

SAT Reading & Writing

Words in Context 2

Question # ID

- 2.1** 359902ae The following text is adapted from Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1837 story "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment." The main character, a physician, is experimenting with rehydrating a dried flower.

At first [the rose] lay lightly on the surface of the fluid, appearing to imbibe none of its moisture. Soon, however, a singular change began to be visible. The crushed and dried petals stirred and assumed a deepening tinge of crimson, as if the flower were reviving from a deathlike slumber.

As used in the text, what does the phrase "a singular" most nearly mean?

- A. A lonely
- B. A disagreeable
- C. An acceptable
- D. An extraordinary

- 2.2** 5a278f24 The work of molecular biophysicist Enrique M. De La Cruz is known for _____ traditional boundaries between academic disciplines. The university laboratory that De La Cruz runs includes engineers, biologists, chemists, and physicists, and the research the lab produces makes use of insights and techniques from all those fields.

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

- A. epitomizing
- B. transcending
- C. anticipating
- D. reinforcing

- 2.3** 9aa44886 The following text is from F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel *The Great Gatsby*.

[Jay Gatsby] was balancing himself on the dashboard of his car with that resourcefulness of movement that is so peculiarly American—that comes, I suppose, with the absence of lifting work in youth and, even more, with the formless grace of our nervous, sporadic games. This quality was continually breaking through his punctilious manner in the shape of restlessness.

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

- A. Standard
- B. Prestige
- C. Characteristic
- D. Accomplishment

- 2.4** e8c26398 To develop a method for measuring snow depth with laser beams, NASA physicist Yongxiang Hu relied on _____; identifying broad similarities between two seemingly different phenomena, Hu used information about how ants move inside colonies to calculate how the particles of light that make up laser beams travel through snow.

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

- A. a collaboration
- B. an accessory
- C. a contradiction
- D. an analogy

- 2.5** 8b46bb51 A journalist and well-respected art critic of nineteenth-century Britain, Lady Elizabeth Rigby Eastlake did not hesitate to publish reviews that went against popular opinion. One of her most divisive works was an essay questioning the idea of photography as an emerging medium for fine art: in the essay, Eastlake _____ that the value of photographs was informational rather than creative.

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

- A. exposed
- B. asserted
- C. discovered
- D. doubted

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- 2.6** d3ca5d59 Stephen Hannock's luminous landscape paintings are appealing to viewers but have elicited little commentary from contemporary critics, a phenomenon that may be due to the very fact that the paintings seem so _____. Many critics focus their attention on art that is cryptic or overtly challenging.
- Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?
- A. innovative
 - B. subversive
 - C. profound
 - D. accessible
- 2.7** fce80a36 In 2008 a complete set of ancient *pessoi* (glass game pieces) was uncovered from beneath a paving stone in modern-day Israel. Due to their small size, *pessoi* were easily misplaced, making a whole set a rare find. This has led some experts to suggest that the set may have been buried intentionally; however, without clear evidence, archaeologists are left to _____ what happened.
- Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?
- A. speculate about
 - B. dismiss
 - C. expand on
 - D. catalog
- 2.8** 62a18353 The following text is adapted from Zora Neale Hurston's 1921 short story "John Redding Goes to Sea." John wants to travel far beyond the village where he lives near his mother, Matty.
- [John] had on several occasions attempted to reconcile his mother to the notion, but found it a difficult task. Matty always took refuge in self-pity and tears. Her son's desires were incomprehensible to her, that was all.
- As used in the text, what does the phrase "reconcile his mother to" most nearly mean?
- A. Get his mother to accept
 - B. Get his mother to apologize for
 - C. Get his mother to match
 - D. Get his mother to reunite with
- 2.9** d8d1ecaa Business researcher Melanie Brucks and colleagues found that remote video conference meetings may be less conducive to brainstorming than in-person meetings are. The researchers suspect that video meeting participants are focused on staring at the speaker on the screen and don't allow their eyes or mind to wander as much, which may ultimately _____ creativity.
- Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?
- A. recommend
 - B. criticize
 - C. impede
 - D. construct
- 2.10** bce627d9 Mineralogical differences are detectable in samples collected from two locations on the near-Earth asteroid Ryugu, but such differences may not indicate substantial compositional variations in the asteroid. Cosmochemist Kazuhide Nagashima and colleagues note that at the small scale of the samples, the distribution of minerals is unlikely to be _____.
- Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?
- A. neglected
 - B. redundant
 - C. ongoing
 - D. uniform

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- 2.11** d4e8662d The percentage of US forest land that a 2023 federal report identified as being either mature or old growth exceeds other recent estimates. Given how little _____ there is among scientists regarding the scope of these categories, this discrepancy shouldn't be surprising: forest researchers regularly dispute one another's classifications.
- Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?
- A. deliberation
 - B. vigilance
 - C. interest
 - D. consensus
- 2.12** b44066dc Economist Jingting Fan argues that the effects of international trade may display spatial variation at sub-national levels. For instance, imported goods may reduce expenses for a country's average consumer, but for consumers living far from ports, high intranational transport costs could _____ the price advantages associated with imports.
- Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?
- A. nullify
 - B. denigrate
 - C. underestimate
 - D. misconstrue
- 2.13** 9107ad5c Stars form in cloudlike swirls of gas and dust that cannot be touched, but astrophysicist Nia Imara believes these formations need not remain completely _____ to researchers: she uses simulation data and sophisticated 3D printers to produce interactive models of these stellar nurseries.
- Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?
- A. repeatable
 - B. explicable
 - C. regrettable
 - D. intangible
- 2.14** 1fa751f1 Handedness, a preferential use of either the right or left hand, typically is easy to observe in humans. Because this trait is present but less _____ in many other animals, animal-behavior researchers often employ tasks specially designed to reveal individual animals' preferences for a certain hand or paw.
- Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?
- A. recognizable
 - B. intriguing
 - C. significant
 - D. useful
- 2.15** e0656211 In *Nature Poem* (2017), Kumeyaay poet Tommy Pico portrays his _____ the natural world by honoring the centrality of nature within his tribe's traditional beliefs while simultaneously expressing his distaste for being in wilderness settings himself.
- Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?
- A. responsiveness to
 - B. ambivalence toward
 - C. renunciation of
 - D. mastery over

