance companies still receive tardy payments seems to indicate that there must be something other than errors causing delayed payments, it fails to prove that the insurance company has an economic incentive to deliberately delay claim payments to doctors. For example, this fact could simply indicate that the insurance companies are inefficient at handling their paperwork.

(B) This choice compares the costs insurance companies must absorb due to incorrect bills to the costs physicians must absorb due to tardy payments. However, this information does not establish an economic incentive for insurance companies to delay claim payments to doctors.

(C) The argument is focused on the payment of legitimate claims; the rising proportion of illegitimate claims does not establish a clear economic incentive for insurance companies to delay payments of legitimate claims.

(D) The types of billing errors made by doctors' offices does not establish any

economic motive for insurance companies to delay payments to doctors.

(E) CORRECT. This choice articulates a logical chain that establishes a clear economic motive for insurance companies to delay paying doctors for legitimate medical claims. If insurance companies delay payments to doctors, this results in a 10% increase in overhead costs for physicians. These costs ultimately result in higher fees that doctors charge to insurance companies. Insurance companies, in turn, raise the premiums that they charge consumers for health coverage. This choice states that the insurance companies increase their fees to consumers far more than the doctors increase their fees to insurance companies, enabling the insurance companies to pocket the difference; therein lies the economic motive for insurance companies to be tardy paying doctors for legitimate medical claims.

32. **(D).** Farmers in developing countries claim that the global price of wheat is low because American farmers produce too much of the grain. They also claim that American farmers produce too much wheat because they have

no incentive to manage their crops, since the U.S. government will buy any surplus wheat. The question asks which choice weakens the claim that removing the American subsidy would cause the price of wheat to rise.

(A) The fact that there are uses for wheat that is not eaten is irrelevant. This does not address the farmers' claims.

(B) That buyers of wheat can predict their needs in advance is irrelevant, because the text indicates that American farmers do not pay attention to actual demand for wheat.

(C) In this argument, the global market for soybeans is irrelevant to the global market for wheat, which is a different commodity with different demand, supply, and pricing structures.

(D) CORRECT. The farmers assume that the sole cause of the wheat surplus is the United States. This answer choice suggests that other countries would modify their output to counterbalance any reduction on the part of the United States, keeping prices constant rather than allowing them to rise.

(E) The price of another crop is largely irrelevant. Moreover, the fact that the price of sorghum, a non-subsidized crop, is lower tends to support, rather than weaken, the claims of the farmers.

33. **(E).** The researchers claim that Delta-32 prevents its carriers from contracting the plague. They support this claim by noting that a strikingly large percentage of descendants of plague survivors carry the mutation. The question asks for an assumption underlying the claim.

(A) The argument is specific to the relationship between Delta-32 and resistance to the plague. Other diseases are irrelevant.

(B) The argument is specific to the relationship between Delta-32 and resistance to the plague. Other diseases are irrelevant.

(C) If Delta-32 existed in its current form before the 16th century, the conclusion would still stand, so this choice is not a necessary assumption.

(D) The argument does not claim that Delta-32 prevents all bacteria-caused disease.

(E) CORRECT. The researchers claim that Delta-32 prevented its carriers from contracting the plague on the basis of its presence in descendants of plague survivors. But it is theoretically possible that these descendants carry the mutation Delta-32 because the plague mutated the genes of their ancestors. In order to claim that the mutation prevented the plague, you must

assume that the plague did not cause the mutation Delta-32.

34. **(A).** The argument claims that wide dissemination of wireless access would be a practical way to meet urban needs, based on the evidence of its successful use in rural areas. The author then must assume that urban areas provide no additional problems for wireless use.

(A) CORRECT. This choice confirms an assumption of the argument and thus strengthens the conclusion.

(B) This choice weakens the argument because it damages the assumption that urban areas pose no extra problems for wireless use.

(C) This choice is irrelevant because it provides information about another rural area; the conclusion concerns urban areas.

(D) This choice weakens the argument because it damages the assumption that urban areas pose no extra problems for wireless use.

