

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 from Nella Larsen's 1928 novel *Quicksand*.

The trees in their spring beauty sent through her restive mind a sharp thrill of pleasure. Seductive, charming, and beckoning as cities were, they had not this easy unhuman loveliness.

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

- A) Demanding
- B) Signaling
- C) Inviting
- D) Shifting

2

Physicist Joseph Weber performed _____ work in gravitational wave research in the 1960s and 1970s, conducting key experiments that scientists later used as the basis for their own investigations that led to the first verified detection of a gravitational wave in 2015.

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

- A) foundational
- B) supplementary
- C) repetitive
- D) ineffective

3

Sueño de Familia is an exhibition of drawings, paintings, and ceramics that explores the artistic heritage of US-based artist Yolanda González. The exhibition _____ five generations, featuring works by González’s great-grandfather, grandmother, mother, and niece as well as González herself.

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

- A) borrows
- B) spans
- C) judges
- D) neglects

4

The following text is from Claude McKay’s 1922 poem “Morning Joy.” The speaker is looking out a window and observing a wold, or large area of land.

At night the wide and level stretch of wold,
Which at high noon had basked in quiet gold,
Far as the eye could see was ghostly white;
Dark was the night save for the snow’s weird
light.

I drew the shades far down, crept into bed;
Hearing the cold wind moaning overhead
Through the sad pines, my soul, catching its
pain,
Went sorrowing with it across the plain.

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

- A) Pulled
- B) Drained
- C) Inspired
- D) Sketched

5

Some people have speculated that two helmets with attached horns discovered in Denmark in 1942 belonged to Vikings, but scholars have long been skeptical. Archaeologist Helle Vandkilde and colleagues recently provided radiocarbon dates for the helmets, and their findings _____ scholars’ skepticism: the helmets date to the Nordic Bronze Age, centuries before the Vikings existed.

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

- A) anticipate
- B) inspect
- C) reveal
- D) justify

6

Streams and rivers carry soil and rocks from one location to another. But there is another way for these geological materials to move. Scientists call this process “aeolian transport.” In aeolian transport, winds move small particles of soil or rock over potentially great distances. Geologist Melisa Diaz and her team studied dust in Antarctica to find out if it was moved by aeolian transport. They discovered that the dust matched geological material in Australia. Aeolian transport had carried it from one continent to another, across thousands of miles of open ocean.

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

- A) It presents Melisa Diaz’s remarks about difficulties that her team encountered.
- B) It introduces a scientific term that is used in the discussion that follows.
- C) It emphasizes the surprising nature of the findings that are presented.
- D) It explains the difference between two kinds of geological material.

7

San Francisco is known for the colorful murals painted on many of its buildings. The densest collection of murals is found on Balmy Alley in the Mission District neighborhood. In the 1970s, Latina artists painted vivid scenes of community life on walls along this block. As the original murals have faded, later generations of artists have painted new ones over them. As a result, Balmy Alley has become a living showcase of San Francisco's artistic spirit, with its murals reflecting changes in the cultural life of the city.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A) To compare the Balmy Alley murals to other murals in San Francisco
- B) To offer an overview of the history and importance of the Balmy Alley murals
- C) To urge people to protect the murals of San Francisco from decay
- D) To describe the rise of mural painting in San Francisco beginning in the 1970s

8

Industrial activity is often assumed to be a threat to wildlife, but that isn't always so. Consider the silver-studded blue butterfly (*Plebejus argus*): as forest growth has reduced grasslands in northern Germany, many of these butterflies have left meadow habitats and are now thriving in active limestone quarries. In a survey of multiple active quarries and patches of maintained grassland, an ecologist found silver-studded blue butterflies in 100% of the quarries but only 57% of the grassland patches. Moreover, butterfly populations in the quarries were four times larger than those in the meadows.

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

- A) It challenges a common assumption about the species under investigation in the research referred to in the text.
- B) It introduces discussion of a specific example that supports the general claim made in the previous sentence.
- C) It suggests that a certain species should be included in additional studies like the one mentioned later in the text.
- D) It provides a definition for an unfamiliar term that is central to the main argument in the text.

9

Text 1

Dominique Potvin and colleagues captured five Australian magpies (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) to test a new design for attaching tracking devices to birds. As the researchers fitted each magpie with a tracker attached by a small harness, they noticed some magpies without trackers pecking at another magpie's tracker until it broke off. The researchers suggest that this behavior could be evidence of magpies attempting to help another magpie without benefiting themselves.

