

QUESTION 2

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of John Ashbery's poems. As used in this context, "interpret" would mean decipher the meaning of. The text indicates that Ashbery's poems have many unusual features, that it's difficult to tell what exactly the poems' subject matter is, and that scholars strongly disagree about the poems. This context conveys the idea that it's difficult to interpret Ashbery's poems.

Choice A is incorrect because "delegate" means to assign someone as a representative of another person or to entrust something to someone else, neither of which would make sense in context. The text is focused only on the difficulty that readers have interpreting Ashbery's poems due to their many unusual features; it doesn't suggest anything about the poems being difficult to delegate. *Choice B* is incorrect because describing Ashbery's poems as difficult to "compose," or put together or produce, would make sense only if the text were about Ashbery's experience of writing the poems. It could be true that it was difficult for Ashbery to compose his poems, but the text doesn't address this; it instead discusses how readers interpret and engage with the poems. *Choice D* is incorrect because describing Ashbery's poems as being difficult to "renounce," or give up or refuse, wouldn't make sense in context. The text focuses on the idea that features of Ashbery's poems are odd or unclear and have caused heated scholarly debate. This context suggests that the poems are difficult to interpret, not that the poems are difficult to renounce.

QUESTION 3

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically and precisely completes the text's discussion of the fossil record from the Cambrian period. In this context, "abrupt" means sudden. The text explains that the fossil record reflects the unexpected appearance and rapid diversification, or increase in variety, of animal remains during the Cambrian period. This context establishes that these remains' entry into the fossil record was sudden.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the word "explosion" appears in the name of the event marked by the fossil record change, the text never suggests that the change was "catastrophic," or disastrous. In context, "explosion" refers to the rapid diversification, or the swift increase in variety, of animal remains in the fossil record—a phenomenon that the text presents in a relatively neutral manner, without commenting on whether it was negative or positive. *Choice B* is incorrect because the text never suggests that the change toward greater diversification is "elusive," or difficult to locate, in the fossil record. Rather, the text notes that the change occurred about 541 million years ago, suggesting that scientists have indeed been able to locate it. *Choice D* is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to describe the change in the fossil record as "imminent," or about to occur, since the text indicates that the change already occurred millions of years ago.

QUESTION 4

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the significance of the 2014 archaeological finding at El Algar. In this context, "concede" means to admit something is true after first resisting that admission. The text indicates that some researchers believe "Bronze Age societies were ruled by men." But the Bronze Age burial of a woman at El Algar included "valuable objects signaling a high position of power," which would raise the possibility that "women may have also held leadership roles." Thus, the text is calling into question the notion that only men were leaders in these societies and speculating that people holding this view may reconsider their opinion.

Choice A is incorrect because "waive" means to refrain from insisting that something, such as a right or a requirement, be observed; the word isn't used, however, in contexts where someone acknowledges that an opinion they hold may be invalid, as is the case in the text. **Choice C** is incorrect. According to the text, the finding from the El Algar burial site undermines the view that Bronze Age societies were exclusively ruled by men. However, "refute" means to demonstrate that something is false and would not make sense in context. Lull and team's finding supports the view that women may have also held leadership roles, not that they did not participate in such roles. **Choice D** is incorrect because in this context, "require" means to demand or specify as mandatory. However, it would not make sense for contemporary researchers to demand that Bronze Age "women may have also held leadership roles."

QUESTION 5

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of baleen whale accessory spleens. In this context, "latent" means dormant or functionless. The text sets up a contrast between the idea that baleen whale accessory spleens appear not to have a function and the research indicating that the accessory spleen may actually have a role in supporting the whales' diving mechanisms. This context therefore conveys the idea that the assumption that baleen whale accessory spleens are latent may be incorrect.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that the role of the accessory spleen is "replicable," or capable of being reproduced. The text indicates that the role of the accessory spleen seems to have no function, but some researchers think it does have a role; the text doesn't address whether the role of the accessory spleen could or couldn't be reproduced. **Choice B** is incorrect because suggesting that the role of the accessory spleen is "predetermined," or decided in advance, wouldn't make sense in context. Although the researchers may agree that the role of the accessory spleen or any other organ hasn't been determined in advance, the text focuses on the idea that the accessory spleen was thought to have been functionless but may in fact serve an active role for baleen whales. **Choice C** is incorrect because it's the opposite of what the context of the text is conveying. The second sentence of the text indicates that baleen whale accessory spleens may not be useless, not that they aren't "operative," or functional.

