# Reading and Writing

## Module 1
(33 questions)

### QUESTION 1

**Choice A** is the best answer because the text indicates that Fox-Foot doesn't let the group build a fire or create a canoe landing when it's time for supper. This context suggests that he doesn't want anyone who might be following the group to see any sign of them or their activities. In other words, Fox-Foot doesn't want there to be any trace, or evidence, of the group's movements ("their passing") through the area.

*Choice B* is incorrect because the text conveys that Fox-Foot doesn't want the group to be detected, not that he doesn't want their presence to create a blemish, or a spoiling flaw, in the area; human activity could disturb a natural environment, but the context emphasizes that Fox-Foot is instead focused on avoiding giving any sign of the group's movements through a place ("their passing") to anyone who might be following them. *Choice C* is incorrect because the text focuses on Fox-Foot's desire to avoid detection by those who might be following the group. This context conveys that Fox-Foot doesn't want to create any signs or evidence of the group moving through a place ("their passing"), not that he doesn't want to leave behind some quantity of their presence; indeed, it isn't clear what an amount of a group's movement would be. *Choice D* is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the group has a sketch, or rough drawing, of their movements through that area ("their passing") that might be left behind. Rather, the context emphasizes that Fox-Foot is focused on ensuring that the group doesn't give any kind of indication of their presence, as he wants to avoid detection by anyone who might be following the group.

### QUESTION 2

**Choice B** is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of noses on ancient sculptures. In this context, "fragile" means weak or delicate. This matches the text's description of noses on ancient sculptures, which are often missing from sculptures' heads because they are "especially easy to break." Therefore, this context indicates that noses on ancient sculptures are the most fragile part of the sculptures' heads.

*Choice A* is incorrect. In this context, "recognizable" would mean identifiable, and since the text indicates that noses are often missing from ancient statues, they therefore cannot be the most recognizable part of the statue. *Choice C* is incorrect because the text indicates that many ancient statues are missing noses, so noses wouldn't be "common," or frequent, aspects of ancient statues; they would conversely be uncommon. *Choice D* is incorrect because the text only indicates that noses on ancient statues often stick out and end up missing from the heads, which doesn't relate to the noses being "sophisticated," or knowledgeable or refined.

## QUESTION 3

**Choice B** is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of advance indications of solar flares. In this context the word "impending" means imminent or approaching. The text mentions a study by Leka and colleagues that found that the Sun's corona provides an advance indication of solar flares. The text then points out why such an advance indication would be useful—solar flares can interfere with communications on Earth—and concludes by describing the characteristic of the corona that gives warning of a solar flare. The text indicates that this characteristic—increased brightness in a particular region of the corona—comes before the appearance of the flare. Therefore, in context, the best answer would indicate that the flare is approaching, or impending.

*Choice A* is incorrect. The best answer would be one that indicates that the increased brightness of the Sun's corona precedes the appearance of the flare. But if the flare were "antecedent," or previous, then the flare would instead precede the appearance of the increased brightness of the corona, a statement that is logically inconsistent. *Choice C* is incorrect. The word "innocuous," or harmless, does not logically complete the text; since solar flares can interfere with communications on Earth, they cannot reasonably be described as innocuous. *Choice D* is incorrect. If the solar flares have an advance indication of their appearance, then there must therefore be a time before the appearance of the flares when they do not exist. But the word "perpetual," or never-ending, would in context indicate that the flare exists at the same time as the advance indication provided by the Sun's corona, which would not make logical sense.

## QUESTION 4

**Choice D** is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of using magnetism to detect stress in buried metal pipes. In this context, "exploited" means made productive use of. The text indicates that the magnetic fields of some metals change under stress and that Saleem and colleagues showed that it is possible to measure those changes from a distance, thereby demonstrating that the integrity of underground metal pipes can be evaluated without having to unearth them. This context thus indicates that Saleem and colleagues made productive use of, or exploited, this tendency of the metals' magnetic fields.

