

# Reading and Writing

## 27 QUESTIONS

**DIRECTIONS**

The questions in this section address a number of important reading and writing skills. Each question includes one or more passages, which may include a table or graph. Read each passage and question carefully, and then choose the best answer to the question based on the passage(s).

All questions in this section are multiple-choice with four answer choices. Each question has a single best answer.

1

The National Heritage Fellowship was created to \_\_\_\_\_ exceptional folk and traditional artists in the United States. One artist who received the fellowship, the taiko drummer Seiichi Tanaka, was chosen for his lifetime contributions to the arts.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) overshadow
- B) begin
- C) distract
- D) honor

2

Broods of periodical cicadas (inch-long winged insects) emerge for six weeks in late spring on a cycle of either 13 or 17 years. In 2024, the emergences of the Great Southern Brood (on a 13-year cycle) and the Northern Illinois Brood (on a 17-year cycle) coincided in the Midwest and Southeast United States, \_\_\_\_\_ that happens only once every 221 years. Sixteen states were covered with a trillion cicadas.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) a division
- B) a convergence
- C) an expiration
- D) a succession

3

Japanese animator and director Hayao Miyazaki often includes fantasy elements in otherwise realistic settings in his movies, but he tends to \_\_\_\_\_ details and exposition about those elements. Miyazaki simply presents fantastical characters and actions with little backstory or explanation, encouraging viewers to embrace the presence of the extraordinary in everyday life.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) invent
- B) combine
- C) celebrate
- D) withhold

4

The following text is from Charles Chesnutt's 1905 novel *The Colonel's Dream*. Mr. French and Mr. Kirby work together.

Mr. French, the senior partner, who sat opposite Kirby, was an older man—a safe guess would have placed him somewhere in the debatable ground between forty and fifty; of a good height, as could be seen even from the seated figure, the upper part of which was held erect with the unconscious ease which one associates with military training.

As used in the text, what does the word "good" most nearly mean?

- A) Reliable
- B) Courteous
- C) Considerable
- D) Capable

5

Portoviejo, Ecuador, was named a City of Gastronomy by UNESCO in 2019, a title that \_\_\_\_\_ that Portoviejo has a unique and vibrant food culture worthy of celebration.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) discovers
- B) renounces
- C) complains
- D) denotes

6

Svante Pääbo and other researchers studying the history of organisms have long utilized ancient DNA—DNA recovered from ancient organic material that has been preserved under natural conditions. However, J. Mason Heberling and David J. Burke's 2019 study of the evolutionary trajectory of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi instead relied on historical DNA—genomic data incidentally preserved in specimens that are housed in natural history collections—thus capitalizing on the research potential offered by a vast but hitherto relatively underutilized source of insight into the biological past. (Underlined portion is bolded for clarity.)

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A) It specifies potential applications of the approach that Heberling and Burke used in their study.
- B) It explains why the research methodology selected by Heberling and Burke is not widely used.
- C) It emphasizes the importance of Heberling and Burke's findings about the DNA of fungi.
- D) It offers commentary on the significance of the approach that Heberling and Burke used for their study.

6

Curious about how people visually perceive objects in their dreams, Stephen LaBerge and team recruited lucid dreamers—people aware that they're dreaming as it's happening—for a research study. These participants were reliably able to signal when they had entered a dream state; the team then observed participants' eye movements as they slept. The smoothness with which participants' eyes tracked objects in their dreams closely matched how sighted people who are awake visually track objects around them, suggesting to the team that the brain perceives dream objects as the product of something other than pure imagination.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A) To illustrate an important real-world implication of LaBerge and team's main finding
- B) To offer key evidence that undermines LaBerge and team's initial hypothesis
- C) To show the unexpected result that led LaBerge and team to change the focus of their study
- D) To identify a comparable circumstance that helps justify LaBerge and team's conclusion

7

#### Text 1

Thomas Piketty's book *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* has a more rigorous structure than its sequel, *Capital and Ideology*. While the first book's chapters all contribute to bolstering a clear, coherent argument about income inequality, the second book's digressions on subjects such as an analysis of Hayao Miyazaki's film *The Wind Rises* do not just make the book tedious but also muddy its reasoning.

