

SAT Reading & Writing

Central Ideas and Details 2

Question # ID

2.1	87aa7bab	A common assumption among art historians is that the invention of photography in the mid-nineteenth century displaced the painted portrait in the public consciousness. The diminishing popularity of the portrait miniature, which coincided with the rise of photography, seems to support this claim. However, photography's impact on the portrait miniature may be overstated. Although records from art exhibitions in the Netherlands from 1820 to 1892 show a decrease in the number of both full-sized and miniature portraits submitted, this trend was established before the invention of photography. Based on the text, what can be concluded about the diminishing popularity of the portrait miniature in the nineteenth century? A. Factors other than the rise of photography may be more directly responsible for the portrait miniature's decline. B. Although portrait miniatures became less common than photographs, they were widely regarded as having more artistic merit. C. The popularity of the portrait miniature likely persisted for longer than art historians have assumed. D. As demand for portrait miniatures decreased, portrait artists likely shifted their creative focus to photography.
2.2	602b47c7	Biologists have predicted that birds' feather structures vary with habitat temperature, but this hadn't been tested in mountain environments. Ornithologist Sahas Barve studied feathers from 249 songbird species inhabiting different elevations—and thus experiencing different temperatures—in the Himalaya Mountains. He found that feathers of high-elevation species not only have a greater proportion of warming downy sections to flat and smooth sections than do feathers of low-elevation species, but high-elevation species' feathers also tend to be longer, providing a thicker layer of insulation. Which choice best states the main idea of the text? A. Barve's investigation shows that some species of Himalayan songbirds have evolved feathers that better regulate body temperature than do the feathers of other species, contradicting previous predictions. B. Barve found an association between habitat temperature and feather structure among Himalayan songbirds, lending new support to a general prediction. C. Barve discovered that songbirds have adapted to their environment by growing feathers without flat and smooth sections, complicating an earlier hypothesis. D. The results of Barve's study suggest that the ability of birds to withstand cold temperatures is determined more strongly by feather length than feather structure, challenging an established belief.
2.3	11a9f635	Paleontologists searching for signs of ancient life have found many fossilized specimens of prehistoric human ancestors, including several from the Pleistocene era discovered in a geological formation in the Minatogawa quarry in Japan. However, to study the emergence of the earliest multicellular organisms to appear on Earth, researchers must turn elsewhere, such as to the Ediacaran geological formation at Mistaken Point in Canada. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the 146-hectare reserve contains more than 10,000 fossils that together document a critical moment in evolutionary history. What does the text indicate about the geological formation at Mistaken Point? A. It holds a greater number of fossils but from a smaller variety of species than the formation in the Minatogawa quarry does. B. It has provided evidence that the earliest human species may have emerged before the Pleistocene era. C. It is widely considered by paleontologists to be the most valuable source of information about prehistoric life forms. D. It contains specimens from an older time period than those found in the formation in the Minatogawa quarry.

