

SAT Reading & Writing

Inferences 2

Question # ID

2.1 d748c3fd

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

Which choice most logically completes the text?

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

2.2 3190835d

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

Which choice most logically completes the text?

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

2.3 db876fd5

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

Which choice most logically completes the text?

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

SAT Reading & Writing

Inferences 2

Question # ID

- 2.4** 55688b3c Dutch painters in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries often showed tables filled with large wheels of cheese or carved shards of butter. Some art historians, noting that dairy products were a major component of the Dutch diet, interpret these depictions as reflections of everyday Dutch eating habits. However, a group of researchers recently reviewed hundreds of food-related paintings and found that lemons—which could only be acquired in the Netherlands at great cost, since they had to be imported from warmer climates—feature in Dutch paintings of the period more than three times as frequently as dairy products do, thereby casting doubt on the idea that _____
- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. dairy products were a more significant component of the Dutch diet of the period than lemons were.
B. food was a more popular subject among Dutch painters than it was among painters from other countries at the time.
C. depictions of food in Dutch paintings of the period should be taken as realistic representations of Dutch eating habits.
D. Dutch painters of the period may have depicted foods for symbolic reasons rather than to show what Dutch people typically ate.
- 2.5** 8fbed1cb When the Vinland Map, a map of the world purported to date to the mid-1400s, surfaced in 1957, some scholars believed it demonstrated that European knowledge of the eastern coast of present-day North America predated Christopher Columbus's 1492 arrival. In 2021, a team including conservators Marie-France Lemay and Paula Zyats and materials scientist Anikó Bezur performed an extensive analysis of the map and the ink used. They found that the ink contains titanium dioxide, a compound that was first introduced in ink manufacturing in the early 1900s. Therefore, the team concluded that _____
- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. mid-1400s Europeans could not have known about the eastern coast of present-day North America.
B. the Vinland Map could not have been drawn by mid-1400s mapmakers.
C. mapmakers must have used titanium compounds in their ink in the 1400s.
D. there isn't enough information to determine when the ink was created.
- 2.6** 5432d1de It's common for jazz musicians and fans to refer to certain songs as having "swing," indicating that the songs provoke a strong feeling, like the impulse to tap one's foot or dance. The exact acoustic properties that give a song swing, however, have long been thought to be undefinable. To investigate swing, a team led by physicist Corentin Nelias delayed the downbeats and synchronized the offbeats in jazz piano solos and asked jazz musicians to compare the intensity of swing in each modified piece with the intensity of swing in the original piece. They found that participants were more than seven times likelier to characterize the modified songs as having swing than to characterize the original versions as having swing, suggesting that _____
- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. synchronized offbeats tend to give a song swing regardless of whether downbeats are delayed.
B. the acoustic properties that give a song swing are not easy for jazz musicians to manipulate.
C. jazz songs that feature the piano are more likely to have swing than are jazz songs that do not feature the piano.
D. the timing of downbeats and offbeats may play a crucial role in giving a song swing.
- 2.7** 4e9afdf7a The Indus River valley civilization flourished in South Asia from 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE. Many examples of the civilization's writing system exist, but researchers haven't yet deciphered it or identified which ancient language it represents. Nevertheless, archaeologists have found historical artifacts, such as clay figures and jewelry, that provide information about the civilization's customs and how its communities were organized. The archaeologists' findings therefore suggest that _____
- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. investigating an ancient civilization is easier without knowledge of the civilization's language.
B. knowing an ancient civilization's language isn't necessary in order to learn details about the civilization.
C. archaeological research should focus on finding additional artifacts rather than deciphering ancient languages.
D. examining the civilization's historical artifacts has resolved the debate about this civilization's language.

