

1. By pointing out the consequences of abandoning impartiality, the paragraph points out the importance for mediators of maintaining impartiality at all times. This is the point made in Choice B, which is therefore the correct answer. Choice A is incorrect, because it goes further than anything asserted in the passage. The passage does not rule out the possibility that one can have an opinion about issues related to a dispute without taking sides in the actual dispute. Choice C is incorrect because it is a presupposition on which the passage is based rather than the point of the passage; that is, the fact that the mediator is acceptable to both parties is a given, since they both ask the mediator to serve. Choices D and E are both inconsistent with the main point of the passage, the importance of impartiality at all times, so both are incorrect.
2. The given sentence indicates that the proportion of farmers in the general population decreased from 1850 to 1880. Choice E says exactly the opposite — that this proportion increased — and therefore it contradicts the passage and is the correct response. Choice A is incorrect because it agrees with the given sentence, and Choices B, C, and D are all incorrect because they refer to the labor force, about which the given sentence says nothing.
3. If crop yield per planted acre was less in the Soviet Union than it was in the United States, yet crop yield per total (planted plus fallow) agricultural acreage was greater in the Soviet Union than it was in the United States, the percentage of the total acreage that was left fallow must have been lower in the Soviet Union than in the United States. Therefore, Choice A is the correct answer. Since the information provided in the paragraph is given in terms of yield per acre, no conclusion can be drawn about actual acreage, so Choices B, C, and D are all incorrect. Similarly, it is impossible to determine the total volume of crops produced in the Soviet Union, so Choice E is incorrect.
4. The passage presents an argument and the question asks you to identify the role the portions highlighted in boldface play in that argument. The first step in responding is to read through the passage quickly to get an understanding of what is being said. Then it is possible to go back and assess how the parts of the passage fit together into an argument. In this passage the first sentence presents two pieces of information that seem to be in conflict — the atmosphere contained almost no oxygen even though plants were producing so much of it. The second sentence presents a hypothetical explanation that has been proposed for reconciling the discrepancy — that oxygen was absorbed by iron. The next sentence calls this hypothetical explanation inadequate and the following sentence gives a reason for that judgment — that there was insufficient iron for the proposed explanation to work. Finally, the last sentence draws the conclusion that there must have been something in addition to iron to absorb the oxygen. Since the highlighted portions in the passage represent the main content of the third and fourth sentences, the task in this question is to find the answer choice whose two parts fit those sentences' roles. It can be seen that answer Choice D fits the requirement: the third sentence does sum up the argument's position about a hypothesis, and the fourth sentence gives grounds for the third. Therefore Choice D is the correct answer.
5. In this question you are asked to identify the fact that would best reconcile the apparent discrepancy that the passage presents. The discrepancy is that despite improvements in mountain climbing equipment that have made climbing safer, the incidence of mountain-climbing injuries has greatly increased. Choice A explains how this could have happened — the improvements in equipment have led climbers to attempt feats that are beyond their level of skill. Therefore, Choice A is the correct answer. None of the other choices provides information that resolves the discrepancy. Neither Choice B nor Choice C relates to conditions that have changed over the relevant ten-year period. Choices D and E do relate to the relevant period. But if, as Choice D says, techniques as well as equipment have improved, that fact by itself only makes the increase in injuries more puzzling. Choice E provides more data about the consequences of climbing accidents, but doesn't suggest any explanation for the increase in injuries.
6. The question asks you to identify among the answer choices a fact that would support the passage's argument. The explanation offered in the passage can be supported by ruling out other explanations that might, given the information presented in the passage, appear likely. One obvious explanation for there being more medical treatments in Sparva is that there are more accidents there. Choice E rules out that explanation. So Choice E strengthens the argument in the passage and is the correct answer. Choices A and D each present consequences that are likely results of insurers in Sparva having to pay for more medical treatments. But neither bears on the cause of insurers having to pay for more treatments. Choice B does not strengthen the argument and may weaken it. A higher cost of medical care provides additional motivation for people to seek insurance payments to cover whatever post-accident care they receive. So Choice B might weaken the argument by providing an alternative explanation for insurers paying for more medical treatments in Sparva. According to the passage, whether treatment is emergency treatment is, in other provinces, an important criterion in determining insurers' responsibility. But since this criterion does not apply in Sparva, Choice C is not directly relevant to the point that the passage is trying to establish.