SAT Reading & Writing

Central Ideas and Details 2

Question # ID

- 2.4** e677fa6c The following text is adapted from Edgar Allan Poe's 1849 story "Landor's Cottage."
- During a pedestrian trip last summer, through one or two of the river counties of New York, I found myself, as the day declined, somewhat embarrassed about the road I was pursuing. The land undulated very remarkably; and my path, for the last hour, had wound about and about so confusedly, in its effort to keep in the valleys, that I no longer knew in what direction lay the sweet village of B—, where I had determined to stop for the night.
- Which choice best states the main idea of the text?
- A. The narrator remembers a trip he took and admits to getting lost.
 - B. The narrator recalls fond memories of a journey that he took through some beautiful river counties.
 - C. The narrator describes what he saw during a long trip through a frequently visited location.
 - D. The narrator explains the difficulties he encountered on a trip and how he overcame them.
- 2.5** 5325b3cc Philadelphia's Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra, founded by Jeri Lynne Johnson, performs classical music, from well-known compositions by Beethoven to contemporary works by Jessie Montgomery. For the orchestra's iConduct! program, Johnson invites community members to learn some basic elements of conducting and then experience conducting the Black Pearl orchestra themselves.
- Which choice best states the main idea of the text?
- A. The Black Pearl orchestra performs music from all over the world but mostly performs music composed by Philadelphians.
 - B. Johnson founded the Black Pearl orchestra to perform classical music by contemporary artist Jessie Montgomery.
 - C. The Black Pearl orchestra gives community members the chance to both listen to and participate in classical music performance.
 - D. Johnson has community members conduct an orchestra to demonstrate how difficult the task is.
- 2.6** dc3ea63e To dye wool, Navajo (Diné) weaver Lillie Taylor uses plants and vegetables from Arizona, where she lives. For example, she achieved the deep reds and browns featured in her 2003 rug *In the Path of the Four Seasons* by using Arizona dock roots, drying and grinding them before mixing the powder with water to create a dye bath. To intensify the appearance of certain colors, Taylor also sometimes mixes in clay obtained from nearby soil.
- Which choice best states the main idea of the text?
- A. Reds and browns are not commonly featured in most of Taylor's rugs.
 - B. Taylor draws on local resources in the approach she uses to dye wool.
 - C. Taylor finds it difficult to locate Arizona dock root in the desert.
 - D. *In the Path of the Four Seasons* is widely acclaimed for its many colors and innovative weaving techniques.
- 2.7** a59245a1 The painter María Izquierdo played an important role in the development of twentieth-century Mexican art, but her work has never been well-known in the United States except among art historians. One reason for Izquierdo's relative obscurity is the enormous popularity of some of her peers. In particular, the painters Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera have so captivated the interest of US audiences that Izquierdo and other Mexican artists from the period often get overlooked, despite the high quality of their work.
- Which choice best states the main idea of the text?
- A. Izquierdo's work is not as well-known in the United States as it should be because Kahlo and Rivera draw so much of the public's attention.
 - B. During Izquierdo's lifetime, her paintings were displayed in galleries in the United States much more frequently than paintings by Kahlo and Rivera were.
 - C. Izquierdo painted some of the same subjects that Kahlo and Rivera painted but used different techniques than they used.
 - D. Few of Izquierdo's works are in galleries today because she produced only a small number of paintings.

SAT Reading & Writing

Central Ideas and Details 2

Question # ID

2.8	f8befc75	<p>Many intellectual histories of the Black Power movement of the 1960s and 1970s rely heavily on essays and other explicitly ideological works as primary sources, a tendency that can overrepresent the perspectives of a small number of thinkers, most of whom were male. Historian Ashley D. Farmer has shown that expanding the array of primary sources to encompass more types of print material—including political cartoons, advertisements, and artwork—leads to a much better understanding of the movement and the crucial and diverse roles that Black women played in shaping it.</p> <p>Which choice best describes the main idea of the text?</p> <p>A. Farmer's methods and research have enriched the historical understanding of the Black Power movement and Black women's contributions to it.</p> <p>B. Before Farmer's research, historians had largely ignored the intellectual dimensions of the Black Power movement.</p> <p>C. Other historians of the Black Power movement have criticized Farmer's use of unconventional primary sources.</p> <p>D. The figures in the Black Power movement whom historians tend to cite would have agreed with Farmer's conclusions about women's roles in the movement.</p>
2.9	3f05e40f	<p>In many of his sculptures, artist Richard Hunt uses broad forms rather than extreme accuracy to hint at specific people or ideas. In his first major work, <i>Arachne</i> (1956), Hunt constructed the mythical character Arachne, a weaver who was changed into a spider, by welding bits of steel together into something that, although vaguely human, is strange and machine-like. And his large bronze sculpture <i>The Light of Truth</i> (2021) commemorates activist and journalist Ida B. Wells using mainly flowing, curved pieces of metal that create stylized flame.</p> <p>Which choice best states the text's main idea about Hunt?</p> <p>A. He often depicts the subjects of his sculptures using an unrealistic style.</p> <p>B. He uses different kinds of materials depending on what kind of sculpture he plans to create.</p> <p>C. He tends to base his art on important historical figures rather than on fictional characters.</p> <p>D. He has altered his approach to sculpture over time, and his works have become increasingly abstract.</p>
2.10	659c6c1d	<p>The following text is adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson's 1883 novel <i>Treasure Island</i>. Bill is a sailor staying at the Admiral Benbow, an inn run by the narrator's parents.</p> <p>Every day when [Bill] came back from his stroll he would ask if any seafaring men had gone by along the road. At first we thought it was the want of company of his own kind that made him ask this question, but at last we began to see he was desirous to avoid them. When a seaman did [stay] at the Admiral Benbow (as now and then some did) he would look in at him through the curtained door before he entered the parlour; and he was always sure to be as silent as a mouse when any such was present.</p> <p>According to the text, why does Bill regularly ask about "seafaring men"?</p> <p>A. He's hoping to find an old friend and fellow sailor.</p> <p>B. He's trying to secure a job as part of the crew on a new ship.</p> <p>C. He isn't sure that other guests at the inn will be welcoming of sailors.</p> <p>D. He doesn't want to encounter any other sailor unexpectedly.</p>