*Choice A* is incorrect because in this context, "hypothesized" would mean made a tentative assumption to be evaluated in a study or experiment. Although Saleem and colleagues may have had one or more hypotheses for these experiments, the text presents the information about the tendency of some metals' magnetic fields to change under stress as a known fact that the researchers made productive use of, not as a hypothesis to be evaluated. The text after the colon indicates that the researchers were not evaluating whether such changes occur but whether those changes can be measured at a distance. *Choice B* is incorrect because in this context, "discounted" would mean downplayed or ignored, but the text does not suggest that Saleem and colleagues minimized or ignored the tendency of the magnetic fields of some metals to change under stress. Rather, the text indicates that this tendency is the basis for Saleem and colleagues' method of assessing the pipes' integrity. *Choice C* is incorrect because nothing in the text indicates that Saleem and colleagues "redefined," or reevaluated or reformulated, the tendency of some metals' magnetic fields to change under stress. Instead, the text indicates that the researchers made use of that tendency to demonstrate that it is possible to evaluate the integrity of underground pipes without unearthing them.

## QUESTION 5

**Choice B** is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of behavioral psychology studies. In this context, "ameliorate" means to help remedy or improve. The text states that many behavioral psychology studies are flawed because the subjects used are "highly unrepresentative." It is then suggested that researchers should recruit subjects from "diverse backgrounds and locations" in order to help address the issue of unrepresentative subject pools. Thus, this context conveys that recruitment efforts focused on diversity would help ameliorate the problems outlined in the text.

*Choice A* is incorrect. In this context, "sanction" could have two meanings: to give official approval for something or to enact a penalty, neither of which makes sense in this context. The text describes a situation known to be problematic in behavioral psychology studies and then presents a potential remedy to that situation; the text does not suggest that the situation is officially approved or results in any type of penalty. *Choice C* is incorrect because rather than "rationalize," or explain or justify, a situation, the text presents a situation and its potential remedy. *Choice D* is incorrect because the text is not attempting to "postulate," or suggest a claim or theory, related to the situation described in the text but is rather presenting a potential remedy for the situation.

## QUESTION 6

**Choice D** is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. In the first sentence of the text, the narrator states that she thinks there's a chance she will become part of the basketball team at her college. She goes on to explain that she is "quick" and "tough." Based on these characteristics, she thinks she has a chance to join the team. Thus, the main purpose of the text is to explain why the narrator thinks she might make the basketball team.

*Choice A* is incorrect because the text focuses solely on basketball and doesn't mention any other kinds of sports. *Choice B* is incorrect because the text doesn't describe aspects of the game of basketball. Instead, it provides the narrator's reasoning for thinking that she might make her school basketball team. *Choice C* is incorrect. Although the narrator explains why she thinks she will be chosen for the basketball team at her school, the text doesn't go into the general decision-making process or the requirements for being picked for the team.

## QUESTION 7

**Choice B** is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The text begins by stating that there were many Spanish-language newspapers in cities across Texas in the late 1800s, citing San Antonio as a city that produced eleven such newspapers. The text then goes on to note that in El Paso, there were twenty-two newspapers published in Spanish in the late 1800s, more than any other Texas city. The text then concludes by explaining that the reason for this large number of Spanish-language newspapers was likely El Paso's location near Mexico and its large population of Spanish speakers. Therefore, the main purpose of the text is to explain that Spanish-language newspapers thrived in Texas cities, especially in El Paso, in the late 1800s.

*Choice A* is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss Spanish-language newspapers published in Texas today, let alone compare them with newspapers that were published in the 1800s. *Choice C* is incorrect. Although the text characterizes El Paso as a particularly rich site for Spanish-language journalism in the late 1800s, the text doesn't discuss whether newspapers published in El Paso influenced the newspapers published in other cities across Texas, including San Antonio. *Choice D* is incorrect because the text doesn't mention whether Spanish-language newspapers published in Texas were also widely read in Mexico. The text only focuses on the popularity of Spanish-language newspapers within Texas, and especially in El Paso.

## QUESTION 8

**Choice C** is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence describes a unique location on Earth, the Atacama Desert. The next sentence, which is the underlined sentence, states that the reason why astrobiologists study life, or its remains, in this unique location is that Atacama is a harsh environment that closely resembles the extreme environment of Mars. The remainder of the text explains that the researchers hope their work in Atacama will support inquiry into life on Mars. Thus, the underlined portion functions mainly to indicate why astrobiologists choose to conduct research in the Atacama Desert.