(E) This choice is an irrelevant distinction. The argument mentioned all three groups as in need of this service. The suggestion that one group needs it more than the others is irrelevant to the conclusion.

35. **(D).** The conclusion of this argument is that “many weight-loss efforts fail because people eat more calories than they intend to consume.” The first boldface portion is a factual premise (“Studies have shown ...”). This premise indirectly supports the researchers’ conclusion. The second boldface portion is another supporting premise, this one citing a specific study showing that dieters who do not keep a diet record eat more than they realize.

(A) The first boldface is not the conclusion; it is an observed fact. The second boldface is evidence that the researchers’ conclusion is correct, but is not evidence that the first boldface is correct.

(B) The first boldface is a fact that supports the researchers’ theory, but it does not explain why their conclusion is correct—the other premises do so.

(C) The first boldface is a fact that supports the researchers’ theory, but it does not illustrate the truth of that theory—the second boldface does. The second boldface is a fact that supports the researchers’ theory; it is not a competing theory.

(D) CORRECT. The first boldface (diet record = diet success) is a basis for the researchers’ conclusion that many weight loss efforts fail because people consume more than they intended. The second boldface directly illustrates how weight loss efforts of a certain group failed for exactly that reason.

(E) The first boldface is a factual statement, not a theory. Furthermore, the first boldface supports the theory of the researchers; it is not something they have disproved.

36. **(B).** This argument concludes that the city should convene a conference of relevant parties to create opportunities for unemployed young people. The argument’s premise is that the retirement of the baby boomers will create shortages. The argument assumes the efficacy of its conclusion—in other words, that the conference will actually be effective in creating job opportunities. Attacking an assumption is an effective way to weaken an argument.

(A) If anything, this choice strengthens the argument. If immigration does not provide a labor pool, it is more likely that a shortage will ensue.

(B) CORRECT. The argument assumes that it is feasible to affect employment patterns by government encouragement and/or action. If that assumption is denied, the conclusion is weakened, as the conference would be pointless.

(C) This choice makes an irrelevant distinction. It does not matter if the best positions require skills, as long as the majority are available to the unskilled unemployed in question.

(D) Knowing that a small proportion of baby boomers will not retire on schedule does not significantly weaken the argument. The argument relies on general estimates, not on exact numbers.

(E) If anything, this choice strengthens the argument. If these people are unaware of these opportunities, it would be positive to convene to plan how to reach them.

37. **(D).** Since the westbound train is blowing its horn, the westbound train is “the source of the sound.” Therefore, the passengers on the westbound train are traveling along with the source of the sound, and thus are neither approaching the source nor receding from it. Hence, the westbound passengers should hear the true pitch of the sound.

According to the passage, the passengers in the eastbound train are approaching the source of the sound, the westbound train; the distance between the eastbound passengers and the sound is decreasing. Therefore, according to the given description of the Doppler effect, the eastbound passengers should perceive a sound that is higher than the true pitch.

(A) Passengers in the eastbound train do not hear the true pitch of the horn; passengers in the westbound train do.

(B) It is true that the westbound passengers hear the true pitch; the eastbound passengers, however, hear a sound that is higher than the true pitch.

(C) Passengers in the eastbound train do not hear the true pitch of the horn; passengers in the westbound train do.

(D) CORRECT. Westbound passengers do hear the true pitch of the sound. Eastbound passengers do hear a sound that is higher in pitch than the true sound.

(E) It is true that eastbound passengers hear a sound that is higher than the true pitch; the westbound passengers, however, hear the true pitch.

38. **(E).** The author concludes that one will only be able to determine the age of a Brazilian ash by counting its rings if the temperature in the tree’s environment never exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit. The author bases this conclusion on the fact that the tree loses rings when the temperature exceeds that level. However, if the number of rings lost by a Brazilian ash at high temperatures can be predicted, it may be possible to determine the age of a tree even if the temperature exceeds 95 degrees.