SAT Reading & Writing

Central Ideas and Details 2

Question # ID

2.11 d5c2a4d4

The following text is adapted from Guy de Maupassant's nineteenth-century short story "The Trip of Le Horla" (translated by Albert M. C. McMaster, A. E. Henderson, Mme. Quesada, et al.). The narrator is part of a group traveling in a hot-air balloon at night.

The earth no longer seems to exist, it is buried in milky vapors that resemble a sea. We are now alone in space with the moon, which looks like another balloon travelling opposite us; and our balloon, which shines in the air, appears like another, larger moon, a world wandering in the sky amid the stars, through infinity. We no longer speak, think nor live; we float along through space in delicious inertia. The air which is bearing us up has made of us all beings which resemble itself, silent, joyous, irresponsible beings, peculiarly alert, although motionless.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The narrator feels a growing sense of isolation even though his companions are nearby during the balloon ride.
- B. The narrator and his companions are completely absorbed in the change in perspective they gain while riding in the balloon.
- C. The narrator and his companions are troubled by the disorienting effects of the altitude while riding in the balloon.
- D. The narrator is pleasantly surprised by his companions' unrestrained enthusiasm about the sensation of riding in the balloon.

2.12 ad680167

The recovery of a 1,000-year-old Chinese shipwreck in the Java Sea near present-day Indonesia has yielded a treasure trove of artifacts, including thousands of small ceramic bowls. Using a portable X-ray fluorescence analyzer tool, Lisa Niziolek and her team were able to detect the chemical composition of these bowls without damaging them. By comparing the chemical signatures of the bowls with those of the materials still at old Chinese kiln sites, Niziolek and her team can pinpoint which Chinese kilns likely produced the ceramic bowls.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Because of a new technology, researchers can locate and recover more shipwrecks than they could in the past.
- B. Researchers have been able to identify the location of a number of Chinese kilns in operation 1,000 years ago.
- C. With the help of a special tool, researchers have determined the likely origin of bowls recovered from a shipwreck.
- D. Before the invention of portable X-ray fluorescence, researchers needed to take a small piece out of an artifact to analyze its components.

2.13 adbcbe0

The following text is adapted from Christina Rossetti's 1881 poem "Monna Innominate 2."

I wish I could remember that first day,
First hour, first moment of your meeting me,
If bright or dim the season, it might be
Summer or Winter for [all] I can say;
So unrecorded did it slip away,
So blind was I to see and to foresee,
So dull to mark the budding of my tree
That would not blossom yet for many a May.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The speaker celebrates how the passage of time has strengthened a relationship that once seemed unimportant.
- B. Because the speaker did not anticipate how important a relationship would become, she cannot recall how the relationship began, which she regrets.
- C. As the anniversary of the beginning of an important relationship approaches, the speaker feels conflicted about how best to commemorate it.
- D. After years of neglecting a once valuable relationship, the speaker worries it may be too late for her to salvage the relationship.