SAT Reading & Writing

Inferences 2

Question # ID

- 2.8** 3882ddf6 To investigate the history of plate subduction—when one of Earth's tectonic plates slides beneath another—Sarah M. Aarons and colleagues compared ancient rocks from the Acasta Gneiss Complex in Canada to modern rocks. Using isotope analysis, the researchers found that Acasta rocks dating to about 4.02 billion years ago (bya) most strongly resemble modern rocks formed in a plume setting (an area in which hot rocks from Earth's mantle flow upward into the crust). By contrast, they found that Acasta rocks dating to about 3.75 bya and 3.6 bya have an isotope composition that is similar to that of modern rocks formed in a subduction setting. Aarons's team therefore concluded that _____
- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. subduction-like processes began occurring in some locations no later than 3.75 bya.
 - B. subduction replaced mantle plume formation as the most common geological process by about 4.02 bya.
 - C. the majority of the rocks in the Acasta Gneiss Complex formed through subduction.
 - D. the rocks in the Acasta Gneiss Complex are of a more recent origin than scientists previously thought.
- 2.9** 350e2336 The Haitian Declaration of Independence was issued in 1804, bringing to an end the revolution against colonial France that began in 1791. Written in French, which was not the first language of most Haitians but which was used throughout Europe as the language of international diplomacy, the declaration notes that Haiti will not bring rebellion to other Caribbean nations, promises to respect the sovereignty of its neighbors—widely understood as a reassurance to the United States—and sets up Haiti as an example for future struggles against colonizers (an implicit reference to the many colonies then found in the Americas). So even though the declaration is explicitly addressed to the Haitian people, it's reasonable to conclude that _____
- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. aspects of the declaration were modeled on similar documents from other countries.
 - B. the French government may have been surprised by the declaration.
 - C. many Haitian people opposed the revolution and the declaration.
 - D. the declaration actually had several intended audiences.
- 2.10** 575e67df By running computer simulations of the development of our solar system, André Izidoro, Rajdeep Dasgupta, and colleagues concluded that the Sun may have been surrounded by three giant dust rings before the planets started to form. The researchers suggest that the materials in the innermost ring became the four planets closest to the Sun, the materials in the middle ring produced the rest of the planets, and the materials in the outermost ring created the asteroids and other small bodies in the region beyond Neptune. In one simulation, the researchers delayed the initial formation of the middle ring, causing oversized super-Earths to begin developing from the innermost ring. The researchers therefore hypothesize that _____
- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. the middle ring formed earlier in the solar system's development than the initial simulations suggested.
 - B. the timing of the initial formation of the middle ring played an important role in determining the eventual size of Earth.
 - C. if the formation of the outermost ring had occurred earlier in a simulation, all the planets would have become super-Earths.
 - D. the innermost ring actually formed into all the planets in our solar system, not just the four closest to the Sun.
- 2.11** 485962a6 Astronomers investigated the Arabia Terra region of Mars because it appears to contain irregularly shaped craters that may have been caused by massive volcanic explosions. In their investigations of Arabia Terra, the researchers found remnants of ash deposits in an amount and thickness that would result from a massive volcanic eruption. However, erosion and past resurfacing events could have modified the surface of the planet. Therefore, _____
- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. the current makeup of the Arabia Terra region might not accurately reflect the volcanic activity of Mars's past.
 - B. eruptions from Mars's volcanoes were likely not as massive as astronomers previously believed.
 - C. ash was most likely expelled from multiple different volcanoes on Mars's surface.
 - D. the craters found in the Arabia Terra region were necessarily created by events other than volcanic eruptions.