(A) The argument says nothing about precipitation. This answer choice is out

of scope since it would require a number of other assumptions to make it relevant to the argument's conclusion.

(B) Whether other trees share this feature is irrelevant; the argument focuses only on the Brazilian ash.

(C) If it is the case that one day above 95 degrees is equal to one ring lost, then it might still be possible to predict the tree's age, as long as it is known on how many days the temperature exceeded 95 degrees.

(D) The thickness of the rings is irrelevant.

(E) CORRECT. The conclusion is that the rings will be a reliable measure only if the temperature never exceeds 95 degrees. This is true only if there is no way to predict how many rings would be lost when the temperature does exceed 95 degrees. If it were possible to predict this, one might be able to assess the age of a tree using its rings even if the temperature had exceeded 95 degrees.

39. **(E).** The text states that celiac disease results when the body mistakes gluten for a harmful pathogen, causing damage to the intestine. It also says that gluten is a protein found in certain grains and that people suffering from celiac disease must eliminate gluten from their diets. The symptoms of the disease include cramps, bloating, and anemia. The correct answer choice must follow from these facts alone.

(A) Anemia is just one of several symptoms of the disease. It does not have to be true that everyone who has the disease will also develop anemia.

(B) It does not have to follow that eliminating gluten will cure the disease, only that people with the disease must not eat gluten. The disease could come back if people eat gluten again.

(C) It is not a certainty that the symptoms mentioned are also symptoms of other conditions.

(D) It is not known whether gluten is found only in grains. It may exist in other foods as well.

(E) CORRECT. If the body mistakes gluten for a harmful pathogen, then it must be true that the body cannot always recognize harmless substances.

40. **(E).** This argument proposes that culture does not influence the process by which the mind distinguishes colored objects. In support of the conclusion, the argument notes that all languages with six color terms name the same colors, as do all languages with three color terms. To weaken the conclusion, the correct choice will support the counterargument that culture does influence how the mind distinguishes colored objects. Notice the logical difference between distinguishing color names and distinguishing colored objects. For instance, a speaker of English can visually distinguish two objects with different shades of red, even if he or she cannot easily name the difference. Some of the wrong answers attempt to confuse these two processes.

(A) Irrelevant. It may be interesting to observe that no language has more than 11 basic color terms. However, this observation neither weakens nor

strengthens the argument that culture influences how the mind perceives color variations.

(B) Irrelevant. In fact, this statement may slightly strengthen the argument: if every language permits speakers to describe subtle color variations, then it might be argued that human color perception is independent of language, since language would then not be “boxing in” the speaker.

(C) Irrelevant. The term red may encompass both red and yellow, but that doesn’t mean that speakers of the language cannot see the difference between red and yellow. In the same way, the English word blue covers many shades that English speakers with normal vision can distinguish (sky blue, royal blue, etc.).

(D) Strengthens. If speakers of languages without a blue–green distinction refer to the sky or tree leaves to clarify their meaning, then they obviously see a difference between the sky and tree leaves. Using the sky or tree leaves as

reference points is no different from using fruit names for colors (e.g., orange, peach). This evidence reinforces the idea that humans have a common basis for perceiving colors.

(E) CORRECT. If Tarahumara speakers are less able to identify differences between blue and green objects than Spanish speakers, then it can be argued that the lack of a blue–green distinction in the Tarahumara language influences how Tarahumara speakers actually perceive colors. It should be noted that this evidence does not completely prove the point—the causality could actually work the other way (e.g., Tarahumarans could share a genetic defect that causes blue–green color blindness, and so they never developed a distinction in their language). Also, if the experiment is not well designed, the difficulty in identification could simply come from the lack of a handy term to capture the difference between blue and green. However, the evidence as given does support the hypothesis that culture influences color perception.