SAT Reading & Writing

Central Ideas and Details 2

Question # ID

- 2.14** 95146ebb The ice melted on a Norwegian mountain during a particularly warm summer in 2019, revealing a 1,700-year-old sandal to a mountaineer looking for artifacts. The sandal would normally have degraded quickly, but it was instead well preserved for centuries by the surrounding ice. According to archaeologist Espen Finstad and his team, the sandal, like those worn by imperial Romans, wouldn't have offered any protection from the cold in the mountains, so some kind of insulation, like fabric or animal skin, would have needed to be worn on the feet with the sandal.
- What does the text indicate about the discovery of the sandal?
- A. Temperatures contributed to both protecting and revealing the sandal.
B. The discovery revealed that the Roman Empire had more influence on Norway than archaeologists previously assumed.
C. Archaeologists would have found the sandal eventually without help from the general public.
D. The sandal would have degraded if it hadn't been removed from the ice.
- 2.15** 409058ee To protect themselves when being attacked, hagfish—jawless marine animals that resemble eels—will release large quantities of slimy, mucus-like threads. Because these threads are unusually strong and elastic, scientist Atsuko Negishi and her colleagues have been trying to recreate them in a lab as an eco-friendly alternative to petroleum-based fibers that are often used in fabrics. The researchers want to reproduce the threads in the lab because farming hagfish for their slime would be expensive and potentially harmful to the hagfish.
- Which choice best states the text's main idea?
- A. The slimy threads that hagfish release might help researchers create a new kind of fabric.
B. Hagfish have inspired researchers to develop a new petroleum-based fabric.
C. Hagfish are not well suited to being raised in captivity.
D. The ability of hagfish to slime their attackers compensates for their being jawless.
- 2.16** 3cc7d73b Using the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), a team of astronomers mapped out the magnetic field of G47, one of the Milky Way's galactic bones (dense clouds of gas and dust that run through the middle of the arm of a spiral galaxy). Surprisingly, the map revealed a magnetic field with no clear pattern or direction. The researchers had expected the magnetic field to be similar to the more uniform fields seen in galactic bones in other arms of the Milky Way.
- According to the text, what was surprising about the researchers' mapping of the magnetic field of galactic bone G47?
- A. It showed a weaker magnetic field than expected.
B. It implied that previous mappings of the magnetic field were inaccurate.
C. It produced magnetic field measurements similar to those for other galactic bones.
D. It revealed a magnetic field that wasn't uniform.
- 2.17** 668f75cb The following text is from Ahmet Hamdi Tanpinar's 1961 novel *The Time Regulation Institute* (translated from the Turkish in 2014 by Maureen Freely and Alexander Dawe). The narrator was once involved with the Time Regulation Institute, a fictional bureaucracy that regulates the time of Turkey's clocks.
- I may be the most humble and absurd man in the world and, as my wife says, the most slovenly creature you may ever meet—that is, before the founding of our institute—but I did come to know a truly great man who possessed a natural genius for invention. I spent years at his side. I watched the way he worked. I witnessed how an idea would suddenly catch fire in his mind and take shape, like a tree sprouting shoots and branches, before coming into being.
- ©2014 by Maureen Freely and Alexander Dawe
- Which choice best states the main idea of the text?
- A. A person was fortunate enough to have found love despite his obvious shortcomings.
B. An exceptionally talented person professes humility to avoid intimidating others.
C. A person appreciates the extensive time he passed in the company of someone he deeply admired.
D. A truly brilliant person lets ideas mature in his mind before expressing them aloud.

SAT Reading & Writing

Central Ideas and Details 2

Question # ID

- 2.18** 04dff083 In present-day Chiapas, Mexico, archaeologist Robert Rosenswig, remote-sensing specialist Ricardo López-Torrijos, and colleagues have located 41 smaller settlements surrounding the ancient Mesoamerican city of Izapa. The researchers have concluded that these settlements were culturally linked to Izapa because each of the settlements is the same age and configured in the same manner as Izapa, with a pyramid to the north and a plaza to the south. Their shared structural orientation suggests that residents of the settlements likely performed some of the same cultural ceremonies as residents in Izapa did.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- Researchers have determined that the arrangement of Izapa's structures was based on those of other nearby
A. settlements.

- Cultural ceremonies in Izapa seem to have played a more important role for its residents than those in smaller,
B. surrounding settlements did.