SAT Reading & Writing

Inferences 2

Question # ID

- 2.12** 299c5303 As the name suggests, dramaturges originated in theater, where they continue to serve a variety of functions: conducting historical research for directors, compiling character biographies for actors, and perhaps most importantly, helping writers of plays and musicals to hone the works' stories and characters. Performance scholar Susan Manning observes that many choreographers, like playwrights and musical theater writers, are concerned with storytelling and characterization. In fact, some choreographers describe the dances they create as expressions of narrative through movement; it is therefore unsurprising that _____
- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. dramaturges can have a profound impact on the artistic direction of plays and musicals.
 - B. choreographers developing dances with narrative elements frequently engage dramaturges to assist in refining those elements.
 - C. dances by choreographers who incorporate narrative elements are more accessible to audiences than dances by choreographers who do not.
 - D. some directors and actors rely too heavily on dramaturges to complete certain research tasks.
- 2.13** bcf2f169 Ana Castillo's 1986 novel *The Mixquiahuala Letters* is a story told entirely through expressive letters from the narrator to her friend—letters that Castillo suggests could be read in several different orders. As they began reading it in class, some students remarked that they found the novel's letter format daunting and its treatment of gender relations old-fashioned. The professor, however, pointed out that the novel is written in modern-sounding language and addresses issues that still matter today, suggesting that *The Mixquiahuala Letters* _____
- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. has more to say about gender relations than other novels from the same period.
 - B. is more relevant to contemporary audiences than it may seem at first.
 - C. is easier to read than many contemporary novels that focus on friendship.
 - D. is best understood after multiple readings in different orders.
- 2.14** cac82f9b Biologist Natacha Bodenhausen and colleagues analyzed the naturally occurring bacterial communities associated with leaves and roots of wild *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a small flowering plant. The researchers found many of the same bacterial genera in both the plants' leaves and roots. To explain this, the researchers pointed to the general proximity of *A. thaliana* leaves to the ground and noted that rain splashing off soil could bring soil-based bacteria into contact with the leaves. Alternatively, the researchers noted that wind, which may be a source of bacteria in the aboveground portion of plants, could also bring bacteria to the soil and roots. Either explanation suggests that _____
- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. bacteria carried by wind are typically less beneficial to *A. thaliana* than soil-based bacteria are.
 - B. some bacteria in *A. thaliana* leaves and roots may share a common source.
 - C. many bacteria in *A. thaliana* leaves may have been deposited by means other than rain.
 - D. *A. thaliana* leaves and roots are especially vulnerable to harmful bacteria.
- 2.15** df654a2b Zines are small-scale, self-printed magazines. They have been around since the Black literary zine *Fire!!* was created in the 1920s. Since then, zines have appealed to creators looking for an inexpensive form of expression to share with a select audience. Zine creators often mix art with social commentary and challenge mainstream culture. At first, the internet appeared to replace the zine, but this old form persists. Today, there are enough zines in the United States to support annual zine festivals. This suggests that _____
- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. creators can reach a larger audience by posting online.
 - B. zines are still a meaningful form of expression.
 - C. creators can continue to explore new art forms.
 - D. zines are good sources of mainstream culture.

SAT Reading & Writing

Inferences 2

Question #	ID
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2.16 25fc2534 Marine archaeologists have found much of the wooden hull of a sixteenth-century ship in a flooded quarry in southeast England. When it is exposed to air and water, wood rots quickly unless it is protected by sediment that shields it from oxygen. Therefore, the discovered ship was likely _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. covered by a protective sediment layer in the quarry.
- B. one of several other ships buried in the same quarry.
- C. a confirmation of previous theories about the type of wood that was used in sixteenth-century ships.
- D. first constructed much earlier than previously thought.

2.17 3d505895 Parthenogenesis is a form of reproduction in which a female reproduces without mating. She produces an egg containing a single offspring whose DNA, or genetic material, comes entirely from its mother. Among birds, parthenogenesis has been found in a handful of species, including pigeons and turkeys. When scientists at the San Diego Zoo analyzed the DNA of the zoo's California condors (a species of vulture), they discovered that two individuals weren't genetically similar enough to any of the males in the condor enclosure to be their offspring. However, both had hatched from eggs laid by females in the enclosure. Thus, the scientists concluded that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. at least one of those individuals' mothers was born as a result of parthenogenesis.
- B. California condors may reproduce through parthenogenesis in zoos but not in the wild.
- C. the mothers of the two individuals probably reproduced through parthenogenesis.
- D. California condors reproduce through parthenogenesis only if females lack sufficient access to males.

