

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

A unique dialect, or regional variety, of Spanish is spoken in Puerto Rico. It contains many words borrowed from the language of the Taínos, the Indigenous people of Puerto Rico. African languages also made important contributions to the Puerto Rican dialect. For example, the way certain vowel sounds are pronounced in it can be _____ to how they are pronounced in Yoruba, a West African language.

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

- A) traced
- B) surrendered
- C) announced
- D) offered

2

The Menominee and Anishinaabe peoples have been growing wild rice—known as *manoomin* in the Ojibwe language—in the Great Lakes region of North America for centuries, but climatic changes are causing lakes to get deeper, thereby threatening wild rice. These plants are extremely _____ to water depth during the “floating leaf” stage of development, and if the water is too deep, the buoyancy of the young wild-rice plants can literally uproot them from the lake bottom, destroying them.

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

- A) immune
- B) sensitive
- C) limited
- D) receptive

3

The invention in 1958 of the integrated circuit (or microchip) radically altered the semiconductor industry. In fact, some historians argue that it fundamentally _____ the industry by enabling it to take advantage of mass production methods for the first time.

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

- A) overwhelmed
- B) bypassed
- C) obstructed
- D) transformed

4

The early British postal system required the cost of mail delivery to be paid upon receipt, a system which encouraged inventive strategies by the intended recipient to avoid payment. To improve this system, _____ were proposed in 1837, including the use of a postage stamp, a small receipt pasted to the mail indicating that delivery costs had been paid by the sender.

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

- A) investigations
- B) expansions
- C) reforms
- D) possessions

5

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

6

The following text is from the 1895 poem "Marshlands" by Emily Pauline Johnson, a Kanienkahagen (Mohawk) writer also known as Tekahionwake.

Among the wild rice in the still lagoon,
In monotone the lizard shrills his tune.
The wild goose, homing, seeks a sheltering,
Where rushes grow, and oozing lichens cling.
Late cranes with heavy wing, and lazy flight,
Sail up the silence with the nearing night.
And like a spirit, swathed in some soft veil,
Steals twilight and its shadows o'er the swale.
Hushed lie the sedges, and the vapours creep,
Thick, grey and humid, while the marshes sleep.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A) It names animal species found in a place, then names plant species there.
- B) It sketches a setting by presenting a series of images of nature.
- C) It makes an extended comparison of nature to human emotions.
- D) It identifies a location, then refers to a person living there.

7

The following text is from Annie Dillard’s 1987 autobiographical novel *An American Childhood*. The narrator is a young girl living in Pittsburgh.

I walked. My mother had given me the freedom of the streets as soon as I could say our telephone number. I walked and memorized the neighborhood. I made a mental map and located myself upon it. At night in bed I rehearsed the small world’s scheme and set challenges: Find the store using backyards only. Imagine a route from the school to my friend’s house.

©1987 by Annie Dillard

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

- A) It describes the narrator trying to memorize her telephone number.
- B) It provides examples of what the narrator thinks about at night.
- C) It gives directions to the narrator’s favorite local store.
- D) It portrays the narrator’s relationship with her mother.

8

Asteroid 6478 Gault has experienced intermittent mass loss since at least 2013, but in contrast to some other asteroids with repeated mass-loss episodes, 6478 Gault has not lost mass at its perihelion (the closest point of its orbit to the Sun), and thus the loss is not attributable to solar energy–driven ice vaporization. And as Jane X. Luu et al. point out, the singular nature of impact ejection makes it untenable as an account of multiple loss episodes of similar duration over several years. Instead, Luu et al. are likely correct that 6478 Gault is shedding mass due to rotational instability.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A) It presents a scientific observation, describes a contrast between that observation and other observations, and then explains why those other observations should not be considered credible.
- B) It describes an astronomical finding, discusses competing theories about that finding that the author regards as flawed, and then describes new evidence that supports an alternative theory.
- C) It introduces a natural phenomenon, refutes two potential explanations for that phenomenon, and then presents a third explanation for that phenomenon that the author regards as plausible.
- D) It discusses a physical process, evaluates possible causes of that process, and then states that a persuasive account of the process has yet to be put forward.

Text 1

Mycoprotein is a fungal biomass that can be eaten as an alternative to meat. Studies of the environmental impact of its manufacture generally agree it is lower than that of beef and closer to that of chicken or pork. But the expense of producing mycoprotein restricts its availability to a few countries with postindustrial economies. Knowing that cost reductions would expand access to mycoprotein, biochemists are exploring solutions, such as a cheaper substrate to feed the mycoprotein as it grows.

