

Reading and Writing

33 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 following text is adapted from Amy Lowell's 1912 poem "Summer."

It is summer, glorious, deep-toned summer,
The very crown of nature's changing year
When all her surging life is at its full.
To me alone it is a time of pause,
A void and silent space between two worlds,
When inspiration lags, and feeling sleeps,
Gathering strength for efforts yet to come.

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

- A) A useless
- B) An empty
- C) A forgotten
- D) An incomplete

2

In the 1960s, Sam Gilliam, a Black painter from the southern United States, became the first artist to drape painted canvases into flowing shapes. He later explored a different style, _____ quilt-like paintings inspired by the patchwork quilting tradition of Black communities in the South.

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

- A) predicting
- B) refusing
- C) hiding
- D) creating

3

Studying how workload affects productivity, Maryam Kouchaki and colleagues found that people who chose to do relatively easy tasks first were less _____ compared to those who did hard tasks first. Finishing easy tasks gave participants a sense of accomplishment, but those who tackled hard tasks first actually became more skilled and productive workers over time.

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

- A) secretive
- B) efficient
- C) outgoing
- D) unsympathetic

4

The following text is from Bram Stoker’s 1897 novel *Dracula*. The narrator is being driven in a carriage through a remote region at night.

The baying of the wolves sounded nearer and nearer, as though they were closing round on us from every side. I grew dreadfully afraid, and the horses shared my fear. The driver, however, was not in the least disturbed; he kept turning his head to left and right, but I could not see anything through the darkness.

As used in the text, what does the word “disturbed” most nearly mean?

- A) Disorganized
- B) Alarmed
- C) Offended
- D) Interrupted

5

The following text is adapted from Sadakichi Hartmann’s 1894 short story “Magnolia Blossoms.” The narrator is standing on the deck of a boat.

What a night it was! My soul had left its body to lose itself in the wild unrestrained beauty around me—from where it came—and only left a trembling suggestion of its existence within me. The other passengers moved around me like shadows, and again and again my eyes drank in all the glory and wealth of that night.

As used in the text, what does the word “suggestion” most nearly mean?

- A) Trace
- B) Opinion
- C) Dispute
- D) Command

6

The following text is from Lucy Maud Montgomery's 1908 novel *Anne of Green Gables*. Anne, an eleven-year-old girl, has come to live on a farm with a woman named Marilla in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Anne reveled in the world of color about her.

"Oh, Marilla," she exclaimed one Saturday morning, coming dancing in with her arms full of gorgeous boughs, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. It would be terrible if we just skipped from September to November, wouldn't it? Look at these maple branches. Don't they give you a thrill—several thrills? I'm going to decorate my room with them."

"Messy things," said Marilla, whose aesthetic sense was not noticeably developed. "You clutter up your room entirely too much with out-of-doors stuff, Anne. Bedrooms were made to sleep in."

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A) To demonstrate that Anne has a newly developed appreciation of nature
- B) To describe an argument that Anne and Marilla often have
- C) To emphasize Marilla's disapproval of how Anne has decorated her room
- D) To show that Anne and Marilla have very different personalities

7

Early in the Great Migration of 1910–1970, which involved the mass migration of Black people from the southern to the northern United States, political activist and *Chicago Defender* writer Fannie Barrier Williams was instrumental in helping other Black women establish themselves in the North. Many women hoped for better employment opportunities in the North because, in the South, they faced much competition for domestic employment and men tended to get agricultural work. To aid with this transition, Barrier Williams helped secure job placement in the North for many women before they even began their journey.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A) To introduce and illustrate Barrier Williams's integral role in supporting other Black women as their circumstances changed during part of the Great Migration
- B) To establish that Barrier Williams used her professional connections to arrange employment for other Black women, including jobs with the *Chicago Defender*
- C) To demonstrate that the factors that motivated the start of the Great Migration were different for Black women than they were for Black men
- D) To provide an overview of the employment challenges faced by Black women in the agricultural and domestic spheres in the southern United States

8

“How lifelike are they?” Many computer animators prioritize this question as they strive to create ever more realistic environments and lighting. Generally, while characters in computer-animated films appear highly exaggerated, environments and lighting are carefully engineered to mimic reality. But some animators, such as Pixar’s Sanjay Patel, are focused on a different question. Rather than asking first whether the environments and lighting they’re creating are convincingly lifelike, Patel and others are asking whether these elements reflect their films’ unique stories.

