

# 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 Mule Bone*, a 1930 play written by Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes, is perhaps the best-known of the few examples of \_\_\_\_\_ in literature. Most writers prefer working alone, and given that working together cost Hurston and Hughes their friendship, it is not hard to see why.

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

- A) characterization
- B) interpretation
- C) collaboration
- D) commercialization

2

The process of mechanically recycling plastics is often considered \_\_\_\_\_ because of the environmental impact and the loss of material quality that often occurs. But chemist Takunda Chazovachii has helped develop a cleaner process of chemical recycling that converts superabsorbent polymers from diapers into a desirable reusable adhesive.

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

- A) resilient
- B) inadequate
- C) dynamic
- D) satisfactory

3

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

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

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

4

For her 2021 art installation *Anthem*, Wu Tsang joined forces with singer and composer Beverly Glenn-Copeland to produce a piece that critics found truly \_\_\_\_\_. They praised Tsang for creatively transforming a museum rotunda into a dynamic exhibit by projecting filmed images of Glenn-Copeland onto a massive 84-foot curtain and filling the space with the sounds of his and other voices singing.

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

- A) restrained
- B) inventive
- C) inexplicable
- D) mystifying

5

Some scientists have suggested that mammals in the Mesozoic era were not a very \_\_\_\_\_ group, but paleontologist Zhe-Xi Luo's research suggests that early mammals living in the shadow of dinosaurs weren't all ground-dwelling insectivores. Fossils of various plant-eating mammals have been found in China, including species like *Vilevolodon diplomylos*, which Luo says could glide like a flying squirrel.

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

- A) predatory
- B) obscure
- C) diverse
- D) localized

6

The following text is adapted from Gwendolyn Bennett's 1926 poem "Street Lamps in Early Spring."

Night wears a garment  
All velvet soft, all violet blue...  
And over her face she draws a veil  
As shimmering fine as floating dew...  
And here and there  
In the black of her hair  
The subtle hands of Night  
Move slowly with their gem-starred light.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A) It presents alternating descriptions of night in a rural area and in a city.
- B) It sketches an image of nightfall, then an image of sunrise.
- C) It makes an extended comparison of night to a human being.
- D) It portrays how night changes from one season of the year to the next.

7

According to historian Vicki L. Ruiz, Mexican American women made crucial contributions to the labor movement during World War II. At the time, food processing companies entered into contracts to supply United States armed forces with canned goods. Increased production quotas conferred greater bargaining power on the companies' employees, many of whom were Mexican American women: employees insisted on more favorable benefits, and employers, who were anxious to fulfill the contracts, complied. Thus, labor activism became a platform for Mexican American women to assert their agency.

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

- A) It elaborates on a claim about labor relations in a particular industry made earlier in the text.
- B) It offers an example of a trend in the World War II-era economy discussed earlier in the text.
- C) It notes a possible exception to the historical narrative of labor activism sketched earlier in the text.
- D) It provides further details about the identities of the workers discussed earlier in the text.

8

The following text is adapted from Zora Neale Hurston's 1921 short story "John Redding Goes to Sea." John is a child who lives in a town in the woods.

Perhaps ten-year-old John was puzzling to the folk there in the Florida woods for he was an imaginative child and fond of day-dreams. The St. John River flowed a scarce three hundred feet from his back door. On its banks at this point grow numerous palms, luxuriant magnolias and bay trees. On the bosom of the stream float millions of delicately colored hyacinths. [John Redding] loved to wander down to the water's edge, and, casting in dry twigs, watch them sail away down stream to Jacksonville, the sea, the wide world and [he] wanted to follow them.

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

- A) It provides an extended description of a location that John likes to visit.
- B) It reveals that some residents of John's town are confused by his behavior.
- C) It illustrates the uniqueness of John's imagination compared to the imaginations of other children.
- D) It suggests that John longs to experience a larger life outside the Florida woods.