Text 2

It can be tempting to think that animals are deliberately providing help when we see them removing trackers and other equipment from one another, especially when a species is known to exhibit other cooperative behaviors. At the same time, it can be difficult to exclude the possibility that individuals are simply interested in the equipment because of its novelty, curiously pawing or pecking at it until it detaches.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the researchers' perspective in Text 1 on the behavior of the magpies without trackers?

- A) That behavior might have been due to the novelty of the magpies' captive setting rather than to the novelty of the tracker.
- B) That behavior likely indicates that the magpies were deliberately attempting to benefit themselves by obtaining the tracker.
- C) That behavior may not be evidence of selflessness in *Gymnorhina tibicen* because not all the captured magpies demonstrated it.
- D) That behavior might be adequately explained without suggesting that the magpies were attempting to assist the other magpie.

10

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.

11

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.

12

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.

13

Icebergs generally appear to be mostly white or blue, depending on how the ice reflects sunlight. Ice with air bubbles trapped in it looks white because much of the light reflects off the bubbles. Ice without air bubbles usually looks blue because the light travels deep into the ice and only a little of it is reflected. However, some icebergs in the sea around Antarctica appear to be green. One team of scientists hypothesized that this phenomenon is the result of yellow-tinted dissolved organic carbon in Antarctic waters mixing with blue ice to produce the color green.

Which finding, if true, would most directly weaken the team's hypothesis?

- A) White ice doesn't change color when mixed with dissolved organic carbon due to the air bubbles in the ice.
- B) Dissolved organic carbon has a stronger yellow color in Antarctic waters than it does in other places.
- C) Blue icebergs and green icebergs are rarely found near each other.
- D) Blue icebergs and green icebergs contain similarly small traces of dissolved organic carbon.

14

To create the poems in her 2017 collection *One Last Word*, poet Nikki Grimes used a writing method called the golden shovel. This method often involves choosing a line from an existing poem and then using each word from that line as the last word of each line in a new poem. Grimes wanted the poems in *One Last Word* to honor important Black poets of the past, so she chose lines by poets such as Langston Hughes and Georgia Douglas Johnson. Writing in this way can be challenging and might seem as though it would produce awkward poems. However, reviewers praised *One Last Word* as a beautiful and powerful tribute to the poets who inspired it. This reaction suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) most reviewers didn't understand Grimes's goal for *One Last Word*.
- B) Grimes successfully used the golden shovel method to achieve her goal for *One Last Word*.
- C) Langston Hughes and Georgia Douglas Johnson are two of Grimes's favorite poets.
- D) Grimes inspired many other writers to create poems using the golden shovel method.

15

The Indus River valley civilization flourished in South Asia from 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE. Many examples of the civilization's writing system exist, but researchers haven't yet deciphered it or identified which ancient language it represents. Nevertheless, archaeologists have found historical artifacts, such as clay figures and jewelry, that provide information about the civilization's customs and how its communities were organized. The archaeologists' findings therefore suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) investigating an ancient civilization is easier without knowledge of the civilization's language.
- B) knowing an ancient civilization's language isn't necessary in order to learn details about the civilization.
- C) archaeological research should focus on finding additional artifacts rather than deciphering ancient languages.
- D) examining the civilization's historical artifacts has resolved the debate about this civilization's language.

16

Ana Castillo's 1986 novel *The Mixquiahuala Letters* is a story told entirely through expressive letters from the narrator to her friend—letters that Castillo suggests could be read in several different orders. As they began reading it in class, some students remarked that they found the novel's letter format daunting and its treatment of gender relations old-fashioned. The professor, however, pointed out that the novel is written in modern-sounding language and addresses issues that still matter today, suggesting that *The Mixquiahuala Letters* _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) has more to say about gender relations than other novels from the same period.
- B) is more relevant to contemporary audiences than it may seem at first.
- C) is easier to read than many contemporary novels that focus on friendship.
- D) is best understood after multiple readings in different orders.

17

By running computer simulations of the development of our solar system, André Izidoro, Rajdeep Dasgupta, and colleagues concluded that the Sun may have been surrounded by three giant dust rings before the planets started to form. The researchers suggest that the materials in the innermost ring became the four planets closest to the Sun, the materials in the middle ring produced the rest of the planets, and the materials in the outermost ring created the asteroids and other small bodies in the region beyond Neptune. In one simulation, the researchers delayed the initial formation of the middle ring, causing oversized super-Earths to begin developing from the innermost ring. The researchers therefore hypothesize that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) the middle ring formed earlier in the solar system's development than the initial simulations suggested.
- B) the timing of the initial formation of the middle ring played an important role in determining the eventual size of Earth.
- C) if the formation of the outermost ring had occurred earlier in a simulation, all the planets would have become super-Earths.
- D) the innermost ring actually formed into all the planets in our solar system, not just the four closest to the Sun.