#### Text 2

*Capital and Ideology* has different aims than Piketty's earlier books. It should be judged not just in the context of Piketty's previous work but placed next to books like William T. Vollmann's *Rising Up and Rising Down*, in which the stated theme of justifications for violent acts is mainly an excuse for a polymath to map his own mind. Even when sections do not explicitly support the central thesis, they link to each other in intriguing ways. None of them should be considered extraneous.

Based on the texts, the author of Text 1 would most likely agree with the author of Text 2 on which point?

- A) Capital and Ideology is notably different in structure from some of Piketty's earlier work.
- B) Capital in the Twenty-First Century is a superior book to Capital and Ideology.
- C) The material in Capital and Ideology on The Wind Rises is essential to the book.
- D) Capital and Ideology was influenced by the writing of William T. Vollmann.

8

Musician and astronomer Darsan Swaroop Bellie researches gravitational waves. These invisible waves move very quickly through space. They cannot be viewed through a telescope, but they do make sounds that can be detected with special equipment. In his musical composition *Dance of the Black Holes*, Bellie demonstrates what gravitational waves might sound like as two black holes merge in space. With this composition and others, Bellie hopes to make aspects of science more accessible.

According to the text, what is the subject of Bellie's research?

- A) Ocean currents
- B) Music history
- C) Space travel
- D) Gravitational waves

8

The End-Triassic mass extinction happened approximately 201 million years ago, when about 80 percent of species (including many species of bivalves) died off. Researchers have proposed the effects of a sudden release of carbon dioxide as one mechanism that may have brought on this mass extinction. But mass extinctions, while abrupt in geological terms, unfold over thousands or millions of years: it's likely that multiple factors drove widespread species loss.

Based on the text, the author would most likely agree with which statement about the End-Triassic mass extinction?

- A) It likely involved the extinction of more species than is typically believed.
- B) It is hard to detect in Earth's fossil or geological records.
- C) It occurred over a long period of time and probably had multiple causes.
- D) It was discovered only recently and is poorly understood.

9

The following text is from Yung Wing's 1909 memoir *My Life in China and America*.

We landed in New York on the 12th of April, 1847, after a passage of ninety-eight days of unprecedented fair weather. The New York of 1847 was altogether a different city from the New York of 1909. It was a city of only 250,000 or 300,000 inhabitants; now it is a metropolis rivaling London in population, wealth and commerce. The whole of Manhattan Island is turned into a city of skyscrapers, churches and palatial residences.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) Yung has experienced significant personal growth in the time since his arrival to New York City in 1847.
- B) The journey to New York City was extremely tiring for Yung.
- C) The architecture in New York City is more beautiful than that in London.
- D) New York City has become more developed and populated since its arrival in 1847.

8

Memoirs of Elleanor Eldridge is an 1838 historical account by Elleanor Eldridge and Frances Harriet Whipple Green. In the book, the authors assert that all people naturally have an emotional attachment to where they live, writing, \_\_\_\_\_.

Which quotation from Memoirs of Elleanor Eldridge most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A) "Let us, dear reader, remember the punishment of idle curiosity, as taught in the true and affecting history [named] 'Blue Beard,' and, striving to be content with the facts in the case, seek not to lift the veil, which the sensibility of true love, and feminine delicacy, have alike conspired to draw."
- B) "There is often a kind of [deceptive] light, playing around such [famous] names, calculated to dazzle and mislead, by their false lustre, until the eye can no longer receive the pure light of Truth, or the mind appreciate real excellence, or intrinsic worth."
- C) "Home is home, to the lowly as well as the great; and no rank, or color, destroys its sacred character, its power over the mind, and the affections."
- D) "Blessed are the slumbers of the innocent! They are kindlier than balm, and they refresh and gladden the spirit of childhood, like ministerings from a better world."

8

Mean body mass of birds known to perform broken-wing display

Bird	Mean body mass (grams)
pied-billed grebe	409
common ringed plover	60
common snipe	126

One antipredator defense that the grey-headed lapwing uses to protect its nest and young chicks is called "broken-wing display"; this form of deceptive defense involves an adult bird pretending to be injured and unable to fly in order to distract an approaching predator. Broken-wing display has been documented in 285 bird species from 13 different avian orders. A student predicts that bird species with mean body masses greater than 150 grams do not use deceptive defenses because larger birds tend to be more effective than smaller birds at using aggressive defenses to protect nests from predators, making deceptive defenses unnecessary.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table that weaken the student's prediction?