9

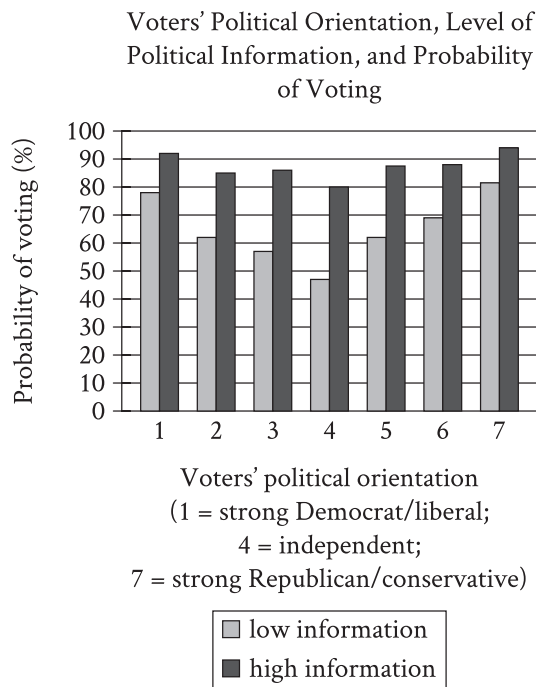
The following text is adapted from Oscar Wilde's 1891 novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Dorian Gray is taking his first look at a portrait that Hallward has painted of him.

Dorian passed listlessly in front of his picture and turned towards it. When he saw it he drew back, and his cheeks flushed for a moment with pleasure. A look of joy came into his eyes, as if he had recognized himself for the first time. He stood there motionless and in wonder, dimly conscious that Hallward was speaking to him, but not catching the meaning of his words. The sense of his own beauty came on him like a revelation. He had never felt it before.

According to the text, what is true about Dorian?

- A) He wants to know Hallward's opinion of the portrait.
- B) He is delighted by what he sees in the portrait.
- C) He prefers portraits to other types of paintings.
- D) He is uncertain of Hallward's talent as an artist.

10

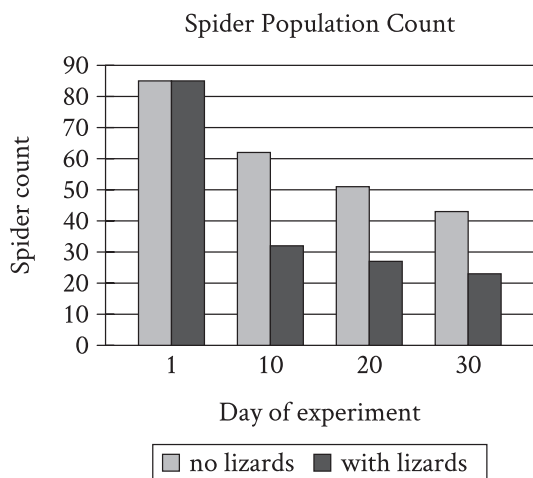


Economists Kerwin Kofi Charles and Melvin Stephens Jr. investigated a variety of factors that influence voter turnout in the United States. Using survey data that revealed whether respondents voted in national elections and how knowledgeable respondents are about politics, Charles and Stephens claim that the likelihood of voting is driven in part by potential voters' confidence in their assessments of candidates—essentially, the more informed voters are about politics, the more confident they are at evaluating whether candidates share their views, and thus the more likely they are to vote.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support Charles and Stephens's claim?

- A) At each point on the political orientation scale, high-information voters were more likely than low-information voters to vote.
- B) Only low-information voters who identify as independents had a voting probability below 50%.
- C) The closer that low-information voters are to the ends of the political orientation scale, the more likely they were to vote.
- D) High-information voters were more likely to identify as strong Democrats or strong Republicans than low-information voters were.

11



To investigate the effect of lizard predation on spider populations, a student in a biology class placed spiders in two enclosures, one with lizards and one without, and tracked the number of spiders in the enclosures for 30 days. The student concluded that the reduction in the spider population count in the enclosure with lizards by day 30 was entirely attributable to the presence of the lizards.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that weaken the student's conclusion?