- Although archaeologists have learned much about Izapa over years of research, they have only recently found the smaller
C. settlements that surrounded it.

- Researchers have inferred that Izapa was related to the smaller settlements that surrounded it based in part on the
D. similarity of their construction.

- 2.19** Od81b7d9 Paleontologist Alan Tennyson and colleagues studied fossil bones found in New Zealand that are more than 55 million years old. The researchers determined that the fossil bones belonged to two previously unknown species of prehistoric penguins. Moreover, they estimated that one of the two penguin species was more than three times the size of the emperor penguin, which is the largest penguin species that exists today.

Based on the text, which choice best describes the two previously unknown penguin species?

- A. They are frequently studied by paleontologists.
B. They are no longer living species.
C. They were smaller than penguin species that exist today.
D. They spent little of their lives in water.

- 2.20** 11c68ded A contraction of "you all," the pronoun "y'all" has long been used as a plural version of "you" in the South and in Black communities around the US. In recent decades, most other English-speaking communities in the US have begun to use "y'all." What explains its rise in popularity? Many varieties of English have no pronoun that specifically addresses more than one person and instead must use "you" to address both one person and more than one. But "y'all" always refers to two or more people. As a result, it conveys the speaker's meaning more precisely than "you" can.

Which question does the text most directly attempt to answer?

- A. How many other plural versions of the pronoun "you" are there in English, besides "y'all"?
B. Why has the pronoun "y'all" become more widely used in the US?
C. When was the first recorded use of the pronoun "y'all" in the English language?
D. Is "y'all" commonly used in English-speaking regions of the world besides the US?

SAT Reading & Writing

Central Ideas and Details 2

Question # ID

2.21	8c1be131	<p>During the World War II era, some Mexican American women adopted a striking new look called <i>pachuca</i> style. They wore altered men's jackets or zoot suits (wide-legged, long-coated suits) and dramatic makeup, and they combed their hair into high, rounded shapes. Some people criticized <i>pachuca</i> style, saying it was dangerous and women should dress traditionally. But historians see things differently. They see <i>pachuca</i> style as a form of rebellion against the era's rigid social expectations for women. They say that it showed a desire for self-expression and freedom on the part of women who adopted the style.</p> <p>According to the text, how do historians view <i>pachuca</i> style?</p> <p>They think that <i>pachuca</i> style was such a popular trend that it continues to influence fashion in the United States to the present day.</p> <p>They think that <i>pachuca</i> style was a way for some Mexican American women to express themselves and resist strict social expectations.</p> <p>They think that <i>pachuca</i> style was celebrated because it enabled some Mexican American women to show their support for the United States during World War II.</p> <p>They think that <i>pachuca</i> style was similar to other fashion trends that different groups of women adopted in the same period.</p>
2.22	66c47028	<p>In 1934 physicist Eugene Wigner posited the existence of a crystal consisting entirely of electrons in a honeycomb-like structure. The so-called Wigner crystal remained largely conjecture, however, until Feng Wang and colleagues announced in 2021 that they had captured an image of one. The researchers trapped electrons between two semiconductors and then cooled the apparatus, causing the electrons to settle into a crystalline structure. By inserting an ultrathin sheet of graphene above the crystal, the researchers obtained an impression—the first visual confirmation of the Wigner crystal.</p> <p>Which choice best states the main idea of the text?</p> <p>A. Researchers have obtained the most definitive evidence to date of the existence of the Wigner crystal.</p> <p>B. Researchers have identified an innovative new method for working with unusual crystalline structures.</p> <p>C. Graphene is the most important of the components required to capture an image of a Wigner crystal.</p> <p>D. It's difficult to acquire an image of a Wigner crystal because of the crystal's honeycomb structure.</p>
2.23	a66f9b8d	<p>Cats can judge unseen people's positions in space by the sound of their voices and thus react with surprise when the same person calls to them from two different locations in a short span of time. Saho Takagi and colleagues reached this conclusion by measuring cats' levels of surprise based on their ear and head movements while the cats heard recordings of their owners' voices from two speakers spaced far apart. Cats exhibited a low level of surprise when owners' voices were played twice from the same speaker, but they showed a high level of surprise when the voice was played once each from the two different speakers.</p> <p>According to the text, how did the researchers determine the level of surprise displayed by the cats in the study?</p> <p>A. They watched how each cat moved its ears and head.</p> <p>B. They examined how each cat reacted to the voice of a stranger.</p> <p>C. They studied how each cat physically interacted with its owner.</p> <p>D. They tracked how each cat moved around the room.</p>
2.24	b7f79059	<p>The following text is from Ezra Pound's 1909 poem "Hymn III," based on the work of Marcantonio Flaminio.</p> <p>As a fragile and lovely flower unfolds its gleaming foliage on the breast of the fostering earth, if the dew and the rain draw it forth; So doth my tender mind flourish, if it be fed with the sweet dew of the fostering spirit, Lacking this, it beginneth straightway to languish, even as a floweret born upon dry earth, if the dew and the rain tend it not.</p> <p>Based on the text, in what way is the human mind like a flower?</p> <p>A. It becomes increasingly vigorous with the passage of time.</p> <p>B. It draws strength from changes in the weather.</p> <p>C. It requires proper nourishment in order to thrive.</p> <p>D. It perseveres despite challenging circumstances.</p>