*Choice A* is incorrect because to contrast two things means to show the differences between them, and the phrase "closely mirrors" in the underlined sentence indicates that the extreme environment in the Atacama Desert is similar to, not different from, that on Mars. This similarity is why, according to the underlined sentence, astrobiologists conduct research in Atacama. *Choice B* is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn't address forms of life that are unable to survive the harsh environment of the Atacama Desert. Instead, the

underlined sentence explains why astrobiologists study life, or its remains, in this environment. *Choice D* is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn't suggest that the scientific research in the Atacama Desert is limited in any way; instead, the sentence explains that the similarity between the environments of Atacama and Mars is the reason why astrobiologists search for life, or its remains, in Atacama.

## QUESTION 9

**Choice B** is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence explains that reproducing the high ridership of Mexico City's public transit system in other cities by implementing some of its features, such as its low fares, is unlikely to guarantee significant ridership increases in those cities. The following sentence introduces a study by Guerra et al., whose findings—namely that choice of transportation mode in urban centers in Mexico is influenced by a variety of local contextual factors—support this claim. The first part of the last sentence concedes that features of transportation systems likely do have some effect on ridership numbers, but the underlined portion reiterates the study's conclusion by stating that there is an "irreducibly contextual dimension" to peoples' choice to use public transportation: that is, there is a complex mix of local contextual factors—including population density, spatial distribution of jobs, and demographics—whose influence over an urban center's transit ridership is unique to each location, and it is unlikely that simple changes to transit system characteristics could negate the influence of those contextual factors. Thus, the underlined portion explains why it is challenging to influence transit ridership solely by changing some of a transit system's characteristics.

*Choice A* is incorrect. Rather than objecting to the argument of Guerra et al., the underlined portion reiterates their argument by stating that there is an "irreducibly contextual dimension" involved in transportation mode choice; in other words, transportation mode choice in urban areas of Mexico is strongly dependent on contextual factors that are unique to each urban area. *Choice C* is incorrect because it mischaracterizes the text's central claim, which is that transit ridership is the product of a complex mix of contextual factors and transit system features, not that a characteristic associated with Mexico City's high transit ridership was found to have no association with high transit ridership elsewhere. Additionally, the underlined portion does not illustrate a claim, but instead restates the findings of Guerra et al. *Choice D* is incorrect. Although Guerra et al. demonstrate that population density, the spatial distribution of jobs, and demographic characteristics—factors that comprise the "contextual dimension of transportation mode choice"—influence transit ridership, the underlined portion does not substantiate—that is, provide evidence in support of—this assertion. Rather, the underlined portion merely restates a study finding that explains why simply altering a transit system's features would be unlikely to induce significant increases in transit ridership.

## QUESTION 10

**Choice B** is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall structure of the text. The text begins by explaining that human activities influence carbon and nitrogen levels in soil, but how deeply these effects are seen in the soil remains an unresolved question. Next, the text summarizes Okolo and colleagues' hypothesis regarding this question—which is that the different effects on carbon and nitrogen levels associated with different types of land use would also be observed below the topsoil layer—and then briefly explains the methods they used to test this hypothesis. Finally, the text states that the researchers found that at depths below the topsoil layer, carbon and nitrogen decreased to similarly low levels across all land-use types, a finding that conflicts with the team's hypothesis presented earlier in the text. Thus, the text introduces an unresolved scientific question, presents a research team's hypothesis pertaining to that question, and then describes an observation that the team made that conflicted with their hypothesis.

*Choice A* is incorrect. Although the text introduces a phenomenon (the fact that human activities influence carbon and nitrogen levels in the soil) that isn't fully understood by scientists and explains a research team's hypothesis about the phenomenon, the text doesn't describe how the team refined their hypothesis when a research finding contradicted it. *Choice C* is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss a process at all; rather, it poses an unsolved scientific question and presents a hypothesis that Okolo and colleagues tested to answer that question. Moreover, the text only describes one hypothesis; it doesn't mention any competing hypotheses, nor does it suggest that Okolo's team was able to determine which hypothesis was correct. *Choice D* is incorrect because the text doesn't begin by presenting a hypothesis that is under scientific debate; rather, it presents a question that scientists have been unable to answer and then introduces a hypothesis formulated by Okolo and colleagues. While the text does explain how Okolo's team tested their hypothesis, the text goes on to say that their data conflicted with their hypothesis, not that the data validated, or supported, their hypothesis.