- A) The spider population count was the same in both enclosures on day 1.
- B) The spider population count also substantially declined by day 30 in the enclosure without lizards.
- C) The largest decline in spider population count in the enclosure with lizards occurred from day 1 to day 10.
- D) The spider population count on day 30 was lower in the enclosure with lizards than in the enclosure without lizards.

12

Archaeologist Petra Vaiglova, anthropologist Xinyi Liu, and their colleagues investigated the domestication of farm animals in China during the Bronze Age (approximately 2000 to 1000 BCE). By analyzing the chemical composition of the bones of sheep, goats, and cattle from this era, the team determined that wild plants made up the bulk of sheep's and goats' diets, while the cattle's diet consisted largely of millet, a crop cultivated by humans. The team concluded that cattle were likely raised closer to human settlements, whereas sheep and goats were allowed to roam farther away.

Which finding, if true, would most strongly support the team's conclusion?

- A) Analysis of the animal bones showed that the cattle's diet also consisted of wheat, which humans widely cultivated in China during the Bronze Age.
- B) Further investigation of sheep and goat bones revealed that their diets consisted of small portions of millet as well.
- C) Cattle's diets generally require larger amounts of food and a greater variety of nutrients than do sheep's and goats' diets.
- D) The diets of sheep, goats, and cattle were found to vary based on what the farmers in each Bronze Age settlement could grow.

13

Mosasaurs were large marine reptiles that lived in the Late Cretaceous period, approximately 100 million to 66 million years ago. Celina Suarez, Alberto Pérez-Huerta, and T. Lynn Harrell Jr. examined oxygen-18 isotopes in mosasaur tooth enamel in order to calculate likely mosasaur body temperatures and determined that mosasaurs were endothermic—that is, they used internal metabolic processes to maintain a stable body temperature in a variety of ambient temperatures. Suarez, Pérez-Huerta, and Harrell claim that endothermy would have enabled mosasaurs to include relatively cold polar waters in their range.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Suarez, Pérez-Huerta, and Harrell’s claim?

- A) Mosasaurs’ likely body temperatures are easier to determine from tooth enamel oxygen-18 isotope data than the body temperatures of nonendothermic Late Cretaceous marine reptiles are.
- B) Fossils of both mosasaurs and nonendothermic marine reptiles have been found in roughly equal numbers in regions known to be near the poles during the Late Cretaceous, though in lower concentrations than elsewhere.
- C) Several mosasaur fossils have been found in regions known to be near the poles during the Late Cretaceous, while relatively few fossils of nonendothermic marine reptiles have been found in those locations.
- D) During the Late Cretaceous, seawater temperatures were likely higher throughout mosasaurs’ range, including near the poles, than seawater temperatures at those same latitudes are today.

14

Researchers hypothesized that a decline in the population of dusky sharks near the mid-Atlantic coast of North America led to a decline in the population of eastern oysters in the region. Dusky sharks do not typically consume eastern oysters but do consume cownose rays, which are the main predators of the oysters.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers’ hypothesis?

- A) Declines in the regional abundance of dusky sharks’ prey other than cownose rays are associated with regional declines in dusky shark abundance.
- B) Eastern oyster abundance tends to be greater in areas with both dusky sharks and cownose rays than in areas with only dusky sharks.
- C) Consumption of eastern oysters by cownose rays in the region substantially increased before the regional decline in dusky shark abundance began.
- D) Cownose rays have increased in regional abundance as dusky sharks have decreased in regional abundance.