QUESTION 6

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the factors that influence peoples' decisions to move to a different state. As used in this context, "overshadowed by" means to be surpassed by or caused to seem less important than other factors affecting a move. The text indicates that, according to a US tax policy expert, when people think about an interstate move, state taxes have little effect on their decisions, while employment opportunities, housing availability, and climate have a very strong effect. This context suggests that people consider these other factors to be more important than state taxes.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that state taxes aren't as important a consideration as other factors when people are thinking of moving to another state. The context doesn't suggest that state taxes are "consistent with," or in agreement with these other factors. **Choice B** is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to say that state taxes are "representative of," or typical of, other factors. Taxes aren't an example of employment opportunities, housing availability, and climate, which are the other factors listed in the text. **Choice D** is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to say that state taxes are "irrelevant to," or unconnected or unimportant to other factors. State taxes are irrelevant to peoples' decisions, not to other factors. In other words, although the text suggests that state taxes may be irrelevant to people considering a move to another state, the other factors mentioned in the text, such as employment opportunities, are unable to have an opinion about state taxes. Furthermore, the text indicates that significant differences in state taxes have almost no effect on peoples' choices to move, but they aren't completely unimportant.

QUESTION 7

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the author's claim about the relationship between Neanderthals and Homo sapiens. As used in this context, "tenuous" means lacking substance or strength. The text states that the author's claim isn't convincing because it doesn't consider certain pieces of evidence—relevant recent discoveries. The context conveys the idea that the author's claim is weak.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the author's claim is "disorienting," or confusing; rather than indicating that the claim is hard to grasp, the text focuses on the idea that it has a weakness that makes it unconvincing. **Choice C** is incorrect because describing the claim as "nuanced," or subtle, wouldn't make sense in context. The text emphasizes that the claim is unconvincing because it didn't consider certain key archaeological finds; it doesn't suggest that what's in the claim seems subtle. **Choice D** is incorrect because the text faults the claim for not considering certain key archaeological finds; it doesn't suggest that the author's claim is "unoriginal," or imitative and lacking originality.

QUESTION 8

Choice D is the best answer because it accurately states the text's main purpose. The poem begins with the speaker urging a child to "go forth" with her encouragement ("my heart's desire"). The speaker goes on to suggest that new experiences ("Great reaches, yet unknown") lie ahead for the son that "life is calling" him to seek out. Thus, the main purpose is to encourage a child to embrace the experiences available to him in his life.

Choice A is incorrect because the speaker encourages the child to pursue new experiences ("Great reaches") without knowing exactly what those experiences will be ("yet unknown") or suggesting that they should match the speaker's own accomplishments. *Choice B* is incorrect because the speaker focuses on positive possibilities for her son ("Great reaches, yet unknown") and her enthusiastic encouragement to embrace those possibilities ("life is calling you!"), while there is no mention of raising a child or associated struggles. *Choice C* is incorrect because the speaker frames the possibilities for her son in a positive light when she says that "great reaches, yet unknown" are waiting for him, and this positive outlook for the son is consistent throughout the text.

QUESTION 9

Choice D is the best answer because it best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text's overall portrayal of how the women in Ohiyesa's tribe harvested maple syrup. The text states that the women used an axe to strike the maple trees in order to find out which ones would produce sap. The underlined sentence compares the trees to people, with the sap described as the trees' "life-blood." Some of the trees are ready to give out their sap, while others are unwilling to do so. Using personification, the sentence provides greater detail about the aspect of the maple trees—their potential to give sap—that the women are evaluating.