18

Archaeologists and historians used to believe that the Maya civilization during its Classic period (roughly 250–900) lacked agricultural marketplaces. One reason for this belief was that these scholars misunderstood the ecology of the regions the Maya inhabited. Marketplaces typically emerge because different individuals or groups want to trade resources they control for resources they don't control. Scholars seriously underestimated the ecological diversity of the Maya landscape and thus assumed that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) marketplaces likely would not have attracted many traders from outside the regions controlled by the Maya.
- B) farming practices would have been largely the same throughout Maya lands even if the crops people produced varied significantly.
- C) marketplaces would not have enabled Maya people to acquire many products different from those they already produced.
- D) farmers would trade agricultural products only if they had already produced enough to meet their own needs.

19

In 1976, the Inuit rock group Sikumiut recorded the album *People of the Ice*. Though only their first record, it shows a band already skilled at the difficult task of making music that sounds easy and fun. On songs like "Utirumavunga," Lucassie Koperqualuk's guitar riffs effortlessly _____ Charlie Adams's delightfully catchy vocal melodies.

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

- A) blend, with
- B) blend. With
- C) blend; with
- D) blend with

20

If you try on one of artist Nick Cave's signature Soundsuits, you can expect to swish, rustle, or clang every time you move. Cave makes his suits out of found objects, everything from ceramic birds to broken record players. He carefully considers the sound an object makes before using _____ in a suit.

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

- A) this
- B) that
- C) these
- D) it

21

The alga species *Chlorella vulgaris* is very efficient at making oxygen. For this reason, scientists are currently exploring ways to use this species in space. *C. vulgaris* might be used, for example, to build future biological air exchange systems that _____ oxygen for astronauts.

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

- A) are producing
- B) produced
- C) produce
- D) have produced

22

Farouk El-Baz, a geologist and space scientist, _____ part of the team that selected the lunar landing sites for the Apollo program during the 1960s and 1970s.

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

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

23

A pioneer in the field of taphonomy (the study of how organic remains become fossils), _____ may be just as prevalent in the fossil record as those of thick-shelled organisms.

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

- A) fossils of thin-shelled organisms, Anna Behrensmeyer demonstrated in a 2005 analysis,
- B) Anna Behrensmeyer demonstrated in a 2005 analysis that fossils of thin-shelled organisms
- C) it was demonstrated in a 2005 analysis by Anna Behrensmeyer that fossils of thin-shelled organisms
- D) a 2005 analysis—by Anna Behrensmeyer—demonstrated that fossils of thin-shelled organisms

24

In 2018, the innovative works of Congolese sculptor and architect Bodys Isek _____ were featured in *City Dreams*, a solo exhibition at New York’s Museum of Modern Art.

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

- A) Kingelez;
- B) Kingelez,
- C) Kingelez
- D) Kingelez:

25

The poem *Beowulf* begins with the word “hwæt,” which is an Old English _____ as “hark!” or “listen!” in some versions, the word was playfully rendered as “bro!” by Maria Dahvana Headley in her 2020 translation of the poem.

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

- A) exclamation, translated
- B) exclamation and translated
- C) exclamation translated
- D) exclamation. Translated

26

In June, female loggerhead sea turtles will swim back to the sandy beaches where they were born to lay eggs of their own. First, the turtle will dig her nest in the sand. _____ she will lay up to 100 eggs in the nest. Finally, she will cover it all with sand, before returning to the ocean.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) By contrast,
- B) Similarly,
- C) Next,
- D) For example,

27

As biologist Terrie Williams has documented, deep dives present a challenge for seals and other marine mammals. A seal must exert enough energy to propel itself hundreds of meters downward, while keeping its heart rate low enough that it doesn’t run out of oxygen while underwater. _____ a seal moves its flippers as little as possible on a deep dive, gliding to conserve energy.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) In the first place,
- B) On the other hand,
- C) For this reason,
- D) In comparison,

28

As a young historian in the 1950s, Alixa Naff began interviewing fellow Arab American immigrants about their experiences straddling two cultures. Over the next few decades, Naff conducted more than 450 such interviews, also known as oral histories.