41. **(A).** This question is an Analyze the Argument Structure question; the best approach is to identify the conclusion and then determine how each boldface portion of the argument relates to the conclusion. The conclusion of this argument appears in the third sentence: “doctors determined that *Anopheles* mosquitoes were responsible for transmitting the disease to humans.” The first boldface statement indicates that malaria was named based upon the original, but incorrect, view that the disease was caused by “bad air”; the statement does not support the conclusion. The second boldface statement provides the specific mechanism by which the mosquito is responsible for human infection; it therefore supports the conclusion. More simply, the first statement does not support the conclusion, while the second statement does.

(A) CORRECT. The first statement does follow from the original, but incorrect, view that the disease was caused by “bad air.” It weakens the conclusion by supporting an incorrect conclusion. The second statement is a supporting premise that explains why the conclusion is true.

(B) A conjecture is a hypothesis or supposition, but the first statement is not a conjecture; it is a fact. The second statement contradicts the original conclusion, but it does not contradict the fact provided by the first statement.

(C) To illuminate is to clarify or explain. The first statement does not explain any assumption (or the original conclusion, for that matter); it merely states a fact that follows from the original, erroneous conclusion. The second statement does not confirm anything in the first half of the argument; rather, it

supports the later, correct conclusion.

(D) The first statement did not cause the erroneous conclusion; rather, it is a result of that conclusion. The second statement is a premise that supports the correct conclusion.

(E) The first statement does provide additional detail about the original, erroneous conclusion. The second statement is not the actual conclusion (or judgment); it is a premise in support of the later conclusion.

42. **(A).** In this argument, a cause and effect relationship is presented between scientists based in the U.S. who sign long-term contracts with foreign companies and the U.S. government's restrictions on stem cell research. This cause and effect relationship is the key to the correct answer.

(A) CORRECT. If scientists based in the United States signed the contracts because of restrictions in that country, it must follow that their new employers were under fewer restrictions. Therefore, at least some foreign companies must work under fewer restrictions than some U.S. companies do.

(B) While it is possible that once the restrictions are lifted, U.S. companies will want to hire more scientists and will seek them overseas, there are too many unknowns between the given premises and this conclusion. It is doubtful that an increase in the number of immigrating stem cell research scientists would have a “significant” impact on the number of “foreign professionals” overall.

(C) This passage is about government restrictions; no information is given about “financial backing.” Beware of extreme statements such as “in all parts of the world.”

(D) No information is given concerning the current or future position of the United States in terms of stem cell research. Though restrictions and scientists switching companies are two issues related to a company’s prosperity, there is no information about how these issues directly affect the position of the United States.

(E) No information is given that would predict the behavior of the scientists in the future.

43. **(D).** In the argument, the critics mistake correlation for causation. While it is true that most employees were reassigned to the mission to Mars, it is not established that the mission to Europa was scrapped to move the employees to a different project; it’s possible that some other motivation caused the demise of the Europa project. NASA claims that its critics are misinformed.

(A) Irrelevant. The conclusion is based on the critics’ assumption of causation, and this choice fails to address the issue of the motivations underlying NASA’s decision-making process. That the percentage of spending is going to decrease could indicate many possible scenarios, including that NASA is unhappy with the progress of the project and plans to cut future spending or that the organization expects the development of the shuttle to be completed by 2018.

(B) Weakens. If public interest determines its budget, NASA has strong motivation to keep public interest high. Additionally, “budget” is not mentioned in the original argument.

(C) Irrelevant. This statement differentiates between the opinions of some scientists and the opinions of others, but sheds no light on the motivations behind NASA’s decisions.

(D) CORRECT. This answer choice provides an alternative explanation for the decision to abandon the attempt to send an unmanned vessel to Europa;

the Tokyo telescope will provide the information that NASA would have obtained from the mission, making the mission unnecessary.

(E) Irrelevant. The conclusion concerns NASA's motivations; this statement is about the motivations of American citizens. There is no direct relationship between what Americans see as the future of space exploration and the motivations behind NASA's decision making.

44. **(B).** The argument claims that no one with a compromised immune system should travel to Nicaragua's "Mosquito Coast," due to the risk of contracting dengue fever or malaria. The correct answer choice is the choice that does not strengthen the argument. Therefore, the four wrong answers must each strengthen the argument.