Choice A is incorrect because the personalities of the women are not discussed in the text. Although the underlined sentence does mention "individual characters," this reference is not to the women in the text but rather to the maple trees, which the sentence compares to people with individual character traits. *Choice B* is incorrect because the underlined sentence focuses on the trees' willingness or refusal to yield sap, not on the beneficial relationship between the women and the trees. Additionally, although the text does suggest that the women and their tribe benefit from the maple trees since the trees allow the women to harvest syrup, there is nothing in the text to suggest that the trees benefit from this relationship in turn. *Choice C* is incorrect because the underlined sentence is comparing maple trees to humans, not addressing the influence of the natural environment on how the actual humans in the text, the women, behave.

QUESTION 10

Choice A is the best answer because based on Text 2, it represents how Behrenfeld and colleagues would most likely respond to the “conventional wisdom” discussed in Text 1. The conventional wisdom cited holds the opinion that when there is species diversity within a phytoplankton population, “one species should emerge after outcompeting the rest”—that is, after being so successful in competing for resources that the other species vanish from the population. However, Text 2 explains that according to Behrenfeld and colleagues, phytoplankton are so small and spaced so far apart in the water that there is “much less” direct competition for resources within phytoplankton populations than scientists had previously thought.

Choice B is incorrect because Text 2 never discusses whether routine replenishment of ocean nutrients affects competition between phytoplankton species. **Choice C** is incorrect because the interspecies competition discussed in both texts is specifically between phytoplankton species, and neither text considers whether phytoplankton compete for resources with larger nonphytoplankton species. **Choice D** is incorrect because according to Text 2, Behrenfeld and colleagues argue that water density decreases, not increases, competition between phytoplankton species.

QUESTION 11

Choice A is the best answer because it presents an explanation about a helicopter that is directly supported by the text. The text states that Mars’s atmosphere is much less dense than Earth’s, and as a result, the air on Mars doesn’t provide the resistance required to support the blades of a helicopter built for Earth and to keep the helicopter aloft. In other words, a helicopter built for Earth can’t fly on Mars because of the differences in the two planets’ atmospheres.

Choice B is incorrect because instead of stating that the blades of helicopters built for Earth are too large to work on Mars, the text indicates that the helicopter built to fly on Mars actually has even longer blades than a helicopter built for Earth. **Choice C** is incorrect because the text never addresses the role of gravity on Mars or on Earth; instead, it focuses on atmospheric conditions. **Choice D** is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that helicopters built for Earth are too small to operate in the conditions on Mars. In fact, the text states that the size of the helicopter built to fly on Mars is the same size as a helicopter built for Earth, even though it has longer blades that rotate faster.

QUESTION 12

Choice A is the best answer because it best states the main idea of the text.

According to the text, jalis' traditional role has been to maintain information about families' histories and significant events. The text goes on to say that although technological changes have altered jalis' role somewhat, jalis are still valued for preserving the histories of their communities.

Choice B is incorrect because the text says nothing about jalis' views of the various tasks they perform. There is no information to support the idea that many jalis prefer teaching to other tasks. *Choice C* is incorrect because the text doesn't describe jalis as being sources of entertainment. Rather, jalis are presented as valued sources of knowledge. Additionally, the text gives no indication of how long jalis have been serving their communities. *Choice D* is incorrect because the main focus of the text is on jalis' role and their continued value despite the effects of technology, not on what technology can now do. Although the text indicates that jalis' role has changed as a result of technological changes, the text doesn't present any specific information about technology performing tasks that jalis once performed.

QUESTION 13

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. According to the text, Eugene Wigner hypothesized that a crystal could exist that would be composed of electrons and have a honeycomb-like shape. The text goes on to say that the existence of the Wigner crystal remained unconfirmed until Feng Wang and colleagues were able to make an impression of one using two semiconductors and an ultrathin sheet of graphene. Thus, the main idea is that researchers have obtained the most definitive evidence to date of the existence of the Wigner crystal.