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

- A) It reflects a primary goal that many computer animators have for certain components of the animations they produce.
- B) It represents a concern of computer animators who are more interested in creating unique backgrounds and lighting effects than realistic ones.
- C) It conveys the uncertainty among many computer animators about how to create realistic animations using current technology.
- D) It illustrates a reaction that audiences typically have to the appearance of characters created by computer animators.

9

The field of study called affective neuroscience seeks instinctive, physiological causes for feelings such as pleasure or displeasure. Because these sensations are linked to a chemical component (for example, the release of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the brain when one receives or expects a reward), they can be said to have a partly physiological basis. These processes have been described in mammals, but Jingnan Huang and his colleagues have recently observed that some behaviors of honeybees (such as foraging) are also motivated by a dopamine-based signaling process.

What choice best describes the main purpose of the text?

- A) It describes an experimental method of measuring the strength of physiological responses in humans.
- B) It illustrates processes by which certain insects can express how they are feeling.
- C) It summarizes a finding suggesting that some mechanisms in the brains of certain insects resemble mechanisms in mammalian brains.
- D) It presents research showing that certain insects and mammals behave similarly when there is a possibility of a reward for their actions.

10

In 2019, 20 previously unknown moons were confirmed to be orbiting Saturn. Three of the moons have prograde orbits (orbiting in the direction the planet spins), and the other 17 have retrograde orbits (orbiting in the opposite direction of the planet's spin). All but one of the 20 moons are thought to be remnants of bodies that orbited Saturn until they broke apart in collisions. Although the one exceptional moon orbits in the same direction as the planet's spin, its orbit is highly eccentric compared to the rest, which may suggest that it has a different origin than the other 19 moons.

Based on the text, which choice best describes the moon with the eccentric orbit?

- A) It doesn't have a retrograde orbit, but it likely has the same origin as the moons with retrograde orbits.
- B) Its orbit is so tilted with respect to the other moons' orbits that it's neither prograde nor retrograde.
- C) It has a prograde orbit that is likely the result of having collided with another body orbiting Saturn.
- D) It has a prograde orbit and may not be a remnant of an earlier body that orbited Saturn.

11

Several scholars have argued that conditions in England in the late ninth through early eleventh centuries—namely, burgeoning literacy amid running conflicts between England's Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and Danish invaders—were especially conducive to the production of the Old English epic poem *Beowulf*, and they have dated the poem's composition accordingly. It is not inconceivable that *Beowulf* emerged from such a context, but privileging contextual fit over the linguistic evidence of an eighth- or even seventh-century composition requires a level of justification that thus far has not been presented.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) Although there are some grounds for believing that *Beowulf* was composed between the late ninth and early eleventh centuries, advocates for that view tend to rely on evidence that has been called into question by advocates for an earlier date.
- B) Although several scholars have dated *Beowulf* to the late ninth through early eleventh centuries, others have argued that doing so privileges a controversial interpretation of the social conditions of the period.
- C) Although *Beowulf* fits well with the historical context of England in the late ninth through early eleventh centuries, it fits equally well with the historical context of England in the seventh and eighth centuries.
- D) Although the claim of a late ninth- through early eleventh-century composition date for *Beowulf* has some plausibility, advocates for the claim have not compellingly addressed evidence suggesting an earlier date.

12

E-book Sales as a Percentage of Total Unit Sales in All Book Formats for a Large US Trade Publisher, by Genre, 2006, 2011, 2016

Genre	2006	2011	2016
science fiction and fantasy	0.6	27.7	36.7
cookbooks	0	2.9	10.5
travel guides	0	5.5	24.6
romance	0.3	40.6	56.2

E-books became an increasingly popular means of reading in the United States in the 2000s and 2010s, though that popularity was concentrated in titles that, like those in most fiction genres, are meant to be read straight through from beginning to end. For books in nonfiction genres that do not tell stories and require the reader to flip back and forth through a volume, e-books were significantly less commercially successful. This can be seen by comparing _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to illustrate the claim?