(A) Strengthens. Since the method of preventing or treating one of the diseases can have adverse side effects, the danger is made worse, particularly for people with compromised immune systems.

(B) CORRECT. If the government were to succeed in this effort, there would be somewhat less risk to travelers with compromised immune systems. This would weaken the conclusion that such travelers should avoid the Mosquito Coast. If the effort were to fail, it would produce no change in the danger to such travelers. Either way, this answer choice does nothing to strengthen the argument that such travelers should avoid the Mosquito Coast.

(C) Strengthens. Since a compromised immune system doesn't effectively fight either dengue fever or malaria, people with such immune systems are at increased risk of infection by such diseases.

(D) Strengthens. The populations of both mosquitoes grow during rainy season; thus, the chance of contracting either disease also grows.

(E) Strengthens. The insect repellent may be the most effective available, but it can also have a terrible side effect. Using this repellent is one of the options for dealing with the risk of mosquito-borne disease. Since this option is more dangerous than before, the travel advisory is strengthened.

45. **(D).** According to the text, the Peruvian government claims that Inca Trail treasures would have deteriorated without a new permit program that has restricted the number of tourists. The correct answer will strengthen this claim.

(A) Irrelevant. The increase in pay may have resulted from the permit program, but there is no direct connection to preservation of the Inca Trail.

(B) Irrelevant. Local villages may have seen a drop in income as a result of the restrictions on tourist numbers, but this does not strengthen or weaken the claim that the permit program prevented Inca Trail ruins from deteriorating.

(C) Irrelevant. The funds are a positive result of the permit program, but if these funds are used to protect or preserve archaeology elsewhere, then they do not impact the preservation of ruins specifically on the Inca Trail.

(D) CORRECT. The more rapid deterioration of similar ruins elsewhere supports the claim that the permit program has helped prevent deterioration of Inca Trail ruins. Notice that this evidence does not rise to the level of absolute proof; other differences between the ruins might explain the different rates of deterioration. However, this evidence clearly supports the hypothesis that the permit program was successful.

(E) Irrelevant. Without the permit program, it is possible (though far from certain) that the number of tourists hiking the Inca Trail would have risen together with the total number of tourists visiting Peru. However, an increase

in the number of tourists on the Inca Trail would not necessarily have led to greater deterioration of archaeological treasures on the trail.

46. **(E).** The chairman claims that same-day spending at downtown businesses by people attending performances at the Farmsley Center has contributed to the economic revitalization of downtown Metropolis. His argument depends on the assumption that this spending represents an increased flow of money into the economy of downtown Metropolis. If, for example, the \$83 per visitor that he cites is money that would have been spent in downtown businesses even if the Farmsley Center had not been built, the chairman's argument would be unsound.

(A) Irrelevant. This choice does not specify the contributions to the city that led to the honor. Perhaps the chairman was honored for activities unrelated to the Farmsley Center, or perhaps he was honored simply because Metropolis residents feel civic pride at having a grand performance space downtown.

(B) Irrelevant. Expensive restaurants may be a sign of the economic revitalization of downtown Metropolis, but they do not indicate the causal factors that led to the revitalization.

(C) Irrelevant. In the absence of information specifically relating the architecture of the Farmsley Center to spending at downtown businesses, it does not have to follow that the architect's international standing has helped in the economic revitalization downtown.

(D) Irrelevant. The Farmsley Center may host performances that would otherwise have taken place at other downtown venues, but this does not mean that extra money is spent downtown.

(E) CORRECT. If suburbanites are coming to Metropolis to see performances at the Farmsley Center, they are bringing money from out of town and spending it in downtown Metropolis. This inflow of money supports the idea that the Farmsley Center has contributed to the economic revitalization of downtown Metropolis.