Choice B is incorrect because the text focuses on one kind of crystal—the Wigner crystal—and doesn't discuss crystalline structures in general. And although the text conveys that Wang and colleagues figured out a way to capture an image of a Wigner crystal, it doesn't address the idea of applying this approach to other types of crystals. *Choice C* is incorrect because the text describes in general the process Wang and colleagues followed to obtain an impression of the Wigner crystal; it doesn't address the relative importance of each component in that process. *Choice D* is incorrect because the text doesn't state that researchers had a hard time getting an impression of the Wigner crystal because of its honeycomb structure. Nothing in the text indicates why it took so long to prove the existence of this crystal or take an impression of it.

QUESTION 14

Choice D is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that support the researchers' conclusion that there is a growing interest among CEOs in connecting with more departments in their companies. The graph shows the average number of individuals reporting directly to CEOs during three different time periods: the individuals are divided into managers and department leaders. The average number of department leaders directly reporting to their CEO during the 1991–1995 period was slightly more than three, during the 1996–2001 period it was four, and during the 2001–2008 period it was almost seven. Thus, the average number of department leaders reporting directly to their CEO rose over the three periods studied, which suggests that CEOs were connecting with more departments.

Choice A is incorrect because the average number of managers and department leaders reporting directly to their CEO rose for both categories between the 1991–1995 and 2001–2008 periods; thus, it isn't true that the average numbers didn't fluctuate. *Choice B* is incorrect because the average number of managers reporting directly to their CEO was highest in the 2001–2008 period, not in the 1996–2001 period. *Choice C* is incorrect. Although it correctly describes a feature of the graph, the observation that more department leaders than managers are reporting to CEOs does not by itself address the question of whether CEOs are connecting with more departments over time—to address that question, one needs to know whether the number of department leaders reporting to CEOs is increasing over time.

QUESTION 15

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would weaken Foster's hypothesis that damage to eelgrass roots improves the health of eelgrass meadows by boosting genetic diversity. The text indicates that sea otters damage eelgrass roots but that eelgrass meadows near Vancouver Island, where there's a large otter population, are comparatively healthy. When Foster and her colleagues compared the Vancouver Island eelgrass meadows to those that don't have established otter populations, the researchers found that the Vancouver Island meadows are more genetically diverse than the other meadows are. This finding led Foster to hypothesize that damage to the eelgrass roots encourages eelgrass reproduction, thereby improving genetic diversity and the health of the meadows. If, however, other meadows not included in the study are less healthy the larger the local otter population is and the longer the otters have been in residence, that would suggest that damage to the eelgrass roots, which would be expected to increase with the size and residential duration of the otter population, isn't leading meadows to be healthier. Such a finding would therefore weaken Foster's hypothesis.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that small, recently introduced otter populations are near other eelgrass meadows in the study wouldn't weaken Foster's hypothesis. If otter populations were small and only recently established, they wouldn't be expected to have caused much damage to eelgrass roots, so even if those eelgrass meadows were less healthy than the Vancouver Island meadows, that wouldn't undermine Foster's hypothesis. In fact, it would be consistent with Foster's hypothesis since it would suggest that the greater damage caused by larger, more established otter populations is associated with healthier meadows. *Choice B* is incorrect because the existence of areas with otters but without eelgrass meadows wouldn't reveal anything about whether the damage that otters cause to eelgrass roots ultimately benefits eelgrass meadows. *Choice D* is incorrect because the health of plants other than eelgrass would have no bearing on Foster's hypothesis that damage to eelgrass roots leads to greater genetic diversity and meadow health. It would be possible for otters to have a negative effect on other plants while nevertheless improving the health of eelgrass meadows by damaging eelgrass roots.