SAT Reading & Writing

Central Ideas and Details 2

Question # ID

- 2.25** 923ebfe3 Businesses selling clothing and other fashion items face obstacles in trying to forecast how much product to order: tastes and styles change quickly, while manufacturing clothing takes a significant amount of time. Researchers Youran Fu and Marshall Fisher have found that combining sellers' own data with information gathered from social media can dramatically improve the accuracy of such forecasts—by 24 to 57 percent in the cases they directly studied. Better predictions mean demand is easier to meet without retailers becoming overstocked.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Using multiple data sources can enhance the ability of sellers in the fashion industry to anticipate demand.
- B. Social media is revolutionizing how both sellers and researchers view the fashion industry.
- C. Becoming overstocked is the main preoccupation of sellers trying to forecast demand for fashion items.
- D. Retailers can use their own data to accurately predict how tastes and styles are evolving.

- 2.26** b38935ab Historians point to the rule of the Piast dynasty as crucial to the formation of the Polish state. However, some differentiate between members of the dynasty like Mieszko II Lambert, who ruled as king from 1025 to 1031 CE, and less well-documented figures like Siemomysł, who is said to have ruled in the 10th century but whose historical actuality is disputed. Siemomysł appears in the *Gesta principum Polonorum*, a chronicle of medieval Polish history written between 1112 and 1118. However, the chronicle's documentation of Siemomysł relies on oral tradition, unlike its records of later rulers.

According to the text, what is a difference between how historians view Siemomysł and how they view Mieszko II Lambert?

- A. Historians agree that Mieszko II Lambert existed, but disagree about whether Siemomysł existed.
- B. Historians believe that the *Gesta principum Polonorum* provides more evidence for Siemomysł's existence than it does for Mieszko II Lambert's existence.
- C. Historians agree that Siemomysł ruled Poland much later than Mieszko II Lambert.
- D. Historians find the orally transmitted stories affirming the existence of Mieszko II Lambert to be more convincing than similar stories about Siemomysł.

2.27 2312021b

Question ID 2312021b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	

ID: 2312021b

In a study by Mika R. Moran, Daniel A. Rodriguez, and colleagues, residents of Quito, Ecuador, and Lima, Peru, were surveyed about parks in their cities. Of the 618 respondents from Quito, 82.9% indicated that they use the city's parks, and of the 663 respondents from Lima, 72.7% indicated using city parks. Given that the percentage of Quito respondents who reported living within a 10-minute walk of a park was much lower than that reported by Lima respondents, greater proximity alone can't explain the difference in park use.

The text makes which point about the difference between the proportions of Quito residents and Lima residents using parks?

- A. It was much larger than the researchers conducting the study expected.
- B. It is caused by something other than the parks' proximity to city residents.
- C. It could be due to inaccuracies in the survey results.
- D. It was calculated using sources that predate the survey.