## QUESTION 11

**Choice D** is the best answer because it presents a statement about what surprised the scientists that is supported by the text. The text states that the marsquakes described in the data from NASA's InSight lander originated from the same location on Mars. The text goes on to say that because they had expected the opposite (that marsquakes would originate from all over the planet) this discovery surprised the scientists.

*Choice A* is incorrect because the text doesn't say that the data from NASA's InSight lander revealed any surprising information about the planet's surface temperature. Instead, the text mentions the cooling of Mars's surface as a reason the scientists expected that marsquakes had multiple origins. In addition, cooling would indicate that the temperature has been falling rather than rising. *Choice B* is incorrect. Although the text indicates that by studying seismic activity scientists found a possible explanation for what causes marsquakes, the text doesn't say

that they discovered that marsquakes are caused by different types of seismic waves. Rather, the text states that based on the data from NASA's InSight lander, scientists now believe that this seismic activity happens because of areas of active magma that flow below the planet's surface. *Choice C* is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss the amount of data NASA's InSight lander collected or whether scientists who studied the data found the amount to be as expected. Instead, the text focuses on what the data revealed about where on Mars the marsquakes originated.

## QUESTION 12

**Choice A** is the best answer because it presents information about Maya civilization that is supported by the text. The text states that the writing system used in the Maya kingdoms had a symbol for the number zero. It goes on to say that at the time of the zero symbol's earliest example, more than 2,000 years ago, almost no other writing systems in the world featured such a symbol. The text also points out that some historians suggest that Maya mathematicians inherited the use of zero from the Olmec civilization, which existed in the same area as the Maya civilization at an earlier date. Thus, according to the text, some historians suggest that the Maya civilization acquired the use of zero from the Olmec civilization.

*Choice B* is incorrect because although the text mentions present-day historians and Maya mathematicians, it does not say anything about how much the Maya civilization respected its historians and mathematicians. *Choice C* is incorrect because the text does not indicate that the Maya civilization treated its use of the zero symbol, or any other intellectual achievements, as secrets to be kept from other civilizations. *Choice D* is incorrect because although the text mentions historians who suggest that the writing system of the Maya civilization inherited some features from the earlier Olmec civilization, the text does not describe any attempts of Maya civilization to introduce its writing system to other civilizations.

## QUESTION 13

**Choice D** is the best answer because it most effectively uses a quotation from "The Bet" to illustrate the claim that the banker was very upset about something. The quotation indicates that the banker shed tears, which suggests that he was likely unhappy about something, and that his emotions were so strong that they kept him from sleeping for hours. These details suggest that the banker was very upset.

*Choice A* is incorrect because this quotation mainly describes the banker cautiously unlocking a door; it doesn't suggest that he was particularly upset about anything. *Choice B* is incorrect because this quotation doesn't mention whether the banker was experiencing any particularly strong negative feelings; instead, the quotation focuses on the quietness of the setting. *Choice C* is incorrect because this quotation states that the banker was feeling "delighted," not that he was upset.

## QUESTION 14

**Choice B** is the best answer because it uses data from the table to complete the statement regarding a species for which the problem of finding a suitable habitat would be especially concerning. For each candidate species, the table lists its common name, scientific name, and when the species became extinct. The text explains that scientists pursing de-extinction for the candidate species also consider the length of time that has passed since the species' extinction, noting that the longer the animal has been extinct, the less likely it is that a suitable habitat would exist for the species today. The possibility of not having a suitable habitat would be especially concerning for the candidate species for which the most time has passed since its extinction. According to the table this species would be the saber-toothed cat, which became extinct 11,000 years before present.

*Choice A* is incorrect because it compares the time since the extinction of the passenger pigeon to the time since the extinction of the huia instead of citing the species listed in the table that has been extinct the longest (the saber-toothed cat). The text indicates that the longer a species has been extinct, the lower the chances are that a suitable habitat exists for it today. Neither the table nor the text supports the claim that the passenger pigeon is especially vulnerable to this problem. *Choice C* is incorrect because the text states that the longer a species has been extinct, the less likely it is that there would be a suitable habitat available for the species today. So, the problem would be especially concerning for the saber-toothed cat, which became extinct several thousand years before the woolly mammoth did—not the other way around. *Choice D* is incorrect because the text states that the longer a species has been extinct, the lower the chances are that a suitable habitat would be available for that species today. According to the table, the Caribbean monk seal became extinct in 1952, which is the most recent extinction listed for a candidate species in the table.