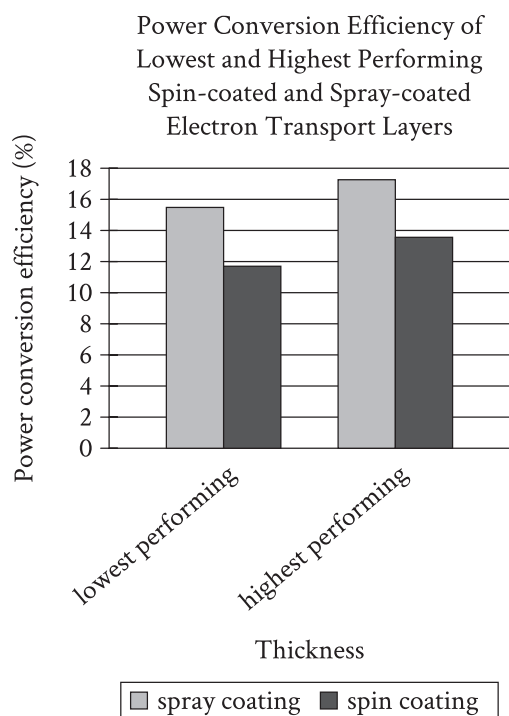
15

Political scientists who favor the traditional view of voter behavior claim that voting in an election does not change a voter's attitude toward the candidates in that election. Focusing on each US presidential election from 1976 to 1996, Ebonya Washington and Sendhil Mullainathan tested this claim by distinguishing between subjects who had just become old enough to vote (around half of whom actually voted) and otherwise similar subjects who were slightly too young to vote (and thus none of whom voted). Washington and Mullainathan compared the attitudes of the groups of subjects toward the winning candidate two years after each election.

Which finding from Washington and Mullainathan's study, if true, would most directly weaken the claim made by people who favor the traditional view of voter behavior?

- A) Subjects' attitudes toward the winning candidate two years after a given election were strongly predicted by subjects' general political orientation, regardless of whether subjects were old enough to vote at the time of the election.
- B) Subjects who were not old enough to vote in a given election held significantly more positive attitudes towards the winning candidate two years later than they held at the time of the election.
- C) Subjects who voted in a given election held significantly more polarized attitudes toward the winning candidate two years later than did subjects who were not old enough to vote in that election.
- D) Two years after a given election, subjects who voted and subjects who were not old enough to vote were significantly more likely to express negative attitudes than positive attitudes toward the winning candidate in that election.

16



Perovskite solar cells convert light into electricity more efficiently than earlier kinds of solar cells, and manufacturing advances have recently made them commercially attractive. One limitation of the cells, however, has to do with their electron transport layer (ETL), through which absorbed electrons must pass. Often the ETL is applied through a process called spin coating, but such ETLs are fairly inefficient at converting input power to output power. André Taylor and colleagues tested a novel spray coating method for applying the ETL. The team produced ETLs of various thicknesses and concluded that spray coating holds promise for improving the power conversion efficiency of ETLs in perovskite solar cells.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support Taylor and colleagues' conclusion?

- A) Both the ETL applied through spin coating and the ETL applied through spray coating showed a power conversion efficiency greater than 10% at their lowest performing thickness.
- B) The lowest performing ETL applied through spray coating had a higher power conversion efficiency than the highest performing ETL applied through spin coating.
- C) The highest performing ETL applied through spray coating showed a power conversion efficiency of approximately 13%, while the highest performing ETL applied through spin coating showed a power conversion efficiency of approximately 11%.
- D) There was a substantial difference in power conversion efficiency between the lowest and highest performing ETLs applied through spray coating.

17

While attending school in New York City in the 1980s, Okwui Enwezor encountered few works by African artists in exhibitions, despite New York's reputation as one of the best places to view contemporary art from around the world. According to an arts journalist, later in his career as a renowned curator and art historian, Enwezor sought to remedy this deficiency, not by focusing solely on modern African artists, but by showing how their work fits into the larger context of global modern art and art history.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the journalist's claim?

- A) As curator of the Haus der Kunst in Munich, Germany, Enwezor organized a retrospective of Ghanaian sculptor El Anatsui's work entitled *El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale*, one of the largest art exhibitions devoted to a Black artist in Europe's history.
- B) In the exhibition *Postwar: Art Between the Pacific and the Atlantic, 1945–1965*, Enwezor and cocurator Katy Siegel brought works by African artists such as Malangatana Ngwenya together with pieces by major figures from other countries, like US artist Andy Warhol and Mexico's David Siqueiros.
- C) Enwezor's work as curator of the 2001 exhibition *The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945–1994* showed how African movements for independence from European colonial powers following the Second World War profoundly influenced work by African artists of the period, such as Kamala Ibrahim Ishaq and Thomas Mukarobgwa.
- D) Enwezor organized the exhibition *In/sight: African Photographers, 1940 to the Present* not to emphasize a particular aesthetic trend but to demonstrate the broad range of ways in which African artists have approached the medium of photography.