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- 2.16** cd2ce51f Like the 1945 play it reimagines—Federico García Lorca’s *The House of Bernarda Alba*—Marcus Gardley’s 2014 play *The House That Will Not Stand* prominently features women. In both plays, the all-female cast _____ an array of female characters, including a strong mother and several daughters dealing with individual struggles.
- Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?
- A. engulfs
 - B. encourages
 - C. comprises
 - D. provokes
- 2.17** 757077f9 During a 2014 archaeological dig in Spain, Vicente Lull and his team uncovered the skeleton of a woman from El Algar, an Early Bronze Age society, buried with valuable objects signaling a high position of power. This finding may persuade researchers who have argued that Bronze Age societies were ruled by men to _____ that women may have also held leadership roles.
- Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?
- A. waive
 - B. concede
 - C. refute
 - D. require
- 2.18** f4166aae In addition to being an accomplished psychologist himself, Francis Cecil Sumner was a _____ increasing the opportunity for Black students to study psychology, helping to found the psychology department at Howard University, a historically Black university, in 1930.
- Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?
- A. proponent of
 - B. supplement to
 - C. beneficiary of
 - D. distraction for
- 2.19** 84ece3f6 The following text is adapted from Nathaniel Hawthorne’s 1844 short story “Drowne’s Wooden Image.” Drowne, a young man, is carving a wooden figure to decorate the front of a ship.
Day by day, the work assumed greater precision, and settled its irregular and misty outline into distincter grace and beauty. The general design was now obvious to the common eye.
- As used in the text, what does the word “assumed” most nearly mean?
- A. Acquired
 - B. Acknowledged
 - C. Imitated
 - D. Speculated
- 2.20** 9c35759f Novelist N. K. Jemisin declines to _____ the conventions of the science fiction genre in which she writes, and she has suggested that her readers appreciate her work precisely because of this willingness to thwart expectations and avoid formulaic plots and themes.
- Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?
- A. question
 - B. react to
 - C. perceive
 - D. conform to

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- 2.21** 1fbf276a Interruptions in the supply chain for microchips used in personal electronics have challenged an economist's assertion that retailers can expect robust growth in sales of those devices in the coming months. The delays are unlikely to _____ her projection entirely but will almost certainly extend its time frame.

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

- A. dispute
- B. withdraw
- C. underscore
- D. invalidate

- 2.22** 86fbc64d Domesticated thousands of years ago by Indigenous people in South America, cacao, the plant from which chocolate is made, deviates structurally from the wild plant it is descended from. Maize (corn), another crop domesticated by Indigenous Americans, shows so little resemblance to any wild plant that genetic research was necessary to _____ teosinte grass as its ancestor.

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

- A. acquire
- B. develop
- C. attract
- D. confirm

- 2.23** 1374a9fa Austin McCoy has argued that historians have tended to _____ rank-and-file workers in analyses of changes in organized labor in the United States in the decades following the Second World War, presenting political, business, and labor leaders as the major actors and ordinary workers as nearly devoid of agency.

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

- A. epitomize
- B. marginalize
- C. extol
- D. substantiate

- 2.24** 35fd0eb4 The discoverers of the minor planet 1227 Geranium named it after the plant genus that includes cranesbills. Most of the recently discovered minor planets, however, are given only an identification number, largely due to there being over 500,000 such bodies known at present, which makes the already challenging task of finding a unique name for each nearly _____.

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

- A. insurmountable
- B. feasible
- C. substantial
- D. unnecessary

- 2.25** ce8c03a8 *The Illustrated History of San Mateo County*, published in 1878, features several illustrations by Grafton Tyler Brown showing the California county's farms, residences, and businesses. It was _____ for a business to be featured, since being included suggested that a business was an important part of the community.

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

- A. risky
- B. misleading
- C. advantageous
- D. unremarkable

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- 2.26** ab1bd603 The following text is adapted from Upton Sinclair's 1906 novel *The Jungle*. Marija is helping to manage her sister's wedding.

It was [Marija's] task to see that all things went in due form, and after the best home traditions; and, flying wildly hither and thither, bowling every one out of the way, and scolding and exhorting all day with her tremendous voice, Marija was too eager to see that others conformed to the proprieties to consider them herself.

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

- A. Take into account and follow
- B. Admire steadily and praise
- C. Come to a decision about
- D. Have an opinion on

- 2.27** adc8ea28 The fossil remains of the individual known as Oase 1, discovered in Romania in 2002, can help paleoanthropologists not only _____ steps in the evolution of hominids but also illuminate the Pleistocene epoch generally, revealing important details about the time in which Oase 1 lived.

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

- A. exploit
- B. discern
- C. prioritize
- D. yield

- 2.28** f0be91b2 Drivers who strongly believe that the toll they must pay to use the Lewis and Clark Bridge, which spans the Ohio River to connect Indiana and Kentucky, is currently too high are unlikely to be _____ a proposal to increase the toll. Advocates for a higher toll are likely to have more success if they instead direct their arguments toward a more persuadable segment of the population.

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

- A. receptive to
- B. apprised of
- C. incensed by
- D. cited in