QUESTION 16

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Zelda Fitzgerald's contributions to literature. The text begins by saying that many scholars view Zelda mainly in terms of her marriage to F. Scott Fitzgerald and "don't recognize Zelda as a writer in her own right." The text then mentions a novel and "numerous short stories" that she wrote and that such scholars tend to ignore. Therefore, those scholars who focus on Zelda only as an inspiration for F. Scott's writings risk misrepresenting the full range of Zelda's contributions to literature.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text does mention that Zelda Fitzgerald "likely influenced" her husband's literary work, its focus is on Zelda's own writing, not on her husband's writing or factors that might have influenced it. *Choice C* is incorrect because the text does not discuss F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald's opinions of each other's works. *Choice D* is incorrect. Although the text does suggest that F. Scott Fitzgerald's works were "likely influenced in part" by his marriage to Zelda, it does not discuss autobiographical interpretations of the works of either F. Scott or Zelda.

QUESTION 17

Choice B is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically completes the text's discussion of the study by Versace and colleagues. The text indicates that newborn animals of some species are attracted to faces and to stimuli that resemble faces. These species, the text says, share two characteristics: they're social and they practice parental care, meaning that parents care for their young. The text goes on to describe Versace and colleagues' experiment, which showed that although *Testudo* tortoises aren't social and don't practice parental care, tortoise hatchlings were attracted to a stimulus that resembles a face. Since Versace and colleagues have shown that a species that isn't social and doesn't practice parental care nevertheless has the innate characteristic of being attracted to face-like stimuli, it follows that this characteristic shouldn't be assumed to be an adaptation related to social interaction or parental care.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that the tortoise hatchlings were attracted to the face-like stimuli (even though their species is solitary and doesn't practice parental care), not that they perceived the stimuli as threatening. *Choice C* is incorrect because the phenomenon discussed in the text is an attraction to faces and face-like stimuli on the part of newborn animals, which can't show any learned characteristics since they were just born. Additionally, the text tells us that the tortoises Versace and colleagues studied aren't social and don't practice parental care, so any findings about those tortoises wouldn't be relevant to the question of whether an attraction to faces in social species that practice parental care is innate or learned. *Choice D* is incorrect because the text gives no indication that adult tortoises were presented with face-like stimuli and, if adults were in fact tested, no information about how they responded is provided. Since no information about adult tortoises' responses is provided, no conclusion comparing those responses to the responses of newly hatched tortoises can be supported.

QUESTION 18

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text. The text explains that the *Cantares Mexicanos* contains poems about the Aztec Empire from before the Spanish invasion. Furthermore, it indicates that notes in the collection attest that some of these poems predate the Spanish invasion, while some customs depicted are likely Spanish in origin. The implication is that some poems were composed before the invasion but the references to Spanish customs could have come about only after the invasion, and thus that the collection includes content that predates the invasion and also content from after the invasion.

Choice B is incorrect because the text clearly indicates that the collection is in Nahuatl, not Spanish, so the compilers' unfamiliarity with Spanish is irrelevant to whether the collection contains material composed after the Spanish invasion. **Choice C** is incorrect because the text mentions only the Aztec Empire and Spain: there is no information about the relationship of Aztec literature to any traditions other than its own or Spain's. **Choice D** is incorrect because the text states that some of the poems make "inarguable references" to common Spanish customs, which conflicts with the idea that these references can reasonably be attributed to mere coincidence.

QUESTION 19

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of the study of capuchin monkeys' cognitive abilities. The text explains that the study failed to distinguish between outcomes for the tasks performed by the capuchin monkeys, such that simpler tasks requiring less dexterity, or skill, were judged by the same criteria as tasks that demanded more dexterity. Because the study didn't account for this discrepancy, the researchers might have assumed that observed differences in performance were due to the abilities of the monkeys rather than the complexity of the tasks. In other words, the results may suggest cognitive differences among the monkeys even though such differences may not really exist.