47. **(D).** The argument presents two retirement account options. In the first, taxes are paid when money is withdrawn upon retirement; in the second, taxes are paid when the money is initially deposited into the account. The author assumes that it is better to pay taxes on the contributions than on the withdrawals because the amount contributed will be smaller than the amount available for withdrawal. However, the amount paid in taxes, whether on contributions or withdrawals, depends on both the amount of money contributed or withdrawn and on the tax rates applied to those contributions or withdrawals. Thus, to evaluate the argument, it would be helpful to know the amounts of money involved and the relevant tax rates.

(A) It would be useful to know both the amount contributed and the value of the account upon retirement. Knowing just the first figure, however, does not allow the worker to figure out which retirement account option would result in a smaller tax bill.

(B) It might be useful to know when and how the tax rates would increase, but "in the future" is too vague. The tax rates may increase while the worker is still employed, or not until the worker has retired. Thus, no conclusion can be drawn concerning which plan is the better option.

(C) This choice provides no information about the tax consequences, which are the focus of the conclusion.

(D) CORRECT. If a worker knows the relative tax brackets to expect during the different stages, he or she can better predict whether it would be less expensive to pay taxes on the contributions or on the withdrawals.

(E) It would be useful to know both how much is contributed and the value of the account upon retirement. Knowing just the second figure, however, does not allow the worker to figure out which retirement account option would result in a smaller tax bill.

48. **(C).** The argument presents a discrepancy between the percentage of survey respondents who reported that they voted in an election (71%) and the percentage of eligible voters who did vote in that election (60%). An explanation of a GRE discrepancy explains why the apparent conflict does not apply.

(A) If the margin of error is $\pm 5\%$, then the 71% figure could be as low as 66% (or as high as 76%). This accounts for less than half of the discrepancy between 71% and 60%.

(B) This choice does not address the stated discrepancy between the percentage of voters who said that they voted and the percentage of voters who actually did vote. No information is given concerning residency requirements so this information is irrelevant.

(C) CORRECT. One explanation for the discrepancy between these two results is the possibility that people who do vote will respond to surveys at a higher rate than people who do not vote; in other words, people who do vote are overrepresented in the survey's results. This is an additional premise that would explain the higher percentage of individuals polled indicating that they voted.

(D) While this may be true, the poll did not ask people if they intended to vote; rather, it asked people if they had already voted in a past election.

(E) While this may account for some percentage of the discrepancy, the numerical data is not sufficient to explain the entire discrepancy; "some" means "at least one." In addition, the confused people would not necessarily have responded that they did vote (when thinking about a different election) even though they did not vote in the national election. They could just as easily have reported that they did not vote (when thinking about a different election) even though they did vote in the national election.

49. **(B).** This question is a disguised inference question; when the passage consists of premises, the correct choice must follow directly from those premises and not require any additional assumptions. Here, the issue is how to minimize the spread of flu via air travel.

(A) The passage states that the infection can be spread by coughing. The flu virus, therefore, can reach the other passengers in the "closely packed environment" before it enters any filters that might kill the virus.

(B) CORRECT. Vaccines provide significant protection against developing the virus (not 100% protection, but the question concerns minimizing the

impact of air travel, not eliminating it entirely). If all passengers are vaccinated against the virus, many of those who otherwise would have developed the disease will not, and, therefore, will not spread it to others.

(C) Anyone can contract the virus and subsequently spread it; the mentioned populations are merely “especially vulnerable” to it. Infected people traveling to another place can infect children, senior citizens, and others who have stayed in their home regions.

(D) The passage states that the infection can be spread by coughing; while it may be true that the virus can also spread via hand contact, this information is not stated in the passage.

(E) The passage states that people who develop symptoms before travel begins likely would not make the trip; banning those with observable symptoms will not “minimize” the role of air travel because there are not that many people in this category. The larger danger is those who may be infected but have not yet developed symptoms.

50. **(B).** The journalist cites data about the success of tall people, then concludes that employers have an unconscious bias in favor of tall people. The journalist assumes that employer bias is the only explanation for the data; the correct choice will question this explanation.