## QUESTION 15

**Choice C** is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that the narrator of "The Yellow Wallpaper" has mixed feelings about her surroundings. She says she is "really getting quite fond of the big room," a positive sentiment, but also describes the room's wallpaper as "horrid," a negative sentiment. Since some of her feelings about her surroundings are positive and others are negative, they are best described as mixed.

*Choice A* is incorrect because though the narrator describes the room's wallpaper as "irritating," a negative sentiment, she does not mention a positive sentiment. Thus, the quotation does not effectively illustrate the claim that the narrator has mixed feelings about her surroundings. *Choice B* is incorrect because it describes how the appearance of the room's wallpaper changes at night but does not mention the narrator's feelings about her surroundings. *Choice D* is incorrect because though the narrator describes the room's wallpaper as "repellant," a negative sentiment, she does not mention a positive sentiment. Thus, the quotation does not effectively illustrate the claim that the narrator has mixed feelings about her surroundings.

## QUESTION 16

**Choice B** is the best answer because it effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement about Rodrigo da Costa Portilho-Ramos and colleagues' conclusion. The graph shows the ratio of manganese to calcium in *L. pertusa* coral samples from the Alboran Sea and the Mauritanian coast. The graph reflects time in approximate years before present: in other words, the greater the number in years noted on the graph's horizontal axis, the farther that moment is in the past. The text indicates that the researchers tested the samples to determine whether oxygenation played a role in the decline of *L. pertusa*. The text goes on to note that a change in the ratio of manganese to calcium would signal an inverse, or opposite, change in oxygenation. According to the graph, the ratio of manganese to calcium in samples from the Alboran Sea increased from about 30 micromoles per mole 10,000 years ago to about 80 micromoles per mole 8,000 years ago, which means that oxygenation decreased between 10,000 and 8,000 years ago. Meanwhile, there was almost no discernible change in the ratio of manganese to calcium in samples from the Mauritanian coast between 12,000 and 10,000 years ago. According to the text, the population of *L. pertusa* declined significantly around 9,000 years ago in the Alboran Sea and around 11,000 years ago near the Mauritanian coast. Thus, the increase in the ratio of manganese to calcium around 9,000 years ago in the Alboran Sea coincides with the decline in the *L. pertusa* population, suggesting an association between the decrease in oxygenation and the decline in population of the coral. No such relationship is suggested around 11,000 years ago near the Mauritanian coast. So, oxygenation likely played a role in the *L. pertusa* decline in the Alboran Sea but not in the coral's decline near the Mauritanian coast.

*Choice A* is incorrect because it asserts the opposite of what the graph indicates regarding oxygenation in the Alboran Sea, and it misrepresents what the graph indicates about oxygenation near the Mauritanian coast. The graph indicates that at the time of the decline in *L. pertusa* (approximately 9,000 years ago), the samples from the Alboran Sea contained a ratio of manganese to calcium that was increasing. According to the text, this ratio inversely correlates with ocean oxygenation levels, so if the ratio was increasing, oxygenation was decreasing, not substantially increasing. Furthermore, the graph shows that the ratio of manganese to calcium remained relatively stable in coral samples from the Mauritanian coast during the period studied, which suggests that there was no discernible relationship between oxygenation and the coral's population decline in that location, not that there was a substantial decrease in oxygenation corresponding to the coral's decline. *Choice C* is incorrect. Although the graph suggests that the level of oxygenation in the Alboran Sea was higher before the decline in *L. pertusa* than after—because the ratio of manganese to calcium inversely correlates with ocean oxygenation levels and this ratio was lower before the decline than after—the graph doesn't support the claim that oxygenation near the Mauritanian coast was consistently low before and after the coral's decline there. Rather, the graph indicates that relative to coral samples from the Alboran Sea, the ratio of manganese to calcium in samples from near the Mauritanian coast was consistently low, which suggests that oxygenation levels were relatively high both before and after the decline of *L. pertusa*. *Choice D* is incorrect because it states the opposite of what the graph indicates: the graph

shows that throughout the period studied, the ratio of manganese to calcium was higher in coral samples from the Alboran Sea than it was in samples from near the Mauritanian coast. Since the text indicates that the ratio of manganese to calcium inversely correlates with ocean oxygenation levels, oxygenation in the Alboran Sea was therefore lower than, not higher than, oxygenation near the Mauritanian coast during the period studied. Moreover, even if choice D did accurately represent the graph, it wouldn't effectively complete the statement since a comparison of the ocean oxygenation levels at the two locations is not relevant to the claim that a decline in oxygenation levels was associated with the decline of *L. pertusa* in the Alboran Sea but not near the Mauritanian coast.