Choice B is incorrect because the text focuses on the fact that the tasks assigned to the capuchin monkeys in the study varied in difficulty and that the variety wasn't taken into consideration. The text doesn't suggest that the capuchin monkeys couldn't perform certain tasks, just that some tasks were more difficult to do. **Choice C** is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the study's results are indicative of the abilities of capuchin monkeys but not of other monkey species; in fact, the text suggests that the results may not even be an accurate reflection of capuchin monkeys' abilities. **Choice D** is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that the researchers compared results for artificial tasks with those for tasks encountered in the wild, although the tasks described in the text—sliding a panel and putting a straw in a bottle—are presumably artificial.

QUESTION 20

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is finite and nonfinite verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, “embryos”), and this choice supplies the clause with the finite present tense verb “enter” to indicate how the embryos achieve diapause.

Choice B is incorrect because the nonfinite to-infinitive “to enter” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. **Choice C** is incorrect because the nonfinite participle “having entered” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Choice D is incorrect because the nonfinite participle “entering” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb.

QUESTION 21

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense. In this choice, the past perfect verb “had doubled” properly indicates that the doubling of the organization’s initial membership occurred during a specific period before the present (between the organization’s founding in 1967 and the end of the 1990s).

Choice A is incorrect because the present perfect verb “has doubled” doesn’t indicate that the organization’s doubling of its initial membership occurred during a specific period in the past. **Choice C** is incorrect because the present tense verb “doubles” doesn’t indicate that the organization’s doubling of its initial membership occurred during a specific period in the past. **Choice D** is incorrect because the future tense verb “will double” doesn’t indicate that the organization’s doubling of its initial membership occurred during a specific period in the past.

QUESTION 22

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period after “configurations” is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence (“The intense... configurations”) and another (“TMAO...fish”). The supplementary phrase (“ensuring...configurations”) modifies the main clause of the first sentence (“The chemical...effect”), and “TMAO” is the subject of the second sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences (“The intense...configurations” and “TMAO...fish”) are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. **Choice C** is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. **Choice D** is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction “and” can’t be used in this way to join sentences.

QUESTION 23

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense. In this choice, the present tense verb “experiences” is consistent with the other present tense verbs (e.g., “connects” and “prepares”) used to describe the events in Truong’s novels. Furthermore, it’s conventional to use the present tense when discussing a literary work.

Choice A is incorrect because the past tense verb “experienced” isn’t consistent with the other present tense verbs used to describe the events in Truong’s novels.

Choice B is incorrect because the past perfect tense verb “had experienced” isn’t consistent with the other present tense verbs used to describe the events in Truong’s novels. *Choice D* is incorrect because the future progressive tense verb “will be experiencing” isn’t consistent with the other present tense verbs used to describe the events in Truong’s novels.

QUESTION 24

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of plural and possessive nouns. The singular possessive noun “screw’s” and the plural noun “threads” correctly indicate that there is only one screw and it has multiple threads.

Choice A is incorrect because the context requires the plural noun “threads,” not the singular possessive noun “thread’s.” *Choice B* is incorrect because the context requires the singular possessive noun “screw’s,” not the plural possessive noun “screws’.” *Choice D* is incorrect because the context requires the singular possessive noun “screw’s” and the plural noun “threads,” not the plural noun “screws” or the plural possessive noun “threads.”

QUESTION 25

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a main clause and a supplementary noun phrase. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the main clause (“scholar...materialism”) and the supplementary noun phrase (“an apt assessment”) that describes Waid’s observation about how *The House of Mirth* depicts the upper classes of New York society.

Choice A is incorrect because a semicolon and the conjunction “and” can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between a main clause and a supplementary noun phrase. *Choice B* is incorrect. Joining the main clause (“scholar...materialism”) and the following noun phrase with the conjunction “and” results in a confusing and illogical sentence that suggests that the novel depicts the upper classes of New York society as “an apt assessment,” which doesn’t make sense in this context. *Choice D* is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the main clause and the supplementary noun phrase with appropriate punctuation.

QUESTION 26

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. The semicolon is correctly used to join the first main clause ("To humans...prey") and the second main clause ("rather...approach"). Further, the comma after the adverb "rather" is correctly used to separate the adverb from the main clause ("the brightly...approach") it modifies, logically indicating that the information in this clause (how the spider's behavior appears to humans) is contrary to the information in the previous clause (how the spider's behavior does not appear to humans).