Text 2

Cattle farming is a principal cause of global deforestation, and a study by Florian Humpenöder and his colleagues found that replacing 20% of beef consumption worldwide with consumption of mycoprotein would cut deforestation by half if accomplished over the next thirty years. However, this would likely involve only a small change in agricultural water consumption, since water once dedicated to raising cattle would be diverted to raising crops instead.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 1 most likely respond to the study findings mentioned in Text 2?

- A) By emphasizing that since agricultural water consumption would remain static in the event of replacing beef consumption with mycoprotein consumption, an effort must be made to substitute mycoprotein for chicken and pork in diets as well
- B) By asserting that the development of a more inexpensive substrate for mycoprotein production would contribute to the goal of decreasing worldwide deforestation over time
- C) By noting that most people would be more likely to use mycoprotein as a substitute for chicken or pork in their diets than as a substitute for beef
- D) By pointing out that some countries are responsible for greater deforestation than others and thus, to have any significant effect on the environment, will have to replace more than 20% of their beef consumption with mycoprotein

10

When fashion designer Lloyd Henri Kiva New opened his store in Scottsdale, Arizona, in 1945, he quickly became known for creating delicately crafted leather goods, like belts and hats. He was perhaps most renowned for his colorful handbags, which he made by hand using a long and painstaking process. As he gained more customers, New began using sewing machines and other tools to help him produce bags more efficiently, though he continued to handcraft the crucial details that made each bag unique.

Based on the text, what would have been the most likely consequence if New had not begun using sewing machines?

- A) He would have been unable to ensure that each bag included unique, handcrafted details.
- B) He would have struggled to meet the increasing demand for his bags.
- C) He would have had to individually design each bag he produced.
- D) He would not have been able to generate as much interest in his bags.

11

The following text is from Anton Chekhov's 1898 short story "Ionitch" (translated by Marian Fell in 1915). The text is set in a Russian city referred to as the city of S.

If newcomers to the little provincial city of S. complained that life there was monotonous and dull, its inhabitants would answer that, on the contrary, S. was a very amusing place, indeed, that it had a library and a club, that balls were given there, and finally, that very pleasant families lived there with whom one might become acquainted. And they always pointed to the Turkins as the most accomplished and most enlightened family of all.

What does the text suggest about the Turkins?

- A) They are relative newcomers to the city of S.
- B) They have a unique status in the city of S.
- C) They have long disliked living in the city of S.
- D) They are amused by the other residents of the city of S.

12

The following text is from Milan Kundera's 1984 novel *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* (translated by Michael Henry Heim in 1984). Karenin is a dog that belongs to Tomas and Tereza.

Karenin was not overjoyed by the move to Switzerland [from Prague]. Karenin hated change. Dog time cannot be plotted along a straight line; it does not move on and on, from one thing to the next. It moves in a circle like the hands of a clock, which—they, too, unwilling to dash madly ahead—turn round and round the face, day in and day out following the same path. In Prague, when Tomas and Tereza bought a new chair or moved a flower pot, Karenin would look on in displeasure. It disturbed his sense of time. It was as though they were trying to dupe the hands of the clock by changing the numbers on its face.

©1984 by Milan Kundera. Translation
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Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) As a dog, Karenin possesses a sense of time that involves a strong preference for predictability and an aversion to disruption.
- B) After he's moved to a new home, Karenin's negative response to changes has become more pronounced.
- C) Similar to Tomas and Tereza, Karenin comprehends time as circular rather than as a straightforward progression.
- D) As is the case for other dogs, Karenin's sense of time seems to accelerate depending on the objects and places that surround him.

Incorporated and Unincorporated Self-Employment Rates
in Four Occupational Fields, 2015

Occupational field	Incorporated self-employment rate	Unincorporated self-employment rate
Construction and resource extraction	4.4%	14.8%
Installation, maintenance, and repair	2.7%	6.2%
Management, business, and financial services	8.9%	9.7%
Sales and related	5.8%	7.8%

Self-employed workers—individuals who are not employees of other individuals or businesses but instead earn their income as business owners, independent contractors, or freelance workers—make up an important part of the US labor force. In order to receive legal and tax benefits enjoyed by corporations, self-employed individuals may choose to incorporate their business. A 2015 survey of incorporated and unincorporated self-employment rates in four occupational fields showed that the highest incorporated self-employment rate occurred among people working in _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text?

- A) sales and related occupations.
- B) installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.
- C) construction and resource extraction occupations.
- D) management, business, and financial services occupations.