_____ she collected photographs and other artifacts that represented her subjects' experiences.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) In other words,
- B) On the contrary,
- C) In addition,
- D) Today,

29

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

- The tundra is a type of environment characterized by especially harsh winter conditions.
- Winter temperatures in the tundra average a frigid –30 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Animals that have adapted to these conditions can survive tundra winters.
- During the tundra's short growing season, average temperatures can reach a relatively mild 54 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Around 1,700 different kinds of plants are able to grow in the tundra.

The student wants to emphasize how harsh the conditions can be in the tundra. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Winters in the tundra are especially harsh, with temperatures averaging a frigid –30 degrees Fahrenheit.
- B) Animals that have adapted to harsh winter conditions can survive tundra winters.
- C) There are around 1,700 different kinds of plants that can live in the tundra, where average temperatures can reach a mild 54 degrees Fahrenheit.
- D) Along with animals that have adapted to the tundra's conditions, around 1,700 different kinds of plants can live in the tundra.

30

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

- Minnesota defines a lake as an inland body of water of at least 10 acres.
- Wisconsin's definition of a lake doesn't take size into account.
- By its own definition, Wisconsin has over 15,000 lakes, many smaller than 10 acres.
- By Minnesota's definition, Wisconsin has only about 6,000 lakes.

The student wants to contrast Minnesota's definition of a lake with Wisconsin's. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Wisconsin, which doesn't take size into account in defining a lake, claims that it has over 15,000 lakes.
- B) Because its definition of a lake is different from Minnesota's, it is unclear how many lakes Wisconsin really has.
- C) According to Minnesota's definition of a lake—an inland body of water of at least 10 acres—Wisconsin has about 6,000 lakes.
- D) Minnesota's definition of a lake—an inland body of water of at least 10 acres—is more restrictive than Wisconsin's, which doesn't take size into account.

31

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

- Just like states have state flags, some cities have city flags.
- Over one hundred US cities have redesigned their flags since 2015.
- The city of Pocatello, Idaho, redesigned its flag after it was named the most poorly designed flag in North America.
- Pocatello's new flag better represents the city's mountainous geography and civic priorities.
- Residents consider the new flag to be a meaningful symbol of civic pride.

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

- A) Over one hundred US cities have redesigned their flags, including Pocatello, whose flag had been named the most poorly designed flag in North America.
- B) Pocatello is just one of over one hundred US cities that have redesigned their flags.
- C) After it was named the most poorly designed flag in North America, the flag of Pocatello was redesigned to better represent the city's geography and civic priorities.
- D) Redesigning a poorly designed city flag can create a meaningful symbol of civic pride, as was the case when Pocatello redesigned its original flag to better represent its geography and civic priorities.

32

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

- Allan Houser was a Chiricahua Warm Springs Apache sculptor, illustrator, and painter.
- Many of his sculptures featured Native American figures.
- He depicted this subject matter using abstract, modernist forms, developing a distinctive style that influenced many other artists.
- His well-known sculpture *Sacred Rain Arrow* was pictured on the State of Oklahoma license plate.

The student wants to describe the distinctive style of Houser's sculptures. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) A sculptor, illustrator, and painter, Houser developed a distinctive style for portraying Native American figures.
- B) Houser's sculptures employ abstract, modernist forms to depict Native American figures.
- C) Many other artists have been influenced by the style of Houser's sculptures.
- D) The sculpture *Sacred Rain Arrow* is a well-known example of Houser's style.

33

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

- Architect Julian Abele studied Gregorian and neo-Gothic architecture in Europe.
- Abele worked for an architecture firm that was hired in 1924 to design buildings for Duke University's new campus.
- Most of the buildings on Duke's campus were designed in the Gregorian or neo-Gothic architectural styles.
- At the time, Abele was not formally credited with designing the buildings.
- Based on the buildings' architectural styles, historians believe Abele designed most of the campus buildings.

The student wants to specify why historians believe Abele designed most of Duke's campus buildings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Given that most of the buildings on Duke's campus feature architectural styles that Abele had studied in Europe, historians believe Abele is the one who designed them.
- B) Though Abele wasn't formally credited at the time, historians believe he designed most of the buildings on Duke's campus.
- C) Most of Duke's campus buildings, which were designed by a firm Abele worked for, were designed in the Gregorian and neo-Gothic architectural styles.
- D) Abele, an architect who studied Gregorian and neo-Gothic architecture in Europe, is believed to have designed most of the buildings on Duke's campus.

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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