- A) The common snipe and the common ringed plover both have a mean body mass under 150 grams and use broken-wing display.
- B) The common ringed plover uses broken-wing display, but the pied-billed grebe does not.
- C) The pied-billed grebe has a mean body mass of 409 grams and is known to perform broken-wing display.
- D) The common snipe uses broken-wing display even though it is larger than the common ringed plover.

11

Antonia Olivia Dolan and colleagues conducted a study of participants' preferred listening volume, in decibels (dB), for various audio recordings, including pop music, classic rock music, and nature sounds. The team found that participants listened to recordings they liked most at higher volumes (greater dB) than recordings they liked less and that musicians tended to listen at higher volumes than nonmusicians did. For example, if the favorite recording of both a participating musician and a participating nonmusician was Beyoncé's "Crazy in Love" and the musician played it at 84.8 dB, it was therefore likely that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) the nonmusician would play "Crazy in Love" at greater than 84.8 dB.
- B) the musician and nonmusician would both play other music by Beyoncé at approximately 84.8 dB.
- C) the nonmusician would play "Crazy in Love" at less than 84.8 dB.
- D) the musician would not play music in the pop genre at less than 84.8 dB.

8

Right-handedness is overwhelmingly prevalent in humans. Among studies of laterality in nonhuman primates, William C. McGrew and colleagues' 1999 study of wild chimpanzees reported no tendency toward right-handedness, while Mara Aruguete and colleagues' 1992 study of captive chimpanzees and squirrel monkeys did. However, the latter study included only 27 individuals, and a meta-analysis of primate-laterality studies demonstrated that a minimum sample size of 176 individuals is required to be confident that a finding of population-level handedness is not mere statistical noise. The claim of right-handedness in the 1992 study should therefore be treated skeptically given that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) right-handedness does not occur frequently enough among chimpanzees and squirrel monkeys to reliably appear in a sample of only 27 individuals.
- B) the study that did not find right-handedness in chimpanzees was also based on an insufficient population size.
- C) the sample size on which the claim is based is far below the threshold identified in the meta-analysis.
- D) the apparent difference between the two studies' results may be partly attributable to the 1992 study using a different standard to determine handedness than the 1999 [study].

12

"What stories like this do for us is make the world just a smidge bigger," writes Stephen Graham Jones in the foreword to *Never Whistle at Night: An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology*. For Jones, dark fiction does more than entertain readers: \_\_\_\_\_ horror tropes to challenge familiar ways of knowing, blurring the "borders of the real."

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) they use
- B) it uses
- C) we use
- D) one uses

8

Louisiana resident Caesar Antoine, one of the nearly two thousand African Americans elected to public office during the decade that followed the Civil War, \_\_\_\_\_ his term as lieutenant governor in 1873.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) having begun
- B) began
- C) to begin
- D) beginning

13

Mary Cassatt and Edith Haworth were among the 300 artists who exhibited at the 1913 Armory Show, a groundbreaking New York City exhibition that introduced modernism to American audiences. Marcel Duchamp's abstract cubist aesthetic received the most skepticism from critics, as \_\_\_\_\_ represented a radical departure from the more realistic painting style that was popular at the time.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) we
- B) it
- C) they
- D) these

8

The International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) is one of many sports organizations that collect and analyze data on player performance. Coaches in the IWBF \_\_\_\_\_ these data to help them develop game strategies that have a high probability of success.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) has used
- B) uses
- C) is using
- D) use

14

Polymers used in industrial applications are weakened by environmental stress, mechanical fatigue, and unexpected damage. However, new types of polymers have been engineered to repair \_\_\_\_\_ aided by embedded microcapsules, such materials begin to self-heal.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) themselves—upon fracture—
- B) themselves. Upon fracture,
- C) themselves upon fracture,
- D) themselves, upon fracture,