14

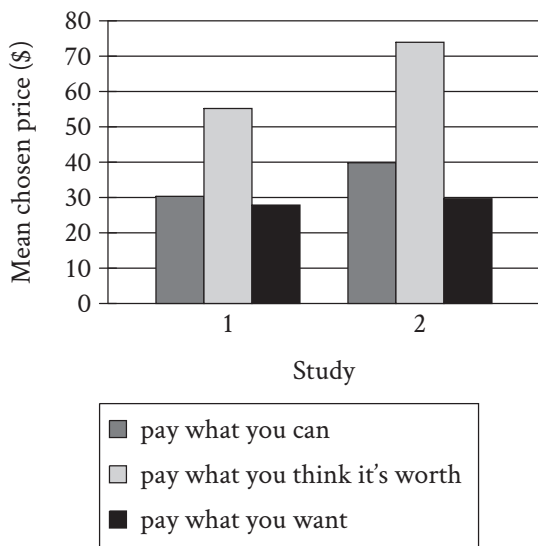
There Is Confusion is a 1924 novel by Jessie Redmon Fauset. In the novel, the narrator portrays the character Joanna as someone who admires ambition in other people to the exclusion of all other qualities:

Which quotation from *There Is Confusion* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A) “Joanna was mightily interested in people who had a ‘purpose’ in life. Otherwise not at all.”
- B) “Indeed from the very beginning Joanna showed her preference for her father.”
- C) “Joanna was like her father not only so far as ambition was concerned but also in her willingness to work.”
- D) “She had a good sense of logic, a strong power of concentration, and a remarkably retentive and visualizing memory.”

15

Mean Ticket Prices Chosen in Two Studies
of Participative Pricing Messaging



Participative pricing, in which purchasers choose the prices they pay for products, can enable sellers to capitalize on the heterogeneous values consumers assign to the same goods and services, but doing so requires careful messaging. Annie Peng Cui and Jennifer Wiggins recruited 171 participants (ages 18–60) online for an initial study and 83 students (ages 18–31) at a state university for a second study to test the effect of three different messages—“pay what you can,” “pay what you think it’s worth,” and “pay what you want”—on how much participants would pay for concert tickets. Their results illustrate both the heterogeneity of consumer valuations and how sellers can benefit by prompting consumers to consider their own valuations: _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the text?

- A) the students tended to value the concert tickets more highly than did the more age-diverse group recruited online, but when considering what they could afford to pay, the students tended to choose a lower price than did the other group.
- B) in all three messaging conditions, the group of participants recruited online tended to choose lower prices than did the students, but both groups tended to choose prices closest to the actual cost of the tickets when prompted to consider the tickets’ value.
- C) the students tended to value the concert tickets more highly than did the more age-diverse group recruited online, but both groups tended to choose a higher price when considering the value of the tickets than when considering what they could afford or wanted to pay.
- D) within each group of participants, there was wide variation in the value that individuals assigned to the concert tickets, but the students tended to assign a higher value to the tickets than did the more age-diverse group recruited online.

16

Initially observed in 2017, the interstellar object ‘Oumuamua is the first object of its kind to be seen in our solar system. Researchers have been puzzled because its acceleration cannot be entirely explained by the gravitational pull of nearby bodies: there must be a nongravitational influence on its velocity and trajectory. Some previously suggested explanations for this nongravitational acceleration involve mechanisms that are unlikely or unrealistic, such as geometric effects from ‘Oumuamua being potentially composed of several spatially separated bodies. Now, Jennifer Bergner and colleagues propose that the nongravitational acceleration is due to the gaseous expulsion of entrapped hydrogen from ‘Oumuamua’s water-rich icy body.

Which statement, if true, would most strongly support the claim made by Bergner and colleagues about the cause of ‘Oumuamua’s acceleration?

- A) Existing proposed models of outgassing from ‘Oumuamua include the direct conversion of nitrogen or carbon monoxide from a solid to a gaseous state without becoming liquid, but these models have theoretical or observational inconsistencies.
- B) ‘Oumuamua’s trajectory is inconsistent with a nongravitational acceleration that would be caused by the release of hydrogen gas resulting from the processing of water ice (H_2O), but the interstellar object’s observable properties can be explained if it has a significant component of molecular hydrogen ice (H_2).
- C) Since nongravitational accelerations of interstellar objects are several orders of magnitude weaker than gravitational accelerations, deviation from behavior that could be fully attributed to gravitational pull has been detected on a limited number of objects similar to ‘Oumuamua.
- D) Exposure to interstellar cosmic radiation can result in the formation of embedded pockets of hydrogen gas in water ice; moreover, when traveling through the solar system, ‘Oumuamua experienced warming sufficient to alter its icy structure and allow for outgassing.