- A) the percentage of 2016 cookbook sales that were e-books with the percentage of 2016 science fiction and fantasy sales that were e-books.
- B) the percentage of 2006 romance sales that were e-books with the percentage of 2016 romance sales that were e-books.
- C) the percentage of 2006 romance sales that were e-books with the 2006 science fiction and fantasy sales that were e-books.
- D) the percentage of 2011 travel guide sales that were e-books with the percentage of 2016 travel guide sales that were e-books.

13

Although most songbirds build open, cupped nests, some species build domed nests with roofs that provide much more protection. Many ecologists have assumed that domed nests would provide protection from weather conditions and thus would allow species that build them to have larger geographic ranges than species that build open nests do. To evaluate this assumption, a research team led by evolutionary biologist Iliana Medina analyzed data for over 3,000 species of songbirds.

Which finding from Medina and her colleagues' study, if true, would most directly challenge the assumption in the underlined sentence?

- A) Species that build open nests tend to have higher extinction rates than species that build domed nests.
- B) Species that build open nests tend to be smaller in size than species that build domed nests.
- C) Species that build open nests tend to use fewer materials to build their nests than species that build domed nests do.
- D) Species that build open nests tend to have larger ranges than species that build domed nests.

14

A student is writing a paper about *One Night in Miami...*, a 2020 film directed by Regina King and written by Kemp Powers. Powers adapted the film's screenplay from his 2013 play, which he wrote after learning about a 1964 meeting that took place in Miami, Florida, between four prominent figures of the Civil Rights movement: Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, Jim Brown, and Sam Cooke. The student claims that although Powers was inspired by this meeting, the film is best understood not as a precise retelling of historical events but rather as a largely imagined but informed representation of them.

Which quotation from an article about *One Night in Miami...* would be the most effective evidence for the student to include in support of this claim?

- A) "When Powers learned of the meeting, he initially planned to write a much longer work about its four famous participants rather than focusing on the meeting itself."
- B) "*One Night in Miami...* received numerous awards and nominations, including an Academy Award nomination for Powers for Best Adapted Screenplay."
- C) "Powers has described *One Night in Miami...* as the story of four friends encouraging and supporting one another while engaged in a crucial political debate about how best to achieve equality for Black people in the United States."
- D) "Powers could find only the most superficial historical details about the meeting, so he read extensively about the four individuals and their thinking at the time in an effort to portray what might have happened between them."

15

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.

16

Aerogels are highly porous foams consisting mainly of tiny air pockets within a solidified gel. These lightweight materials are often applied to spacecraft and other equipment required to withstand extreme conditions, as they provide excellent insulation despite typically being brittle and eventually fracturing due to degradation from repeated exposure to high heat. Now, Xiangfeng Duan of the University of California, Los Angeles, and colleagues have developed an aerogel with uniquely flexible properties. Unlike earlier aerogels, Duan's team's material contracts rather than expands when heated and fully recovers after compressing to just 5% of its original volume, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) the aerogel's remarkable flexibility results from its higher proportion of air pockets to solidified gel as compared to other aerogels.
- B) the aerogel's overall strength is greater than that of other insulators but its ability to withstand exposure to intense heat is lower.
- C) the aerogel will be more effective as an insulator for uses that involve gradual temperature shifts than for those that involve rapid heat increases.
- D) the aerogel will be less prone to the structural weakness that ultimately causes most other aerogels to break down with use.