15

Many past Olympic Games featured demonstration sports—nonmedal events—to showcase sports related to the host country. These events included sumō, a Japanese form of wrestling, and pärkspel, a Swedish ball sport. \_\_\_\_\_ they were chosen as demonstration sports at the Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, and Stockholm, Sweden, respectively.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Fittingly,
- B) Additionally,
- C) Nevertheless,
- D) By contrast,

16

A team led by Portuguese researcher Isabel C.F.R. Ferreira found that many species of mushrooms contain chemicals called phenolic compounds, such as protocatechuic acid and biochanin. \_\_\_\_\_ Ferreira detected protocatechuic acid in *Agaricus bisporus* mushrooms and biochanin in *Ganoderma lucidum* mushrooms.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Nevertheless,
- B) However,
- C) For this reason,
- D) For example,

17

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The wedge-rumped storm petrel is a species of bird.
- It has an average weight of 23 grams.
- It can be found on the Galápagos Island of Marchena.
- The Galápagos Islands are a group of islands that have many different species of birds.

The student wants to specify the average weight of the wedge-rumped storm petrel. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) The wedge-rumped storm petrel can be found on the Galápagos Island of Marchena.
- B) The Galápagos Islands, which include the island of Marchena, contain many different species of birds.
- C) Many species of birds can be found in the Galápagos Islands, including the wedge-rumped storm petrel.
- D) The wedge-rumped storm petrel has an average weight of 23 grams.

18

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The willow oak is a species of deciduous tree.
- Its scientific name is *Quercus phellos*.
- It is native to the Southeastern ecoregion of the US.

The student wants to indicate which ecoregion the willow oak is native to. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) The willow oak is native to the Southeastern ecoregion of the US.
- B) The willow oak (*Quercus phellos*) is a species of deciduous tree.
- C) The willow oak's scientific name is *Quercus phellos*.
- D) Deciduous trees are native to several ecoregions of the US.

19

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In music theory, the term "key" refers to the set of musical notes that forms the foundation of a piece of music.
- In *Règles de Composition* (1682), French composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier describes the mood of various musical keys.
- He describes the key of G major as "serious and magnificent."
- "Hero" (2001) by Enrique Iglesias is a song written in G major.

The student wants to explain how Charpentier describes G major. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) The key of G major is one of various keys, which are sets of musical notes that form the foundations of pieces of music.
- B) In *Règles de Composition*, Charpentier describes the mood of G major as "serious and magnificent."
- C) In *Règles de Composition*, Charpentier describes the mood of G major.
- D) The song "Hero" could be described as "serious and magnificent."

20

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Kumiko is a Japanese woodworking technique in which thin strips of wood are interlaced to create latticed panels that incorporate intricate patterns.
- These wooden strips are fit together without the use of nails or other fasteners.
- Many of the geometric patterns used in kumiko designs are inspired by elements from nature.
- The overlapping hexagons of the kikko pattern resemble a tortoise's shell.
- The curved fan shapes of the seigaiha pattern resemble ocean waves.

The student wants to make and support a claim about the inspiration for kumiko patterns. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Like the seigaiha pattern's curved fan shapes, which resemble ocean waves, many of the geometric patterns used in kumiko designs are inspired by elements from nature.
- B) The kumiko woodworking technique is used to create latticed panels with geometric designs, like overlapping hexagons, out of thin strips of wood.
- C) The tortoiseshell-like overlapping hexagons of the kikko pattern are inspired by wooden strips from nature.
- D) Kumiko patterns are often inspired by nature, such as the seigaiha echoing a tortoise's shell and the kikko evoking ocean waves.

22

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- "Raymond's Run" is a short story.
- It was written by African American author Toni Cade Bambara.
- It was first published in her book *Gorilla, My Love* in 1972.
- It is told from a first person perspective.
- It takes place in Harlem.

The student wants to indicate where the short story takes place. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) "Raymond's Run" is told from a first person perspective.
- B) "Raymond's Run" was written by Toni Cade Bambara.
- C) "Raymond's Run" was published in *Gorilla, My Love*.
- D) "Raymond's Run" takes place in Harlem.

**STOP**

**If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this module only.  
Do not turn to any other module in the test.**

24

25