17

A main goal of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), an arts organization founded in 1965, is to advance new works by Black musicians. The AACM achieves this goal in part by focusing on young artists. By having established musicians and composers serve as mentors, the AACM gives young artists the benefits of expert technical training and creative guidance. Numerous organizations offer similar kinds of support to new generations of painters, writers, and other artists, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) artists of all ages benefit more from technical training than from creative guidance.
- B) many arts organizations recognize the importance of providing opportunities for young artists to learn from experienced mentors.
- C) most established artists could become even better artists by serving as mentors.
- D) finding a mentor is more important for musicians than it is for painters, writers, and other types of artists.

18

Overgrazing by purple sea urchins has caused many kelp forests along North America's west coast to be replaced by urchin barrens—areas stripped of vegetation and covered in purple sea urchins. Urchins in barrens persist in a state of starvation that lessens their nutritional value—and thus their appeal—to many predators. Sarah Gravem and colleagues placed sunflower sea stars, a once-abundant predator species suffering massive population declines in recent years, in aquariums that each contained a nutritionally poor and a nutritionally rich purple sea urchin. The researchers found that the sea stars selected the nutritionally rich urchin in 42.7% of trials and the nutritionally poor urchin in 37.5% of trials, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) sunflower sea stars are willing to hunt sea urchins, but if given a choice, they will prey on other more nutritious marine animals instead.
- B) sunflower sea stars are reluctant to feed on both nutritionally poor and nutritionally rich sea urchins and are therefore unlikely to thrive in kelp forests.
- C) sunflower sea stars are less likely to consume sea urchins in barrens than other species of sea stars are, putting sunflower sea stars at a high risk of extinction.
- D) sunflower sea stars do not always avoid foraging on nutritionally poor sea urchins, making sunflower sea star population recovery a potentially important tool for controlling urchin barrens.

19

What is the correct pronunciation of Kiribati? In the Gilbertese language spoken by residents of the island nation, the letter combination -ti makes the -s sound; as a result, the country's name _____ pronounced "Kiribas."

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

- A) are
- B) have been
- C) are being
- D) is

20

Light of Truth is a bronze and marble sculpture by artist Richard Hunt. It honors civil rights icon Ida B. Wells. The sculpture _____ in a tree-lined plaza in Chicago, just a few blocks from where Wells lived.

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

- A) are standing
- B) have been standing
- C) stands
- D) were standing

21

The short story "Rogue Enchantments" by Isabel Ibañez appears in *Reclaim the* _____ anthology of fantasy and science fiction written by authors of Latin American descent.

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

- A) *Stars*. An
- B) *Stars*, while an
- C) *Stars* an
- D) *Stars*, an

22

Novelist Jane Austen greatly admired the work of Fanny Burney, a popular English author. In fact, scholars believe that a passage from the last chapter of *Cecilia*, a 1782 novel by Burney, likely inspired the title of one of _____ *Pride and Prejudice*.

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

- A) Austen’s most famous novels,
- B) Austens’ most famous novels’,
- C) Austens most famous novels,
- D) Austen’s most famous novel’s,

23

Customers who are satisfied with how a company resolves a service issue may regard that company more positively than they would if no such issue had occurred. This idea is known as the service recovery _____ research suggests that it has important implications for customer loyalty and retention.

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

- A) paradox,
- B) paradox
- C) paradox, and
- D) paradox and,

24

It can take time for proposed amendments to the US Constitution to become law. For example, the Twenty-Second Amendment, which limits the number of _____ can serve, was first proposed in 1947 but wasn’t approved by the required three-fourths majority of state legislatures until 1951.

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

- A) terms presidents
- B) term’s presidents
- C) term’s president’s
- D) terms president’s

25

Tortoises can be found in many works of literature. For example, in Tom Stoppard’s 1993 play *Arcadia*, there is a tortoise that _____ by two names (Plautus and Lightning) and appears in both of the play’s parallel timelines. As a character, the tortoise symbolizes the connection between the past and present.

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

- A) goes
- B) will have gone
- C) went
- D) had gone

26

By analyzing the level of radioactive decay within a fossil specimen, scientists can establish the age of that fossil with a high degree of precision. When radioactive elements aren't present, scientists turn to _____ analysis of Earth's sediment layers (strata)—to estimate how old a fossil is based on the age of the strata in which the fossil is found.