(A) Irrelevant. Gender comparisons are irrelevant to the journalist’s data on CEOs, since those data are only about male CEOs. Likewise, gender comparisons are irrelevant in interpreting the journalist’s data about the general population, since the passage says those data have been corrected for the influence of gender and age.

(B) CORRECT. If socioeconomic status is correlated to both height and educational attainment, you would expect taller people to be, on average, better educated. The economic success of tall people could then be attributed to their higher levels of educational attainment rather than to employer bias.

(C) Irrelevant. Professional basketball players, with their above average height and above average pay, only account for a small part of the correlation between height and pay. And insofar as height is useful in the game of basketball, the high wages of tall players can be explained without reference to any unconscious bias on the part of their employers.

(D) Irrelevant. An HR professional might unconsciously favor tall people (or good-looking people, or charismatic people, etc.) without being tall (or good-looking, or charismatic, etc.).

(E) Irrelevant. Without additional assumptions, a length of service differential neither bolsters nor undermines the journalist’s argument.

51. **(D).** The argument concerns the compensation system for public school teachers. It suggests that educational experts believe that a system of teacher compensation based on performance rather than seniority would help to retain exceptional teachers and maintain quality instruction. The correct answer is the one that most undermines this contention of the educational experts.

(A) Irrelevant. That many factors contribute to job satisfaction and teaching performance neither weakens nor strengthens the argument for a performance-based pay structure for public school teachers.

(B) Irrelevant. Nothing in the argument indicates that one universal system of compensation must be adopted. It is very possible that several effective models of performance-based pay could be developed and implemented successfully.

(C) Strengthens. This choice indicates that many young teachers are extremely frustrated by the traditional pay structure in which financial advancement is directly tied to seniority. Thus, these teachers would likely welcome a change that allows them more rapid opportunity for financial advancement.

(D) CORRECT. Weakens. This choice indicates that collaboration among teachers is integral to high-quality instruction and that a system of compensation based on teacher performance reduces collaboration. Thus, the effect of a merit-based system of pay would be to undermine quality instruction, which is one of the two stated goals of the educational experts.

(E) Strengthens. The educational experts' argument in favor of performance-based compensation is bolstered if standardized tests scores have dramatically risen in school districts that have instituted such pay structures.

52. **(B).** This question asks for the choice that properly describes the role of the two boldfaced portions in relation to the conclusion: "networks can actually increase their revenue through higher advertising rates, due to larger audiences lured to television through other media." The first boldface portion opposes this position by predicting smaller audiences; the second lends support to it by citing evidence that alternative media devices lead their users to watch more television.

(A) The first boldface does weigh against the argument, but it is a prediction, rather than "an inevitable trend"; the second boldface supports the argument but is not the conclusion itself.

(B) CORRECT. The argument about potential increased network revenue is contrary to the first boldface's prediction about shrinking audiences and falling revenue; the argument indeed depends upon the second boldface's assertion that users of alternative devices will actually watch more hours of television.

(C) The first boldface opposes the argument, rather than clarifies it; the second would suggest that the argument is sound, rather than flawed.

(D) The technology executives do not accept the prediction of the network executives; the second boldface contradicts that prediction and is not a consequence of it.

(E) The first boldface does not use an analogy; the second is in agreement with, not opposition to, the argument.

53. **(A).** This is a Weaken the Conclusion question. The correct answer choice will cast doubt on the sponsors' claim that "reducing nicotine intake does not improve one's health."

(A) CORRECT. This answer choice indicates that most study participants did not actually reduce their overall nicotine intake; instead, they replaced the reduction in cigarette-based nicotine with nicotine from other sources.

(B) Although this choice does indicate that a number of study participants might have consumed nicotine from secondhand smoke, it does not undermine the idea that these individuals, by cutting back their smoking, have significantly reduced their nicotine intake. Before the study, the nicotine intake of these participants was smoking plus secondhand smoke; now, the

only nicotine intake is secondhand smoke.