18

For thousands of years, people in the Americas \_\_\_\_\_ the bottle gourd, a large bitter fruit with a thick rind, to make bottles, other types of containers, and even musical instruments. Oddly, there is no evidence that any type of bottle gourd is native to the Western Hemisphere; either the fruit or its seeds must have somehow been carried from Asia or Africa.

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

- A) to use
- B) have used
- C) having used
- D) using

19

While many video game creators strive to make their graphics ever more \_\_\_\_\_ others look to the past, developing titles with visuals inspired by the "8-bit" games of the 1980s and 1990s. (The term "8-bit" refers to a console whose processor could only handle eight bits of data at once.)

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

- A) lifelike but
- B) lifelike
- C) lifelike,
- D) lifelike, but

20

In the 1950s, a man named Joseph McVicker was struggling to keep his business afloat when his sister-in-law Kay Zufall advised him to repurpose the company's product, a nontoxic, clay-like substance for removing soot from wallpaper, as a modeling putty for kids. In addition, Zufall \_\_\_\_\_ selling the product under a child-friendly name: Play-Doh.

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

- A) suggested
- B) suggests
- C) had suggested
- D) was suggesting

21

Beatrix Potter is perhaps best known for writing and illustrating children's books such as *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (1902), but she also dedicated herself to mycology, the study of \_\_\_\_\_ more than 350 paintings of the fungal species she observed in nature and submitting her research on spore germination to the Linnean Society of London.

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

- A) fungi; producing
- B) fungi. Producing
- C) fungi producing
- D) fungi, producing

22

In assessing the films of Japanese director Akira Kurosawa, \_\_\_\_\_ have missed his equally deep engagement with Japanese artistic traditions such as Noh theater.

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

- A) many critics have focused on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources but
- B) Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources has been the focus of many critics, who
- C) there are many critics who have focused on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources, but they
- D) the focus of many critics has been on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources; they

23

Joshua Hinson, director of the language revitalization program of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, helped produce the world's first Indigenous-language instructional app, Chickasaw \_\_\_\_\_ Chickasaw TV, in 2010; and a Rosetta Stone language course in Chickasaw, in 2015.

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

- A) Basic; in 2009, an online television network;
- B) Basic; in 2009, an online television network,
- C) Basic, in 2009; an online television network,
- D) Basic, in 2009, an online television network,

24

The forty-seven geothermal springs of Arkansas' Hot Springs National Park are sourced via a process known as natural groundwater recharge, in which rainwater percolates downward through the earth—in this case, the porous rocks of the hills around Hot \_\_\_\_\_ collect in a subterranean basin.

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

- A) Springs to
- B) Springs: to
- C) Springs—to
- D) Springs, to

25

Over twenty years ago, in a landmark experiment in the psychology of choice, professor Sheena Iyengar set up a jam-tasting booth at a grocery store. The number of jams available for tasting \_\_\_\_\_ some shoppers had twenty-four different options, others only six. Interestingly, the shoppers with fewer jams to choose from purchased more jam.

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

- A) varied:
- B) varied,
- C) varied, while
- D) varied while

26

Nigerian author Buchi Emecheta's celebrated literary oeuvre includes *The Joys of Motherhood*, a novel about the changing roles of women in 1950s \_\_\_\_\_ a television play about the private struggles of a newlywed couple in Nigeria; and *Head Above Water*, her autobiography.