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

- A) stratigraphy—the
- B) stratigraphy (the
- C) stratigraphy: the
- D) stratigraphy, the

27

In modern plays, actors typically won't acknowledge the _____ do so breaks the fourth wall, a metaphorical barrier between actors and audiences that allows viewers to suspend the knowledge that they're watching a staged performance.

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

- A) audience. As to
- B) audience to
- C) audience. To
- D) audience, to

28

Paleontologists once thought that early apes lived in tropical forests, but recent research suggests that they may have actually lived in savannas. Tropical forests are humid and have many trees spaced close together. _____ savannas are drier, and their trees are spaced further apart.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) For instance,
- B) In comparison,
- C) Firstly,
- D) In conclusion,

29

When sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi was designing the Statue of Liberty, he sought the advice of engineer Gustave Eiffel. Eiffel suggested that he make the statue's arm thick and position it straight above the figure's head. _____ Bartholdi decided to slim the arm and tilt it out at an angle.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Additionally,
- B) Instead,
- C) Thus,
- D) For example,

30

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

- Some atoms contain an excess of neutrons.
- Often, these neutrons form a “skin” on the atom’s surface.
- An atom of lead-208 has a neutron skin.
- The thickness of its neutron skin is approximately 0.28 trillionths of a millimeter.

The student wants to emphasize the thickness of lead-208’s neutron skin. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) The neutron skin surrounding an atom of lead-208 measures about 0.28 trillionths of a millimeter.
- B) Atoms with excess neutrons will often acquire a neutron skin.
- C) An atom of lead-208, like some other atoms, is surrounded by a neutron skin.
- D) Neutrons surround the surface of an atom of lead-208.

31

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

- Some animals have evolved to physically resemble another animal, plant, or object.
- This is known as mimicry.
- Crab spiders mimic the appearance of flowers.
- This helps crab spiders ambush their prey.
- Katydid mimic the appearance of leaves.
- This helps katydids hide from their predators.

The student wants to emphasize a difference in how katydids and crab spiders use mimicry. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Katydid mimic the appearance of flowers, and crab spiders mimic that of leaves.
- B) Katydid and crab spiders are two examples of animals that use mimicry.
- C) Unlike crab spiders, which use mimicry to ambush prey, katydids use mimicry to hide from predators.
- D) Animals that use mimicry have evolved to resemble another animal, plant, or object.

32

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

- *Here I Have Returned* is a sculpture by Egyptian American artist Sherin Guirguis.
- It is a large, curved strip of wood inspired by the shape of a sistrum.
- A sistrum is a curved musical instrument played by ancient Egyptian priestesses in ceremonies.
- Guirguis says that the sculpture symbolizes “women who have lifted and supported Egyptian society and culture.”
- Overall, Guirguis wants her works to “engage audiences in a dialogue about power, agency, and social transformation.”

The student wants to use a quotation from Guirguis to explain what the sculpture represents. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- Guirguis, whose works include a sculpture that is a large, curved strip of wood, has explained that she wants her work to create a dialogue with audiences.
- Inspired by the sistrum played by Egyptian priestesses, *Here I Have Returned* symbolizes “women who have lifted and supported Egyptian society and culture,” according to Guirguis.
- According to Guirguis, the curved strip of wood used in *Here I Have Returned* was inspired by the sistrum, a musical instrument played by ancient Egyptian priestesses in ceremonies.
- Guirguis, the sculptor of *Here I Have Returned*, wants her works to “engage audiences in a dialogue about power, agency, and social transformation.”

33

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

- A sestina is a thirty-nine-line poetic form.
- Each line of the poem ends with one of six end words, which alternate according to a set pattern.
- “Forage Sestina” is a sestina by Marilyn Hacker.
- Its end words are *words, structure, wire, beam, wall, and room*.
- “Towards Autumn” is a sestina by Marilyn Hacker.
- Its end words are *daughter, friend, bread, mother, lover, and myself*.

The student wants to use one of the poems to illustrate the sestina form. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- Hacker employs the sestina, a poetic form with thirty-nine lines and six end words, in both “Forage Sestina” and “Towards Autumn.”
- As a sestina, “Towards Autumn” contains thirty-nine lines and six end words—in this case, *daughter, friend, bread, mother, lover, and myself*—that alternate in a set pattern.
- The thirty-nine-line sestina form uses the words *daughter, friend, bread, mother, lover, and myself*, which are found in the poem “Forage Sestina.”
- Hacker has used the sestina form multiple times, as in “Towards Autumn,” which contains these six words: *words, structure, wire, beam, wall, and room*.

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.**

No Test Material On This Page