## QUESTION 17

**Choice A** is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of a crater's connection to the start of the Younger Dryas. According to the text, some scientists believe that a comet fragment hitting Earth caused the cooling of the Younger Dryas period to come about. The text then indicates that a team of scientists found a crater in Greenland, which some believe supports the theory of a comet fragment hitting Earth to initiate the Younger Dryas. However, the text also notes that the team was unable to determine the age of the crater. If the age of the crater can't be determined, then its connection to the Younger Dryas period of time can't be confirmed either. Thus, it can't be concluded that the impact that made the crater was connected to the beginning of the Younger Dryas.

*Choice B* is incorrect because though the text suggests that the age of the comet crater found by a team of scientists is uncertain, it doesn't address whether a comet fragment can make a crater as large as 19 miles wide. The text doesn't consider the size of comet fragments and how they relate to the size of craters they might make. *Choice C* is incorrect because the debate in the text centers on the age of the crater found, not the cause of the crater. The text doesn't indicate uncertainty about what caused the discovered crater. *Choice D* is incorrect because the text suggests that the age of the crater found by the team of scientists is uncertain, not that the dates of the Younger Dryas are uncertain or incorrect. The text states that "the Younger Dryas was a period of extreme cooling from 11,700 to 12,900 years ago" but doesn't indicate any debate about the timing of the period.

## QUESTION 18

**Choice B** is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Smith and colleagues' investigation of the evolution and biological role of the appendix. The text indicates that the team found several instances of the appendix emerging and not disappearing in the lineages of various mammal species the team examined. Furthermore, the text states that species that possess an appendix also tend to have relatively high amounts of lymphoid tissue—a type of tissue that supports immune system function. Taken together, these details strongly support the hypothesis that the appendix has persisted in some species because it has a function that contributes to effective immune responses in those species.

*Choice A* is incorrect because the text doesn't address any nonmammalian species. *Choice C* is incorrect because the text doesn't make predictions about the evolutionary future of the species Smith and colleagues examined, and although the implication of the text is that the appendix likely does serve a function for the immune system, nothing in the text indicates that the appendix will become more widespread in the future. *Choice D* is incorrect. Although the text does suggest an association between having an appendix and relatively high concentrations of lymphoid tissue, it doesn't claim that the appendix causes the tissue to grow, nor does it address the relative production of the tissue at different periods of time.

## QUESTION 19

**Choice A** is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion about Aztec (Nahua) ethics. The text indicates that, according to Purcell's interpretation of available Aztec philosophical works, the Aztec ethical system views an individual's actions in relation to that individual's societal role and how the actions affect the community. The text contrasts this view with another held by some ethicists, namely that actions are morally good or bad regardless of the context in which they occur. Thus, Purcell's analysis suggests that the Aztecs would have asserted that the morality of an individual's actions are rooted in that person's position in the community and the actions' effects and therefore cannot be determined in the absence of that context.

*Choice B* is incorrect. Although the text indicates that morally judging an action according to Aztec ethics requires an understanding of the action's effects and the individual's social circumstances, it does not specify that only members of that society can acquire this information. *Choice C* is incorrect because it implies that the Aztecs considered some actions good or bad regardless of the surrounding context, which contradicts the text's claim that the Aztecs believed that the morality of an individual's action is dependent on the action's effects on the community and the person's specific circumstances. *Choice D* is incorrect. Although the text indicates that in Aztec ethics the morality of an action depends in part on how it affects the community, this is only one of the two factors—the other being the person's societal role—that need to be considered. Therefore, it is possible that two actions with the same effect on the community could be considered morally distinct if they are performed by individuals in different social roles.