17

Some *Astyanax mexicanus*, a river-dwelling fish found in northeast Mexico, have colonized caves in the region. Although there is little genetic difference between river and cave *A. mexicanus* and all members of the species can emit the same sounds, biologist Carole Hyacinthe and colleagues found that the context and significance of those sounds vary by location—e.g., the click that river-dwelling *A. mexicanus* use to signal aggression is used by cave dwellers when foraging—and the acoustic properties of cave fish sounds show some cave-specific variations as well. Hyacinthe and colleagues note that differences in sonic communication could accumulate to the point of inhibiting interbreeding among fish from different locations, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) although *A. mexicanus* living in rivers are genetically similar to those living in caves, river fish rely on sonic communication less than cave fish do.
- B) although *A. mexicanus* is a single species at present, it could be in the process of splitting into distinct populations with different characteristics.
- C) although all *A. mexicanus* emit sounds, the fish living in rivers produce some sounds that the fish living in caves do not, and vice versa.
- D) although *A. mexicanus* from different locations can interbreed currently, river fish and cave fish are sufficiently genetically distinct that they can be considered separate species.

18

Geoglyphs are large-scale designs of lines or shapes created in a natural landscape. The Nazca Lines were created in the Nazca Desert in Peru by several Indigenous civilizations over a period of many centuries. Peruvian archaeologist Johny Isla specializes in these geoglyphs. At a German exhibit about the Nazca Lines, he saw an old photograph of a large geoglyph of a whalelike figure and was surprised that he didn't recognize it. Isla returned to Peru and used a drone to search a wide area, looking for the figure from the air. This approach suggests that Isla thought that if he hadn't already seen it, the whalelike geoglyph _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) must represent a species of whale that went extinct before there were any people in Peru.
- B) is actually located in Germany, not Peru, and isn't part of the Nazca Lines at all.
- C) is probably in a location Isla hadn't ever come across while on the ground.
- D) was almost certainly created a long time after the other Nazca Lines geoglyphs were created.

19

The sun never sets during the Arctic summer in the Far North. In response, reindeer in this region must change their sleep habits. Instead of resting when it gets dark, they rest when they need _____ their food.

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

- A) digest
- B) will digest
- C) to digest
- D) digesting

20

Richard Spikes was a prolific African American inventor known for his contributions to automotive engineering. Between 1907 and 1946, he patented many inventions, _____ an automobile turn signal, a safety brake, and—most famously—the first automatic gearshift.

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

- A) included
- B) includes
- C) including
- D) will include

21

The radiation that _____ during the decay of radioactive atomic nuclei is known as gamma radiation.

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

- A) occurs
- B) have occurred
- C) occur
- D) are occurring

22

In 1903, environmentalist John Muir guided President Theodore Roosevelt on a scenic, sprawling trip through California's Yosemite Valley. Upon returning from the three-day excursion, Roosevelt _____ to conserve the nation's wilderness areas, a vow he upheld for his remaining six years in office.

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

- A) is vowing
- B) vowed
- C) will vow
- D) vows

23

Polyphenols are organic compounds _____ among their many roles, provide pigment that helps protect plants against ultraviolet radiation from sunlight.

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

- A) that—
- B) that;
- C) that,
- D) that:

24

In the early twentieth century, Joseph Kekuku and other Hawaiian _____ in the mainland United States to the bright and lilting sound of the *kīkā kila*, or Hawaiian steel guitar. The instrument soon became a fixture in American blues and country music.

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

- A) musicians introduced audiences
- B) musicians' introduced audiences'
- C) musician's introduced audience's
- D) musicians' introduced audiences

25

Award-winning cinematographer James Wong Howe was known for his innovative filming techniques. While filming a boxing match for the movie *Body and Soul* _____ Howe had a handheld camera operator wear roller skates. This allowed the operator to move smoothly around actors in a boxing ring, creating an immersive experience for viewers.

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

- A) (1947), and
- B) (1947),
- C) (1947) and
- D) (1947)

26

During the American Civil War, Thomas Morris Chester braved the front lines as a war correspondent for the *Philadelphia Press*. Amplifying the voices and experiences of Black soldiers _____ of particular importance to Chester, who later became an activist and lawyer during the postwar Reconstruction period.

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

- A) were
- B) have been
- C) are
- D) was

27

Laetitia Ky's hair is her art. Inspired by hairstyles from various African tribes, the Ivorian artist uses wire and thread to sculpt her hair into all kinds of shapes. _____ she once made her hair into the shape of the continent of Africa—including the island of Madagascar!