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

- A) Lagos, *A Kind of Marriage*,
- B) Lagos; *A Kind of Marriage*,
- C) Lagos, *A Kind of Marriage*:
- D) Lagos; *A Kind of Marriage*

27

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's 2013 novel *Americanah* chronicles the divergent experiences of Ifemelu and Obinze, a young Nigerian couple, after high school. Ifemelu moves to the United States to attend a prestigious university. \_\_\_\_\_ Obinze travels to London, hoping to start a career there. However, frustrated with the lack of opportunities, he soon returns to Nigeria.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Meanwhile,
- B) Nevertheless,
- C) Secondly,
- D) In fact,

28

Organisms have evolved a number of surprising adaptations to ensure their survival in adverse conditions. Tadpole shrimp (*Triops longicaudatus*) embryos, \_\_\_\_\_ can pause development for over ten years during extended periods of drought.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) in contrast,
- B) for example,
- C) meanwhile,
- D) consequently,

29

In 1933, the Twentieth Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. The amendment mandates that presidential inaugurations be held on January 20, approximately ten weeks after the November election. \_\_\_\_\_ this amendment requires newly elected US senators and representatives to be sworn into their respective offices on January 3.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Instead,
- B) For instance,
- C) Specifically,
- D) In addition,

30

In her poetry collection *Thomas and Beulah*, Rita Dove interweaves the titular characters' personal stories with broader historical narratives. She places Thomas's journey from the American South to the Midwest in the early 1900s within the larger context of the Great Migration. \_\_\_\_\_ Dove sets events from Beulah's personal life against the backdrop of the US Civil Rights Movement.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Specifically,
- B) Thus,
- C) Regardless,
- D) Similarly,

31

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

- The Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike was a road built between 1792 and 1794.
- It was the first private turnpike in the United States.
- It connected the cities of Philadelphia and Lancaster in the state of Pennsylvania.
- It was sixty-two miles long.

The student wants to emphasize the distance covered by the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) The sixty-two-mile-long Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike connected the Pennsylvania cities of Philadelphia and Lancaster.
- B) The Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike was the first private turnpike in the United States.
- C) The Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, which connected two Pennsylvania cities, was built between 1792 and 1794.
- D) A historic Pennsylvania road, the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike was completed in 1794.

32

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

- Most, but not all, of the Moon's oxygen comes from the Sun, via solar wind.
- Cosmochemist Kentaro Terada from Osaka University wondered if some of the unaccounted-for oxygen could be coming from Earth.
- In 2008, he analyzed data from the Japanese satellite Kaguya.
- Kaguya gathered data about gases and particles it encountered while orbiting the Moon.
- Based on the Kaguya data, Terada confirmed his suspicion that Earth is sending oxygen to the Moon.

The student wants to emphasize the aim of the research study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) As it orbited the Moon, the Kaguya satellite collected data that was later analyzed by cosmochemist Kentaro Terada.
- B) Before 2008, Kentaro Terada wondered if the Moon was receiving some of its oxygen from Earth.
- C) Cosmochemist Kentaro Terada set out to determine whether some of the Moon's oxygen was coming from Earth.
- D) Kentaro Terada's study determined that Earth is sending a small amount of oxygen to the Moon.

33

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

- Ducklings expend up to 62.8% less energy when swimming in a line behind their mother than when swimming alone.
- The physics behind this energy savings hasn't always been well understood.
- Naval architect Zhiming Yuan used computer simulations to study the effect of the mother duck's wake.
- The study revealed that ducklings are pushed in a forward direction by the wake's waves.
- Yuan determined this push reduces the effect of wave drag on the ducklings by 158%.

The student wants to present the study and its methodology. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) A study revealed that ducklings, which expend up to 62.8% less energy when swimming in a line behind their mother, also experience 158% less drag.
- B) Seeking to understand how ducklings swimming in a line behind their mother save energy, Zhiming Yuan used computer simulations to study the effect of the mother duck's wake.
- C) Zhiming Yuan studied the physics behind the fact that by being pushed in a forward direction by waves, ducklings save energy.
- D) Naval architect Zhiming Yuan discovered that ducklings are pushed in a forward direction by the waves of their mother's wake, reducing the effect of drag by 158%.

**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.**