## QUESTION 20

**Choice C** is the best answer. The convention being tested is pronoun-antecedent agreement. The singular pronoun "this" agrees in number with the singular antecedent "Lê Lương Minh became the thirteenth secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in January 2013." The pronoun "this" is referring back to the singular event described earlier in the sentence in which Minh became secretary-general of ASEAN.

*Choice A* is incorrect because the plural pronoun "these" doesn't agree in number with the singular antecedent "Lê Lương Minh became the thirteenth secretary-

general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in January 2013." *Choice B* is incorrect because the plural pronoun "those" doesn't agree in number with the singular antecedent "Lê Lương Minh became the thirteenth secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in January 2013." *Choice D* is incorrect because the indefinite pronoun "some" is ambiguous in this context; the resulting sentence leaves unclear what marks the first time the organization appointed a Vietnamese leader.

## QUESTION 21

**Choice A** is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite (tensed) verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, Land), and this choice supplies the finite past tense verb "used" to indicate what Land did with the technology he had invented.

*Choice B* is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite perfect infinitive "to have used" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb. *Choice C* is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive "to use" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb. *Choice D* is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "using" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb.

## QUESTION 22

**Choice D** is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "ensures" agrees in number with the singular subject "using."

*Choice A* is incorrect because the plural verb "are ensuring" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "using." *Choice B* is incorrect because the plural verb "have ensured" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "using." *Choice C* is incorrect because the plural verb "ensure" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "using."

## QUESTION 23

**Choice B** is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of plural nouns in a sentence. The plural noun "hands" and the plural noun "antennas" correctly indicate that two hands are placed between two antennas when playing the theremin.

*Choice A* is incorrect because the context requires the plural nouns "hands" and "antennas," not the singular possessive nouns "hand's" and "antenna's." *Choice C* is incorrect because the context requires the plural nouns "hands" and "antennas," not the plural possessive nouns "hands'" and "antennas'." *Choice D* is incorrect because the context requires the plural noun "hands," not the plural possessive noun "hands'."

## QUESTION 24

**Choice D** is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The plural verb "represent" agrees in number with the plural subject "references."

*Choice A* is incorrect because the singular verb "represents" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "references." *Choice B* is incorrect because the singular verb "has represented" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "references." *Choice C* is incorrect because the singular verb "was representing" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "references."

## QUESTION 25

**Choice B** is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation between titles and proper nouns. No punctuation is needed to set off the proper noun "Marie-Denise Villers" from the title that describes Villers, "little-known French portrait artist."

*Choice A* is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. *Choice C* is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. *Choice D* is incorrect because no punctuation is needed.

## QUESTION 26

**Choice B** is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of supplementary elements within a sentence. The comma after "described" separates the first supplementary element ("both of interviewees and the items they described") from the second supplementary element ("from hair to grass to sculptures"). Furthermore, the dash after "sculptures" pairs with the dash after "photographs" to separate these two supplementary elements from the rest of the sentence. The pair of dashes, which operate at a higher organizing level than the comma, indicates that the elements between the dashes function together—in this case, the second supplement ("from…sculptures") describes the range of items mentioned in the first supplement—and could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

*Choice A* is incorrect because it fails to appropriately punctuate the supplementary elements in the sentence. A dash is needed after "sculptures" to separate the supplementary elements ("both…sculptures") from the rest of the sentence. *Choice C* is incorrect because it fails to appropriately punctuate the supplementary elements in the sentence. The two supplementary elements "both…described" and "from…sculptures" function together to describe the photographs, and placing a dash between them would make this relationship less clear, suggesting that the supplement "both...described" is a standalone element that could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence, which isn't the case. *Choice D* is incorrect because it fails to appropriately punctuate the supplementary elements in the sentence. A colon isn't conventionally used in this way to separate a supplementary element ("from hair to grass to sculptures") from the noun phrase it is modifying ("items they described"). Additionally, a dash is needed after "sculptures" to separate the supplementary elements ("both…sculptures") from the rest of the sentence.

## QUESTION 27

**Choice D** is the best answer. "As a result" logically signals that the information in this sentence—the vessel turning black—is a result of the heating technique discussed in the previous sentence.

*Choice A* is incorrect because "on the contrary" illogically signals that the information in this sentence directly opposes the heating technique in the previous sentence. Instead, the vessel turns black as a result of that technique. *Choice B* is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an example of the heating technique in the previous sentence. Instead, the vessel turns black as a result of that technique. *Choice C* is incorrect because "previously" illogically signals that the information in this sentence occurs earlier in a chronological series of events than does the heating technique discussed in the first two sentences. Instead, the vessel turns black as a result of that technique.