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Soon,
- B) Elsewhere,
- C) For example,
- D) However,

28

In 1885, Chinese-born California resident Mary Tape became a hero of the Asian American civil rights movement. In January of that year, she won an antidiscrimination case in the California Supreme Court. _____ in April, she wrote an open letter criticizing her local board of education for discrimination. Both actions are remembered today as historic stands against racism.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Later,
- B) For instance,
- C) In other words,
- D) Rather,

29

Phytoplankton play a crucial role in the ocean's uptake of carbon from the atmosphere. When alive, these tiny marine organisms absorb atmospheric carbon via photosynthesis. _____ after they die, the phytoplankton sink to the seafloor, where the carbon in their cells gets stored in sediment, preventing it from cycling back into the atmosphere.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Specifically,
- B) By contrast,
- C) Nevertheless,
- D) Then,

30

Originally coined by economist Joan Robinson to refer to markets with multiple sellers of a product but only one buyer, the term “monopsony” can also refer to markets where demand for labor is limited. In a product monopsony, the single buyer can force sellers to lower their prices. _____ in a labor monopsony, employers can force workers to accept lower wages.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Earlier,
- B) Instead,
- C) Similarly,
- D) In particular,

31

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

- J.R.R. Tolkien’s 1937 novel *The Hobbit* features two maps.
- The novel opens with a reproduction of the map that the characters use on their quest.
- This map introduces readers to the fictional world they are about to enter.
- The novel closes with a map depicting every stop on the characters’ journey.
- That map allows readers to reconstruct the story they have just read.

The student wants to contrast the purposes of the two maps in *The Hobbit*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) *The Hobbit*’s opening map introduces readers to the fictional world they are about to enter, while the closing map allows them to reconstruct the story they have just read.
- B) *The Hobbit*, a novel published by J.R.R. Tolkien in 1937, features a reproduction of a map that the characters use on their quest, as well as a map that appears at the end of the novel.
- C) *The Hobbit*’s two maps, one opening and one closing the novel, each serve a purpose for readers.
- D) In 1937, author J.R.R. Tolkien published *The Hobbit*, a novel featuring both an opening and a closing map.

32

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

- John Carver was one of the 41 signatories of the Mayflower Compact.
- The Mayflower Compact was a legal agreement among the pilgrims that immigrated to Plymouth Colony.
- It was created in 1620 to establish a common government.
- It states that the pilgrims who signed it wanted to “plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia” under King James.
- Carver became the first governor of Plymouth Colony.

The student wants to specify the reason the Mayflower Compact was created. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Stating that its signatories wanted to “plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia,” the Mayflower Compact was a legal agreement among the pilgrims that immigrated to Plymouth Colony.
- B) Created in 1620, the Mayflower Compact states that the pilgrims wanted to “plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia.”
- C) The Mayflower Compact was created to establish a common government among the pilgrims that immigrated to Plymouth Colony.
- D) The Mayflower Compact had 41 signatories, including John Carver, the first governor of Plymouth Colony.

33

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

- Cities tend to have a wide range of flowering vegetation in parks, yards, and gardens.
- This vegetation provides a varied diet for honeybees, strengthening bees’ immune systems.
- On average, 62.5 percent of bees in an urban area will survive a harsh winter.
- Rural areas are often dominated by monoculture crops such as corn or wheat.
- On average, only 40 percent of honeybees in a rural area will survive a harsh winter.

The student wants to make and support a generalization about honeybees. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Cities tend to have a wider range of flowering vegetation than do rural areas, which are often dominated by monoculture crops.
- B) In urban areas, over 60 percent of honeybees, on average, will survive a harsh winter, whereas in rural areas, only 40 percent will.
- C) The strength of honeybees’ immune systems depends on what the bees eat, and a varied diet is more available to bees in an urban area than to those in a rural area.
- D) Honeybees are more likely to thrive in cities than in rural areas because the varied diet available in urban areas strengthens the bees’ immune systems.

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.**

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