2.18 5105ca38 Several artworks found among the ruins of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii depict a female figure fishing with a cupid nearby. Some scholars have asserted that the figure is the goddess Venus, since she is known to have been linked with cupids in Roman culture, but University of Leicester archaeologist Carla Brain suggests that cupids may have also been associated with fishing generally. The fact that a cupid is shown near the female figure, therefore, _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. is not conclusive evidence that the figure is Venus.
- B. suggests that Venus was often depicted fishing.
- C. eliminates the possibility that the figure is Venus.
- D. would be difficult to account for if the figure is not Venus.

2.19 7afdcc2 Over 600 languages are spoken in New York City in addition to English—one can find Amharic spoken in the neighborhood of Norwood, or Ilocano in Woodside. Most speakers of Chinese languages reside in the neighborhood of Flushing (part of New York City's borough of Queens) and in Chinatown, in the borough of Manhattan. New immigrants from north China, where Mandarin is the primary first language, tend to settle in Queens, while new immigrants from south China, where many people speak Cantonese or Fuzhouinese as a first language, tend to settle in Manhattan. It can therefore be inferred that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. languages tend to change more rapidly in areas where many languages are spoken than in areas where few languages are spoken.
- B. languages spoken by immigrant peoples can differ significantly in vocabulary and pronunciation from those same languages in their country of origin.
- C. there is a positive correlation between the physical size of a country and the number of languages spoken in that country.
- D. correlations in a country between languages and regions where they are spoken can replicate themselves in a new country to which the original country's citizens emigrate.

SAT Reading & Writing

Inferences 2

Question # ID

- 2.20** d8b78a2b Red velvet cake has been a favorite dessert of many for years, but the recipe's origins are unclear. A bakery in Dallas, Texas, argued that it created the first recipe for the cake when the bakery opened in the 1860s. The Adams Extract Co., which sells baking products, claims to have created the recipe in the 1930s to help market their red dye. A US hotel and a Canadian department store also publicly stated that the red velvet cake sold in each of their establishments in the 1930s was an original creation, each alleging that it was the recipe author. No clear evidence has emerged to favor one of these claims over the others, however. It thus seems that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. red velvet cake was first baked sometime before the 1860s.
- B. we cannot say at present who actually baked the first red velvet cake.
- C. none of the supposed inventors of red velvet cake are likely to have invented it.
- D. the bakery in Dallas, Texas, probably invented red velvet cake.

- 2.21** 7ae8065c Scholars are increasingly exploring the communication and preservation of ecological knowledge through Indigenous songs (e.g., Sakha songs about local ecosystems and those of the Kaluli people about rainforest sounds). In one study, ethnobiologist Dana Lepofsky et al. received insight from Kwaxsistalla Wathl'thla, a song keeper for the Kwakwaka'wakw people in Canada, into songs referencing the people's use of terraced gardens in intertidal zones along the Pacific Northwest coast for the cultivation of clams for consumption. Archaeological evidence of significant increases in clam size and abundance in that area concurrent with the documented past implementation of the method described in the songs supports the conclusion that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the practice used by ancestors of modern Kwakwaka'wakw people not only effectively maintained a food source but also promoted its robustness.
- B. non-Indigenous people around the Pacific Northwest coast adopted the practice developed by the Kwakwaka'wakw people after observing its efficacy.
- C. there is greater corroboration in the archaeological record of ecological practices described in Kwakwaka'wakw songs than of those described in Sakha and Kaluli songs.
- D. although contemporary Kwakwaka'wakw people have a deep understanding of and appreciation for the fishing and farming practices used by their ancestors, they no longer implement those methods.

- 2.22** 6409016a The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey (HILDA) examines trends in economic well-being among 25,000 people in Australia unfolding over many years. As is true of most longitudinal studies, this need for years of data collection results in high costs. By contrast, a relatively straightforward fitness study, such as one that is merely trying to identify the percentage of regular exercisers in a city who do weight training, may not need a large budget because _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. longitudinal methods are probably suitable for the fitness study.
- B. it would be easy for HILDA researchers to add questions to their economic well-being study.
- C. 25,000 people is more than enough for HILDA to find trends in economic well-being.
- D. the fitness study can be done well without years of data collection.