## QUESTION 28

**Choice D** is the best answer. "Though" logically signals that the claim in the sentence—that Morton's improvisational skills helped shape jazz as a genre during its early years ("No one can deny" it)—is true despite the previous information about Morton's exaggerated claim to have invented jazz.

*Choice A* is incorrect because "therefore" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is a result of the previous information about Morton's claim to have invented jazz. Instead, the sentence states that Morton helped to shape jazz—even if his claim was an exaggeration. *Choice B* is incorrect because "in the second place" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is a second, separate point in addition to Morton's claim to have invented jazz. Instead, the sentence states that Morton helped to shape jazz—even if his claim was an exaggeration. *Choice C* is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is merely a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about Morton's claim to have invented jazz. Instead, the sentence states that Morton helped to shape jazz—even if his claim was an exaggeration.

## QUESTION 29

**Choice B** is the best answer. "Conversely" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that countries with proportional-representation electoral systems tend toward multi-partyism—contrasts with the previous information about countries with single-ballot majoritarian elections, which tend to have two-party systems.

*Choice A* is incorrect because "subsequently" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about countries with proportional-representation electoral systems occurs later in a chronological sequence of events than the information in the previous sentence. Instead, it contrasts with the previous information. *Choice C* is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about countries with proportional-representation electoral systems is an example supporting the previous statement about

countries with single-ballot majoritarian elections. Instead, it contrasts with the previous statement. *Choice D* is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about countries with proportional-representation electoral systems is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about countries with single-ballot majoritarian elections. Instead, it contrasts with the previous information.

## QUESTION 30

**Choice D** is the best answer. "Hence" logically signals that the information in this sentence about turtle shells—that people incorrectly assume they are exoskeletons—is a consequence of the shells appearing external to the animal.

*Choice A* is incorrect because "that being said" illogically signals that this sentence qualifies or contrasts with the previous information about turtle shells appearing external to the animal. Instead, it presents a consequence of that information. *Choice B* is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that this sentence contrasts with the previous information about turtle shells appearing external to the animal. Instead, it presents a consequence of that information. *Choice C* is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that this sentence provides an example supporting the previous information about turtle shells appearing external to the animal. Instead, it presents a consequence of that information.

## QUESTION 31

**Choice A** is the best answer. The sentence identifies the novel's real author, explaining that Mary Ann Evans published the novel under the pseudonym of George Eliot.

*Choice B* is incorrect. The sentence explains that George Eliot was assumed to be a pseudonym; it doesn't identify the novel's real author. *Choice C* is incorrect. The sentence specifies the pseudonym used on the novel's title page; it doesn't identify the novel's real author. *Choice D* is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that the novel's real author used a pseudonym, it doesn't identify that author as Mary Ann Evans.

## QUESTION 32

**Choice C** is the best answer. The sentence specifies how the salt in a freeze-thaw battery enables energy storage, explaining that energy stops flowing and can be stored when the salt solidifies at room temperature.

*Choice A* is incorrect. The sentence explains some properties of molten salt; it doesn't specify how that salt enables energy storage. *Choice B* is incorrect. The sentence indicates how the energy in a freeze-thaw battery can be released; it doesn't specify how the salt in the battery enables energy storage. *Choice D* is incorrect. The sentence specifies how much charge the freeze-thaw battery retains when storing energy; it doesn't specify how the salt in the battery enables energy storage.

## QUESTION 33

**Choice D** is the best answer. The sentence effectively indicates the California red-legged frog's FWS classification category, noting that the FWS classifies the frog as threatened, a classification given to species that are likely to soon become endangered.

*Choice A* is incorrect. The sentence specifies the classification categories of the FWS list; it doesn't indicate the classification category of the California red-legged frog. *Choice B* is incorrect. While the sentence does note that the California red-legged frog is among the species classified by the FWS, it doesn't indicate what classification category the California red-legged frog occupies. *Choice C* is incorrect. While the sentence does appear to indicate the California red-legged frog's FWS classification category, the sentence is factually incorrect and therefore ineffective; the frog's classification category is threatened, not endangered.