(C) This choice neither strengthens nor weakens the conclusion. The study only addresses the reduction of nicotine intake through smoking and never mentions these other factors. That the study used a diverse sample of smokers does not, in itself, undermine the validity of the conclusions.

(D) This answer choice is irrelevant. The study concerns the effects of reducing nicotine intake through smoking, not quitting smoking entirely.

(E) This choice is irrelevant. While it further details the methodology used in selecting subjects, it neither strengthens nor weakens the conclusion.

54. **(B).** The passage concludes that increased leisure time in the developed world causes an increase in the percentage of people diagnosed with clinical depression. To arrive at this causal conclusion, the argument must assume that alternative causes for this disparity are impossible.

(A) This statement weakens the hypothesis. If clinical depression were genetically transmitted, then the amount of leisure time would have no effect on the percentage of the population diagnosed with clinical depression.

(B) CORRECT. If individuals in the developing and developed worlds do not have equal access to accurate diagnostic procedures, it is possible that either frequent misdiagnoses or a lack of correct diagnoses causes the seeming disparity between the populations. Thus, for the argument to be valid, this assumption must hold true. Put another way, this assumption eliminates a possible outside cause (the difference in diagnostic techniques between the developing and the developed worlds).

(C) Nothing indicates that most leisure activities must be inherently boring. As long as more individuals in the developed world than in the developing world are experiencing boredom, the logic of the passage remains valid.

(D) This choice weakens the researchers' hypothesis. If fewer effective medications were available in the developing world, the incidence of clinical depression there should be higher than in developed countries.

(E) It is unimportant whether few residents of developing countries dedicate any of their time to leisure. The argument already states that residents of developed countries have increased leisure time relative to residents of developing countries, so this assumption is unnecessary.

55. **(C).** Two points of view are expressed in the argument: consumer groups claim that à la carte pricing will reduce consumer costs, while the cable television industry claims that the current package pricing structure is most cost effective for consumers. If the goal is to reduce the cost of cable television for consumers, it is critical to determine whether adding the option of à la carte pricing is likely to save consumers money.

(A) According to the argument, the decision revolves around the costs to consumers, not the number of channels available to them. If there were some pricing consequences as a result of this loss of diversity, the point might be relevant, but no such information is given.

(B) According to the argument, the decision is based only on the costs to consumers, not the advertising profits of the cable television companies.

(C) CORRECT. If consumers would not choose to order all of the channels they currently buy as part of a package subscription, then the television industries' claim that à la carte pricing would always be more expensive is suspect. If many consumers only watch and wish to pay for a few of their favorite channels, à la carte pricing could very well result in lower cable bills for those consumers.

(D) According to the argument, the decision concerns only the costs to consumers, not the number of consumers who subscribe. If there were some pricing consequences as a result of a loss of subscribers, the point might be relevant, but no such information is given.

(E) According to the argument, the decision is to be based only on the costs to consumers, not the technical equipment requirements a change in cost structure would require.

56. **(A).** The argument provides information about the substantial costs associated with the development of Dendadrine. Yet the management views Dendadrine as a highly profitable project. To reconcile these claims, the correct answer choice will demonstrate that the drug will generate profits that will more than compensate for the high initial expenditures associated with its development.

(A) CORRECT. If management expects to earn patent protection for the new drug, then the company can also expect to charge the unusually high prices that will more than compensate for the initial research and development costs.

(B) While this choice explains the high costs associated with the development of Dendadrine, it says nothing about how well such products do on the market and whether they subsequently become profitable.

(C) Although this choice supports the idea that Dendadrine will sell well, it does not specifically support the contention that the drug will be profitable in the face of unusually high costs.

(D) Although this choice supports the idea that Dendadrine will be the primary, if not only, treatment for this market segment, it does not support the contention that the drug will be profitable in the face of unusually high costs.

(E) Although this choice supports the idea that the market for Dendadrine is very large and will generate revenues in excess of \$5 billion within a few years, it does not specifically support the contention that the drug will be profitable in the face of unusually high costs.