7. To logically complete the passage's open-ended "because," something is needed that will explain why the continuation of the warming trend would have serious consequences for sea levels. The passage explains that the melting of the Arctic Ocean ice will not affect sea levels because the contribution that the water contained in that ice makes to sea levels is the same whether the water is frozen or liquid. But Choice C points to a way in which increasing temperatures in the Arctic could add water to the

ocean, namely by melting ice on the land. So Choice C logically completes the passage and is the correct answer. Given that the passage has already explained that melting sea ice does not affect sea levels, the formation of sea ice described in Choice A does not explain why there would be consequences for sea levels. Choices B, D, and E all describe possible consequences of increased temperatures in the Arctic, but none of these consequences suggests a mechanism by which sea levels would change. So none of these options provides a logical completion for the passage.

8. The passage outlines a conflict between two standard theories — one of planet formation, the other of companion stars — and observations of one large body, and later two others, orbiting close to a star. The question asks what would resolve this conflict without casting doubt on either one of the theories. Choice B is correct: if, as it asserts, it is possible for a planet to be formed relatively far from a star and later move closer to it, then the observed large bodies found close to Upsilon Andromedae can be planets without casting doubt on the standard theory of planet formation. This explanation also leaves the standard theory of companion stars intact. Choice A is incorrect because it describes difficulties with discovering a small planet far from a star, not anything pertaining to a large body near a star. Choice C is incorrect as well, since whatever the relative size and position of the three bodies may be, all three appear to be too close according to the standard theories. Choice D is incorrect because the pervasiveness of stars with multiple orbiting bodies has nothing to do with the status of the large bodies discussed in the passage. Choice E is similarly irrelevant and thus incorrect: information about the brightness of a star relative to its companion star does not help clarify the status of the large bodies discussed in the passage.
9. The question asks what would support the claim that the decline in reported workplace injuries in Gilavia may be the result of incentives for workers to not report those injuries that they can conceal. If the number of injuries that cannot be concealed — such as injuries requiring immediate emergency care — has not declined in the same period, that could help bolster the claim that the decline in overall reported injuries may be a result of concealable injuries going unreported rather than an actual decline in workplace injuries in general, so Choice A is correct. If employers have to provide financial compensation to employees injured on the job, employees would have an incentive to report injuries. More reported injuries would not support the author's argument, making Choice B incorrect. Choice C is incorrect because the fact that some injuries that cannot be concealed do not result in lost time or changed responsibilities has nothing to do with whether concealable injuries are going unreported. While a decline in dangerous occupations could well result in a decrease in workplace injuries, this fact would challenge the author's argument, not support it, so Choice D is incorrect. Similarly, if employers with safety incentive programs do not see any drop in reported injuries compared to employers without such programs, the author's argument would be weakened, not supported, making Choice E incorrect.
10. The passage describes two different year-over-year increases in airline passenger complaints: both the absolute number of complaints and the rate of complaints more than doubled from 1998 to 1999. From these facts, the author of the passage concludes that passenger dissatisfaction with airline service significantly increased in the same period. Choice D is the correct answer: it weakens the argument because it presents a scenario in which the increase in complaints and in the rate of complaints could merely be the result of an easier means of filing complaints, not an actual increase in passenger dissatisfaction. Choice A and Choice C are incorrect because neither presents a scenario that bears directly on the claim that passenger dissatisfaction increased from 1998 to 1999. Choice E is incorrect: the fact that some airlines experienced a smaller increase than others does not change the fact that all airlines experienced an increase and thus cannot weaken the argument. Choice B could be correct if the passage discussed only the change in the absolute number of complaints, since more passengers could account for more complaints without entailing an increase in dissatisfaction. But the passage also says that the rate of complaints increased, making Choice B incorrect.
11. The argument in the passage concludes that the survival rate of lobster larvae is increasing and that the lobster population will increase. The basis for the conclusion is that the change in the water temperature, by speeding the growth of lobster larvae, has made them less vulnerable to predation by cod. However, Choice C points to a way that the faster growth of individual lobsters could create a threat to the population: lobsters that have not yet reproduced might be large enough to be legally caught. Thus, Choice C weakens the argument and is the correct answer. Among the other choices, Choice A tends, if anything, to support the passage's conclusion, by suggesting further reduction in the risks of predation by cod. The other choices have no clear bearing on the argument.