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. **Choice B** is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without appropriate punctuation and/or a conjunction. **Choice C** is incorrect. Placing the comma between the first main clause "To humans...prey" and the adverb "rather" illogically indicates that the information in the first main clause is contrary to what came before, which doesn't make sense in this context.

QUESTION 27

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of plural and possessive nouns. The singular possessive noun "playa's" and the plural possessive noun "rocks'" correctly indicate that the sediment is that of one playa (the Racetrack Playa) and that there are multiple rocks that have mysteriously migrated across the sediment.

Choice A is incorrect because the context requires the singular possessive noun "playa's" and the plural possessive noun "rocks'," not the plural noun "playas" and the singular possessive noun "rock's." **Choice B** is incorrect because the context requires the plural possessive noun "rocks'," not the plural noun "rocks." **Choice D** is incorrect because the context requires the singular possessive noun "playa's," not the plural possessive noun "playas'."

QUESTION 28

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a subject and a verb. When, as in this case, a subject ("her 2019 novel *Gingerbread*") is immediately followed by a verb ("offers"), no punctuation is needed.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. **Choice B** is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. **Choice D** is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb.

QUESTION 29

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence explains an advantage of microprobes, noting that because microprobes weigh as little as 50 milligrams, they can explore areas inaccessible to rovers.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence indicates that rovers can land successfully on Mars despite their weight; it doesn't explain an advantage of microprobes.

Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that microprobes have been proposed as an alternative to rovers, it doesn't explain an advantage of microprobes. **Choice D** is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between microprobes and rovers; it doesn't explain an advantage of microprobes.

QUESTION 30

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively introduces *Paradise* to an audience unfamiliar with the novel and its author, describing *Paradise* as a historical novel about colonial East Africa and its author as the winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence introduces Abdulrazak Gurnah to an audience unfamiliar with the author, it doesn't effectively introduce *Paradise*.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence provides background information about *Paradise*, it doesn't effectively introduce the novel to an audience unfamiliar with its author. **Choice D** is incorrect. While the sentence provides background information about *Paradise*, it doesn't effectively introduce the novel to an audience unfamiliar with its author.

QUESTION 31

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the relative sizes of the capital cities' populations, noting that even though Hanoi has more people overall, Ulaanbaatar accounts for a larger percentage of the people in its country.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence indicates the population size of each capital, it fails to emphasize their sizes relative to each other or to their countries' overall population sizes. **Choice B** is incorrect. While the sentence indicates the population size of each capital, it fails to emphasize their sizes relative to each other or to their countries' overall population sizes. **Choice D** is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the population sizes of the two countries; it fails to mention the capitals.

QUESTION 32

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence explains how the House of Wisdom preserved the world's knowledge, noting that the library collected, translated, and printed writings from different countries.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that the House of Wisdom was known for bringing together knowledge from around the world, it doesn't explain how the library preserved this knowledge. *Choice B* is incorrect. The sentence makes a generalization about the scholars who were employed by the House of Wisdom; it doesn't explain how the library preserved the world's knowledge. *Choice C* is incorrect. The sentence identifies two authors whose writings were preserved at the House of Wisdom; it doesn't explain how the library preserved the world's knowledge.

QUESTION 33

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence uses information from the notes to make a generalization about the kind of study Glickman, Brown, and Song conducted. Specifically, the sentence indicates that the study was of a kind that used statistical methods to address questions of authorship within the field of music.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence summarizes the methodology and findings of a particular analysis of a single song; it doesn't make a generalization about the kind of study conducted. *Choice B* is incorrect because the sentence mentions the data and conclusion of a particular analysis of a single song; it doesn't make a generalization about the kind of study conducted. *Choice C* is incorrect because the sentence focuses on a specific conclusion from a particular analysis of a single song; it doesn't make a generalization about the kind of study conducted.