12. The question calls for an explanation of why more cases of reported food poisoning might be attributed to catering services than to restaurants. Choices A and B both provide reasons why restaurants should account for more cases, so they are incorrect. Choice C would suggest that there would be negligible differences between the likelihood of food poisoning at restaurants and at catered events, so it also sheds no light on the paradox and is therefore incorrect. Since the argument does not pertain to the location of catered banquets, Choice D is incorrect. That leaves Choice E: People who attend banquets are more likely than restaurant patrons to be part of a group that communicates with, one another, so Choice E would help explain the higher number of reported food poisonings and is the correct answer.

13. Since the energy tax is based upon the number of units of nonrenewable energy consumed, and since the number of units of nonrenewable energy declined, revenues generated by the energy tax must have declined as well. Choice A is therefore the correct answer. The passage gives no information on changes in the total amount of energy consumed, changes in the amount of energy from renewable sources that was used, or what revenues raised by the tax were used for, so all the other choices are incorrect.
14. The passage compares sales of items in the sunlit part of the store with sales of items in the artificially lit part of the store and concludes that since the former are greater than the latter, the presence of sunlight increases sales. The assumption underlying this argument is that the only significant difference between the two parts of the store is the presence of sunlight—otherwise, the inherent popularity of goods sold in different locations, or some other factor, might account for the increased sales. Choice B helps rule out the possibility that other factors might be involved, by showing that sales are no greater when the sunlight is taken out of the equation. Therefore it is the correct answer. Choices D and E both suggest that factors besides sunlight might explain the discrepancy between sales; therefore they weaken rather than strengthen the argument, and so are incorrect. Neither Choice A nor Choice C point to differences between the two areas of the store; therefore they are both incorrect as well.
16. The passage's argument makes a case for the painting's being an authentic van Gogh self-portrait; it cites as evidence the fact that the canvas's painted-over image is that of a woman who appears in other van Gogh paintings. This argument assumes that another artist would not have painted over the original image of the woman, so the correct answer is Choice C. Since the argument does not depend upon the painting's stylistic elements or upon the commonalities between this and other van Gogh paintings, Choices A and B are incorrect. Choices D and E establish criteria for attribution beyond the passage's argument, so they are incorrect as well.
17. The correct answer is Choice D. Enforcing traffic rules and educating bicyclists about safety will obviously tend to reduce the number of bicycle accidents. Actions mentioned in the other answer choices will not have this effect. Choices A and C would explain the increase in the number of bicyclists in Parkville but not the decrease in bicycle accidents. The number of automobile accidents (Choice B) is not correlated with the number of bicycle accidents. Finally, cancellation of a bicycle inspection program (Choice E), if anything, would tend to increase the number of bicycle accidents.
18. The argument—that the reorganization did not lead to more crime—hinges upon statistics compiled from reports of crime, and therefore assumes that such reports are indicative of the actual incidence of crime. Something that weakens this connection between reports and incidence of theft, then, would challenge the mayor's argument. Choice A does exactly that, so it is the correct answer. Choices B and E would strengthen rather than challenge the mayor's argument, so they are incorrect. Choice C might give one reason to question the mayor's conclusion, but it does not speak to his argument, which does not involve other cities, so it is not the correct choice. Choice D is incorrect because the mayor's argument makes no claims regarding the economics of the reorganization, only its effectiveness at crime reduction.
19. The passage concludes that the self-portrait must be improperly dated and cites as proof the discrepancy between Brandon's actual age (63) in 1930 and his youthful appearance in the painting. The assumption is that a self-portrait depicts the artist's current appearance; therefore, Choice D is the correct answer. Since the argument does not depend on the existence or absence of other self-portraits, Choices A and E are incorrect. The argument also does not depend upon Brandon's motivations for not dating his works or upon the lack of critical literature about his work, so Choices B and C are incorrect.
20. The inference that Antarctica was discovered by the ancients would be weakened if there were an alternative explanation of why the ancients might have drawn a land-mass in that area on their maps. Choice E provides just such an explanation, so it is the correct answer. Choice A is incorrect because the identity of the modern discoverer of the Antarctica has no bearing on why the continent was included on sixteenth-century maps. Since the ancients referred to in the passage likely postdate the warm period mentioned in Choice B, that option is also incorrect. The passage never mentions how many sixteenth-century maps show a southern polar landmass, and the argument does not depend upon any particular quantity, so Choice C is incorrect. Choice D comments upon the conclusion but does not pertain to the argument itself, so it is also incorrect.